



Support our Dioceses &  
Religious Congregations  
For Pastoral Works

# COMMUNIO *Sunday* 27 November 2022

 **Communio**

Assist Communio to help our Missionaries



# 3 PILLARS

**PRAYER**  
“Beloved, I pray  
that all may  
go well with you”  
(3 Jn 2).

**MISSION**  
“How beautiful are the  
feet of those who preach  
the good news?”  
(Rm 10:15)

**SOLIDARITY**  
“By this all people will know  
that you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one  
another  
(Jn 13:35)

## INTRODUCTION

The first Sunday of Advent is Communio Sunday. This year Communio Sunday falls on 27 November, 2022. It's the one Sunday in the year when the entire Latin Church in India comes together to support the Church's mission in our country. And every single donation from Communio Sunday goes to support rural missions and missionaries working in the areas where the Church is new, young or poor.

This is our opportunity and privilege to show love and solidarity to our Church family. Through our prayers, we support missionaries everywhere in spreading the Good News. And by donating, we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Communio brings the Church together in compassion and communion. Together, we provide mission dioceses with the essential support they need to become self-sufficient. Communio works with local bishops, churches and missionary congregations, to distribute resources and funds fairly, on the basis of need.





## COMMUNIO SUNDAY CIRCULAR

November 27, 2022 (First Sunday of Advent)

To All Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious,  
Catechists and Lay Faithful of the Latin Catholic Church in India

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

1. We are at the threshold of the Season of Advent, a time that restores our faith, renews our hope and deepens our love. In this Season we reflect on the great mystery of Incarnation, which reveals God's sharing of love with humanity. God's love has been made manifest in His giving of His only Son for us. As in the recent past, today, on the First Sunday of Advent, the Church in India celebrates **Communio Sunday**.

2. *Communio* is an initiative of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) taken in 2018, to assist, support and sustain all our Dioceses and Religious Congregations exercising pastoral ministry

in rural and mission areas. “Hearts in prayer, minds in mission and hands in solidarity” is the vision of *Communio*. *Communio* seeks to enkindle the Church in India with zeal for faith formation and proclamation so that, being empowered in self-sufficiency and self-reliance, we may make our contribution for creative synergy at the service of our mission.

3. Its objectives are: (i) to build a culture of sharing among the Catholic faithful in order to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need; (ii) to encourage the faithful to pray and to support the missions and the missionaries and to promote vocations to consecrated life; (iii) to inspire the lay faithful to volunteer to work in mission areas and (iv) to promote the formation of our people as missionary disciples. *Communio* is from us, for us and by us.

4. Today, on *Communio Sunday*, we join our hands in prayer for one another and we reach out to support each other in and for mission. “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God,” says the Word of God (Heb 13: 16). In and through *Communio* we have begun to share our resources for evangelisation programmes, catechesis, formation of the lay faithful, training and seminars, construction of chapels and presbyteries, for ecumenism and interfaith initiatives.

5. We invite you to celebrate *Communio* not only today, on this Sunday, but every day. There are five ways you could collaborate with *Communio*: (i) donate for a specific cause; (ii) leave a legacy by making a note in your will; (iii) sponsor the formation of a seminarian or a religious candidate; (iv) support a mission and (v) volunteer by giving your time and energy. *Communio* reaches your hands and hearts through regular videos on saints, feasts and the Pope’s prayer intentions; you can access us through our website ([www.communio.in](http://www.communio.in)), our diocesan coordinators and our bishops.

6. The readings of this day – First Sunday of Advent – speak about God’s restoration of our fortunes and bid us to be awake and to be prepared. God’s gift of His Son to humanity at Christmas

becomes an invitation for us to open ourselves up so that we may share what we are and what we have with others. Moreover, we are in the midst of the celebration of the Synod for a Synodal Church 2021-2023. Synodality is lived out in communion, participation and mission - in communion we realize our bond with one another, in participation we celebrate each's one's gift and, in mission, we reach out to others, particularly those in the peripheries. Let this *Communio Sunday* be a reminder to us that "we are all journeying companions," as our Holy Father Pope Francis underscores.

7. As the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) thanks you on this occasion for your magnanimity and generosity, it also invites you to celebrate *Communio Sunday* in your parish, institution, religious community and family in the following ways: (i) have the *Communio Sunday* poster or logo adorn your parish noticeboards and bulletins; you may have it on your profile in the social media – that all may hear and see the word *Communio*; (ii) organize a meaningful liturgical celebration to pray for mission and missionaries; (iii) make a pledge to contribute towards *Communio* with your resources, time and energy. And start today – here and now!

May Our Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Missions, and Saint Joseph, the Patron of the Universal Church, intercede for us.

CCBI General Secretariat, November 1, 2022,  
Solemnity of All Saints.

**+ Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão**  
President, CCBI  
Archbishop of Goa and Daman

**+ George Antony Samy**  
Vice-President, CCBI  
Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore

**+ Anil Joseph Thomas Couto**  
Secretary General, CCBI  
Archbishop of Delhi

NB: It is recommended that this Circular be read and its contents explained on *Communio Sunday* (November 27, 2022) in all the parishes, religious communities and institutions of the 132 dioceses of the Latin Catholic Church in India



## FIVE WAYS TO CELEBRATE COMMUNIO SUNDAY

**1. Pray:** Celebrate Holy Mass for the missionaries in India and pray for our missions and missionaries. Add special prayers of the faithful. Encourage every family to pray, at least today, for our missionaries.

**2. Educate:** Read the Communio Sunday Circular to the faithful or explain its contents. Make your congregation aware about the missionary activities of the Latin Church in India. Educate your faithful about what is happening in mission dioceses.

**3. Solidarity:** Express solidarity with our brothers and sisters where the Church is new, young and poor. Build a culture of sharing and take a special offering to support and assist our missionaries. Encourage everyone to contribute as all our contributions, big or small, would be of great help for the missionary work of the Church in India.

**4. Encourage:** Encourage missionary vocations and inspire our faithful to become missionary disciples. We believe that every baptized Christian is a missionary. Motivate our faithful to participate in the mission of the Church, wherever they live.

**5. Celebrate:** Celebrate Communio Sunday in parishes with various events, like meetings, missionary shows, exhibitions, competitions, etc. Invite some missionaries and listen to their witness. Honour

families or parents who gave their members or children for the missionary work of the Church as priests, religious or and lay missionaries.

### **Homiletical Notes**

During the Homily on Communion Sunday, the contents of the Communion Sunday Circular, especially the three objectives of Communion, are to be explained to the faithful, in order to: (i) build a culture of sharing so as to express solidarity with our needy brothers and sisters in the country; (ii) encourage our faithful to pray and help the missions and the missionaries and to promote missionary vocations, and (iii) inspire our lay faithful to work in mission areas as lay missionaries.

### **First Sunday of Advent – Cycle A**

First Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Second Reading: Romans 13: 11-14

Alleluia: Psalms 85: 8

Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44

### **Theme: “Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord”**

(Cf.– Psalms 122, today’s Responsorial Psalm)

During Advent we lift up our souls to the Lord at three levels: (a) in thanksgiving and gladness at His first coming as Emmanuel – God with us; (b) in hope and preparedness at His second coming as the Son of Man on the clouds; and (c) in compassion and love, as we encounter Him everyday amidst us in the Word of God, in the Sacraments and in all our brothers and sisters.

### **First Reading [Isaiah 2:1-5]**

When God’s promises to Judah are fulfilled in history people experience four reversals: shadow turns to glory, sorrow turns to joy, violence turns to peace, and rebellion turns to obedience. In the first part of



the text, nations invite each other to walk towards the mountain of the Lord, because they want to be instructed by the Lord. And in the second part Isaiah invites the house of Jacob to walk in the light of the Lord, because the presence of the Lord gives them joy.

### **Second Reading [Romans 13:11-14]**

The text, taken from the final exhortatory section of the Letter to the Romans, contains a reminder and an invitation: reminder that the night is far gone, and invitation to cast off the works of darkness and to put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul, using the metaphor of waking up from sleep, drives home to his audience the importance of spiritual awakening, which necessarily sheds off the works of the flesh.

### **Gospel Reading [Matthew 24:37-44]**

Jesus, in the eschatological discourse, after warning his disciples about the arrival of the Son of Man, which would be both sudden and threatening, exhorts them to stay awake and to be prepared. Being awake, and being prepared are the qualities of discipleship as well. Jesus by recalling to his audience the Noah event, indirectly, calls them for repentance, which is a prerequisite of preparedness.

### **Connecting the Dots**

- Walking, waking up, and being prepared are the three steps to go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.



- Results of going to the Lord’s house: (i) We will experience a total reversal in life; (ii) We will put on armour of light; and (iii) We will be embraced by the Lord.
- Significance for *Communio* Sunday: (i) As the Lord’s Mountain invites all nations to embrace each other, *Communio* Sunday invites us to feel our relatedness to each other in the Church in India for mission; (ii) A person who experiences spiritual awakening begins to see his / her neighbour as a brother / sister in need; and (iii) The preparedness that Jesus wants is not individual, but communitarian. Such a preparedness is possible only through sharing and owning collective responsibility.

### Prayer of the Faithful

**Celebrant:** On this *Communio* Sunday, “we cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard!” We remember Jesus’ call to go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel. We ask God’s blessings that, through our self-giving and speaking about our faith, the “Good News” of Jesus may be proclaimed to all nations and peoples.

**Lector:** For each and everyone one of us who are called to continue the mission of Christ, that we may be fervent and flourish in our faith and that we may be filled with the Spirit of God, so that we can boldly proclaim and share the Good News with the world. Let us pray to the Lord.





**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Lector:** For the Holy Father, Pope Francis, the Bishops, the Priests and the religious and for all missionaries and Church leaders, that empowered in God's love and strengthened with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially with wisdom and courage, they may be able to effectively carry out their mission of spreading the Gospel, loving and serving especially the poor. Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Lector:** For the people of other faiths and those that have no faith, that they may be able to experience God's love and presence through His grace and that they will be able to understand and accept the truth of God's Word.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Lector:** For all those who support the missionary efforts of the Church through prayer, sacrifice and a sharing of resources, that they may be blessed by God in all their endeavours. Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Lector:** For the faithful suffering from various physical and mental sicknesses, financial difficulties and tumultuous relationships, that they may be able to unite their sufferings with the Crucified Christ for the redemption of the world. Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Lector:** For all the departed souls, especially of the missionaries who laid down their lives for the mission of the Church, that God may pardon their sins and give them eternal rest. Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Celebrant:** God our Father, You have blessed us with the gift of faith. Increase our faith and give us the courage to speak about it and share it to the ends of the earth as we answer our baptismal call to take part in the worldwide mission of Jesus. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus, Redeemer of the World, who lives and reigns with You for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

### **Parish Announcements**

**In the Week before Communion Sunday:** Next Sunday we will celebrate Communion Sunday. The Church in India invites all of us to support mission dioceses, where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the most vulnerable communities. Please keep in your prayers the appeal of the Church in India for the missions and be generous in coming Sunday's collection for Communion.

**On Communion Sunday:** Today is Communion Sunday. We celebrate this day by remembering our baptismal call to bring the Gospel to all. The collection taken today for the Communion supports the work and witness of the mission dioceses in our country, as it provides for priests, religious and lay leaders who offer the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the missions. Thank you for your generosity.

**In the Week after Communion Sunday:** Thank you for your generous response to the collection for the Communion last week on Communion Sunday. Our parish raised an amount of \_\_\_\_\_ (insert amount). You may stay connected the year round to the Church's missions, continuing the commitment of Communion Sunday by networking with the Communion Secretariat.

PRAYER | MISSION | SOLIDARITY



# Communio

Assist Communio to help our Missionaries



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