

# Mangalore

Organ of the Catholic Association of South Kanara

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# 2023

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# CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA

Founded in 1914

(Regn. No. MNG/130/2021-2023)

## CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KANARA

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## EDITORIAL

A happy New Year to all of you dear members of CASK and readers of “Mangalore”. The Editorial team wishes you a very happy, healthy, fruitful and rewarding new year 2023!

I announce with much joy and pride that the “Mangalore” magazine has entered the **97<sup>th</sup> year of uninterrupted publication** with this issue! It is one of the oldest Monthlies of India, published since July 1927!

We are pleased to publish the thought provoking Christmas messages of Pope Francis and CASK Patron – Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha. Though we are past the Christmas season, I found the article titled “What is the real reason for the season – Sin or Love” by Daniel P. Horan, very interesting. I hope you will find it interesting too.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 1950, India willed itself as a Republic. This year we celebrate the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day. While over the last seventy odd years, the country has made much progress, we still have some problems and deficiencies that need to be tackled. Let us pledge to rededicate ourselves to the objectives stated in the preamble of our Constitution and play a positive role – individually and jointly.

In a gesture of love for her father, CASK past president Nayana Fernandes has just released a recipe book titled “With love” containing recipes of her father, the late Vincy Britto whose hobby was cooking. Another CASK Governing Council member – Stephen Mascarenhas (Hemacharya) through his ‘Ian Cares Foundation’ has established a Rehabilitation Center for drug addicts at Kinnigoly. We congratulate Nayana Fernandes and Stephen Mascarenhas on their heart warming ventures.

We now have strong evidence from an American firm that the computer of Fr Stan Swamy was hacked and false documents planted in it to show that he was involved in activities against the nation. We hope the Government Agencies and the Supreme Court take cognizance of the new evidence and declare Fr Stan innocent. We also hope that the Catholic Church will initiate the process of canonization of Fr Stan. He was indeed a living saint!

**Until next time.....Patsy Lobo**



## THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS...

“God is Light and there is no darkness at all in him” (1 John 1-5 & 10). “Whoever loves his brother abides in light”. Dear Friends, greetings of peace & joy during this festive season! The past year has been a very fruitful one. CASK has a new Governing Council in place and is marching forward. We had a successful Thanksgiving Re-union in the month of November. We have crossed many milestones during the past year. I want to thank all who have made this possible - listened without judgement, helped without conditions, understood with caring and love, no matter what. I am sure God has a special plan for us this year as well. While everything else in this world proves to be unpredictable, we can see God that stands firm by our side. We can be assured that his light will always guide us and his hand will lead us.

Our endowment funds have increased this year too. We have donors who have come forward with CSR funds (Corporate Social Responsibility). All that is entrusted to us will be utilised for scholarships, charitable works and for the betterment of the downtrodden. Our latest Donor is Karnataka Bank, which has entrusted us with a Rs. 5 Lakhs Endowment. We pass through this world just once and we are required to do whatever we can before we depart. Finally what we carry with us is our name and good deeds and nothing else. Pandemic or not, our team has put in more than anyone could imagine. As we thank God for allowing us to be a part of this organisation, your contributions and prayers have helped us carry this association through these difficult times with much satisfaction.

In the New Year too, we resolve to carry on our charitable work with your continued support and good wishes. Our only prayer and hope is that, those who have benefited from our charity will one day be able to extend a helping hand to other needy people. I am sure this was the aim of our forefathers when they started our Association 109 years ago. We have a mission and that is to help the young and the needy. Be it Scholarship distribution or Personality development program or the Teacher’s enrichment program, most of our programs

are aimed at helping the next generation.

I am grateful to each and every Governing Council member and our past office bearers who have put in their best over the years. We look forward to your continued support in the coming year too. Our endeavour will be “Let us all seek, strive and work towards resilience, resourcefulness and reinvention for a better world in the year 2023” Happy New Year and Compliments of the season to all the readers.

CASK mourns the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and joins the rest of the Catholic Church in praying that God grants him eternal rest in his heavenly kingdom. CASK also remembers all its members who left for their heavenly abode during 2022, May they rest in eternal peace. God Bless.

**Capt Vincent Pais**

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## **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS**



Pope Francis marked the start of Christmas at the Vatican by cautioning that it is impossible to celebrate the birth of Jesus without concern for the poor. During his Christmas message at a mass at St Peter’s Basilica, on the eve of Christmas the Pope said “Let us remember that it is not truly Christmas without the poor; without the poor, we can celebrate Christmas, but not the birth of Jesus.”

Pope Francis who has consistently prioritized the plight of the poor throughout his nearly decade-long papacy, marked his 10th Christmas Eve at the Vatican by again elevating the marginalized during his homily.

“Jesus was born poor, lived poor and died poor; he did not so much talk about poverty as live it, to the very end, for our sake,” the pope said. “From the manger to the cross, his love for us was always palpable, concrete; from birth to death, the carpenter’s son embraced the roughness of the wood, the harshness of our existence,” he continued. “He did not love us only in words; he loved us with utter seriousness!”

In that same sense, the Pope said anyone who truly wanted to celebrate Christmas must not be distracted by decorations, gifts and other forms of consumerism, but instead, find concrete ways to help out the poor.

“He who was born in the manger, demands a concrete faith, made up of adoration and charity, not empty words and superficiality,” the pope said. “He who lay naked in the manger and hung naked on the cross, asks us for truth, he asks us to go to the bare reality of things, and to lay at the foot of the manger all our excuses, our justifications and our hypocrisies.”

The pope was joined by some 25 cardinals, 15 bishops, 200 priests and an estimated 7,000 mass-goers inside the basilica and another 3,000 outside in St. Peter’s Square — the largest number of attendees at the annual Mass since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Pope implored those in attendance to look to the manger, where Christ was born, to rediscover the true meaning of Christmas. “We are called to be a church that worships a Jesus who is poor and that serves him in the poor,” said the pope. “Do we visit him where he is to be found, namely in the poor mangers of our world? For that is where he is present.”

Francis then recalled the example of St. Oscar Romero, a fierce advocate of the poor, whose social activism as Archbishop of San Salvador, led to his assassination in 1980. Quoting Oscar Romero the Pope said “The church supports and blesses efforts to change the structures of injustice, and sets down but one condition: that social, economic and political change truly benefit the poor,”.

During his homily, the pope said that the manger - typically used as a trough for feeding animals - can also be reminiscent of those in the world who “hunger for wealth and power, consume even their neighbors, their brothers and sisters.”

“How many wars have we seen! And in how many places, even today, are human dignity and freedom treated with contempt!,” he lamented. “As always, the principal victims of this human greed are the weak and the vulnerable.”

“This Christmas too, as in the case of Jesus, a world ravenous for money, power and pleasure does not make room for the little ones, for so many unborn, poor and forgotten children,” Francis continued. “I think above all of the children devoured by war, poverty and injustice. Yet those are the very places to which Jesus comes, a child in the manger of rejection and refusal.”

The pope said that all those that surrounded the Christ child in the lowly manger — Mary, Joseph and the shepherds were all poor and united not by riches nor great expectations, but in their affection for Jesus.

“The poverty of the manger thus shows us where the true riches in life are to be found: not in money and power, but in relationships and persons,” he said. In the same manner that Christ was born in the unexpected and unseemly setting of a manger, the Christmas message serves to remind the entire world that Christ is present even in the most unlikely and most difficult of circumstances, the pope said.

“God was born in a manger so that you could be reborn in the very place where you thought you had hit rock bottom,” said Francis. “There is no evil, there is no sin, from which Jesus does not want to save you. And he can. Christmas means that God is close to us: Let confidence be reborn!”

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## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE BY THE BISHOP OF MANGALORE AND PATRON OF CASK

### Christmas is a call to learn the art of loving



When we say Christmas, the first thought that comes to our mind is joy and enthusiasm; colourful lights, stars and decorations draw our attention. Another thing that catches our attention is the little Babe in the crib. There you experience simplicity and peace. It is said, small is beautiful. Beautiful attracts us. God has become small, a beautiful babe, and he attracts us. He draws us to himself to learn from him the art of love. Contemplating Jesus' life, Swami Vivekananda said, 'Had I lived in Palestine, in the days of Jesus of Nazareth, I would have washed his feet, not with my tears, but with my heart's blood'. He founded the Ramakrishna Mission on the eve of Christmas.

“Like Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi also cherished the person and teaching of Jesus. Gandhi forgave those who hurt him as Jesus forgave those who killed him. For a world beset with many contradictions, Gandhi showed the way of love and forgiveness. He identified seven deadly sins which are rampant even today - wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, science without humanity, knowledge without character, politics without principle, commerce without morality and worship without sacrifice. Divine love alone can raise us up to come out of this chaos and corruption which affects our society.

“The effect of corruption ‘a deadly cancer’ is very visible. It deadens conscience. In the print, social and digital media we see every day instances of hatred, violence, injustice and brutality. Desire to become powerful and rich at all costs is the predominant thought on which the world runs. Life seems to be money-centred. God is out of the picture. Religion seems to be a mere superficial show. As a result, people in general do not mourn; they do not shed tears when they see a tragedy and that is a matter of concern. Instead some find comfort only in photographing, video-graphing, and forwarding brutal

messages. Why is the conscience deadened in spite of all religious practices? What message does Lord Jesus give us in these situations?

“Jesus asks us to realize our true nature. We are created for love, not for hatred. God is love and the enemy of God promotes hatred. Love is heaven and hatred is hell. God became human to teach us the art of loving and self-giving. He has a human face, to help us acquire a divine face. The child born in simplicity and poverty raises up our hope by giving us a call to change our ways towards innocence, and love. Among all virtues love is supreme and it lasts forever. May Lord Jesus generate true love among us. Christians manifest love and service. Some people misguide the gullible to look at the followers of Christ with suspicion. But a true Christian loves as the Lord loved us. Those who promote hatred are, destroying themselves before they destroy others. They do not have God in them and therefore no hope either. I warmly greet you this Christmas. May the birth of Jesus our Saviour fill into your life goodness and love. Remember, love alone is credible. When you love, you become attractive. May this Christmas make you champions of love. Happy Christmas to you and Blessed New Year 2023,” he said.

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## THE TREE OF LIFE!

*Fr. Cedric Prakash SJ*

At the beginning of November 2022, Pope Francis began a 4-day historic visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain, where he was given an exceptionally warm welcome! From the time he arrived in Bahrain, he set the tone of his entire visit, by asking the Government of Bahrain to guarantee human rights to all and to abolish the death penalty! Bahrain is ruled by a Sunni monarchy which has been accused of discriminating against the country's Shiite majority.

Pope Francis however, kept his best for the pathbreaking address he delivered to a gathering of the Bahraini Royalty, Government authorities, the Diplomatic Corps, religious and civil authorities and other eminent citizens. Using the time-tested symbol of Bahrain's 'tree of life' as a metaphor, Pope Francis struck a chord with the august audience. He said, "here, where the waters of the sea surround the sands of the desert, and imposing skyscrapers rise beside traditional Oriental markets, very different realities come together: ancient and modern converge; tradition and progress mix; and above all, people from various backgrounds create a distinctive mosaic of life. In preparing for my visit, I learned about one outstanding "emblem of vitality" in this country, which is the "Tree of Life" (Shajarat-al-Hayat). I would like to take it as my inspiration for sharing a few thoughts with you. The tree itself is a majestic acacia that has survived for centuries in a desert area with very little rainfall. It seems impossible that a tree of this age has been able to live and flourish in these conditions. According to many people, the secret is to be found in its roots, which extend for dozens of meters beneath the ground, drawing from subterranean deposits of water.

He went on to focus on the need and importance of 'rootedness' saying, "Roots, then-The Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to remembering and cherishing its past, which tells of an extremely ancient land, to which thousands of years ago peoples came, drawn by its beauty, due especially to the abundant springs of fresh water that gave it the reputation of being a paradise. The ancient kingdom of

Dilmun was thus called “the land of the living”. As we ascend from those vast roots – which spread over more than 4,500 years of uninterrupted human presence – we see how Bahrain’s geographical position, the talents and commercial abilities of its people, together with historical events, have enabled it to take shape as a crossroads of mutual enrichment between peoples. One thing stands out in the history of this land: it has always been a place of encounter between different peoples”.

Pope Francis then lauded the composite, multi-ethnic, multi-religious fabric of Bahrain which has overcome the risk of isolation. He added for good measure and very emphatically, “Let us think instead of the **Tree of Life**, your symbol, and to the parched deserts of human coexistence let us bring the water of fraternity. May we never allow opportunities for encounter between civilizations, religions and cultures to evaporate, or the roots of our humanity to become desiccated and lifeless! Let us work together! Let us work in the service of togetherness and hope! I am here, in this land of the Tree of Life, as a sower of peace, in order to experience these days of encounter and to take part in a Forum of dialogue between East and West for the sake of peaceful human coexistence. These days mark a precious stage in the journey of friendship that has intensified in recent years”. For him then, one has to embark on that fraternal journey for sustainable peace!

Pope Francis has given a road-map, not only to those who listened to him in Bahrain, but to every human on this earth! He strongly said, “let us return to the Tree of Life. In the course of time, its many branches of varying size have produced abundant foliage, thus increasing the tree’s height and breadth. In this country, it was the contribution made by so many individuals from different peoples that enabled a remarkable increase in productivity. This was made possible by immigration. The Kingdom of Bahrain vaunts one of the highest levels of immigration in the world: about half of the resident population are foreigners, working in an evident way for the development of a country in which, despite leaving their native countries behind, they feel at home. At the same time, we must acknowledge that in our world unemployment levels remain all too high, and much labour is in fact

dehumanizing. This constitutes a threat to human dignity. For labour is not only necessary for earning a livelihood: it is a right, indispensable for integral self-development and the shaping of a truly humane society”.

There can be no life on earth, if the culture of death continues to grip humanity. Pope Francis did not mince words as he calls for an end to war and to the building of peace! “Second, the Tree of Life, whose roots that, deep in the subsoil, furnish vital water to the trunk, and from the trunk to the branches and then the leaves that give oxygen to creatures, makes me think of our human vocation, the vocation of each man and woman on earth, to make life flourish. Yet today we increasingly witness lethal actions and threats. I think especially of the monstrous and senseless reality of war, which everywhere sows destruction and crushes hope. War brings out the worst in man: selfishness, violence and dishonesty. For war, every war, brings in its wake the death of truth. Let us reject the logic of weapons and change course, diverting enormous military expenditures to investments in combating hunger and the lack of healthcare and education. Surveying the Arab Peninsula, whose countries I greet with sincere respect, my thoughts turn in a particular and heartfelt way to Yemen, torn by a forgotten war that, like every war, issues not in victory but only in bitter defeat for everyone. I especially keep in my prayers the civilians, the children, the elderly and the sick. And I beg: Let there be an end to the clash of weapons! Let there be an end to the clash of weapons! Let there be an end to the clash of weapons! Let us be committed, everywhere and concretely, to building peace!”

The ‘Tree of Life’ is then, much more than an emblem or logo; it is a metaphor and a direction: a way of proceeding! It is a journey: of rootedness to the depths and of branching out, to embrace all particularly those who need to be embraced! It is life in all its fullness – in short, it is ‘synodality’ which needs to be lived today!

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**PLEASE NOTE THE CASK UPDATED WEBSITE**

**[www.caskmangalore.org](http://www.caskmangalore.org)**

# MAHATMA GANDHI'S GREAT REVERENCE FOR CHRIST

*Ambassador (Retd) Pascal Alan Nazareth*

As millions of Christians and many non-Christians, celebrated Christmas 2022, Mahatma Gandhi's great reverence for Christ might be of interest to some of them. His notable statements on Christ are given hereunder: "What does Jesus mean to me? To me, he was one of the greatest teachers humanity has ever had."; "Jesus lived and died in vain if He did not teach us to regulate the whole of life by the eternal law of love"; "Jesus was perhaps the most active resister known to history. His was non-violence par excellence".

"Jesus never uttered a loftier or a grander Truth than when he said that wisdom comes out of the mouth of babes. I believe it. ....If we are to reach real peace in this world and if we are to carry on real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children."

"Jesus expressed as no other could, the spirit and will of God. It is in this sense that I see him and recognize as the Son of God. And because the life of Jesus has the significance and the transcendence to which I have alluded, I believe that he belongs not solely to Christianity but to the entire world, to all races and people. It matters little under what flag, name or doctrine they may work, profess a faith or worship a God inherited from their ancestors"

On seeing a painting of the crucified Christ in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, Gandhi remarked "I saw there at once that nations like individuals could only be made through the agony of the cross and in no other way. Joy comes not out of infliction of pain on others but out of pain voluntarily borne by oneself."

On one occasion when British critics flayed him for coercing the government with his fast, he smilingly replied that it was "the same kind of coercion which Jesus exercised from the cross"

In his 'The Story of Civilization' Will Durant lauds Gandhi thus "He did not mouth the name of Christ, but acted as if he accepted every word on the Sermon on the Mount. Not since St. Francis of Assisi has any life known to history been so marked by gentleness, disinterestedness, simplicity and forgiveness of enemies."

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