

TRANSLATION

DIOCESE OF MANDYA

KARNATAKA, INDIA

Ref. M/LFB/5.2026

DIOCESE OF MANDYA

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July 05, 2026

Regarding Mission Appeals and Letters of Permission

Reverend Fathers,

I trust that the *Dukrana* feast of our Father, Saint Thomas, was celebrated solemnly in all our parishes. May the deep faith of Saint Thomas continuously assist us in remaining witnesses to Christ throughout our priestly ministry. Following my visit to Canada, I returned on the night of 3 July. The journey was pleasant.

Mission Appeals and Letters of Permission

During my interaction with the new priests who have arrived to serve in our diocese, I highlighted a specific matter. Some expressed the desire that this information be communicated to all. There are parishes from other dioceses that wish to come to the Diocese of Mandya to conduct mission appeals. They approach us under the impression that our parishes are financially prosperous. Supporting missions is undoubtedly our grave responsibility. As an initial measure towards this, approximately fifteen parishes have stepped forward to assist mission stations within the Diocese of Mandya itself. I remember all of them with affection.

Procedure for Mission Appeals

In accordance with the practice established among bishops and across India, those coming for mission appeals must first contact the respective diocesan authorities and obtain permission prior to visiting parishes to conduct such appeals. This procedure is now being strictly enforced in our diocese as well.

New Regulations (Effective July 2026)

By implementing this regulation, we can ensure that when requests are made, appeals are conducted without imposing an undue burden on our parishes. Permission will be granted only when necessary, ensuring each parish is designated an opportunity at most once a year. Otherwise, it causes hardship to our parishioners, even if they do not explicitly express it to us. Therefore, this procedure comes into effect in our diocese starting this July. Should anyone approach you for a mission appeal, advising them to submit a formal Request Letter to the diocese and contact you only after obtaining official permission will be helpful to you as well.

Parishioner Participation and Synodality

Frequent and continuous mission appeals occasionally become a burden for the faithful. When they attend church, a priest arrives without prior notice and presents financial requests; parishioners may not always possess the required funds on hand.

Our Future Protocol

Once a mission appeal is assigned to a parish, the Parish Priest shall announce it in church two to three weeks in advance. The visiting appealers will be received with warmth, and an opportunity will be provided for the parishioners to hear their cause. Through this process, the parishioners will become active participants in that mission. Permission will be granted to churches selected in an orderly, systematic sequence.

General Church Procedure

Priests from our diocese also travel to parishes in other dioceses for mission appeals. On all such occasions, we send our priests only after securing permission from the respective local Ordinary (Diocesan Bishop). The Syro-Malabar Church follows a very clear protocol in this regard. You are requested to implement this same procedure within our diocese. Upon receiving a notification from the diocese, permission will be granted to the appealing entity only after the matter has been deliberated and decided upon in your Parish Pastoral Council and formally communicated back to the diocese. Thus, the faithful will also participate in this decision-making process as part of our synodality.

Parishes, Eucharistic Centres, and Mission Stations of Mandya

Certain parishes in our diocese are making tireless efforts to acquire land and construct churches. When our Parish Priests make requests, kindly welcome them; if allocating a Sunday is not feasible, please ensure a substantial financial contribution is provided from the parish.

In this manner, let us become a Church that makes decisions collectively. May God bless you abundantly.

With prayers,

(Signed)

Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath

Bishop of the Diocese of Mandya

Please Note: Reverend Fathers are requested to share this information with the Parish Pastoral Council.