DIOCESE OF KARWAR

Waves



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POPE LEO



" Mother Mary always wants to walk with us, be close, help us with her intercession and love"

BISHOP'S DESK

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

The month of September is especially dear to us as we celebrate the **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. On this joyful occasion, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all our priests, religious and our faithful. Mary's birth is a reminder that God brings hope and new beginnings into the world through humble and willing hearts. I encourage our priests to celebrate the novena with dignity, devotion and reverence, making every effort to involve children, youth, families and the entire parish community. May our people experience, through these celebrations, the maternal presence and loving protection of Mary, who always leads us to her Son, Jesus.

Reaching Out to the Poor: As the Diocese of Karwar approaches the fag end of the Year of the Poor, I wish to make a special appeal to every priest, religious and parish community: let us make every effort to reach out to the poor, the needy and the forgotten. The success of this year is measured by the lives we have touched and the dignity we have restored. Jesus reminds us, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40).

World Day of Migrants and Refugees: On **September 27,** the Church observes the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, with special attention this year to vulnerable migrant and refugee children. The Holy Father reminds us that every child possesses an inviolable dignity and that welcoming even one vulnerable child is an expression of welcoming Christ Himself. Let this celebration encourage us to look with compassion upon migrants, displaced persons and those who are often unseen in our communities.

Mission Sunday-2026: As we celebrate the 100th World Mission Day on October 18, with the theme **"One in Christ, united in mission,"** may we renew our missionary commitment. The mission of the Church belongs to all of us. Every priest, religious, family, youth and lay faithful has a role in making Christ known through prayer, witness, service , generous hands and love.

Let us make our parishes welcoming communities where the poor find a home, the lonely find companionship, the young find hope, and every person encounters the merciful face of Christ. May the Blessed Virgin Mary accompany our Diocese of Karwar, may the Holy Cross strengthen us in moments of difficulty,

With my prayers and blessings,

✠ *Bp Duming Dias*

2. FEASTS & SOLEMNITIES

Sep 8, 2026: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: In Catholic tradition, Mother Mary's birth is lovingly described as the "morning star" that heralds the coming of the "Sun of Justice" Jesus. Born to Saints Joachim and Anne, her entry into the world represented the fulfillment of long-awaited promises and the dawn of God's plan for our redemption. Preserved free from original sin from her very conception, Mary's birth brought light into a darkened world, reminding us of God's immense love and preparation for our salvation. Celebrating Mary's nativity invites us to reflect on her lifelong obedience and humility. As she opened her heart to God's calling, we are reminded to trust His path for our lives. It is also an ideal opportunity for personal spiritual renewal to start fresh in our prayer life, restore broken relationships, and embrace innocence and trust in God.

Sep14, 2026: Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: On September 14, the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, recalling the discovery of the True Cross in Jerusalem by **Saint Helena**, Mother of Emperor Constantine, and the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The Cross, once a symbol of shame, suffering and defeat, has been transformed by Christ's obedience and Resurrection into the altar of love, throne of victory and sign of salvation. As Jesus says, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (Jn 12:32).

The Cross reminds us that our **sufferings are not meaningless**, that darkness does not have the final word, and that **resurrection is our hope**. It calls us to embrace our daily crosses with faith, courage and love. As we exalt the Holy Cross, we celebrate God's boundless mercy and remember that **the path to true glory passes through selfless love**.

Sep 29, 2026: Feast of the Archangels: On September 29, the Church celebrates the **Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, the Archangels**, three great messengers and servants of God who remind us of His loving presence and providence. **Saint Michael** stands for courage and victory in the struggle against evil; **Saint Gabriel** is the messenger of God's good news, who announced to Mary the coming of Christ; and **Saint Raphael** is a companion and instrument of God's healing and protection. Their feast invites us to place our trust in God, to remain faithful in the face of trials, and to become messengers of hope, truth and love in our own families and communities. May Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael intercede for us, protect us from evil, strengthen us in faith, and guide us ever closer to God.

Oct 04, 2026: St Francis of Assisi On October 4, the Church celebrates the **Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**, a humble and joyful disciple of Christ who made the Gospel the very heart of his life. Francis embraced poverty, simplicity, prayer and loving service, becoming a true instrument of peace and reconciliation. He had a profound love for **God's creation and every creature**, seeing the whole of creation as a beautiful gift from the Creator and recognizing all creatures as brothers and sisters. He praised God through the beauty and wonder of creation. As we celebrate his feast, may St. Francis inspire us to live simply, protect our common home, care for the poor and vulnerable, and become instruments of peace, compassion and harmony with all creation.

Oct 07, 2026: Our Lady of the Rosary : On October 7, the Church joyfully celebrates the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, inviting us to place ourselves under Mary's loving guidance and to contemplate the mysteries of Christ through the prayer of the Rosary. The Rosary is more than a repetition of prayers; it is a beautiful school of faith, a journey with Mary into the heart of the

Gospel, and a path that leads us ever closer to Jesus. As we meditate on the mysteries, Mary teaches us to treasure God's Word, trust Him in moments of uncertainty, remain faithful amid suffering and rejoice in the hope of the Resurrection. In a world marked by anxiety, division and uncertainty, the Rosary becomes a powerful prayer for peace in our hearts, unity in our families and strength in our communities. As we honour Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, may she take us by the hand, lead us to her Son and teach us, like her, to say with a generous heart: **"Let it be done to me according to your word."**

3. CHRONICLES

Commission for Proclamation & Evangelization

MCA Unit Inaugurated at St. Joseph's Church, Manki: The Church of St. Joseph, Manki, witnessed the inauguration of the MCA Unit with lots of enthusiasm and zeal on 28 June 2026. About 31 young members came forward to be part of the MCA and to be ready to actively participate in the ongoing formation given by the Association.

MCA Unit at Holy Rosary Church, Siddapur: MCA Unit was inaugurated at Holy Rosary Church, Siddapur, on 19th July 2026, with the participation of 29 children and two animators.

MCA Unit at Holy Cross Church, Donihalla: Beginning of a new MCA Unit at Holy Cross Church, Donihalla, on 26 July 2026, marked another significant step in nurturing the missionary spirit among children. Following the Holy Mass, the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Unit was officially installed at the parish. The newly formed unit comprises 22 children under the guidance of a dedicated animator.

Family Commission

Marriage Enrichment Program: The Family Commission organized a Marriage Enrichment Programme at Holy Rosary Church, Yellapur, on 19th July 2026. There were25 couples for a day of reflection, learning, and fellowship. The program was designed to strengthen Christian family life by enriching couples in the areas of parenting, communication, intimacy, and marital commitment.

Marriage Preparation Course: The Diocese of Karwar organized a three-day Marriage Preparation Course at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad, from 24 to 26 July 2026, with the participation of 12 candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage, including 5 girls and 7 boys. The residential programme was designed to provide both spiritual formation and practical guidance, helping participants understand the sacredness and responsibilities of Christian marriage.

Youth Commission

YCS Unit : The Young Catholic Students (YCS) of Our Lady of Piety Church, Halga, formed a new Unit on 12 July 2026, which brings them together to see, evaluate, and act in order to contribute to individual growth. 19 students from class VIII to PUC enthusiastically participated in the sessions.

ICYM Kajubag Deanery Celebrates "Shepherds and Saplings" Programme: The ICYM, Kajubag Deanery, organized the "Shepherds and Saplings" Programme on August 9, 2026, at Sandhya Vandana, Shirwad, with the theme **"Honouring Our Shepherds, Nurturing God's Creation."** A total of 34 participants, including elderly priests, youth coordinator Rev. Fr. Ravi Horta, deanery office bearers, and youth from across the Deanery, took part in the gathering. The programme provided an opportunity for the youth to express their gratitude and appreciation for the elderly priests and to benefit from their presence, wisdom, and guidance.

"Revive" One-Day Youth Convention for the Youth of Kone Deanery: The ICYM, Kone Deanery, organized a "Revive" One-Day Youth Convention on 16th August 2026 at Shirwad Parish Hall, bringing together

around 70 youth for a day of faith formation, fellowship, reflection, and joyful participation. The convention was organized under the leadership of Fr. Sachin D'Souza, Deanery youth coordinator, with the support of the ICYM office bearers of the Kone Deanery. Mrs. Rhea Alphonso was the resource person.

Youth Leadership Programme at Bhatkal: A day's Leadership Training programme was held on 16 August 2026 at St. Sebastian Church, Upper Kasarkod, with 35 participants. The sessions were conducted by Fr. Prashanth, OFM, and Mr. Benruben Rodrigues, guiding the youth through many activities that brought them together to be creative, energetic, and joyful leaders with compassion and love.

Commission for Liturgy

Renewal Program for Extraordinary Ministers : The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) underwent a two-day renewal program through prayer, liturgical instructions, reconciliation, and participation in the Holy Eucharist, under the guidance of Fr. Cyprian Silva.

Deanery	Date	Participants	Place
Honnavar & Bhatkal	4–5 July	116	DPC
Haliyal & Sirsi	11–12 July	65	DPC
Kumta, Kone, Kajubag	18–19 July	70	DPC

Commission for Communication

Media Training and Cyber Security Awareness Session: A Media Training and Cyber Security Awareness Session was organized for the children of Holy Rosary Church, Siddapur, on 19th July 2026, with the participation of 31 members. The session was conducted by Rev. Fr. Stewart Fernandes. The session concluded with greater awareness among the children regarding the positive use of media and the importance of staying safe in the digital environment.

Media Professionals' Get-Together: The Diocesan Commission for Communication organized a Media Professionals' Get-Together on August 2, 2026, at KDDC, Karwar, under the leadership of Fr. Stewart Fernandes. The programme brought together 25 Catholic media professionals from across the Diocese. Mr. Samson Lopes, the resource person, spoke on the importance of identifying and making the best use of the talents God has entrusted to each person. Another session was conducted by Fr. Mark Fernandes, who offered practical guidance on article writing and effective communication. Bishop Duming Dias presented awards to 5 media persons and, in his speech, encouraged young people to get involved in media education.

Commission for Faith Formation

Rejuvenation of Catechism Teachers: The Catechism Teachers of Kone and Kajubag Deaneries were fortunate to have a day's seminar on 28 June 2026 at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, under the leadership of Fr. Cyprian Silva. 36 Catechism Teachers from two Deaneries witnessed spiritual renewal, growth, and practical training needed to transmit the faith to the young generation.

Faith Formation Syllabus Committee Meet: The Faith Formation Syllabus Committee of the Diocese of Karwar met under the guidance of Fr. Cyprian Silva. Addressing the committee, Most Rev. Dr. Duming Dias, Bishop of Karwar, reflected on the present challenges faced in the use of catechism textbooks and encouraged the members to carefully examine the current situation and offer practical recommendations for enhancing the faith formation syllabus and teaching resources to better serve both catechists and students.

Commission for Education

Barefoot Counseling Training Programme – Phase II: The Diocese of Karwar conducted the Barefoot Counseling Training Programme Phase II from 23rd to 25th July 2026 at the Apostles of the Holy Family, Makheri, Karwar. The three-day training programme brought together 21 teachers from various schools in the Diocese to equip them with basic counseling skills that will enable them to accompany students with empathy, understanding, and emotional maturity.

Karwar Diocese Honours Meritorious Students with Pratibha Puraskar Award 2026: The Catholic Diocese of Karwar Education Commission organized the Pratibha Puraskar Award 2026 on 23 August 2026 at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad, Karwar, to honour students who secured the highest marks in the SSLC and PUC examinations. In his presidential address, Most Rev. Dr. Duming Dias appreciated the efforts of the students, parents, teachers, and the Education Commission in promoting academic excellence. He encouraged the awardees to remain committed to their studies, uphold good values, and use their talents responsibly for the betterment of society. The programme served as a meaningful initiative to appreciate the hard work and dedication of students and to inspire them to strive for greater achievements in the future, reflecting the spirit of "Honouring Excellence, Inspiring the Future."

Women Commission

Awareness Programme on POCSO, POSH, and Gender Equality: The Women Commission of the Diocese of Karwar organized awareness programmes on POCSO, POSH, and Gender Equality in Kajubag and Kone Deaneries on 2 and 9 August 2026, respectively. The programmes aimed to empower women and adolescents with awareness about child protection, prevention of sexual harassment, gender sensitivity, and the importance of creating safe and respectful families and communities. The programmes were held at St. Joseph Church Hall, Kajubag, with the participation of 135 women, and at the KDDC building, Kone, where about 50 women and adolescents were present. It was organized under the leadership of Sr. Mable Pinto, DHM, with the support of Rev. Ireneo Dias, Dean of Kajubag Deanery, & Fr. Gabriel Monis, Dean of Kone Deanery.

Health Commission

The Health Commission of the Diocese of Karwar, under the leadership of Sr. Natasha, 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 healthcare professionals were honoured for their dedicated and selfless service in the field of healthcare. Around 36 participants were part of this programme.

Diocesan Matters

Karwar Diocesan Golden Jubilee Committee Meet: The Karwar Diocesan Golden Jubilee Planning Committee meeting was held on Thursday, 23 July 2026, at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad, marking another significant step in the preparation for the Diocese's Golden Jubilee Celebration (1977–2027). The meeting was attended by 25 participants, including deans, priests, and lay representatives from across the Diocese. Most Rev. Dr. Duming Dias, presided over the meeting. A major agenda was the formation of the Golden Jubilee Committees. The various committees were officially introduced, members were appointed, and their responsibilities were outlined to ensure effective planning and coordination of the Jubilee Celebration.

15th Death Anniversary of Late Bishop William D'Mello Observed at Cathedral: The 15th Death Anniversary of the late Bishop William D'Mello was observed on 19th July 2026 at Our Lady of the Assumption Cathedral Church, Kajubag, Karwar. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Bishop of Karwar and concelebrated by five priests. A large number of lay faithful gathered to participate in the Eucharistic celebration and to remember with gratitude the life and dedicated pastoral ministry of the late Bishop William D'Mello.

Grandparents Day Celebration Throughout Karwar Diocese: On the Feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim, the patron saints of grandparents, the Diocese of Karwar celebrated Grandparents Day with great enthusiasm in all parishes. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist, during which special prayers were offered for grandparents and senior citizens. Following the Eucharistic celebration, grandparents and the elderly were felicitated as a gesture of appreciation for their lifelong dedication to their families, their steadfast faith, and their invaluable contribution to the Church and society.

Grace-Filled Retreat for the Diocesan Clergy – 1st Batch: The First Batch of the Annual Clergy Retreat of the Diocese of Karwar was held from 2nd to 8th August 2026, with 60 diocesan priests participating in a week-long journey of prayer, reflection, fraternity, and spiritual renewal. The retreat was preached by Fr. Naveen Rebello, SVD, on the inspiring theme "Joy of Being a Priest."

The second Batch Priests' Retreat was held from 16 to 22 August 2026 at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad, Karwar, with 47 priests of the Diocese of Karwar participating in the week-long spiritual programme. The retreat was preached by Fr. Anil Kiran Fernandes, SVD, who guided the priests to examine their lives in the light of God's Word, experience the transforming power of repentance and faith, seek reconciliation, embrace renunciation, and allow God's grace to bring healing and renewal.

Educare 2026–27 Launched to Empower Students Across the Diocese of Karwar: The Educare 2026-27 inauguration programme was held on Monday, 24 August 2026 at Puneeth Sadan Shirwad, Karwar. The programme was organized by Mr Michael D'Souza and family Charities in association with the Diocese of Karwar, with the aim of supporting deserving students in their educational journey. The programme was presided over by Rt. Rev. Dr. Duming Dias Bishop of Karwar, Prof. CA. Lionel Aranha, Advisor, MDS Charities, Mangalore, who was the chief guest, while Commodore ARB D'Souza (Retd) , Indian Navy, was the guest of honour, Mr. Oswald Rodrigues and Mrs. Shubha Rodrigues were also present on the occasion. In his presidential address, Bishop Duming Dias expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Michael D'Souza and his family for their generous support and commitment to the educational needs of students. He appreciated their love and concern for the Diocese of Karwar and praised their generosity in reaching out to those in need. As part of the Educare initiative panels were constituted to interview students and assess their educational needs and circumstances.

Diocesan Service Communion:

Diocesan Service Communion Planning Meet: The Diocesan Service Communion (DSP) Planning meeting was held on 27 July 2026 at the Bishop's House, Karwar, under the Chairmanship of Rt. Rev. Dr. Duming Dias. A total of 7 members attended the meeting, including the Diocesan Spiritual Director, Fr. Joachim Monteiro.

The meeting commenced with a prayer led by Fr. Cyprian Silva. During the meeting, the Bishop proposed organizing two Diocesan Bible Conventions – one in Yellapur during October 2026 and another in the Honnavar Deanery before the season of Lent in February 2027.

Catholic Religious of India ,Karwar Unit:

CRI Karwar Unit Annual General Body Meeting: The CRI Karwar Unit Annual General Body meeting was held on 9 August 2026 at St. Michael's Convent, Karwar, bringing together priests, religious and members of the CRI Community for a day of prayer, reflection, learning, fellowship and renewal. The Chief Guest, Most. Rev. Dr. Duming Dias, Bishop of Karwar, the resource person, Rev. Ivan Almeida, SFX and Rev. Sr. Jayashree, Secretary of the CRI Karnataka Region, were felicitated.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commission for Family

11–13 September 2026:

Marriage Preparation Course.

20 September 2026:

Missionary Families of Christ (MFC):

One-day programme for couples at St. Joseph's Church, Lower Kasarkod.

2–4 October 2026:

Marriage Preparation Course.

Marriage Enrichment Programme:

To be held in September and October in various parishes of the Diocese.

Commission for Youth

September and October:

Formation of YCS Units in the parishes.

October: Leadership Training Programme for the Deanery office bearers and formation of the ICYM Council.

26 October 2026:
Cultural event for Kajubag Deanery youth.

Ecumenism Commission

September and October:

Organizing ToT Sauhardha Samithi members at the zonal level in Haliyal, Honnavar, and Kumta.

September and October:

Organizing meetings of Pastors and Priests and conducting joint prayer services at the deanery level.

Proclamation and Evangelization Commission

18 October 2026: The 100th World Mission Day. Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme **"One in Christ, United in Mission."**

Installation of MCA Units in the parishes.

Women Commission

13 September:

Training on POCSO, POSH, and Gender Equity at Samshi.

14 September:

Training on POCSO, POSH, and Gender Equity at Hadinbal.

August – September:

Video singing competition for all the parish women cells of the Diocese.

October: National-level women's conference in Mangalore.

Awareness on **POCSO** and **POSH** in Sirsi Deanery.

Theology Commission

14 September: Online Course on Mariology (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM).

20 October: Online Course on Sacraments (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM).

MARY MY MOTHER
I AM YOURS
I put my whole self under your Protection and leave all things in your Care.

I NEED YOU.
YOU SETTLE EVERYTHING



5. BISHOP'S ITENERARY

In the month of September

02 : **10:30** am Governing Board /AGBM, Shirwad
05 : **10:00**am Blessing of the Chapel, Handli
08 : 11:00am Mass at Minor Besilica, Harihar
06:00pm Feast Mass, OT, Bhadravathi
09 : 09:30am Seminar on Synodality, Honnavar
10 : 09:30am Seminar on Synodality, Karwar
11 : 09:30am Seminar on Synodality, Haliyal
12-13: Pastoral Visit, Thernamakki
19-20: Pastoral Visit, Kodani
21-25: KRCBC /St. Peter's, Bangalore
26-27: Pastoral Visit, Manki
27 : 4:00pm Balegaru Cross Feast, Thalaguppa
30 : 10:00am Golden Jubilee Meeting

In the month of October

01 : 10:00am Commission Directors Meeting, Shirwad
05-11 : Bishops' Training, Missorie
16-17 : Bible Convention, Yellapur
20- 22 : On- going Formation for Priests
24-25 : Pastoral Visit, Agasebagil, Sirsi
31 : 11:00am JMJ Founder's Day, Sirsi

6. NECROLOGY

PRAY FOR THE DEAR DEPARTED

Mr. Baltidar Remand Rodrigues, aged 77 years, father of **Fr. Ceephus Rodrigues**, passed away on 23 July 2026. **Mr. Inas Souza**, aged 64 years, brother of **Fr. Gregory D'Souza**, passed away on 1 August 2026. **Mrs. Antuciana D'Silva**, aged 87, mother of **Fr. Glen, SFX**, passed away on 27 July 2026.

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

7. BIRTHDAYS

In the month of September

01 Fr Peter Mendoca OFM
Fr William D'Souza
02 Fr Gregory D'Souza
03 **Most Rev Bp Duming Dias**
Fr Alwyn Cardoza
Fr Edwin Paul D'Souza
05 Fr Lawrence D'Souza
06 Fr Francis Miranda
08 Fr Anthony D'Souza
09 Fr Wilson Fernandes
11 Fr Michael Pinto (Jr.)
Fr Ceynon Gonsalves
12. Fr Valerian Sequiera
15 Fr Sachin D'Souza
Fr Vijayaraju S. SJ
18 Fr Holenston D'Souza
24 Fr Roshan Lobo SJ
28 Fr Patric Lobo SJ
Fr Bryan Jones
30 Fr Paschal Rodrigues

In the month of October

01 Fr Vinil wilfred Vijay
Fr Adrian Czereski
02 Fr Stephan D'Souza
04 Fr Edwin Monis Cap
06 Fr Benson Fernandes
07 Fr Marcus Tauro
09 Fr John Hayes
11 Fr Francis Menezes SJ
13 Fr Crysostom Rodrigues
Fr Wesley Paul
15 Fr John Fernandes
16 Fr. Alex Fernandes
19 Fr Anacletus D'Mello
20 Fr Ignatius D'Souza
22 Fr Lawrence Pereira
Fr John Rodrigues
27 Fr Leo Florence SJ
Fr Samuel Fernandes
31 Fr Jerome D'Souza

POPE'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

For the care of water: Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

For mental health ministry: Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.