

To All Parish Priests,
Diocese of Dharmapuri.

02.07.2026

My dear Fathers,
Greetings of peace and joy in our Lord Jesus Christ!

You will recall with joy that we recently celebrated our Silver Jubilee – twenty-five years of God's abundant grace upon this local Church. That celebration was not merely a moment of looking back, but a clarion call to look forward with renewed vigour. The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has invited the universal Church to prepare for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2033 – the 2,000th anniversary of the Redemption accomplished by Our Lord Jesus Christ through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

This is our Kairos moment. Between our Silver Jubilee and the Great Jubilee of 2033, we have been given a sacred window of grace to rebuild, renew, and re-evangelize our diocese. Therefore, with a deep sense of urgency and hope, I announce the formulation of a comprehensive Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Dharmapuri in the light of guidelines proposed by CCBI.

This plan is not merely an administrative exercise; it is a spiritual pilgrimage. It is meant for the wholistic development of every person and every community in our diocese, always in the light of the Church's living Magisterium and the eternal wisdom of the Word of God. As the Second Vatican Council reminds us, the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the people of our time are also the joys and hopes of the disciples of Christ (*Gaudium et Spes*, 1). Drawing from Sacred Scripture, which is the lamp for our feet and the light for our path (*Psalms 119:105*), and from the social teachings of the Church that call us to uphold the dignity of every human person, we must advance together on three essential fronts:

1. Spiritual Development: Deepening our personal and communal intimacy with Christ, revitalizing our Liturgy, and strengthening the Sacramental life, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation. Let us be rooted in the Word that became flesh (*John 1:14*).

2. Sociological Development: Strengthening family bonds, empowering our youth, caring for the marginalized, and fostering a culture of dialogue and peace in our multi-religious context. Let us be the Good Samaritan who responds to the cry of the poor (Lk 10:25-37).

3. Economical Development: Promoting self-reliance, skill development, and sustainable livelihoods for our faithful, so that we can break the shackles of poverty and become instruments of charity for others. Let us remember that faith without works is dead (Jas 2:17).

Every initiative we undertake, therefore, will be shaped by the Gospel values of truth, justice, love, and solidarity. We seek not mere external progress, but a profound inner transformation that leads to the fullness of life Christ promises (Jn 10:10).

To ensure this plan is implemented effectively and swiftly, I have constituted several Diocesan Core Groups and Committees comprising priests, religious, and lay leaders. These groups are already working diligently to outline concrete goals, timelines, and action plans. They will need your wisdom, your collaboration, and your active participation.

Therefore, I earnestly request all of you, my dear brothers in the priesthood:

1. By your Prayer: Please offer a special prayer at every Holy Mass for the success of this Pastoral Plan. Pray for the members of the committees, and pray that the Holy Spirit may guide every step we take.

2. By your Assistance: Please extend your full cooperation to the respective committees. Your pastoral experience in your parishes is invaluable. I ask you to provide the required data, insights, and logistical assistance as requested by the groups.

Regarding the Parishioners:

I will soon be issuing a special Pastoral Circular that must be read at all Sunday Masses across the diocese. This circular will explain the vision of the

Great Jubilee 2033 and invite our beloved faithful to contribute their time, talents, and treasures for these initiatives. Please prepare your parish communities to receive this message with open hearts.

Let us not see this as an additional burden, but as a joyful opportunity. We are not just building a plan; we are building a legacy of faith for the next generation. The fields are already white for harvest (Jn 4:35). Let us labour together with hope.

May Mary, our Mother, and St. Joseph, the patron of the Universal Church, intercede for us. I assure you of my daily prayers for each one of you and for your precious parish communities.

Let us march forward together, as one family, towards the Great Jubilee 2033.

Yours devotedly in the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

+ Most Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pius D.D., Ph.D.,
Bishop of Dharmapuri