Archbishop Speaks

ROOTED AND RENEWED IN CHRIST

PLATINUM JUBILEE INAUGURATION: ARCHDIOCESE OF MADRAS-MYLAPORE

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It is with great joy and gratitude to God that we begin the Platinum Jubilee of the Archdiocese of Madras–Mylapore this November. This Jubilee marks seventy-five years since the amalgamation of the Archdiocese of Madras and the Diocese of Mylapore in 1952. It is a significant moment in our history and an opportunity for all of us to renew our faith, deepen our communion, and strengthen our commitment to the mission of Christ.

Remembering a Historic Moment: Our Archdiocese carries a rich heritage of faith and heroic witness. St Thomas the Apostle, our patron, sowed the seeds of faith through his proclamation and martyrdom. Over the centuries, missionaries, priests, religious, and lay faithful have nurtured the Christian community through their prayer, witness, service, and sacrifice. Our churches, educational institutions, hospitals, and social service centres stand as signs of this enduring faith. We remember with gratitude all those who helped build our Archdiocese to its present glory.

The historic union of the Archdiocese of Madras (under Propaganda Fide) and the Diocese of Mylapore (under the Portuguese Padroado) brought together two distinct missionary traditions into one local Church. Since then, generations of priests, religious, and lay faithful have worked together to build this Archdiocese, form new parish communities, proclaim the Gospel, serve the poor, educate the young, care for the sick, and promote justice and peace. As we celebrate seventy-five years of this amalgamation, we recognise that our strength lies not merely in our institutions or achievements, but in our shared faith in Jesus Christ.

The Jubilee Theme: The theme chosen for this celebration, “Rooted and Renewed in Christ,” expresses the spiritual meaning of the Jubilee. A tree remains strong when its roots go deep into the soil. In the same way, our Christian life must remain deeply rooted in Christ, in his Word, in the Eucharist, and in prayer. At the same time, a living tree continues to grow and bear fruit. Our faith, too, must lead us towards constant renewal and a more faithful witness to the Gospel.

This Jubilee is therefore more than just a celebration of the past. It is an invitation to assess where we are, reflect on our commitment to the mission,

and prepare for the future. We must ask ourselves: Are our families growing in faith? Are our parishes welcoming and inclusive communities? Are our young people finding meaning and purpose in the Church? Do we listen to the concerns of the poor and the marginalised? Are our institutions becoming stronger signs of God's love and compassion?

An Opportunity for Conversion: The Jubilee is also an occasion for conversion. We are called to move beyond routine parish schedules and institutional timetables to rediscover the joy of the Gospel. We must build communities where every person feels welcomed, respected, and valued. We must strengthen the participation of the laity, encourage the gifts of young people, recognise the contributions of women, and stand in solidarity with those who experience poverty, discrimination, and exclusion. Our faith becomes credible when it is expressed through love, justice, compassion, and service.

As we inaugurate the Jubilee this November, I invite every parish, religious community, institution, association, and family to participate actively in this journey. Let this celebration become an opportunity for prayer, reflection, reconciliation, and renewed missionary commitment. Let us celebrate our history not simply by remembering what our predecessors accomplished, but by continuing their mission with courage and hope.

May this Platinum Jubilee strengthen our unity and inspire us to become a Church that listens, accompanies, serves, and proclaims Christ with joy. As we look towards the Jubilee celebrations in 2027, let us renew our commitment to walk together as one people of God, respecting our differences and sharing a common mission.

May Our Lady of Mylapore, our Blessed Mother, and St Thomas the Apostle intercede for our Archdiocese. May the Holy Spirit guide us in every step of this Jubilee journey.

Rooted in Christ, may we grow in faith. Renewed by Christ, may we bear fruit in love and service.

With my prayerful blessings,

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