



# INTERNOS

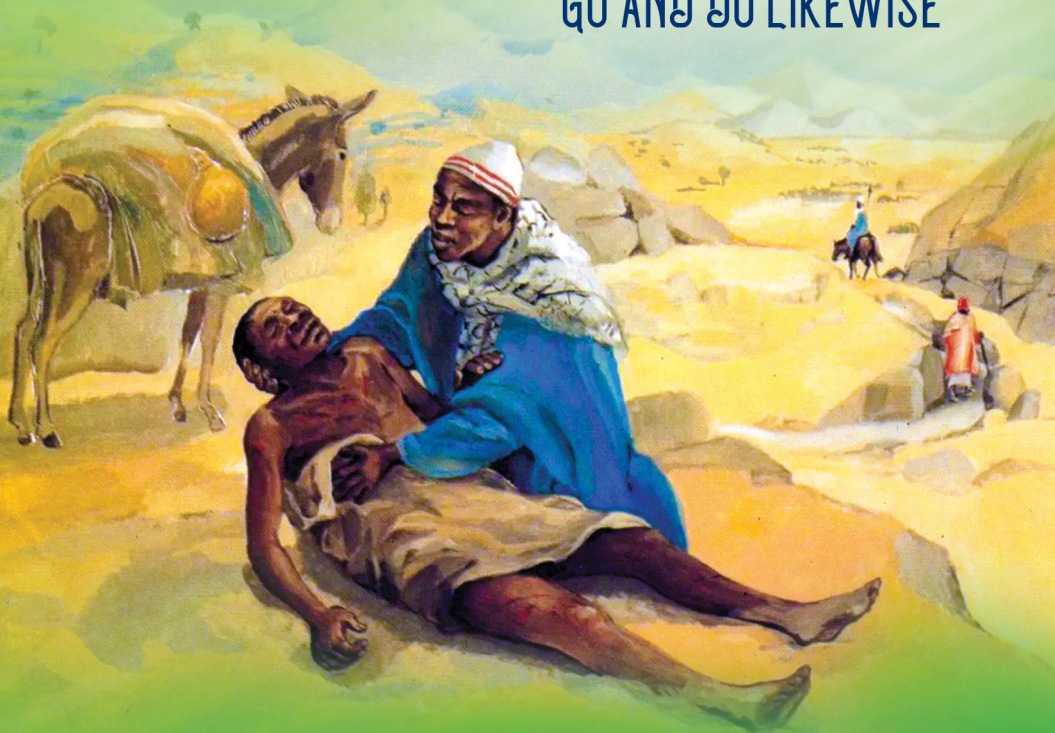
UBI CARITAS ET AMOR IBI DEUS EST



DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE

JANUARY 2024

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2024: GO AND DO LIKEWISE



*“You shall love the Lord your God ..  
and your neighbour as yourself...” (Lk. 10:27)*



Diocesan PMS Oli Vizha - 16.11.2023



Oli Vizha – Divine Mercy Shrine – Alles Garden – 15.12.2023



Oli Vizha - Diocesan Catechism Teachers - 16.12.2023



Grand Opening of the Christmas Tree,  
Trinco Beach – 24.12.2023



Lions Club International – Colombo Wattala  
at Kuchchaveli Parish – 24.12.2023



# Bishop's Message



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My dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

Best wishes and God's numerous Blessings for the Year 2024! We are facing this year with lot of speculations – price hike, general elections, natural disasters etc. Yet we have to keep things moving placing our total trust in the Lord and collaboration with one another.

We had many programmes during this Christmas season. Christmas Carols in parishes, commissions and government departments were organized well. 35 feet tall Christmas Tree was installed at the beach. It was organized by the Governor of the Eastern Province. Christmas and New Year Masses, confessions, and year-end thanksgiving services gave more colour to the liturgy. I thank and appreciate everyone who were involved in organizing such programmes. Parish Priests played an important role in initiating and encouraging parish community to actively participate.

'Year of Prayer' will be declared on 14th January (Sunday) at St. Mary's Cathedral and in all churches in the diocese. It is in view of preparing ourselves for the Jubilee Year 2025. Posters, prayer cards and themes for novena preaching will be available to be used in parishes and homes. All families in parishes will be encouraged to take time for individual prayer and pray the Rosary at home. Parish priests will accompany them. Themes for preaching during church feasts will be based on the theme of the year. Let us take extra effort to organize different programmes to encourage our faithful to get into the habit of prayer.

16th of January is the Solemnity of St. Joseph Vaz, Apostle of Sri Lanka. He braved himself to come to Ceylon alone during Dutch persecution and enkindle the Catholic faith among the faithful. They are Catholics who longed for a priest for so many years to offer Eucharist and guide them in Catholic faith. St. Joseph Vaz traveled distant places in search of Catholic families and served them tirelessly, day and night. It was because of his dedicated services to the people of God we are able to live a life of faith with freedom and dignity. Let us follow the example of St. Joseph Vaz and work for the salvation of souls.

The feast of the Conversion of St. Paul falls on 25th January. St. Paul was called by the risen Lord for a specific mission for gentiles. His pastoral journeys, forming Churches in different places and his epistles truly brought many to faith in Jesus Christ. We have learnt a lot about him and read his epistles during Mass. Let us also have his spirit and enthusiasm to bring more souls to Christ.

28th is the Holy Childhood Sunday. The theme for this year is 'Our Hope is to be Holy.' We always take extra effort to organize this day with the children and animators. Holy Mass, games, gatherings etc. are part of the programme of this day. Rev. Fr. Basil Rohan, the National Director for PMS has made all necessary arrangements with posters, liturgy etc. with the support of the Diocesan Directors of PMS. It is an occasion to guide our children towards creating an attitude to pray and be in solidarity with the children in the world by supporting them through their sacrifices. Let us join hands with Rev. Fr. Roison Sparks, diocesan director for PMS, animators and children and make this Sunday a meaningful one.

Let us continue to support each other in our mission with better understanding and closeness. May the Lord be praised!

Blessings to all! God bless you.

*+ Mr. Emmanuel*

✠ **Rt. Rev. Dr. Noel Emmanuel**

Bishop of Trincomalee.



# Bishop's Diary

## January 2024

<b>01st Monday</b>	-	Midnight Mass - St. Mary's Cathedral
	10.00 am -	Mass at Prison
<b>02nd Tuesday</b>	-	Priests' Recollection and meeting.
<b>07th Sunday</b>	-	Solemnity - The Epiphany of the Lord.
<b>08th Monday</b>	-	Feast - The Baptism of the Lord.
<b>12th Friday</b>	-	Jubilee Mass - Punduloya.
<b>13th Saturday</b>	-	Laity Commission meeting – Colombo.
<b>14th Sunday</b>	-	Mass - St. Mary's Cathedral. Declaration of "the Year of Prayer".
<b>15th Monday</b>	- 10.00 am -	Meeting of the College of Consultors.
	4.00 pm -	Meeting of Administrative Council.
<b>16th Tuesday</b>	-	Solemnity - St. Joseph Vaz
	9.30 am -	Meeting of the Council of Priests.
<b>17th Wednesday</b>	-	Meeting of North-East Bishops' Council Vavuniya.
<b>21st Sunday</b>	-	Programme in Colombo
<b>24 – 25 January</b>	-	SCCs National Programme – Jaffna.

## Pope's Prayer intention for the month of January

### The gift of diversity in the Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

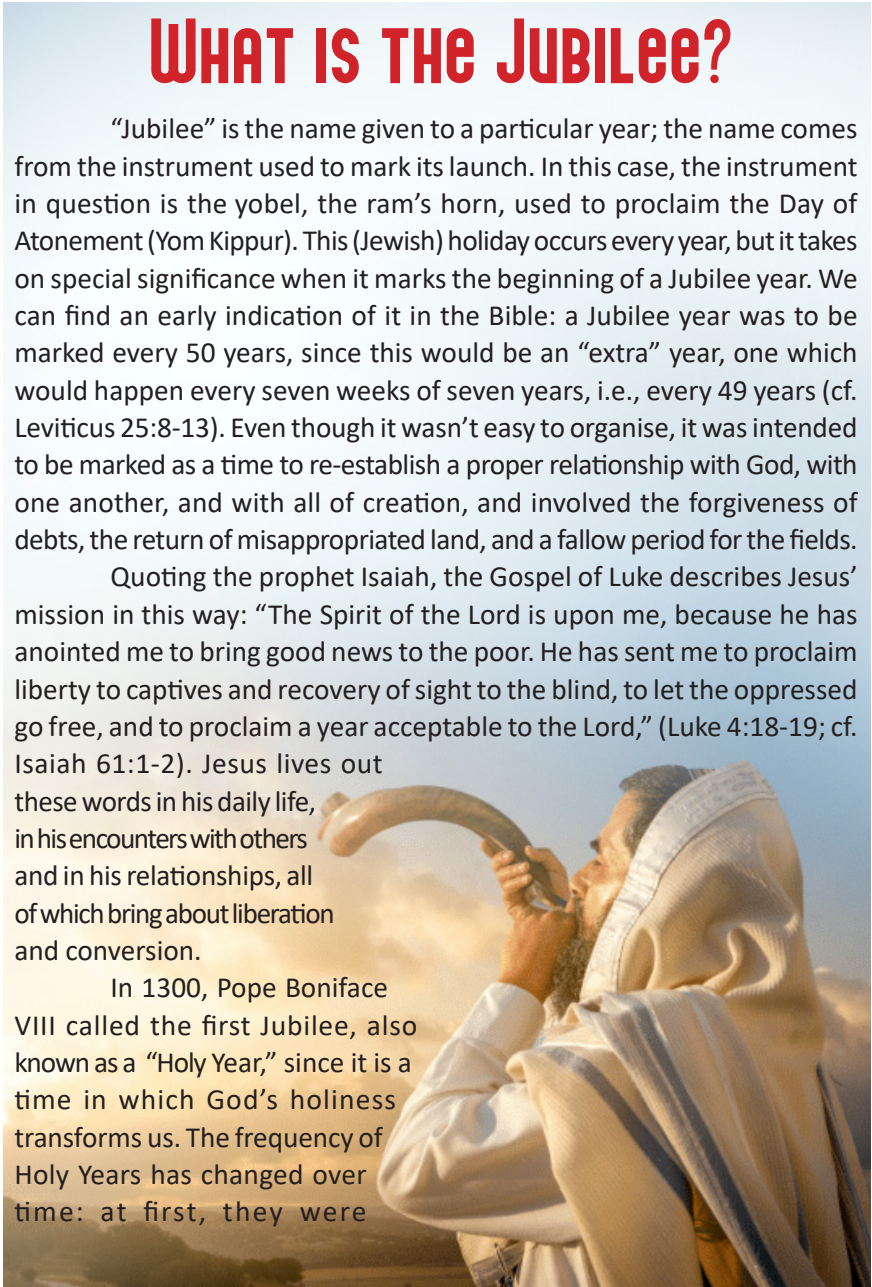


# WHAT IS THE JUBILEE?

“Jubilee” is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the yobel, the ram’s horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: a Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an “extra” year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it wasn’t easy to organise, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus’ mission in this way: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,” (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a “Holy Year,” since it is a time in which God’s holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were



celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been “extraordinary” Holy Years: for example, in 1933 Pope Pius XI chose to commemorate the 1900th anniversary of the Redemption, and in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy as an extraordinary jubilee. The way in which Jubilee Years are marked has also changed through the centuries: originally the Holy Year consisted of a pilgrimage to the Roman Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, later other signs were added, such as the Holy Door. By participating in the Holy Year, one is granted a plenary indulgence.

## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

**Pope Francis**

## 2023 - Year of the Council

In the letter that Pope Francis wrote in preparation for the Jubilee Year of 2025, he said that “The four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, together with the Magisterium of these recent decades, will continue to provide direction and guidance to God’s holy people, so that it can press forward in its mission of bringing the joyful proclamation of the Gospel to everyone”.

In the light of this request, it was decided that a series of small, simple volumes called Council Notebooksshould be produced. These are volumes written in very simple and direct language designed to attract the reader. Therefore, they are not a “comment”, but rather a short and pithy presentation of the richness of Vatican II.

## Year of Prayer - 2024

After the year devoted to reflecting on the documents and studying the fruits of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis has proposed that 2024 should be marked as a year dedicated to prayer. In preparation for the Jubilee, dioceses are invited to promote initiatives to remind people of the centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer. One idea might be for “pilgrimages of prayer” to be organised at a diocesan level – these would be effectively courses or ‘schools of prayer’ with monthly or weekly meetings, presided over by the local bishops, but open to the entire People of God. In addition, to help mark this year more fruitfully, the Dicastery for Evangelisation will publish a series of “Prayer Notebooks”, with material taken from the many forms of prayer to be found in the rich Catholic tradition.

### **Prayer Reflections**

PRAYER TODAY: A CHALLENGE TO OVERCOM

PRAYING WITH THE PSALMS

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

PRAYING WITH SAINTS AND SINNERS

PARABLES ON PRAYER

THE CHURCH IN PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF MARY AND THE SAINTS

THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US: THE “OUR FATHER”



## KEY DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

- 1740** In Scotland a Pentecostal movement arose, with North American links, whose revivalist message included prayers for and with all churches.
- 1820** The Rev. James Haldane Stewart publishes “Hints for the General Union of Christians for the Outpouring of the Spirit”.
- 1840** The Rev. Ignatius Spencer, a convert to Roman Catholicism, suggests a “Union of Prayer for Unity”.
- 1867** The First Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops emphasizes prayer for unity in the Preamble to its Resolutions.
- 1894** Pope Leo XIII encourages the practice of a Prayer Octave for Unity in the context of Pentecost.
- 1908** First observance of the “Church Unity Octave” initiated by the Rev. Paul Wattson.
- 1926** The Faith and Order movement begins publishing “Suggestions for an Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity”.
- 1935** Abbé Paul Couturier of France advocates the “Universal Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” on the inclusive basis of prayer for “the unity Christ wills by the means he wills”.
- 1958** Unité Chrétienne (Lyon, France) and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches begin co-operative preparation of materials for the Week of Prayer.
- 1964** In Jerusalem, Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I prayed together Jesus’ prayer “that they all may be one” (John 17).
- 1964** The Decree on Ecumenism of Vatican II emphasizes that prayer is the soul of the ecumenical movement and encourages observance of the Week of Prayer.
- 1966** The Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity [now known as the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity] begin official joint preparation of the Week of Prayer material.

- 1968** First official use of Week of Prayer material prepared jointly by Faith and Order and the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.
- 1975** First use of Week of Prayer material based on a draft text prepared by a local ecumenical group. An Australian group was the first to take up this plan in preparing the 1975 initial draft.
- 1988** Week of Prayer materials were used in the inaugural worship for The Christian Federation of Malaysia, which links the major Christian groupings in that country.
- 1994** International group preparing text for 1996 included representatives from YMCA and YWCA.
- 2004** Agreement reached that resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity be jointly published and produced in the same format by Faith and Order (WCC) and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (now Dicastery) (Catholic Church).
- 2008** Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. (Its predecessor, the Church Unity Octave, was first observed in 1908).
- 2017** Marking the commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, the materials for the Week of Prayer in 2017 were prepared by Christians in Germany.

### **Birthdays:**

- 01.01.2024** - Rev. Fr. V. Alan (IVDei)
- 03.01.2024** - Rev. Fr. C. P. Rajendram (SJ)
- 05.01.2024** - Rev. Sr. M. Reka (AC)
- 19.01.2024** - Rev. Maria Sebastian (OMI)
- 25.01.2024** - Rev. Fr. Paul Robinson

### **Ordination Anniversary:**

- 14.01.2024** - Rev. Fr. Alex Chelliah (OFM Cap) - 16 Years
- 18.01.2024** - Rev. Fr. Andrew Stephen - 10 Years
- 18.01.2024** - Rev. Fr. J. Sutharshan - 10 Years

### **Feast Day:**

- 05.01.2024** - Rev. Sr. M. Reka (AC)
- 25.01.2024** - Rev. Sr. Paul Jose (MC)



Christmas Carols, Kantalawa Parish – 27.12.2023



Oli Vizha – Catholic Youth Federation – Trincomalee Diocese – 30.12.2023



Assistance to the needy – 30.12.2023



Relics of Nine Saints at Guadalupe Church – 04.01.2024



## The Jubilee Logo Explained

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the 'anchor of hope' refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency manoeuvres to stabilise the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: Peregrinantes in Spem (Pilgrims in hope), represented in green letters.

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