



DECREE Concerning the Collection, Administration, Recording and Celebration of Mass Intentions

“The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and, by that offering, participate in the Church’s concern for the support of its ministers and works.” (Canon 946)

1. CANONICAL AND ECCLESIAL FOUNDATION

The present Decree is promulgated in accordance with:

- **The Code of Canon Law**, especially:
 - *can. 381 §1 (the authority of the Diocesan Bishop);*
 - *can. 392 (the Bishop’s duty to ensure the observance of ecclesiastical discipline);*
 - *can. 945–958 (Mass offerings and obligations attached thereto);*
 - *can. 1276 (the Bishop’s vigilance over the administration of ecclesiastical goods);*
 - *can. 1284 (the obligations of administrators of ecclesiastical goods);*
 - *can. 537 (the Parish Finance Council).*
- The Instruction **Mos Iugiter** (Congregation for the Clergy, 22 February 1974), which clarified the theological and canonical nature of Mass offerings and reaffirmed the obligation of priests to celebrate faithfully the Masses entrusted to them.
- The Decree **Firmo** (Congregation for the Clergy, 1991), concerning the administration and transfer of Mass intentions.
- The Decree **The Pastoral Meaning of Mass Offerings** (*Il significato pastorale delle offerte per la celebrazione delle Messe*), promulgated by the Dicastery for the Clergy on 13 April 2025 and approved *in forma specifica* by the Holy Father Pope Francis, reaffirming the authentic meaning of Mass offerings, safeguarding the intentions of the faithful, excluding every appearance of commerce, and encouraging transparency and proper ecclesiastical administration.

These universal norms reaffirm that Mass offerings are acts of faith and ecclesial communion, intended principally for the support of the sacred ministry and always to be administered with the highest degree of honesty, accountability and pastoral charity.

PREAMBLE

The Most Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 11) and the greatest treasure entrusted by Christ to His Church. Through the Eucharistic Sacrifice, Christ continually sanctifies His people and gathers them into one Body. Every celebration of the Holy Mass is an act of worship offered to the glory of God and for the salvation of the living and the dead.

From the earliest centuries, the Christian faithful have requested that the Holy Mass be celebrated for particular intentions, accompanying their request with a voluntary offering. This venerable practice expresses their participation in Christ's sacrifice, their confidence in the efficacy of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, and their desire to support the sacred ministry entrusted to the Church.

The Church has carefully regulated this practice through her canonical discipline so that the intentions entrusted by the faithful may always be fulfilled faithfully, every appearance of commerce may be excluded, and the offerings may be administered according to justice, transparency and ecclesial responsibility.

In the Diocese of Kurnool, a longstanding practice has developed whereby Mass intentions are collected centrally and distributed equitably among the diocesan clergy. This practice promotes fraternity among priests, ensures an equitable distribution of Mass offerings, safeguards the confidence of the faithful, and reflects the communion that binds together the presbyterate of the Diocese.

Mindful of my responsibility as Diocesan Bishop to safeguard ecclesiastical discipline, promote sound administration of ecclesiastical goods, and protect the spiritual and temporal welfare of both the faithful and the clergy, and after appropriate discernment I hereby establish the following norms, which shall bind all priests, parishes, quasi-parishes, institutions, shrines and pastoral centres within the Diocese of Kurnool.

I. The Nature of Mass Offerings

Article 1

According to the constant tradition of the Church, every priest celebrating or concelebrating the Holy Eucharist may receive an offering so that the Mass may be applied for a particular intention (cf. can. 945).

Article 2

A Mass offering is never a payment for the Eucharist nor the purchase of spiritual benefits. Rather, it is a voluntary offering made by the faithful as an expression of their faith and participation in the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

Article 3

By these offerings, the faithful contribute principally to the support of the clergy entrusted with the ministry of the Gospel and thereby participate in the life and mission of the Church (cf. can. 946).

Accordingly, Mass intentions are **not ordinary parish income**, nor are they intended to finance the regular pastoral or administrative expenses of the parish. Their principal purpose is the support of the clergy through the canonical discipline established by the Church.

Article 4

Every Mass accepted with an offering constitutes an obligation in justice. The priest who accepts, or to whom an intention is entrusted, is bound in conscience to ensure that the Mass is celebrated faithfully for the intention received (cf. cann. 949 and 955).

II. DIFFERENT KINDS OF MASSES AND THEIR CELEBRATION

1. Foundation Masses (*Missae Fundatae*)

Through this provision, a family may make a **one-time donation to the Diocese**, which is invested, and the interest generated is used to celebrate **regular Holy Masses** for the repose of the soul of the deceased, in whose name the Foundation Mass is established. **The same is applicable for the intentions of the living** i.e. faithful can establish foundation masses to get Masses celebrated regularly **for their intentions while alive** and for the repose of their soul after their departure. (Cf. cc. 1303 §1, 1304–1310 CIC).

- To establish a Foundation Mass, the **minimum required donation is 50,000**. For a donation of **50,000**, the Diocese will ensure the celebration of **six Holy Masses each year**, in perpetuity, as long as the Diocese exists.

- For a donation of **1,00,000**, the Diocese will ensure the celebration of **twelve Holy Masses each year**, that is, **one Mass every month**, preferably on the anniversary of the date of demise.

The **Diocesan Chancery** will ensure and guarantee the faithful fulfilment of these Mass intentions. A **certificate of establishment** will be issued for each Foundation Mass, duly signed by the **Bishop and the Chancellor**.

2. **Gregorian Masses (*Missae Gregorianae*)**

Gregorian Masses consist of **thirty Masses celebrated for the same deceased person on thirty consecutive days**, according to the long-standing tradition of the Church associated with St. Gregory the Great. The uninterrupted celebration of the thirty Masses should be carefully observed. If an interruption occurs for a legitimate reason recognized by law or ecclesiastical authority, the celebration is to continue from the following day. Only one Mass intention may be accepted for each Mass celebrated. (*Cf. CIC cc. 945–958; Congregation for the Clergy, Mos iugiter, 24 February 1967*). **In the diocese of Kurnool a Gregorian Mass may be requested with an offering of Rs. 6000.**

3. **Novena Masses**

A Novena of Masses consists of **nine Masses offered for the same intention, ordinarily celebrated on nine consecutive days, although a just pastoral reason may permit another arrangement**. Each Mass requires its own legitimate offering, and the intention is to be clearly specified. The priest is bound to celebrate the Masses faithfully according to the accepted obligation. (*Cf. cc. 945–958 CIC*). **In the diocese of Kurnool a Novena Mass may be requested with an offering of Rs. 2000.**

4. **Triduum Masses**

A Triduum of Masses consists of **three Masses celebrated for the same intention, normally on three consecutive days**. These Masses are frequently requested for the deceased or for particular spiritual needs. Each Mass carries a distinct Mass intention and offering, and the celebrant must fulfill the obligation in accordance with the accepted intention. (*Cf. cc. 945–958 CIC*). **In the diocese of Kurnool a Triduum Mass may be requested with an offering of Rs. 600.**

5. **Ordinary Masses**

Ordinary Masses are individual Masses celebrated for a specific intention

for which a single Mass offering has been accepted. Every legitimately accepted intention obliges the priest to apply one Mass for that intention. The intention is to be recorded accurately in the prescribed register, and the Mass is to be celebrated within the time established by law. (*Cf. cc. 945–958 CIC*). **In the diocese of Kurnool an Ordinary Mass may be requested with an offering of Rs. 100.**

6. Diocesan Norm Regarding the Mass Stipends

No priest or parish shall demand a higher amount than the approved diocesan stipend (see above). The faithful remain entirely free to make any additional voluntary offering according to their generosity.

III. DIOCESAN DISTRIBUTION OF MASS INTENTIONS

Article 5

The Diocese of Kurnool has established the practice of distributing Mass intentions equitably among the diocesan clergy. Accordingly, every diocesan priest, except those specifically exempted by the Diocesan Bishop because of their office or particular ministry, receives Mass intentions through the Diocesan Curia.

Article 6

Consequently, all Mass intentions received in parishes, quasi-parishes, institutions, shrines and pastoral centres are to be transmitted to the Diocesan Curia for their proper canonical assignment and equitable distribution.

Article 7

No parish or institution shall ordinarily retain Mass intentions for local celebration or for local financial purposes unless expressly authorized by the Diocesan Bishop.

This diocesan discipline guarantees:

- o equitable support for all priests;
- o faithful fulfilment of the intentions entrusted by the Christian faithful;
- o transparency in financial administration;
- o proper canonical accountability.

IV. REGISTERS AND RECEIPTS

Article 8

Every parish, institution, shrine and pastoral centre shall maintain:

- o an Official Mass Intention Register;
- o the Official Receipt Book

Article 9

Immediately upon receiving a Mass intention, the following shall be entered in the Mass Register:

- o date received;
- o name of the donor (when appropriate);
- o intention;
- o stipend received;
- o receipt number;
- o date transmitted to the Diocese;

Article 10

An official receipt shall be issued for every Mass intention received.

The faithful are encouraged to request and preserve this receipt as evidence that their intention has been duly accepted.

Article 11

The Mass Register and Receipt Book are official ecclesiastical records and shall be preserved permanently among the parish archives.

V. MONTHLY TRANSMISSION OF MASS INTENTIONS

Article 12

All Mass intentions received during a calendar month shall be remitted to the Diocesan Curia **on or before the 10th day of the following month.**

Article 13

The remittance shall include:

- o the amount collected;
- o copies of the receipts issued;
- o a summary statement of Mass intentions received;

Article 14

The Diocese shall maintain the central register of Mass intentions and shall distribute them among the priests according to diocesan norms.

VI. OBLIGATIONS OF PRIESTS

Article 15

Every priest who receives Mass intentions from the Diocese shall faithfully celebrate them within the time prescribed

Article 16

Each priest shall maintain a personal record of all Mass intentions received and celebrated.

Article 17

Every priest remains personally responsible before God and the Church for the faithful fulfilment of the intentions entrusted to him.

VII. PARISH FINANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Article 18

The administration of Mass intentions is a sacred trust. Therefore, parish priests entrusted with pastoral governance shall exercise the utmost diligence, honesty and fidelity in their administration.

Article 19

Negligence in recording, transmitting or administering Mass intentions is contrary to the discipline of the Church and seriously damages the confidence of the faithful. Such negligence cannot be accepted and shall be addressed according to the norms of canon law and diocesan discipline.

VIII. INTERNAL FINANCIAL AUDIT

Article 20

From 1 January 2027, the Diocese shall establish a system of Internal Financial Audit.

Article 21

The Internal Auditors appointed by the Bishop shall periodically examine:

- o parish financial records;

- o Mass Registers;
- o Receipt Books;
- o remittances made to the Diocese;
- o implementation of the Parish Finance Committee;
- o compliance with diocesan financial policies.

Article 22

The diocesan auditors shall report directly to the Diocesan Bishop. All parish priests shall cooperate fully with the diocesan auditors and provide access to the required records.

IX. ANNUAL CERTIFICATION

Article 23

At the close of every financial year, each Parish Priest shall submit to the Diocesan Curia an **Annual Certificate of Compliance**, declaring that:

- o all Mass intentions received during the year have been duly entered in the Mass Register;
- o official receipts have been issued;
- o all Mass offerings have been transmitted to the Diocese in accordance with these norms;
- o the prescribed financial records have been maintained accurately.

This declaration shall be signed personally by the Parish Priest and countersigned, where applicable, by the members of the Parish Finance Committee.

X. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 24

These norms are established not merely as administrative regulations but as an expression of our fidelity to the Church, our respect for the faith of God's people, and our commitment to justice among the clergy.

Every Mass intention entrusted to the Church represents the prayer, hope and sacrifice of one of Christ's faithful. It deserves our utmost reverence and faithful administration.

Article 25

All previous diocesan customs or practices contrary to this Decree are hereby revoked.

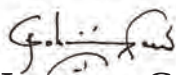
This Decree shall enter into force from **1 August 2026**.

The norms concerning Internal Financial Audit shall become effective from **1 January 2027**.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, obtain for all the priests of our Diocese a renewed love for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and a faithful stewardship of the sacred trust entrusted to us by the People of God.

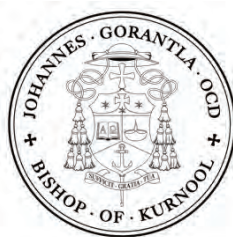
Given at the Bishop's House, Kurnool,

On the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, 2026.



✠ JOHANNES GORANTLA OCD

Bishop of Kurnool



Rev. Fr. O. Joji Reddy

Chancellor