

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COMMUNIO

Sunday

NOVEMBER
30, 2025

www.communio.in



Introduction

The first Sunday of Advent is Communio Sunday. This year Communio Sunday falls on 30th November 2025. 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 30, 2025 (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. The First Sunday of Advent marks a sacred threshold. With the lighting of the Candle of Hope, we step into a new liturgical year, carrying with us both the struggles of the past and the promise of what lies ahead. This single flame, small yet steady, reminds us that, even in the midst of darkness, the light of Christ never fades. The Church in India celebrates the First Sunday of Advent as the Communio Sunday. It reminds us that the Church is a family united in God's love, called to pray, support and serve one another.



2. Our world today is surrounded by fear, uncertainty and spiritual fatigue. The situation in India reflects this reality in many ways. The Church here walks a challenging path and yet, amidst its struggles, it continues its journey --- not with loud proclamations, but with a quiet, enduring witness. Through education, healthcare, pastoral care and community-building, the Church reaches out, especially to the poor and the forgotten, becoming a beacon of compassion and hope.

3. In his first public remarks as Pope, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV offered his vision for the Church: “Together, we must look for ways to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming, like this Square with its open arms, all those who are in need of our charity, our presence, our readiness to dialogue and our love.” These words offer timely encouragement for us to be open-hearted and outward-looking in our mission, especially in the context of the Indian Church.

4. In this very context, the spark of Communio was born. An initiative of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), Communio was launched to support and strengthen our mission dioceses. Through Prayer, Solidarity and Mission, Communio encourages the faithful to share their resources and to have a missionary spirit to build up the Church in India. Communio provides pastoral assistance, development aid and leadership training, especially in remote and struggling dioceses.

5. At the heart of this mission are around 90 trained Communio Volunteers—young lay men and women who have courageously committed themselves to be missionary disciples. They have gone forth into difficult and unfamiliar territories, not to be served, but to serve; not to be known, but to make Christ known. Their witness is a living sign that hope is not just something we wait for—it is something we give.



6. As we light the Candle of Hope this Advent, we urge every parish, community and faithful to celebrate Communio Sunday in solidarity with our mission dioceses. Let it be a day not only of prayer, but of concrete support. We invite everyone to be generous --- with your time, your contributions and your missionary spirit. Your support allows Communio to reach farther, serve better and love deeper.

7. We deeply appreciate your generosity and goodwill to be part of Communio, not only today, but every day. As you are aware, Communio Sunday is usually celebrated on the First Sunday of Advent or on a Sunday closest to the feast of St. Francis Xavier. But each Diocesan Bishop is free to fix an appropriate Sunday for his Diocese. We earnestly invite you all to celebrate Communio Sunday with enthusiasm. We urge you to make the celebration meaningful in your own way in the parishes, religious communities, institutions and families.

8. Here are a few ways in which you can participate: (i) Display the Communio Sunday poster or logo prominently on parish noticeboards, bulletins and social media profiles to raise awareness; (ii) Plan a meaningful liturgical service, focused on praying for missions and missionaries; (iii) Commit to supporting Communio by pledging your resources, time and energy. Let us start today, right here and now!

We entrust our mission to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and Saint Francis Xavier, Patron of the Missions.

CCBI General Secretariat, September 1, 2025.

+ Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão

President, Conference of Catholic Bishops of India
Archbishop of Goa and Daman

+ Peter Machado

Vice-President, CCBI
Archbishop of Bangalore

+ Vincent Aind

CCBI Secretary General,
Archbishop of Ranchi

N.B.: It is recommended that this Circular be read and its contents explained on Communio Sunday (November 30, 2025) in all the parishes, religious communities and institutions of the 132 dioceses of the Latin Catholic Church in India.



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

LITURGICAL- PASTORAL RESOURCES

Mass Introduction:

Today we begin the season of Advent — a sacred time of waiting, preparation, and hopeful expectation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. It marks the beginning of the liturgical year, a fresh spiritual journey rooted in faith and guided by hope.

On this First Sunday of Advent, we are also joyfully celebrating Communio Sunday, an initiative of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) that calls every faithful to participate in the missionary outreach of the Church in India. In a country where the light of the Gospel still struggles against poverty, persecution, and isolation in many mission dioceses, Communio reminds us of our common mission — to be instruments of unity, hope, and solidarity.

With hearts turned toward the Lord, today's liturgy invites us to awaken from spiritual slumber, be vigilant, and walk in the light. May we grow in our missionary consciousness and become radiant signs of Christ's presence in our world.

Let us now enter this Eucharistic celebration with open hearts, ready to be renewed in hope, reawakened in faith, and rekindled in missionary zeal.



Introduction to the First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The prophet Isaiah offers a beautiful vision of hope — a future where nations stream toward the mountain of the Lord, seeking His wisdom and peace. This reading sets the Advent tone of longing and anticipation, where we are called to walk in the light of the Lord laying aside divisions and weapons of war. It resonates deeply with the mission of Communio — to build a Church where all peoples journey together in unity, seeking God's justice and peace.

Introduction to the Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

St. Paul's words are a spiritual wake-up call: "It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep." As we begin Advent, he exhorts us to cast off the deeds of darkness and live honourably, clothed in Christ. For us in the Church in India, this is a call to renew our missionary identity — to walk courageously amid challenges and bear the light of Christ to the margins of society. Through Communio, the Church invites every baptized person to live their faith actively and visibly, with urgency and purpose.

Homily Notes [Mathew 24:37-44]

Today we begin a new liturgical year with the holy season of Advent—a time of hope, longing, and sacred preparation for the coming of the Lord. But this First Sunday of Advent is more than just a seasonal start; it is also Communio Sunday in the Church in India, and we celebrate it within the grace-filled context of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, declared by Pope Francis. This special convergence reminds us that our waiting must not be passive. It is a time to awaken our hearts, rekindle our missionary zeal, and take active steps toward communion and service—especially for those in the peripheries of our own nation.



Today's readings speak with clarity and urgency. Let us open our hearts to five key calls of this Sunday's Word.



Advent: Wake from Sleep, Watch for the Lord

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to be alert, like servants waiting for their master. Life may seem ordinary—eating, drinking, marrying—but the Lord comes when we least expect Him. This call to wakefulness is echoed by St. Paul: “It is now the hour to wake from sleep.” Advent is not about passive waiting; it is about active watching, spiritual preparation, and missionary readiness.

Isaiah's Dream: Mission as a Path to Peace

The First Reading offers a powerful vision: nations streaming to the mountain of the Lord, learning His ways, and transforming swords into ploughshares. This is not just poetic imagery—it is a missionary dream. It reflects the very purpose of Communio: to bring unity, healing, and Gospel peace to the remote corners of India. In our fractured and hurting world, God invites us to build bridges of communion, to be peacemakers in divided places, and to walk with those who are still searching for light.

“Put on Christ”: Be Witnesses in India Today

St. Paul reminds us: “The day is at hand. Let us put on the Armor of light.” To “put on Christ” is to live a life of visible faith—a life that radiates the Gospel not just in church but in our homes, workplaces, and public life. In India, where the Church often serves amidst social struggle and spiritual hunger, the world watches our example more than our words.

Here we are inspired by the words of Pope Leo XIV:

“Nothing is more effective in drawing others to Christ than the example of a Christian life.” Your witness—humble, consistent, loving—is the most powerful evangelization.

Readiness as Missionary Responsibility

Jesus' message is not just about being alert—it's about being ready to act. Advent is not simply about preparing for Jesus' birth in Bethlehem; it's about preparing to receive Him daily, especially in the poor, the migrant, the sick, the unreached.

Communio is the Church's collective response to that call. It is not merely a project—it is a movement of missionary communion, helping the poorer dioceses of India not just survive, but grow, serve, and thrive. Let us remember that every baptized person is a missionary. As Pope Francis says, "We are all missionary disciples."

The Church in India: Wounded Yet Missionary

Our Church in India is beautiful—but also bears the wounds of poverty, marginalization, and opposition. In regions of the North, Northeast, tribal belts, and rural mission dioceses, faith is growing, but resources are lacking. Many priests serve in difficult terrains, many families attend Mass under thatched roofs, and catechists walk for miles to spread the Word.

Yet in these very places, the light of Christ shines brightly. Through Communio, we are one Church, one Body, supporting one another in communion, hope, and love. When you support a mission diocese, you are participating in the very mission of Christ.

Missionary Appeal: "We are the Ones God is Sending"

Dear friends,

Perhaps the Lord is not asking us to cross continents, but to cross our indifference. He is asking us to remember those dioceses in our own country where the Church is struggling—and to rise with love and action.



Let us ask ourselves:

Can I offer a small gift today to help train a missionary or build a chapel in a tribal area?

Can I pray regularly for one mission diocese?

Can I encourage youth to serve as missionaries through Communio?

Can I be more aware of the life and struggles of the Church in India?

Mission is not optional. It is our baptismal call.

And in giving, we receive. In reaching out to the poor, we encounter Christ. In walking with the Church in India, we become true pilgrims of hope.

Conclusion: Let Advent Be Communio

As we journey through Advent and the Jubilee Year of Hope, may we not only prepare our homes for Christmas—but prepare our hearts for mission.

Let us wake up.

Let us walk in the light.

Let us build a Church of communion, peace, and hope.

Let our lives, in the words of Pope Leo XIV, truly become “the most effective witness” to Christ.

Let us rise and go forth. Let us be Communio.

Amen.





PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. For the Church Universal, that during this Advent season she may joyfully await the coming of Christ and remain faithful in mission and unity.

Let us pray to the Lord... Lord give us missionary spirit

2. For the Church in India, especially the mission dioceses supported by Communio, that the light of the Gospel may reach every corner through the generosity of the faithful.

Let us pray to the Lord... Lord give us missionary spirit

3. For all Christian families, that they may live in spiritual wakefulness, guided by love, service, and Advent hope.

Let us pray to the Lord... Lord give us missionary spirit

4. For the poor, the suffering, and the persecuted, that through our missionary efforts and through Communio, they may experience God's comfort, peace, and justice.

Let us pray to the Lord... Lord give us missionary spirit.

Ideas for Celebrating Communio Sunday

1. Special Mass or Liturgy: Organize a special Mass or liturgy dedicated to Communio Sunday. Invite missionaries, if possible, to share their experiences and insights during the service.
2. Communio Reach: Set up posters, project book, flyers, and videos from Communio in the parish campus.
3. Become a Communio Partner: visit www.communio.in to become a member of Communio family, the largest Catholic network in India for prayer and mission.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the Week before Communio Sunday:

Next Sunday we will celebrate Communio 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 Communio.

Today is Communio Sunday.

We celebrate this day by remembering our baptismal call to bring the Gospel to all. The collection taken today for the Communio 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.



In the Week after Communio Sunday:

Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your generous response to the collection for the Communio last week on Communio 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 Communio Sunday by networking with the Communio Secretariat.



ST. TERESA OF KOLKATA

PATRON SAINT OF COMMUNIO

“I can do things you cannot,
you can do things I cannot;
together we can do great things.”



 **communio**
CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC
BISHOPS OF INDIA



IN GIVING WE RECEIVE

ACCOUNT NAME : COMMUNIO PASTORAL SOCIETY
NAME OF THE BANK : THE SOUTH INDIAN BANK LIMITED
BRANCH : KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005
BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER : 0117073000004790
IFSC/NEFT CODE : SIBLO000117