



Bethany Flame

A Newsletter of the Mangalore Province of Bethany Sisters



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PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

Everyone knows what it is to hope, in the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope..

Hope, Pope Francis said, "is essential to Christian life because, together with faith and charity, it represents the believer's way of life." Without hope, we cannot grasp the essence of life. Let's see what the word Hope spells out to us:

H - Hope: Hope brings healing to communities, fostering reconciliation and renewal after hardship.

O - Opportunities: Jubilee 2025 can create opportunities for growth, social justice, and economic revival, encouraging people to envision a better future.

P-Peace Hope promotes peace, inspiring us to work together toward harmony and understanding across divisions.

E - Empowerment Empowering marginalized voices through hope can lead to transformative change, allowing us to reclaim our instrumentality and participate fully in mission.

Dear Sisters, God comes to meet us during this Jubilee Year. Let us unite in prayer for an outpouring of graces for forgiveness, love, reconciliation, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences and adoration of the Eucharist, to reach every Catholic, all non-believing or lapsed Catholics and non-Catholics!

Let us celebrate the milestone of Bethany, the Twin Jubilee of our Founder's 150 birth Anniversary and 125 Ordination Anniversary at Community level and make it all a legacy **Par Excellence!**

Warm Regards

Sr M. Lilly Pereira BS
Provincial Superior



Editorial

We began the Jubilee year 2025 on the feast of the Holy Family. "Pilgrims of Hope" of the eleven communities established by our Founder have a special message for us during his Twin Jubilee Year of his birth as well as his Ordination Anniversary. If you read the articles in this issue of 'Bethany Flame' you will acknowledge that the Sisters who are traversing in the footsteps of their pioneers presently, are indeed the 'Hopeful Pilgrims' carrying on the mission entrusted to them in the public sphere and fostering holiness, forgiveness and reconciliation within the community. Have an enjoyable reading.

Sr Jessy Rita BS





Pilgrims of Hope: A Century of Faith in Action

Pilgrims of hope are those who embark on a journey of unwavering trust in the divine, guided by faith and fueled by a mission to serve. At Lisieux Convent in Puttur, this spirit of hope has been the catalyst for a century of transformative service and spiritual growth. From the initial steps taken by the Bethany Sisters in response to the community's needs, to the thriving mission that exists today, we have walked this path of hope, spreading light, knowledge, and love to countless lives.

Our story is one of faith in action—rooted in prayer and sustained by a profound commitment to God. It is a journey that honors the past, flourishes in the present, and looks to the future with steadfast trust in the divine providence that has always guided us. As we approach the centennial celebration of our mission, we pause to reflect on this remarkable legacy and renew our dedication to continue this sacred calling.

As we look back on our journey of faith and service, the following milestones highlight the key events and principles that have shaped Lisieux Convent into the vibrant community it is today, showcasing our unwavering commitment to serving the Lord and His people. These milestones illuminate the unfolding of our mission—from its humble beginnings to its flourishing present.

1. A Sacred Mission Rooted in Simplicity

In 1925, in response to the heartfelt invitation of Rev. Fr Joseph Aloysius Rodrigues, the Bethany Sisters embarked on a journey to the heart of Puttur. Crossing the Nethravathi River in a modest boat, this was not just a physical voyage but a profound step in faith. Lisieux Convent was established under the patronage of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, whose simplicity and childlike trust in God became the foundation of our mission.

On September 14, 1926, the foundation stone of the convent was laid, marking the beginning of a journey that would transform the spiritual, educational, and social life of the region. This mission station quickly became a cherished endeavor for Servant of God RFC Mascarenhas, our founder, who laid the groundwork for a legacy of faith and service.

2. Faith in Action: A Life of Community and Mission

The cornerstone of our mission has always been a spiritually vibrant and closely-knit community of Sisters. Our commitment to the Lord deepens through prayer, reflection, and shared purpose. We are not just religious by vocation; we are bound together by a life of mutual support and shared devotion. This spiritual foundation empowers us to carry out our mission with unshakable conviction and joy. Through acts of service in education, pastoral care, and social upliftment, we bring faith to life. Whether teaching children, mentoring parishioners, or fostering ecological awareness, every action reflects our spiritual calling.

3. A Legacy of Transformative Education

Education has been central to our mission from the very beginning. Recognizing the need for quality education in the community, St Francis Xavier School was established in 1925, followed by the creation of Little Flower Girls' Elementary School in 1927. These institutions laid the foundation for empowering young minds, particularly girls who had limited access to education.

In 1985, these efforts culminated in the founding of Little Flower Higher Primary School, expanding educational opportunities for students. Later, in response to the evolving needs of the community, Bethany English Medium Primary School was established in 2005, offering a modern and holistic learning environment.

Our educational mission emphasizes holistic growth—nurturing the mind, body, and spirit. This dedication has led to academic excellence, sports achievements, and the character development of thousands of students who have passed through our doors. The Little Way Association of



Saint Thérèse, fostered by the Bethany Sisters, cultivates leadership and spiritual growth among students. Through these movements, along with catechism classes and additional support for slow learners, the Sisters provide a comprehensive approach to education. Bethany students emerge not only as confident, compassionate individuals but also as spiritually grounded leaders, equipped to make a positive impact on the world.

4. Missionary Zeal and Pastoral Outreach

Our mission extends far beyond the walls of schools and convents. Inspired by the tireless service of early missionaries like Sr Gertrude—who dedicated herself to teaching catechism, practical skills, and spiritual values—we continue to reach out to the community. Following in her footsteps, we serve in parishes, guide youth groups, and promote spiritual growth through various initiatives.

We also embrace eco-friendly practices, recognizing our responsibility as stewards of God's creation. Through these efforts, we aim to contribute not only to the spiritual life of the community but also to its physical and environmental well-being.

Conclusion: As we celebrate our centenary, we stand at the threshold of a new chapter, inspired by the wisdom of the past, the vitality of the present, and the hope of the future. With deep gratitude for the journey that has shaped us, we remain committed to our mission of faith, hope, and service. We pray that our continued dedication will inspire generations to come, and that we may remain steadfast in our calling, lighting the way for those we serve. May God bless us with His guidance as we embark on the next chapter of this sacred journey.

Sr M. Prashanti BS
Lisieux Convent, Puttur



95 Years of Faith, Service, and Resilience

Nestled in the heart of Balkunje, Providence Convent, the second branch of the Bethany Congregation, was established on June 8, 1930, through the vision and determination of Rev. Fr Marian F. Castelino, the Parish Priest of St Paul Church. Motivated by a deep desire to spread the Gospel to the rural communities, Fr Marian Castelino approached Rev. Fr RFC Mascarenhas, the esteemed Founder of the Bethany Congregation, to bring this noble vision to fruition.

With the wholehearted support of the local parishioners, particularly the generous contribution of Mr Sebastian Sanctis, who offered a plot of land, the Convent was constructed. It was officially inaugurated on Pentecost, a fitting day to consecrate a new chapter in the service of God and community. The founding members of the community, Sisters Margaret, Lazarus, Xavier, and Stanislaus, began their humble journey of faith, with Sr Margaret serving as the first Superior. The Convent was dedicated to Christ the King, symbolizing its unwavering commitment to His service. In the early days, the Sisters not only imparted education at St Paul Higher Primary School but also played an integral role in the vibrant parish life, fostering spiritual growth and unity within the community.



Over the years, Providence Convent blossomed, with facilities being expanded and improved, reflecting the growing strength of the community. The Sisters fostered a deep spirit of prayer, harmony, and service, which, in turn, inspired a steady increase in vocations to the Bethany Congregation.

In response to the community's educational needs, Rev. Fr Alexander Lobo established St Paul High School in 1975 and entrusted its administration to the Bethany Sisters. Sr Marie Emilda, the first Headmistress, led the school, guiding generations of students with wisdom and compassion. The educational mission flourished, and in 1984, a new convent

building was inaugurated near the High School. For the next decade, Providence Convent operated with two separate buildings—one dedicated to the convent and the other housing the growing community's needs—until 1994, when the two communities merged, and the older building was repurposed into a Girls' Hostel. Throughout this time, the Sisters remained steadfast in their dual mission of providing quality education and offering pastoral and social services. Their impact on the local children and the broader community was profound, shaping countless lives with love and care.

For nearly 95 years, Providence Convent in Balkunje has stood as a beacon of service and unwavering dedication, continuously advancing the mission set forth by its Founder, through all the triumphs and challenges that have come their way. The Sisters' commitment to the most vulnerable members of the community has been a defining feature of their work, whether assisting the elderly in accessing pensions, teaching classes in needlework, fostering Mahila Mandals, or contributing to the pastoral life at Palimar Church.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, brought significant challenges that led to a number of changes. In June 2022, as student enrollment declined, the decision was made to close St Paul Aided High School and Providence Hostel, a deeply sorrowful moment for the community. Yet, even in this period of transition, the spirit of Providence remained resilient. In a new and hopeful chapter, on October 15, 2024, the Maryvale Hostel, Kinnigoli was relocated to Balkunje, with 70 students under the care of Sr Zenita and Sr Juliana Gretta, marking the beginning of a renewed commitment to the community's educational and spiritual needs.

Today, Providence Convent continues its legacy, with five Sisters, under the leadership of Sr Felcine Fernandes, dedicating themselves to pastoral work, catechism instruction, and sodality services. The Sisters' involvement extends to visiting the sick and elderly, offering prayers, comfort, and guidance, ensuring that the community remains strong in faith and unity. The BLA unit, established in 2011 with 17 dedicated members, partners with the Sisters, amplifying their outreach and impact across the region.

The Sisters, in their continuous journey of faith and service, embody the spirit of hope, carry forward the vision of its Founder. With an unwavering commitment to its mission, the Convent looks toward the future with hope, ready to serve the community with the same devotion and resilience that has defined its 95-year legacy.

Sr M. Felcine Fernandes BS
Providence Convent, Balkunje



A Legacy of Service, Hope, and Excellence



Founded on September 29, 1930, Nazareth Convent, Bajpe, stands as the fourth branch of the Bethany Congregation, a visionary initiative of Father RFC Mascarenhas, who sought to address the needs of the poor and uneducated in rural villages. Motivated by his deep compassion, Fr RFC Mascarenhas envisioned a Congregation dedicated to spiritual growth and humanitarian service, and the Bethany Sisters embraced this



mission with unwavering commitment. Their journey of education and service began in Bajpe, where they first resided in a rented house on church premises. Sr Josephine became the first superior, with Sr Raphael assisting in school activities.

In 1931, the Sisters began their ministry at Little Flower Primary School, though their work was temporarily suspended in 1938. The convent was revived in 1940 under Sr Bernard's leadership, and the Sisters soon acquired four acres of land, with two additional acres generously donated by Mr Cyprian Aroza Pai. This allowed them to establish a permanent home for the

convent, which was later known as Nazareth Home. With the unwavering support of the Bajpe community and local parish priests, the Sisters continued to expand their apostolate, profoundly impacting the lives of the people they served.

Recognizing the need for a girls' high school, the convent established Holy Family High School on July 16, 1964, under the leadership of Sr Valeria. In 2024, the school celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, having educated thousands of students, many of whom now hold prominent positions in society. The convent also marked its Platinum Jubilee in 2005, honoring decades of dedicated service. The inauguration of the Nazareth Convent Auditorium in 2005 further solidified the convent's legacy, while the school continued to excel in academics, sports, and co-education, adapting to the evolving needs of the community. In 2017, the establishment of the Atal Tinkering Lab underscored the convent's commitment to scientific innovation.

As Little Flower Higher Primary School approaches its centenary in 2026, it remains a beacon of excellence, consistently excelling in inter-school competitions at the taluk, district, and State levels. Bethany English Medium School, founded in 2017, has grown from 90 students to over 800, with its first SSLC batch achieving a 100% pass rate. Under Sr Diana Pais's visionary leadership, the school has become known for academic excellence and holistic education, shaping the future of its students with a commitment to community development.



In the spirit of the Jubilee Year 2025, Nazareth Convent's continued journey of faith and service embodies the theme of 'Hope'—a beacon of light for the community it serves. From its humble beginnings to the vibrant institutions it supports today, the convent's mission has been rooted in unwavering hope, guiding generations through education and service. As we celebrate this legacy, the Sisters remain steadfast in their commitment to fostering hope, growth, and transformation, carrying forward the vision of their Founder with dedication and compassion, ready to meet the challenges and embrace the opportunities of the future.

Sr Florine Jyothi BS
Nazareth Convent, Bajpe



A Pilgrim of Hope



Maryvale Convent, Kinnigoli, stands as a living testament to the profound power of faith, compassion, and tireless service. Founded in 1931 by the visionary Rev. Fr RFC Mascarenhas, the founder of the Bethany Congregation, this convent has blossomed into a beacon of hope for countless individuals. Over the decades, Maryvale has touched lives through its dedication to education, healthcare, social empowerment, and spiritual care, shaping not just a community but a legacy of service and transformation.

Fostering Faith and Unity Beyond addressing physical needs, Maryvale has nurtured the spiritual and emotional

well-being of its community. The Bethany Sisters actively engage in catechism classes, youth programmes, and Small Christian Communities (SCC), weaving a fabric of faith and unity. Their unwavering support of parish activities, choirs, and spiritual growth has created a sanctuary of hope and love, empowering individuals to live with purpose and compassion.

Education: The Foundation of Hope Maryvale's commitment to education has been transformative, with a strong emphasis on empowering girls and nurturing their potential. The Little Flower Higher Primary School, founded in 1930 in Talipady, was a bold step towards offering educational opportunities to young girls at a time when such opportunities were scarce. In 1941, the Bethany Sisters furthered this vision by establishing the Little Flower High School in Kinnigoli, a pioneering institution dedicated solely to the education of girls. This initiative has empowered generations of young women, equipping them with the knowledge, leadership skills, and moral values to become pillars of their community.



The Maryvale Higher Primary School, founded in 1997, further strengthened this legacy by providing accessible quality education to children from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The school, with its holistic approach, not only focuses on academics but also fosters sportsmanship, creativity, and personal growth, helping children discover and nurture their talents. Maryvale High School, established in 1976, continued this journey of excellence, ensuring that students excel both academically and as responsible, compassionate citizens of the world.

Healthcare for the Marginalized Healthcare has always been at the heart of Maryvale's mission. The Concetta Hospital, established in 1986, epitomizes this commitment. Originally the dream of Fr Jacob Lobo, the hospital now serves as a crucial lifeline for the rural and underserved populations in the region, specializing in maternal and child health. The dedicated Bethany Sisters and medical professionals continue to provide high-quality healthcare, offering hope and healing to thousands.



Empowering Women and Transforming Lives Maryvale Convent has been instrumental in empowering women, particularly through initiatives like the Tailoring School, founded by Sr Afficta in 1982. This vocational training centre has provided women, especially those from marginalized backgrounds, with skills that not only uplift their personal lives but also contribute to their families and communities.

Today, Sr Anna Vivina carries forward this noble endeavour, helping women build a better future for themselves.

Sanjeevini, an initiative aimed at fostering self-reliance and economic independence, has trained over 20 women as social workers and reached thousands with its programmes on health, responsible parenthood, and vocational skills. Sanjeevini is a shining example of how grassroots movements can transform communities by empowering individuals with the tools to thrive.



A Haven for the Neglected Maryvale Orphanage, established in 1935, has long been a refuge for children facing neglect and poverty. Through the care and support of the Bethany Sisters, the orphanage has provided not only shelter but also emotional, moral, and educational support, enabling these children to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

Service to the Least Among Us In 1997, Maryvale further extended its mission of service by founding St Mary Special School for children with special needs. This school, under the leadership of dedicated Bethany Sisters, has empowered children with mental disabilities by offering them the training and support needed to become independent and productive members of society.



education, healthcare, and social empowerment. Rooted in the ideals of its founder and the vision of the Bethany Congregation, Maryvale Convent remains steadfast in its mission to touch lives, inspire hope, and transform communities for a brighter, more harmonious future.

A Beacon of Hope As Maryvale Convent celebrates its Jubilee Year in 2025, its journey as a 'Pilgrim of Hope' continues. From its founding in 1931 by Rev. Fr RFC Mascarenhas to the present day, Maryvale has been a beacon of light, leading the way in

Sr M. Premalatha BS
Maryvale Convent, Kinnigoli



A House of God: A Journey of Faith and Hope



In response to a divine call, Fr Founder, Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, heeded the request of Rev. Fr Piadade DSouza, the Parish Priest of Permannur, to send a dedicated group of religious Sisters to take over an elementary school founded by Mr Diyog Norenz DSouza on November 13, 1928. The community had been deeply impacted by the aftermath of the Second World War, with food scarcity affecting the region. The Bethany Congregation, having faced similar challenges, was called upon to offer help and healing. The Sisters found solace in the refreshing sea breeze of the area, a place that would restore both their health and spirits.

Under the leadership of Mother Martha, the Superior General, and Sr Magdalene, a small convent was built, allowing the Sisters to settle into this mission. On June 30, 1931, the



pioneering Sisters—Sr Michael, Sr Berchmans, Sr Baptist, and Maid Dulcine Bai—arrived by train from the Mother House, accompanied by Fr Founder, Mother Martha, and Sr Magdalene. Upon witnessing the breathtaking beauty of the location, Fr Founder was profoundly moved by the presence of God. He named the convent “Bethel,” meaning “House of God,” inspired by the biblical vision of Jacob, where angels ascended and descended a ladder in the presence of Yahweh. Fr Founder believed that God would nourish Bethany in its infancy, with Mother Mary interceding for the Congregation and the guardian angels watching over both the Sisters and the school.

The school was named “Holy Angels Higher Primary School,” reflecting Fr Founder's devotion to the Guardian Angels. Sr Michael, the first superior, was affectionately called the “Archangel,” while Sr Berchmans, the school's head, was known as the “Little Angel.” This place, which Fr Founder described as “a door to heaven,” became a sanctuary of spiritual renewal and growth for the Sisters, where the healing sea breeze nurtured both their bodies and their mission.

The Sisters quickly became beloved members of the local community, inspiring families to send their children to school. They personally visited homes, encouraging children to attend school, even those who initially hid in trees, reluctant to learn. As the years passed, Bethel Convent flourished, and the Sisters provided quality education in both Kannada and English mediums. Their presence was warmly embraced by the parishioners, who experienced the tangible presence of God in this holy place.

The pastoral work of the Bethany Sisters at Bethel Convent reflects their dedication to the founding charism of the Congregation. They actively participated in liturgical services, taught Christian doctrine, prepared children for their First Communion, organized Marian Sodality members, and cared for the church by washing linens and arranging the altar. The Sisters also attended Small Christian Community (SCC) meetings, visited families, and, above all, focused on educating the poor and marginalized, offering medical help through the Divine Mercy Clinic.

Bethel Convent has become a nurturing cradle for religious vocations, sending workers into the vineyard of the Lord, both within Bethany and other congregations. While Permannur is a bustling suburb, it is home to poverty-stricken areas such as Ullal Hoige, where families struggle through fishing and sand extraction from the Nethravathi River. The Sisters regularly visit these areas on weekends, offering pastoral care and essential services to those in need.

In partnership with the Bethany Lay Associates, the convent's mission continues to thrive. The Lay Associates, inspired by Fr Founder's vision, carry forward his legacy with deep respect and commitment to the community.

Blessed from its inception by divine providence, Bethel Convent looks forward to continuing its mission with hope. Future plans include expanding the mission tailoring classes, utilizing commercial land for rented spaces, and services offered by the Divine Mercy Clinic. With unwavering faith in confident that the Lord will continue to nurture this house and its

Convent stands as a beacon of hope, continuing to fulfill its divine guided by the light of hope and compassion, are committed to and education to those in need. With hearts full of hope in God's forward to a future where the Lord will continue to bless and sustain remains a true “House of God” for generations to come.

Mary BS
Bethel Convent





Santa Cruz Journey with Hope



Sr Clare, one of the esteemed 'First Four' of Bethany and the Headmistress of St Joseph Elementary School, alongside Sr Zita, the Superior of Santa Cruz Convent, as well as Sisters Marianne, Gonzaga, Dolores, and Celine, ventured into the unknown at the behest of Rev. Fr Francis S. DSouza, the parish priest of Holy Cross Church, Kulshekar, on May 31, 1931. Their mission was to rejuvenate the waning enrollment of the school.

Embracing uncertainty, they gazed into the vast expanse ahead, their hearts brimming with a mix of fear and exhilaration. Each day, they walked from the Mother House in Bendur, bolstered by the encouraging words of Fr Founder, Mother Martha,

and Sr Magdalene. They transformed the IV Standard into the V Standard, envisioning a hopeful future that materialized with the establishment of Santa Cruz Convent on June 9, 1932.

As they progressed, their dynamic approach necessitated certain adjustments (see "The Ripples," p. 95). These transitions were undertaken with the requisite approval from the parish priest. However, various challenges impeded their advancement, leading to the appointment of lay Headmasters in place of Sr Clare from 1933 until 1949. Under the leadership of Rev. Fr Piadade Saldanha, the parish priest of Holy Cross Church, Sr Marianne, the Superior of Santa Cruz, assumed the role of Headmistress of St Joseph School. The school flourished, experiencing remarkable growth with an enrollment of 716 students by 1950, prompting her to elevate the institution to a higher primary level.

The Sisters found strength in their vulnerability by founding Sacred Heart High School in 1943 on the premises of St Joseph Higher Primary School. However, they ultimately relinquished this comfort (refer to "The Ripples," p. 96), and, through divine providence, the high school was relocated to a hilltop across from St Joseph's. This significant change presented daunting challenges but also paved the way for a new beginning. Infant Mary's Orphanage was established on May 8, 1943, followed by Sacred Heart Higher Primary School in 1964. The Sisters rendered invaluable service at the Dubois School of Commerce from 1971 to 1992, and a new convent building was inaugurated in 1991. The less privileged found refuge at Jeevandhara Social Service Trust, founded in 1998.

The Sacred Hearts English Medium Higher Primary School and High School in Kulshekar has nurtured numerous accomplished individuals who have triumphed over their snooze buttons. Boys and girls are standouts in Prathibha Karanji. They excel in Sports and various disciplines such as shuttle, table tennis, chess, karate, netball, and ball badminton and have been selected for state-level competitions. They have also achieved remarkable success in athletics, earning selections for state-level competitions. Through scholarships and community support, we ensure that children from low-income families have access to quality education and resources that empower their future. The dedicated staff goes above and beyond to create a safe space where neglected students feel valued and supported, fostering a sense of belonging. By offering mentorship programmes and counseling services, we help underprivileged students overcome challenges and discover their



potential. Infant Mary Hostel serves as a beacon of hope, providing a nurturing environment for less privileged students to thrive academically and personally.

Just as Founder moved with hope, Santa Cruz too finds its way by yesterday's fires. The young inmates look for life in the embers yet. The elderly call upon them to venture further on strange paths, risking all. The pioneers' light still shines the new beginnings. We trust the journey.

Sr M. Reena Juliet BS

Santa Cruz Convent, Kulshekar



A Pilgrimage of Hope and Transformation

The name *Rosa Mystica* invokes the delicate beauty of a rose, yet its meaning runs much deeper—a mystical connection to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, revered as the 'Mystical Rose.' This title embodies not just earthly beauty but divine love, nurtured by grace and devotion. Today, *Rosa Mystica* stands as a beacon of inspiration for the people of Mangalore, representing an institution dedicated to compassion, education, and transformation.

Founded by Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, *Rosa Mystica* began as a vision—a dream to cultivate hope in an otherwise desolate and barren landscape. What was once a forsaken land, overgrown with thorns and inhabited by snakes, was chosen by Fr Raymond to be transformed into a sanctuary for the Blessed Virgin Mary, the 'Mystical Rose.' On October 15, 1931, he laid the foundation stone for the convent, a haven dedicated to Mary. Over the years, the land flourished into a thriving community where faith and fellowship could blossom.

Rosa Mystica Convent: A Sanctuary of Faith and Hope

Rosa Mystica Convent quickly became a spiritual haven for those in search of solace and guidance. The presence of the Blessed Mother's grotto transformed the campus into a place of profound devotion, where individuals from all walks of life gathered in prayer. Here, the Rosary is recited, and petitions are made through Mary's intercession. As devotion to the Blessed Mother deepened, so did the inspiration and hope that *Rosa Mystica* offered, turning it into a 'Pilgrimage of Hope' for all who visited.



A Vision for Education and Empowerment

Mgr Raymond saw beyond the spiritual needs of the community and recognized the urgent need for education, particularly for girls who might otherwise be deprived of opportunity. In 1939, he established St Joseph Primary School, ensuring that children—especially orphans—received not just food and shelter, but also the gift of education. Today, the school stands as one of the region's most respected institutions, renowned for its educational excellence.

Rosa Mystica TTI and Novitiate: Cultivating Educators and Religious Life

Fr Raymond's foresight led to the establishment of the Rosa Mystica Teacher Training Institute (TTI) in 1945. The institute played a crucial role in training educators, equipping them with the knowledge and values to inspire the next generation. Meanwhile, the convent also became the site for the Rosa Mystica Novitiate, where young women were trained in religious life, forming a lifelong commitment to faith and service in a peaceful and nurturing environment.

St Joseph Orphanage and Industrial School

St Joseph Orphanage evolved significantly over the years, bolstered by generous support and the dedication of Fr Edwin Pinto, who served as director of CODP. This support created a nurturing environment for children who had no family to turn to. In 1942, Mgr Raymond furthered his vision by launching St Joseph Industrial School, in alignment with Gandhi's movement to revive cottage industries. Students were taught weaving, providing them with valuable skills that connected them to their heritage and empowered them for the future.

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Expansion and Community Outreach

As the community's needs expanded, *Rosa Mystica* adapted to meet them. In 1958, Rosa Mystica High School (Kannada Medium) opened its doors, addressing the scarcity of secondary education in the area and offering a local option for students who would otherwise have to travel long distances. Later, in 1994, the Vanitha Vocational Training Centre was founded, providing vocational training in skills such

as embroidery, bag making, and screen printing. This initiative empowered women and school dropouts, helping them achieve economic independence.

The institution continued to evolve, launching the Rosa Mystica Open School to support students who could not follow traditional educational paths. The addition of a Computer Centre bridged the digital divide, bringing modern skills to the campus. In 2005, a Community College was established, offering Montessori training to prepare future educators and caregivers.

Rosa Mystica PU College: A Pillar of Transformation

Founded in 2010, Rosa Mystica PU College became a cornerstone of opportunity, especially for students from underserved, economically challenged backgrounds. Guided by the spirit of the Mystical Rose, the college nurtures an environment where hope and opportunity thrive. The leadership of Sr Jessy Rita BS, Sr Cicilia Dsouza BS, Sr Anitha Lydia Lobo, and Sr Dr Sadhana BS has been marked by an unwavering commitment to making education accessible and impactful.





Bethany (CBSE) School: A New Era in Progressive Education

In response to the growing demand for a broader educational scope, Bethany CBSE School opened in 2014 and later earned CBSE affiliation, meeting the modern educational needs of students. Focused on value-based education, Bethany has rapidly become a symbol of excellence, transforming the lives of its students by instilling core values of compassion,

integrity, and perseverance.

Rosa Mystica Today: A Garden of Hope and Transformation

Today, Rosa Mystica stands as a testament to faith, resilience, and the transformative power of education and service. What began as a barren, unwelcoming piece of land has blossomed into a vibrant 'garden' teeming with young lives shaped by knowledge and spiritual growth. Through its many institutions, each inspired by the love and compassion of the Mystical Rose, *Rosa Mystica* continues to bring hope to countless individuals and families.

Rosa Mystica's journey mirrors that of the 'Pilgrims of Hope';—a path that began with faith, flourished through resilience, and continues with a commitment to uplift and inspire. In every child educated, every skill taught, and every prayer offered, *Rosa Mystica* fulfills its mission as Mary's garden—where she reigns as Queen and Mother, a guiding beacon of hope on the pilgrimage of life.

Sr M. Leena Pereira BS
Rosa Mystica Convent



Pilgrims of Hope with Our Lady of Good Counsel, Taccode

The seventh of July, 1937, holds a special place in the history of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, marking a significant milestone in the early years of the Congregation, which was then just 16 years old. On this day, a leap of faith was taken, guided by hope and anchored in divine purpose, as the Genazzano Convent was established in Taccode, with four pioneering Sisters—Sr Piya, Sr Pauline, Sr Purifica, and Sr Justa—laying the foundation for what would become a beacon of faith and service.

Set amidst the rolling hills, valleys, rivers, and lush fields dotted with arecanut trees, Genazzano Convent stands as a lighthouse of spiritual presence under the shadow of Holy Cross Church in Taccode. The convent's establishment in 1937 was the fruit of the vision of the Servant of God, Raymond FC Mascarenhas, who, at the request of Rev. Fr A. Piadad DSouza, then Parish Priest of Taccode, answered the call to open a school for the young girls of the parish. This dream was realized in 1940, when Fr Raymond founded 'St Mary Primary School,' providing a place for education and growth for the children in the area. As the years passed, the mission expanded with the establishment of a free boarding house for both boys and girls, further strengthening the institution's role in the community.

We are deeply grateful to the parish, whose generous donation of 64 cents of land enabled the Sisters to build the convent near the church. Sr Raphael, the first Superior of the community, oversaw the construction of the convent building in 1938, a task that reflected the commitment and determination of the early Bethany Sisters. Over the years, the Sisters' unwavering dedication and exemplary lives of service became a source of inspiration, and Taccode soon became a cradle for vocations to the Bethany Congregation. The local parishioners fondly recall that much of what they are today is rooted in the rich contributions of the Bethany Sisters to their lives, both spiritually and socially.

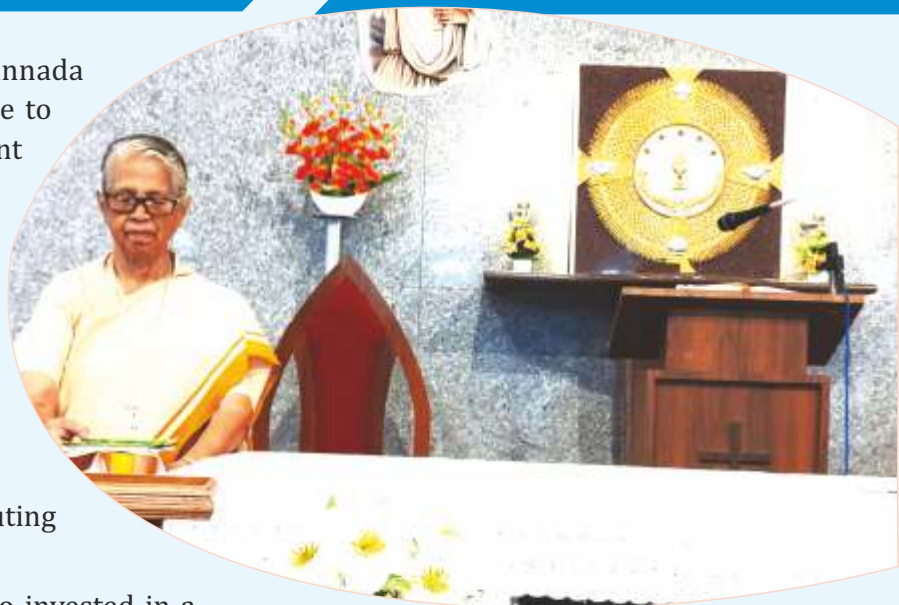


While there was initially a strong desire for Kannada medium education, the school faced challenges due to low enrollment, and, ultimately, it was closed in recent years. Today, the community of four Bethany Sisters remains actively involved in pastoral and prayer ministries. Their work in the parish continues to thrive through their participation in Small Christian Community (SCC) meetings, altar setting, the maintenance of the sacristy, the church choir, catechism classes, Marian Sodality, and visits to the sick and elderly.

The Sisters are an integral part of the parish, contributing tirelessly to all aspects of parish life.

Fr Raymond, the visionary founder of Bethany, also invested in a piece of land on the hillside near the convent. This land is now home to around 1,200 rubber trees, which are regularly tapped, providing the sole source of income for the Sisters. This evergreen plantation stands as a symbol of the enduring spirit of the Bethany Sisters in Taccode, continuing to support their mission and sustain their efforts.

Today, the legacy of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany in Taccode endures—rooted in faith, service, and the commitment to the people of the parish, as they continue their journey as pilgrims of hope under the loving guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel.



Sr M. Reena DSouza BS
Genazzano Convent, Taccode



Madeleine: A Legacy of Hope and Transformation



"I know the plans I have in mind for you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

In 1965, inspired by a profound vision of empowerment and service, our esteemed Founder, Fr Raymond FC Mascarenhas, established Madeleine Girls High School with the goal of being a beacon of hope for the people of Mulki. Through his far-reaching foresight, students, particularly from marginalized communities, found a path to a brighter future through the transformative power of education. This vision was realized with the tireless dedication of Fr Raymond FC Mascarenhas and the invaluable support of the then Superior General, Mother Precilla. On May 24, 1958, the Madeleine Convent officially opened its doors to

serve the people and the community.

In its early years, the Sisters of Madeleine Convent immersed themselves in the local community, strengthening the faith of the people through catechism, home visits, and empowerment initiatives. They played an active role in uplifting women through skill-building programmes such as stitching, embroidery, and craftwork. The Sisters, with deep devotion, also contributed to various church activities and extended their outreach through the Bethany Lay Associates.



As a natural extension of their mission, the Sisters have recently expanded their service to the migrant community at Katipalla, helping new arrivals to establish roots in the faith and their new surroundings. This outreach has become an essential part of the Madeleine legacy, further extending the convent's reach to those in need.

The desires of the local people were heard and met when, in 2005, Bethany English Medium School was established, gradually growing into a full-fledged High School and later, Madeleine Pre-University College.

These educational institutions continue to thrive today, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of countless students, young people, and families.

Madeleine, Mulki is also blessed with an expansive stretch of land, rich in nature's abundance. The fertile grounds have allowed for the cultivation of paddy, fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural activities, contributing to both the spiritual and material well-being of the community.

As we celebrate the Year of Jubilee in 2025, we reflect with deep gratitude on the remarkable journey of Madeleine Convent. With a theme of *Hope: Ray of Hope at Madeleine Mulki*, we honour the vision of our Founder, Fr Raymond FC Mascarenhas, whose guidance has been a constant source of strength. We remain forever grateful for his legacy and the continued blessings that have flowed through this institution, nurturing the growth and transformation of individuals and the broader community.

May the light of hope continue to shine brightly through every endeavour at Madeleine, leading us all toward a future full of promise and possibility.



Sr M. Meena BS
Madeleine Convent, Mulki



Mary Queen Convent – Journey of Hope



In response to God's call, Rev. Fr Joe Noronha invited the Sisters of our Congregation to serve at Christ King Church, Karkal. With faith and unwavering hope, the Sisters embraced the unknown future with a resounding 'yes,' marking the beginning of their mission on May 31, 1959—the Feast of the Queenship of Mary. Under the leadership of Sr Sylvia, the first Superior, and accompanied by Sr Julia, Sr Alfreeda, Sr Rosine, and Sr Ancilla, they set foot on the soil of Karkal, determined to spread the Kingdom of God through the spirit of Bethany.

Mary Queen Convent, now a beacon of hope, has flourished for over six decades. From 1959 to 2024, the Convent was led by 19 Superiors who, guided by faith, love, and resilience,

turned every challenge into an opportunity for growth. Through their leadership, the Convent has become a place of purpose, unity, and optimism, even during the most difficult times. Each step of their journey has been a testament to the strength that comes from trusting in God's providence.

In the early years, the Sisters began their mission in a classroom of the school. With education as their primary apostolate, four of the five founding Sisters taught at the Parish School, shaping minds and hearts. In 1960, Sr Alfreeda was appointed headmistress, and this role was later taken up by several others, including Sr Usha, who served until her retirement in 2018. While the Christ King Kannada Medium School has since closed, the



Sisters' impact through education remains alive, as they have empowered countless individuals, lighting the path to a brighter future for many students in Karkal and beyond.

The road, however, has not always been smooth. As Thomas Carlyle wisely said, "Adversity is the diamond dust that heaven polishes its jewels with." The Sisters faced challenges, including an unexpected quit notice from the parish priest in the early years. In this time of trial, Mother Macrina, the Superior General, and her Councillors stepped forward to offer guidance, strength, and encouragement. With unwavering resolve, they maintained peaceful relations between the Sisters and the parish priest, enabling the community to persevere in faith and hope, trusting always in God's plan.

Over the years, each Superior has inspired the Sisters to continue their mission with passion and dedication: educating the poor, teaching catechism, tending to church duties, organizing SCC meetings, nurturing youth through YCS, and selflessly serving others. Their commitment to compassion is reflected in their tireless care for the sick and elderly, as well as their daily prayers for the needs of the community.

The elderly Sisters, in particular, have been paragons of devotion, attending daily Masses, funeral Masses, and constantly interceding for the needs of the people. Throughout the Convent's history, many Sisters have been vibrant witnesses of faith, serving not only in the parish and school but also in the substation at Hirgan and in the parishes of Miyar and Attur for Sunday Ministry.

Now, as the Convent celebrates its 65th year, it stands as an enduring blessing to both the church and the people of Karkal. The Sisters have spent these years faithfully dedicating their lives to being a source of hope, touching countless lives with acts of service, and bearing witness to Christ's compassionate love. Reflecting on the journey, it is clear that God's grace has been ever-present, guiding the Sisters through their challenges, both great and small.

As Mary Queen Convent continues to thrive, the Sisters remain profoundly grateful to the Superior Generals, Provincial Superiors, Councillors, and all those who have supported them with prayers and guidance, nurturing the Convent from its humble beginnings to its present glory.

In this Jubilee Year of 2025, as we reflect on the theme, 'Hope never disappoints,' we look ahead with hearts full of gratitude and trust, knowing that hope's horizon stretches far and wide, lighting our path and inspiring us to take the next step. May our journey be illuminated by resilience, guided by compassion, and rooted in the deep well of shared humanity.

Sr Paulette BS
Mary Queen Convent, Karkal



Sampaje Convent: A Legacy of Faith and Mission

Nestled beneath the towering Madikeri hills, crowned by the majestic Western Ghats, and surrounded by the lush greenery of Malnad's reserve forests and thriving rubber plantations, stands the Queen of the Missions Convent in Sampaje, Sulia Taluk. This serene and remote setting serves as the backdrop for a powerful testament to faith and mission.

Missionary work was the true calling of Sr Gertrude, whose unwavering dedication would play a pivotal role in the establishment of the convent in Sampaje. The parish priest of Sampaje, Rev. Fr Leo Antony Cutinho, had long been a



missionary at heart and saw the dire need for religious Sisters to join him in his efforts. He sought the help of Fr Founder, Mgr RFC Mascarenhas, to bring the Sisters to Sampaje. Before this, the spiritual needs of the small Tulu Christian community were being met by Rev. Fr Elias P. Dias, who visited the families on Sundays and celebrated the Holy Eucharist, but his presence was limited, leaving the deeper missionary work to Fr Leo Cutinho.

Fr LA Cutinho initiated primary education for Catholic children, despite opposition from the nearby Board School. His dedication to the mission was clear, but he lacked the support of Religious Sisters to assist in his work. He turned to the local

Congregation, but his request was denied. Undeterred, Fr LA Cutinho approached the Bethany Sisters. Initially, Mother Priscilla, the Superior General at the time, was unable to provide any Sisters for the mission in Sampaje. However, Fr LA Cutinho's persistence, combined with his friendship with Fr Founder Mgr Raymond, eventually led to a breakthrough.

When Mother Macrina succeeded as Superior General, she too expressed concern about the potential challenges the Sisters would face, particularly the risk of the school losing its grants and the possible hardships regarding their maintenance. Despite these concerns, Fr Raymond, recognizing the importance of the mission, called upon Sr Gertrude to join Fr LA Cutinho in Sampaje. Ever the zealous missionary, Sr Gertrude readily agreed, despite the uncertainties ahead. Upon arriving, she was struck by the simplicity and beauty of the place, declaring, "This is God's work, and I shall not go back."

Initially residing in the sacristy of the local church, S Gertrude took on multiple roles—teacher, cook, sacristan, and catechist. Within a week, Sr. Columba joined her, and together they began visiting the Tulu Christian families after school hours, furthering their mission. Their commitment culminated in the formal establishment of the community on January 9, 1960.

The Sisters who followed in the footsteps of Sr Gertrude and Sr Columba speak with deep affection and admiration for the late Rev. Fr Leo Antony Cutinho. His exemplary life and fervent missionary zeal brought many souls to Christ, leaving an indelible mark on the mission. The pioneering journey of the Sisters continues to inspire their work, particularly their pastoral efforts in Sampaje, where they carry forward the healing ministry of Jesus with renewed vigour at the Anugraha Centre.

Guided by faith, the Sisters continue their mission with hope, awaiting God's will in their journey, ever faithful to their "yes" with Mary, the Queen of the Missions.

Sr M. Anitha Fernandes BS
Queen of Missions Convent, Sampaje



Building Dreams, Shaping Futures

The foundation stone ceremony of Bethany English Medium School in Humnabad on November 23rd, 2024, marked the fulfillment of a 14-year struggle, symbolizing the realization of a dream to provide quality education and modern infrastructure for underprivileged rural communities, with a commitment to empowering the leaders of tomorrow.

Sr Leera Maria BS

A Memorable Feast Honouring Mary's Virtues

December 8th was a day filled with devotion, joy, and unity as we celebrated a spiritually enriching feast with adoration, the Holy Eucharist, insightful reflections, and a beautiful tribute to Mary.

Sr Justine Gracy BS
Bethany Convent, Limboi vadgam



A Day of Unity, Reflection, and Renewed Zeal for the Founder's Mission

The BLA Convention on October 31, 2024, united 320 members in a spiritually enriching day of reflection, homage to Founder RFC Mascarenhas, and a renewed commitment to compassionate service, culminating in a pilgrimage to his cottage in Bendur.

Sr Savitha Dsouza BS
Rosa Mystica Convent



Spreading Christmas Cheer

On December 18th, the Sisters of St Xavier Convent and BLA members brought Christmas joy to 60 non-Christian boys at the Ajekar Government Hostel through games, songs, and gifts, sharing the true spirit of the season.

Sr Lisa BS
St Xavier Convent, Ajekar





50 Years Years of Faith, Service, and Love

On September 18th, 2024, Sr Lilly Gonsalves' Golden Jubilee was celebrated with a Eucharistic Mass and heartfelt tributes from Archbishop Thomas Macwan and Bethany Sisters, honouring her 50 years of devoted service, particularly in Gujarat, with expressions of gratitude, joy, and unity from the community.

Sr Justine Gracy BS
Bethany Convent Vadgam

Discovering Balance and Growth

The three-day seminar on Emotional Hygiene and Psycho-Geometry, held from December 26th to 29th, 2024, brought together 46 junior Sisters from various communities to enhance emotional well-being and self-awareness. The event, which began with an engaging ice-breaking session, focused on practical sessions like mindfulness and meditation to improve emotional health. A key highlight was the introduction of Psycho-Geometry, the link between geometric shapes and personality traits to discovery and personal growth. By the end of the seminar, the Sisters were equipped with valuable tools to manage their emotions, fostering emotional resilience and a deeper understanding of themselves.



Sr Aruna BS and Sr Sukanya BS



Shining Bright with Positivity

On October 31, 2024, the Bethany Educational Society, Mangalore Province hosted a get-together for hostel children focused on developing a positive mindset, featuring inspiring talks, interactive activities, and a celebration of values like self-belief, kindness, and resilience, leaving the children empowered to spread positivity and shine in their hostels.

Sr Laveena Maria BS
St Raymond Convent, Vamanjur

A Time of Reflection, Renewal, and Commitment as Co-workers of Hope

The Provincial Assembly 2025, held from February 7-9 at Bethany Provincialate, Vamanjur, focused on deepening the commitment to spreading hope in today's world through reflection, renewal, and practical leadership insights, highlighted by a celebration of the Twin Jubilee of the Founder, spiritual sessions, and the honouring of Jubilarians for their service.

Sr Sonia Dias BS
Rosa Mystica Novitiate





Kannada Puneeth Parva

On November 7th, 2024, St Raymond Pre-University College celebrated Kannada Puneeth Parva with vibrant cultural performances, speeches emphasizing the importance of preserving Kannada heritage, and a shared commitment to promoting the language and traditions, leaving students inspired to embrace and contribute to their rich cultural legacy.

Sr Anita Lydia BS

St Raymond Convent, Vamanjur

A Celebration of Excellence, Culture, and Value-Based Education

St Raymond Educational Institutions' Annual Day on November 21st was a grand celebration of academic achievements, cultural performances, and a strong commitment to holistic, value-based education, highlighted by inspiring speeches and vibrant student presentations.

Sr Jascinth Crasta BS

St Raymond Convent, Vamanjur



Ray Utsav 2k24

On November 25th, 2024, St Raymond PU College celebrated its Annual Day, "RAY UTSAV," with a vibrant mix of cultural performances, awards, and inspiring speeches from dignitaries like Rev. Fr Dr Joseph Martis and Sr Dr Lilly Pereira, honouring student achievements, reflecting on the college's journey, and showcasing diverse talents through performances and the artistic presentation of the annual report, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

Sr Anita Lydia BS

St Raymond Convent, Vamanjur



Celebrating Tradition, Talent, and Triumph!

On November 14th, 2024, St Raymond Pre-University College hosted the vibrant RAY ETHNIX DAY 2024, featuring a fashion show, cultural performances, and insightful speeches from dignitaries, including Sr Shalet DSouza and Chief Guest Mr Richard Alvares, celebrating tradition, student achievements, and the importance of balancing cultural heritage with personal growth, while recognizing the outstanding talents of students through awards and accolades.

Sr Anita Lydia BS

St Raymond Convent, Vamanjur



Flameless Delights

Bethany School, CBSE, hosted a 'Cooking without Fire' competition on October 16, 2024, where students showcased creativity, teamwork, and healthy eating habits through innovative, flameless recipes.

Sr M. Anita Tressy BS

Rosa Mystica Convent





Kickstarting Success at the International Karate Championship 2024!

Students from Bethany School, Kinnikambala, excelled at the International Karate Championship 2024, with Master Naman Kamath, Master Nandan G Kamath, and Qamar Qubra winning top positions in Kata and Kumite, showcasing their skills and dedication.

Sr M. Anita Tressy BS
Rosa Mystica Convent

Science for a Better Tomorrow

On October 19, 2024, Bethany School (CBSE) Kinnikambala hosted a successful Science Working Model Competition and Exhibition, encouraging students to use science for a better world while showcasing innovative models and fostering scientific creativity.

Sr M. Anita Tressy BS
Rosa Mystica Convent



Melodies of Patriotism

Bethany School (CBSE), Kinnikambala, excelled in the patriotic song competition at the District Training Center, Pilikula, with the Guides securing first place, Scouts second, and Bulbul section third, while the Guides were selected for the district-level competition.

Sr M. Anita Tressy BS
Rosa Mystica Convent

Smart Life Savers

Master Ujwal Kumar and Master Abdul Hafiz of Bethany School, Kinnikambala, earned selection for the National Level Science Working Model Competition with their innovative 'Smart Life Savers' project, which automates traffic lights for emergency vehicles, showcasing their creativity in disaster management.

Sr M. Anita Tressy BS
Rosa Mystica Convent



Outstanding Victory at AICS Throw Ball Tournament

Bethany School Kinnikambala excelled at the AICS Throw Ball Tournament 2024, securing the Runners trophy in the Under-14 category and the First Runner-up trophy in the Under-17 category, showcasing their sporting excellence and teamwork.

Sr M. Anita Tressy BS
Rosa Mystica Convent