I. Called to Holiness, United in Hope, and Faithful in Mission



Dear Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, and Beloved Faithful in Christ,
As we enter the month of November, the Church invites us to reflect deeply on the mystery of life, death, holiness, and eternal hope. This month begins with the Solemnity of All Saints and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, and it draws us towards the celebration of Christ the King. These liturgical celebrations remind us that our earthly journey is directed towards our heavenly homeland and that we are called to live each day in faith, love, and service.

1. Called to Be Saints in Our Daily Lives

The Solemnity of All Saints reminds us that holiness is not reserved for a select few. Every Christian, whatever his or her vocation, is called to holiness. Jesus tells us, "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16). The saints became holy not because their lives were free from difficulties, but because they remained faithful to God amid their struggles. Their lives teach us that holiness begins in ordinary circumstances: a parent caring for a child, a priest serving his people, a religious sister ministering to the poor, a teacher forming young minds, or a young person choosing what is right despite pressure from others.

Dear faithful, let us not think that holiness is beyond our reach. A forgiving heart, an honest life, a sincere prayer, a helping hand, and a word of encouragement can become steps towards holiness.

2. Remembering Our Departed with Faith and Hope

November also invites us to remember our beloved departed. We recall our parents, relatives, priests, religious, benefactors, friends, and all those who have gone before us in faith. Their absence may leave a deep emptiness in our hearts, but Christian faith assures us that death does not have the final word. Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).

Our remembrance of the departed should lead us not only to sorrow but also to prayer, gratitude, and hope. Let us offer Holy Masses for them, visit cemeteries with reverence, and pray for all the faithful departed. Let us also honour their memory by continuing the good work they began and by practising the virtues they taught us. At the same time, we must accompany those who grieve. A compassionate presence, a listening ear, and a prayerful word can bring comfort to a family experiencing loss. May our Christian communities be places where those who mourn discover the consoling presence of Christ.

3. Christ the King: The Model of True Leadership

On 22 November, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The kingship of Jesus is different from the power and authority of this world. He reigns not through domination, but through love; not through pride, but through humility; and not through self-interest, but through self-giving service. Jesus teaches us, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve" (Mark 10:45).

This is a powerful message for everyone entrusted with responsibility in the Church, in families, in public life, and in society. Leadership is not a privilege to be enjoyed but a responsibility to be exercised for the good of others. As shepherds of God's people, we are called to listen patiently, act justly, protect the vulnerable, and lead by example.

As we celebrate Christ the King, let us ask ourselves: Does Christ truly reign in our hearts, our homes, our parishes, and our institutions? When Christ reigns in us, hatred gives way to forgiveness, division gives way to unity, and indifference gives way to compassion.

4. Our Diocesan Mission: Faith That Becomes Service

As the Bishop of Warangal Diocese, I wish to renew my appeal to all our priests, religious, catechists, lay leaders, youth, and families to work together in strengthening our diocesan mission. Our mission is not limited to the celebration of the sacraments or the maintenance of our institutions. It also includes proclaiming the Gospel through education, healthcare, family ministry, social outreach, and our preferential care for the poor and the marginalised. The Lord reminds us, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

Every parish must become a welcoming community. Every Catholic family must become a place of prayer and mutual respect. Every educational institution must form responsible citizens rooted in moral values. Every healthcare ministry must uphold the dignity of every patient, especially those who cannot afford adequate treatment. Every youth movement must help young people discover their gifts and use them for the common good. I express my sincere gratitude to our clergy, religious congregations, catechists, teachers, healthcare workers, lay collaborators, benefactors, and all the faithful who generously contribute to the mission of our Diocese.

5. Preparing Our Hearts for Advent

The month of November concludes with the beginning of Advent on 29 November this year. The Church thus invites us to move from remembering our heavenly destiny to preparing our hearts for the coming of our Saviour.

Advent is more than a season of external preparations for Christmas. It is an invitation to renew our relationship with God, reconcile with one another, and make room for Christ in our lives. Let us prepare through prayer, the Word of God, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, acts of charity, and renewed commitment to our Christian responsibilities. May Our Lady of Fatima, our diocesan patroness, accompany us on this journey of faith. Through her maternal intercession, may our Diocese grow in holiness, unity, missionary commitment, and loving service. I assure you of my prayers and impart my pastoral blessing upon all the families of Warangal Diocese. May the Lord bless our priests and religious, strengthen our youth, protect our children, comfort those who suffer, and fill every heart with his peace.

May Christ reign in our hearts, our families, and our Diocese, now and forever. Amen.

With Prayers and Blessings,
+ D. Vijaya Paul
Bishop of Warangal