

Ubi Deus, Ibi Spes
જ્યાં પ્રભુ, ત્યાં આશા
Is 40:31; Rom 8:5

SPOTLIGHT

THE BARODA DIOCESE NEWSLETTER

For Private Circulation only

MAR-APR 2025

Pilgrims of Hope
2025



POPE FRANCIS MESSAGE FOR LENT 2025 AN EXTRACT

This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those



both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance

Let us journey together in hope, for we have been given a promise. May the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5), the central message of the Jubilee, [5] be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. e make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance. [

The third call to conversion: a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life. Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God's help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2025/02/25/250225b.html>

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE POPE MARCH

FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

APRIL

FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

JUBILEE YEAR - SYNODAL MUSINGS

LISTEN to the Spirit within You, Listen to the Spirit as discerned by others

+Seby Mascarenhas sfx



EXPERIENCING COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION AT WOMEN MAHASAMMELAN 2025



JUBILEE YEAR - SYNODAL MUSINGS

LISTEN to the Spirit within You, LISTEN to the Spirit as discerned by others

+Seby Mascarenhas sfx

The Month of February was for evaluation and reflection about how we could celebrate the Jubilee Year and begin the implementation of the Synodal directions. We met at Deanery levels to discuss the plan for next year; later the 7 Deans met with the Bishop to reflect on our Pastoral Direction for next year; and finally the Diocesan Priest Council, Parish Priests, Religious Superiors and Heads of Commissions met together to listen to each other.

The status *quaestiones*: **What would be the factor that could bring a qualitative change in our way of being Church in the Synodal Way in the Jubilee Year.**

Without doubt Pope Francis has led us through a challenging period of introspection within the Church. It is not just because of external challenges that we have but external challenges could be alibis to look away from the genuine internal challenges that we have to BE CHURCH

Religious Superiors. It gives us the key to understanding Church.

The key phrase here is: Synodality is a spiritual disposition. The words of Acts 15:28 keep ringing in my heart when making a decision and I have quoted them in SPOTLIGHT before: ***"For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..."*** The attitudes of Mary also resonate time and again as she kept ***"pondering in her heart"*** (Lk 2:19) and ***"treasuring all these things in her heart"*** (Lk 2:51b).

At all our discussions, it was agreed that we cultivate the art of reception, of listening, of listening to the Spirit. This is not something specialised for religious and priests alone. Or it should not be considered as something special for the PPC or other lay leadership alone. Every faithful has been enveloped by the Spirit and it is our prime pastoral task to enable them to listen to the Spirit. A large



AS BODY OF CHRIST.

It was a consensus that the key was to **LISTEN**. If we only **LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT WITHIN US** and **LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT THAT SPEAKS THROUGH OTHERS** in order to discern THE **WILL OF GOD** for us as community, shall we be truly a **People of God**.

Spiritual Conversations as a method has been proposed by the Pope. I have written about it many times in SPOTLIGHT. We have introduced it in our diocese many times. Let me be frank. I have participated in it myself umpteen times. It is genuinely difficult and I do not think I have it myself! I have observed myself and I have observed others as we participate. Many have participated umpteen times in Spiritual Conversations and we are still opinionated and hard of hearing!. I am not disappointed because this is a journey and we have begun.!

I have made a small summary using texts of the Closing Document of the Synod in this issue. I would request each of you to read it. We read it at the Deans Meeting and at the Meeting of Priest Council with PPs and

part of our charismatic retreats are in search of healing, which makes them attractive 'events'. They should also help people to listen to the Spirit in themselves.

The challenge is **HOW DO WE TRAIN ourselves all together - faithful (children, youth, adults), priests, religious, bishops to listen TO THE Spirit and To Listen to One Another?**

While Spiritual Conversations, in the strict sense, are only for Major Decisions, the attitude of listening to the Spirit and to one another as a Way of Life will be the basis if we can really have strict Spiritual Conversations.

We should have a pedagogy for empathic listening in our liturgy, in our meetings, in our teaching, in our interactions, for all: children, family, adults and especially for us, priests and religious.

And Mary said: *Let it be done to me according to your will* Lk 1:38. And she told the servants at Cana: *Do whatever he tells You.* (Jn 2:9)

These are the ultimate yardsticks for being a synodal Church. If only we could like Mary, **Listen!**

OFFICIAL MARCH 2025

COMMITMENTS OF THE BISHOP
MARCH APRIL 2025



PLEASE PRAY

BIRTHDAYS

01-2 Mar Confirmation in Borpada & Paraspada
Visits with Procurator and Land Coordinator
08 Mar Mass with Jesus Youth
09 Mar Confirmation in St Joseph
10 Mar Lenten Recollection, Diocese of Baroda
11 Mar WRBC Ecumenism Meeting
13 Mar Lenten Recollection, Diocese of Ahmedabad
16 Mar Visit to Muvaliya
COLLECTION FOR CARITAS INDIA
23 Mar Confirmation in Subir
24 - 28 Visits to Umargam, Zaroli, Valsad, Jhagadia
30 Mar Vednamurthi Mata Katkuva
31 Mar Retreat in Zaroli
10 Apr **CHRISM MASS --PAN DIOCESAN EVENT**
13 Apr Palm Sunday - Infant Jesus
17 Apr Maundy Thursday - Don Bosco
18 Apr Good Friday - St Joseph
GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION
20 Apr Easter Sunday - Rosary Cathedral
27 Apr Divine Mercy - Umargam

01-03-1957	Fr. Lemos Saby
17-03-1989	Fr. Bhushan Bara
23-03-1948	Fr. Fernandes Joao M.
24-03-1982	Fr. Karketta Raymond
29-03-1940	Fr. Gonsalves Albert
01-04-1980	Fr. John Raju
11-04-1969	Fr. Fernandes Duarte
11-04-1988	Fr. Vasava Kaushik
25-04-1974	Fr. D'Souza Mark
B 27-04-1974	Fr. Praveen Viegas

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

04-03-2000	Fr. Cyprian Mendoca
29-03-2015	Fr. Kilian Lopes J.
03-04-2023	Fr. Pereira Richard
17-04-2021	Fr. Paul Raj Napoleon
25-04-2021	Fr. Barreto Oscar



CCBI 36th Plenary Assembly
XIM UNIVERSITY, BHUBANESWAR



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Bank: Indian Overseas Bank,
A/C no: 019501000011894,
IFSC: IOBA0000195, Branch: Alkapuri, Baroda.

ORDINATIONS

28-04-2005	Fr. Paul D'Silva
28-04-2006	Fr. Anthony Swamy
29-04-1995	Fr. Macwan Vincent
29-04-2021	Fr. Ohariya Anand
30-04-2008	Fr. Lobo Vincent
30-04-2011	Fr. John Raju

ORDINATIONS

28-03-1992	Fr. Vasava Dalsukh
06-04-2013	Fr. Ravi Kumar
10-04-1988	Fr. Pais Joel R.
12-04-2012	Fr. Bijendra James
16-04-2010	Fr. Borsa Navsa
17-04-1979	Fr. Macwan Jayanti
17-04-1994	Fr. Machado Robert
21-04-2009	Fr. Brijendra Kumar
21-04-2018	Fr. Balu Madhanu
21-04-2018	Fr. Vasava Kaushik
23-04-1989	Fr. Vasava Kanti
23-04-2022	Fr. Anish Devasia
24-04-1988	Fr. Lemos Saby
25-04-1993	Fr. Macwan Manu
27-04-2002	Fr. Macwan Rakesh
27-04-2005	Fr. Praveen Viegas
28-04-1973	Fr. Fernandes Joao M.

SYNODALITY & THE JUBILEE YEAR

FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

A Synopsis with select texts from the Document.

The final document of the Synod is perhaps one of the most focused document ever published from Rome. It is a result of an immense consultation at all levels. While it would be important that all of us read the entire document,

we have chosen select passages that give us a sharp summary of the document.

We recommend that this two page summary be read in every community.

We used this text for reflection at the Meeting of Deans and at the Priests Council.

43 **SYNODALITY is primarily a spiritual disposition.** It permeates the daily life of the Baptised as well as every aspect of the Church's mission. A synodal spirituality flows from **the action of the Holy Spirit and requires listening to the Word of God, contemplation, silence and conversion of heart.** As Pope Francis stated in his opening address of the Second Session, "the Holy Spirit is a sure guide and [...] our first task is to learn how to discern his voice, since he speaks through everyone and in all things" (Address to the First General Congregation of the Second Session of the XVI General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, 2 October 2024). **A spirituality of synodality also requires asceticism, humility, patience and a willingness to forgive and be forgiven.** It welcomes with gratitude and humility the variety of gifts and tasks distributed by the Holy Spirit for the service of the one Lord (cf. 1 Cor 12:4-5). It does so without ambition, envy or desire for domination or control, cultivating the same attitude as Christ who "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" (Phil 2:7). *We recognise the fruits of a spirituality of synodality when the daily life of the Church is marked by unity and harmony in pluriformity.* No one can progress along the path of authentic spirituality alone; we need support, including formation and spiritual accompaniment, both as individuals and as a community

30. Specifically, **SYNODALITY designates three distinct aspects of the life of the Church:**

a) in the **first instance**, it refers to **"the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering"** 14 in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel. Synodality ought to be expressed in the Church's ordinary way of living and working. **This *modus vivendi et operandi* works through the community listening to the Word and celebrating the Eucharist, the brotherhood of communion**

and the coresponsibility and participation of the whole People of God in its life and mission, on all levels and distinguishing between various ministries and roles" (ITC 70.a);

b) **secondly**, "(i)n a more specific sense, which is determined from a theological and canonical point of view, **synodality denotes those structures and ecclesial processes in which the synodal nature of the Church is expressed at an institutional level, but analogously on various levels: local, regional and universal.** These structures and processes are officially at the service of the Church, which must discover the way to move forward by listening to the Holy Spirit" (ITC 70.b);

c) **thirdly**, synodality designates **"the programme of those synodal events in which the Church is called together by the competent authority in accordance with the specific procedures laid down by ecclesiastical discipline, involving the whole People of God in various ways on local, regional and universal levels, presided over by the Bishops in collegial communion with the Bishop of Rome, to discern the way forward and other particular questions, and to take particular decisions and directions with the aim of fulfilling its evangelising mission"** (ITC 70.c)

45 **CONVERSATION IN THE SPIRIT** is a tool that, even with its limitations, **enables listening in order to discern "what the Spirit is saying to the Churches"** (Rev 2:7). Its practice has elicited joy, awe and gratitude and has been experienced as a path of renewal that transforms individuals, groups, and the Church. The word "conversation" expresses more than mere dialogue: it interweaves thought and feeling, creating a shared vital space. That is why we can say that conversion is at play in conversation. This is an anthropological reality found in different peoples and cultures, who gather together in solidarity to deal with and decide matters vital to the community. Grace brings this human experience to fruition. **Conversing "in the Spirit" means living the experience of sharing in**

SYNODALITY & THE JUBILEE YEAR

FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

A Synopsis with select texts from the Document.

the light of faith and seeking God's will in an evangelical atmosphere within which the Holy Spirit's unmistakable voice can be heard.

84. The steps of **ecclesial discernment** will differ depending on the various places and their traditions. Based on the synodal experience, we have identified some elements of discernment which should be included:

- a) **clearly setting out the object of discernment and disseminating information** and the means for adequately understanding it;
- b) **giving sufficient time for prayerful preparation**, for listening to the Word of God and for reflection on the question;
- c) **an inner disposition of freedom regarding one's own interests**, both personal and as a group, and a commitment to the pursuit of the common good;
- d) **listening attentively and respectfully to each person's voice**;
- e) **searching for the widest possible consensus** which will emerge when our hearts burn within us (cf. Lk 24:32), without hiding conflicts or searching for the lowest common denominator;
- f) **the leaders of the process formulate the consensus in such a way that allows the participants to say whether they recognise themselves in it or not.**

The discernment process should lead to a **mature acceptance** by all of the decision, even by those whose individual opinions are not accepted. The process should also provide for a period for reception by the community that will lead to further review and assessment.

77. The **LAY FAITHFUL**, both men and women, should be given **greater opportunities for participation, also exploring new forms of service** and ministry in response to the pastoral needs of our time in a spirit of collaboration and differentiated co-responsibility. In particular, some concrete needs have emerged from the synodal process. These ought to be responded to according to the various contexts:

- a) **increased participation of laymen and laywomen** in Church discernment processes and all phases of decision-making processes (drafting, making and confirming decisions);
- b) **greater access of laymen and laywomen** to positions of responsibility in dioceses and

ecclesiastical institutions, including seminaries, theological institutes and faculties, more fully enacting existing provisions;

- c) **greater recognition and support for the lives and charisms of consecrated men and women** and their employment in positions of ecclesial responsibility;
- d) **a greater number of qualified lay people** serving as judges in all canonical processes;
- e) **effective recognition of the dignity and respect** for the rights of those who are employed in the Church and its institutions.

102. **It seems necessary to ensure, at the very least, the establishment everywhere of the following in forms appropriate to different contexts:**

- a) **effective functioning of finance councils**;
- b) **effective involvement of the People of God**, in particular of the more competent members, in pastoral and financial planning;
- c) **preparation and publication (appropriate to the local context and in an accessible form) of an annual financial report**, insofar as possible externally audited, demonstrating the transparency of how the temporal goods and financial resources of the Church and its institutions are being managed;
- d) **the preparation and publication of an annual report on the carrying out of the local Church's mission**, including also safeguarding initiatives (the protection of minors and vulnerable adults), and progress made in promoting the laity's access to positions of authority and to decision-making processes, specifying the proportion of men and women;
- e) **periodic evaluations of all the ministries and roles within the Church.**

94. **Implementing the processes of decision-making** correctly and resolutely, and in a synodal style, will further the progress of the People of God in a participatory way, especially by utilising the institutional means provided for in Canon Law, in particular participatory bodies. **Without concrete changes in the short term, the vision of a synodal Church will not be credible, and this will alienate those members of the People of God who have drawn strength and hope from the synodal journey. LOCAL CHURCHES need to find ways to implement these changes.**

26.02.2025 JHAGADIA

*It would be an exaggeration to say that this was a first in the diocese. We have had big programs. But it was indeed unique that women of the entire diocese of Vadodara, rural and urban, tribal and migrant, educated or not, young and old gathered for **Sudhanya**, the MahaSammelan of Catholic Women of Baroda. **The general mood was JOY and ENTHUSIASM** of coming together. There were definitely more people than the official registration numbers listed below. While the initial expectation was around 1200, for which an interactive program was envisaged, the participants swelled to over 3000 and the programming was changed just a week before the program. **Some parishes, even with small populations, brought relatively large numbers!** Even more joyous was to see almost all the Parish Priests besides other priests and a large number of women religious participating in the program. **The presence of the Nuncio gave stature to the program.** It was indeed unique that the Nuncio took time off for such a pastoral program. **The Synodal Way seems to be kicking in.***

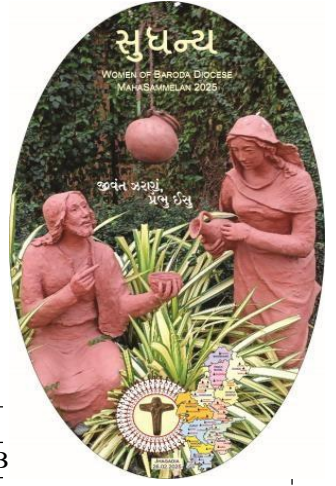
Name of Parish	No	Name of Parish	No
Vadodara		SURAT	
Our Lady of Rosary Cathedral, Fatehgunj (1869)	131	Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Nanpura.(1639 - 1935)	85
St. Joseph the Worker, Nizampura. (1940)	143	St. Anthony's Church, Valsad.(1912)	18
Our Lady of Fatima, Gothada.(1960)	51	Holy Trinity Church, Bilimora. (1963)	7
Don Bosco Church, Makarpura. (1972)	55	Holy Cross Church, Navsari.(1965)	18
Catholic Church, Bhoj , Padra.	10	Our Lady of Hope Church, Vapi.(1977)	6
Holy Family Church, Gorwa.	40	Mother Mary Church, Bhestan.(1997)	52
Sacred Heart Sama	20	Divine Mercy Church, Umargam (2013)	21
PANCHMAHAL		Our Lady of Pilar, Pardi	8
St. Joseph's Church, Dahod.(1932)	18	TAPI	
Christ the King Church, Jhalod.(1975)	16	St. Francis Xavier Church, Zaroli.(1922)	75
Catholic Church, Chhota Udepur.(1975)	13	St. Joseph's Church, Vyara.(1961)	275
Mary, Queen and Mother, Godhra.(1976)	12	Christ, Light of the World Church, Unai.(1971)	62
Catholic Church, Muvalia.(1984)	0	Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dharampur.(1976)	33
Nitya Sahayak Mata, Kawant.(1986)	18	St. Joseph's Church, Mandal.(1990)	173
Sacred Heart Church, Narukot.(1987)	21	Christ - Rock of Salvation, Bardipada (2001)	60
Sacred Heart Church, Halol.(1989)	18	Catholic Church, Paraspada. (2005)	84
St. Mary's Church, Diwada Colony, Kadana.(1990)	11	Catholic Church Songad	18
Catholic Church, Tankala (2002)	4	DANGS	
. NARMADA		St. Francis Xavier, Pimpri.(1980)	71
Isunath Mandir, Zankhvav.(1960)	169	Catholic Church, Samgahan.(2002)	16
Param Kripa Mandir, Dediapada.(1965)	315	St. Paul, Subir.(2002)	16
Jesus the Saviour, Umarpada.(1977)	181	BHARUCH	
Immaculate Conception BVM Church, Sagbara.(1979)	102	Our Lady of Health, Bharuch.(1814)	43
Catholic Church, Nani Singloti.(2000)	52	St. Joseph of the Adivasis, Jhagadia. (1971)	145
St. John Marie Vianney, Relwa. (2002)	107	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Ankleshwar.(1978)	65
Catholic Church, Dadhwada.(2002)	108	Catholic Church, Hingoria. (1984)	110
St. Xavier's Church, Rajpipala. (1928 -2000)	5	Catholic Church, Netrang. (2013)	30

સુધન્ય

WOMEN OF THE DIOCESE OF BARODA

સુધન્ય -- જીવંત મરણ, 翻 ભુસુ

MAHASAMMELAN 2025,
JHAGADIA 26.02.2025



TIME	EVENT	IN CHARGE
8.30 a.m	Announcements etc begin	Comperes: FR RAKESH & VASANTIB
	Registration & Breakfast	Colour codes in 7 groups
9.30 a.m.	Action/Ice breakers	Fr. Isaac Arackaparmbil and Team
9.45 a.m.	Common Welcome Dance	Meenakshiben & team (<i>adivasistylecommunitydancing</i>)
10.15 a.m.	Welcome to the Nuncio	Community Dancing
10.30 a.m.	Welcome Speech	Sr. Anita FC Coordinator Women's commission (5 mins)
10.35 a.m	Declaration of સુધન્ય open	Apostolic Nuncio
10.45 a. m	Eucharist	Presided over by Apostolic Nuncio Nuncio celebrates in English, Bp Seby does Gujarati Part. MC: Fr. Paul D'Silva and Sr Smita CM
	Post Communion	Nuncio addresses (5 to 7 minutes)
12.00 a.m	Lunch Break	Lunch for all women Nuncio Meets the priest & sisters and PPC members
01.40	Introduction on bible	Fr Ashok Vaghela sj
01:50-02:00	Play on creation 10 min	Sr Anju MSCJ, Surat and Team
0202 -0212	Play on Sara & Abraham	Fr Raja SVD, Godhra & Team
0214 to 0220	Reflection	Sr Pratiksha MCJ
0220 -0223	Action Songs	Sr Sarika FDCC & Team; Sr. Vimla SU, Sr Nirmala MSCJ & Team, Fr Isaac
0225 -0235	Play on Ruth	Sr Asha CCV & Team
0237 to 0247	Play on forgiveness	Sr. Pushpa SA Baruch & Team
0249-0245	Reflection	Sr. Shanta FC
0245-247	Action Songs	Sr. Mayuri SChSA & Team; Sr. Anita Vaz FHIC Navsari & Team Fr Isaac
0250-0300	Play on Sower & Seed	Sr. Sumati CM, Sr. Lawrence FC & Team
0302-0312	Play on woman at the table	Sr. Lourdes CCV Pimpri & Team
0314-0320	Reflection	Reflection Fr Chris SDB
0320-0323	Action Songs	Sr. Preeti SChSa & Team; Sr Sonal LD & Team Fr Issac
0330-0340	Play on wedding at Cana	Sr. Quincyann FMA & Team
0342-0348	Reflection	Reflection Fr. Ashok Vaghela sj
	Action Songs	Sr Kokila OP & Team Fr Issac SDB
0350 - 0355	Vote of Thanks	Mrs Dolcy Simon (5 mins)
4.00 pm	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament	Fr. Dhansukh Vasava
4.20 pm.	Blessing	Apostolic Nuncio

4.30 P.M --- DEPART FOR HOME

SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

12.00	Meeting with Priests and Nuns	Q & A session. Short pointed questions. Moderator: Bp Seby
1.00 p.m.	Lunch for the Nuncio	
1.45	Meeting with PPC leaders	Q & A session: Short Pointed Questions Translator: Fr, Francis D'Sa Moderator: Bp Seby
2.30	Nuncio attends play presentation	

26.02.2025 JHAGADIA



The innovative part of the Women Mahasammelan was the Q&A session with the Apostolic Nuncio His Excellency Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli. For one hour priests and religious asked Questions and the Nuncio listened with empathy and replied with wisdom and humour. Sr. Rekha, Provincial of the MSCJ sisters thanked the Nuncio for his openness and simplicity.

The Nuncio then spent 90 minutes with 95 representatives of the laity (two from each Parish). It was exciting for the laity to interact with the representative of the Pope. The key question was: *we had so many meetings for the Synod and so many suggestions were given, what has happened about that?* The Nuncio repeated the entire process that has happened. The Nuncio then asked a few questions to the people about being Catholic and being a minority. While the people did not fear for themselves they did express that they encountered problems in their day to day life. The Nuncio exhorted them to reach out to the neighbours and be lights for them.



सुधन्य MAHASAMMELAN 2025 - WOMEN OF BARODA

26.02.2025 JHAGADIA

WELCOME AT THE AIRPORT



GREETINGS AT THE VENUE



THE WATER OF LIFE INAUGURAL

The Sammelan opens with the watering of a plant, symbolic of the water of life, the theme of the day. The Nuncio then released a dove (front page) to symbolise the mission that the water of life enables us to undertake. It set the tone for the dancing crowd of over 3400, women, around 200 odd priests and religious, around 100 PPC members not counting the children who accompanied them.



THE MAIN ORGANISERS



THE WOMEN LEADERSHIP TEAM



MASS DANCING TO WELCOME THE NUNCIO

સુધન્ય MAHASAMMELAN 2025 - WOMEN OF BARODA

26.02.2025 JHAGADIA



The large gathering participated devoutly in every act and event of the day. Devout, silent, dancing, joyous, rural, urban, priests, religious, laity, young, old .. it was a celebration of faith and togetherness despite the heat and the distant travel. Dahod had left at 3.15 a.m. to arrive on time. Just like Umbergam or Zaroli or Paraspada. Some parishes really pulled out all stops to bring as many women as possible (see the list earlier)



सुधन्य MAHASAMMELAN 2025 - WOMEN OF BARODA

26.02.2025 JHAGADIA

Women from the 50 parishes came with organic gifts and placards of their parish and laid them before the altar. Halol offered a duck. Earlier the women had been divided into seven groups with seven coloured scarfs and the logo of the Sammelan printed on it.



The Mahaarati was celebrated by the women of Umapada to the words of the Doxology sung by Fr Praveen Viegas. Later over sixty sisters spread out to distribute Holy Communion in the large gathering. The ambience of awe and devotion touched the people as the Bishop led them through the different parts of the Mass.



The highlight of the Mass was the enactment of the story of the Samaritan woman in song (music and lyrics by Fr. Kaushik Vasava) and dance (choreographed by Narmada and Sr Anita Parmar fc) by the girls of St Xavier School Jhagadia. A few problems of women were highlighted in the song: **domestic violence from mother in laws and husbands, migration for search of work, discrimination between rural and urban women, poverty related issues etc...** Jesus reaches out to them as he did to the Woman at the Well. The novel way of proclamation touched the hearts of the women participating in the Mass.

સુધન્ય

MAHASAMMELAN 2025 - WOMEN OF BARODA

26.02.2025 JHAGADIA



7 skits on Bible texts were presented by women from seven parishes directed by sisters from those parishes. In between action songs were led by women from seven other parishes directed by sisters and Fr. Isaac. This interplay of the thought provoking skits and the charming dance steps kept the crowd in joyous thought.



સુધન્ય MAHASAMMELAN 2025 - WOMEN OF BARODA

26.02.2025 JHAGADIA



Practical theological reflections were presented by Sr. Shanta fc, Sr. Pratiksha mcj, Fr. Chris sdb and Fr. Ashok Vaghela sj.

Despite his two and a half hour marathon of Q & A the Apostolic Nuncio was game enough to sit through some of the play presentations and participate in the action songs himself. The beauty of the entire program was the time management almost exactly as per the schedule proposed for the program.

The final act was the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by Fr Dalsukh Vasava. deep meditative silence of the huge crowd and the Final Blessing by the Apostolic Nuncio. It brought a fruitful day to a prayerful closure, as scheduled, 4.30 p.m.

Congratulations to Sr Anita and her team for the perfect programming and Fr William Carvalho and his team for the exact organisation. Fr. Rakesh and Vasanti compered the day and Fr. Paul D'Silva organised the Eucharist meaningfully. So many sisters from so many congregations collaborated together with the parish priests.



KAVANT, KORVI, GAI SAVAR



SALESIAN FATHERS AT KAWANT



DOMINICAN SISTERS AT KAWANT

The small Catholic community of Kawant came together to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation under the enthusiastic leadership of Fr. Mayank Parmar and his parish team and the Dominican sisters. After the Mass, the parishioners met with the Bishop who addressed them and listened to their queries. A sumptuous meal followed.



↑ FEBRUARY 12 – KORVI MELO
FEBRUARY 11 – GAY SAVAR MELO ➡



← SEMINARIANS OF THREE DIOCESES
↓ FORMATORS WITH GUJARAT BISHOPS



HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY RELVA ↓



↓ HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY JHAGADIA





FEBRUARY 8 – FINAL VOWS AT BHARUCH

Srs. Diana D'Souza, Janet Paiva and Nancy Rodrigues pronounced their final commitment in the Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary at Vidhyadeep, Community College Bharuch on the Feast Day of the Congregation in the presence of the Provincial, Sr. Philomena. Other sisters renewed their vows in the congregation.

The Vidhyadeep College has 176 girls from the tribal areas studying various courses besides English. 50 girls are Catholics.



Feb 24: Deacon Christopher ordained at Don Bosco Church Makarpura



Feb 6: 45 Priests and Religious Meet at Jhagadia to Plan for the Women Sammelan

FEB 20: PRIEST COUNCIL MEETING

February 20: Members of the Priest Council met at the Bishop's House, together with Parish Priests, Superiors of Religious communities and Directors of Various Commissions to reflect on the Final Document of the Synod and to plan for the Diocese for the next Pastoral Year. A key takeaway was the Survey paper for each family presented Sr Maggie DHM, the Director of the Commission for Migrants. It was agreed to collect the data by the end of August. It was also proposed to have the closing ceremony of the Jubilee Year on December 27, 2025 at Zankhvav with representatives from all parishes.



PICSWORDS

MARCH 1 & 2, 2025: JOY & HOPE IN SATMALLI AND PARASPADA

The joy of being Christian was really manifest in the rolling hills of Borpada, Satmalli and Paraspada where ebullient Fr. Ishwan Gamit singlehandedly manages evangelisation, education, hotel management and tuitions despite the difficult terrain.



Fr. Thomas Koladi sj laid the foundations of the people of God in Satmalli. We gathered, 25 years later, to celebrate the first fruits of evangelisation.



It was unbridled joy for these devout simple people. Fr. Aubrey D'Souza sj nurtured these remote areas initially.

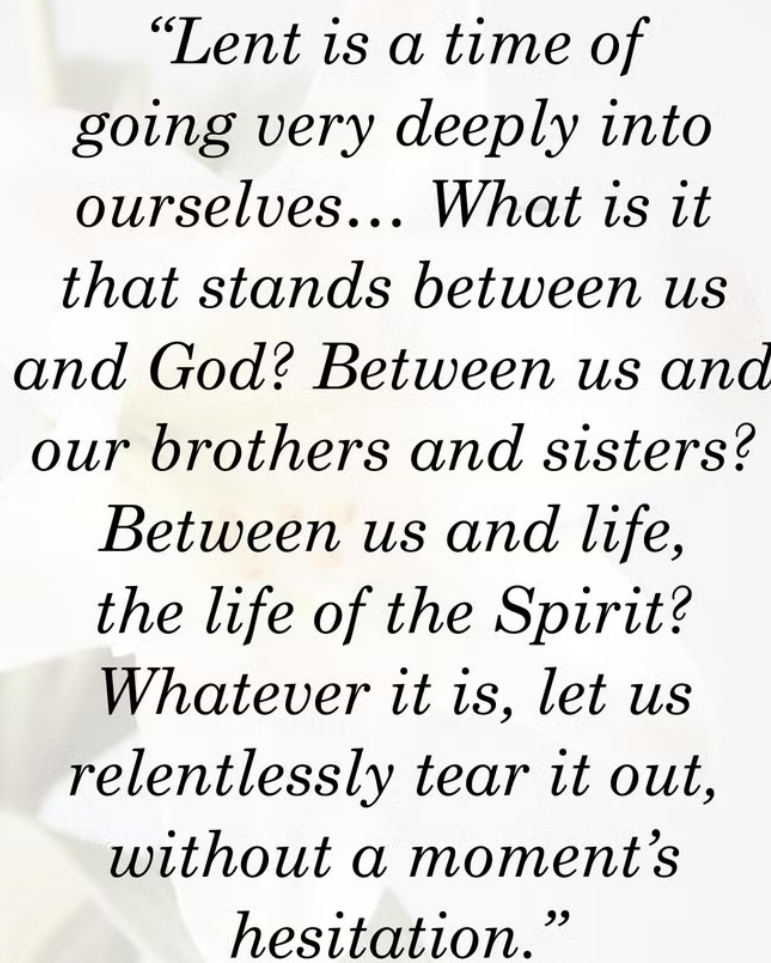


A new grotto was blessed near the lovely chapel nestling among in the valley at VAVARPADA. The simple people and their rugged life in still pristine conditions evoke mixed emotions. Idyllic OR underdeveloped?



**23 lay faithful were blessed as they pledged to be proclaimers of the kingdom in their own villages
Over 100 were confirmed at Vavarpada**





*“Lent is a time of
going very deeply into
ourselves... What is it
that stands between us
and God? Between us and
our brothers and sisters?
Between us and life,
the life of the Spirit?
Whatever it is, let us
relentlessly tear it out,
without a moment’s
hesitation.”*

—Catherine Doherty