

CARDINAL POOLA ANTHONY
Archbishop of Hyderabad



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD
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29th August 2026

To
All Priests, Religious and Pastoral Leaders of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad

Subject: Call to Prayer and Charitable Contribution for the Victims of the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood in Nepal

My dear Fathers, Religious and Pastoral Leaders,

Warm greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd who feels the pain of every wounded soul and calls us to bind up the broken-hearted.

As you may already be aware, our neighbouring nation of Nepal has been struck by a devastating Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), which has claimed precious lives, injured many, displaced countless families, and caused extensive damage to homes, livelihoods and infrastructure. The scale of this tragedy weighs heavily on our hearts, and as members of the one human family, we cannot remain unmoved by the suffering of our brothers and sisters across the border.

As President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, I have already, on behalf of the entire Conference, conveyed our heartfelt condolences and prayerful solidarity with the people of Nepal, and invited the faithful across the country to remember the victims, the bereaved families, and the nation of Nepal in prayer during the Sunday Holy Mass on 30th August 2026. I now address this personal appeal to you, dear Fathers, Religious and Pastoral Leaders, so that our own local Churches may respond to this national call with particular fervour and generosity, and every parish, religious community and institution may observe this day of prayer with sincerity and devotion.

I therefore request each of you, dear Fathers, to:

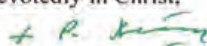
1. Include special prayers and intentions for the deceased, the missing, the injured and the displaced of Nepal in the Sunday Holy Mass on 30th August 2026, and in the Masses and prayers of your communities in the days ahead;
2. Take up a special collection in your parishes and institutions on 6th and 13th September 2026, towards relief and rehabilitation efforts for the victims of this calamity; and forward the amount collected to the Archdiocesan Chancery office, at the earliest by 16th September 2026, indicating clearly that it is meant for "Nepal Flood Relief," so that the Archdiocesan Chancery may channel it promptly, through the appropriate Church agencies, to those in need.

Let this be for us not merely an act of charity, but a genuine expression of the Gospel call to love our neighbour, especially in times of distress. I am confident that the generosity and compassion of the faithful of our Archdiocese, as always, will bring comfort and hope to those who have lost so much.

May the compassionate Lord grant eternal rest to the departed, healing and strength to the injured, consolation to the grieving, and courage to all those labouring tirelessly in the ongoing rescue and relief operations. May Our Lady, Health of the Sick and Help of Christians, intercede for the people of Nepal in this hour of need.

Thanking you for your prompt and generous response, and assuring you of my prayers and blessings,

Devotedly in Christ,


+ **Cardinal Poola Anthony**
Archbishop of Hyderabad
President, (CBCI)



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