



23RD NOTIFICATIONS & UPDATES IN THE DIOCESE OF PENANG

I greet you with **JOY, MERCY AND HOPE** in your synodal journey of Lenten Penance as Missionary Disciples of Christ. May you **PRAY, FAST, GIVE AND RECEIVE** with an unwavering focused on our Father in Heaven. With Pope Francis, let us "Listen to Jesus, Rise and Not Be Afraid". The Holy Spirit who stirs us for communion and mission, will help us in this journey. I remain united with all of you this Lent as we accompany our elects in prayer, for their preparation to answer the call of Baptism.



Month of March
Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Focus:
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**INTENDED FOR ALL THE
CATHOLIC FAITHFUL IN
THE DIOCESE OF PENANG**

For internal circulation only



REJOICE IN HOPE, ENDURE IN AFFLICTION, PERSEVERE IN PRAYER (ROM 12:12)



19 March

10th Anniversary of Pope Francis' Installation,
266th Successor of St. Peter



20 March

Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary



25 March

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord



28 March

Chrism Mass 2023 & Blessing of the Holy Oils
together with Priestly Ordination of
Deacon Raymond Raj & Deacon Desmond Jansen





UPDATES & HAPPENINGS OF THE DIOCESE

1. LENTEN 2023 MESSAGE BY BISHOP SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

I am pleased to share with you the Lenten message for this year in Bahasa Malaysia, English, Tamil & Mandarin. [CLICK HERE](#)

2. PENANG DIOCESAN LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2023: "RENEW OUR HEARTS TO CARE"

Sharing the Lenten Kit with Lenten prayer, theme song, weekly videos on personal testimonies for reflection, along with other resources & relevant materials for Lenten Campaign 2023, suited for Parishes, Ministries, BECs, Families & Individuals. [CLICK HERE](#)

3. SCHEDULE OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN THE DIOCESE OF PENANG

Please be informed on the schedule for confessions at the parishes in the Diocese of Penang. I pray for all of us to draw into a closer and intimate relationship with God through the gift and treasure of this sacred Sacrament. [CLICK HERE](#)

4. ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR HOLY LAND

The annual collection for Holy Land is on Maundy Thursday. Parishes can make their contributions by cheque or online transfer. Payable to: DIOCESE OF PENANG | RHB Account No: 2-07082-0005132-4 | Kindly notify payment to: trcfin@gmail.com

5. SOLIDARITY FUND FOR PENANG DIOCESE

The parish monthly collection for the solidarity fund of all parishes in the Diocese of Penang can also be made following the same banking details and method as above.

6. RCIA ELECTS FOR BAPTISM AT EASTER

The Rite of Election for the Diocese of Penang took place on 25th Feb & 26th Feb at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Penang & Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Silibin, Ipoh. I am delighted to inform you that 196 Adult RCIA candidates will be baptised together with several other adults at Easter in our diocese. Please join me as I invite you to pray for them, everyday until their Baptism.



UPDATES & HAPPENINGS OF THE DIOCESE

7. COLLABORATION BETWEEN NATIONAL CANCER SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA (NCSM) & DIOCESE OF PENANG

The Diocese of Penang will be offering NCSM the use of Simee Old Folks Home, Ipoh (Block B) to provide accommodation for the underprivileged B40 cancer patients and their caregiver while undergoing treatment at Ipoh General Hospital. The blessing of this NCSM – CARITAS Homes of Hope at Simee Ipoh will be on 18th March at 10.00am. Free cancer screening at the above venue will be provided for 500 pax. [CLICK HERE](#)

8. PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF DEACON RAYMOND RAJ & DEACON DESMOND JANSEN

Deacon Raymond Raj Jeremiah from the Church of Divine Mercy, Sg. Ara & Deacon Desmond Jansen David Anthony from the Minor Basilica of St. Anne will be called to the Order of the Presbyterate and ordained diocesan priests on 28th March 2023 at the Chrism Mass celebrated at the Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM. Kindly keep them and all the clergy in your prayers.

9. PARISH PRIEST AT CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH, PARIT BUNTAR

Rev. Fr. Martin Arlando has been appointed Parish Priest of Church of Our Lady of Good Health, Parit Buntar with effect from 1st March 2023. We congratulate him for having completed his studies in Canon Law and continue to pray for him as he embarks on his new mission in the parish at Parit Buntar. My heartfelt thanks to Fr. Pillai for having served tireless in his priestly ministry and is now released from his responsibilities due to health reasons. Special thanks to Msgr. Henry Rajoo who assisted as administrator of the parish in the interim. My prayers and blessings for the parish community at Parit Buntar.



UPDATES & HAPPENINGS OF THE DIOCESE

10. 100th BIRTHDAY OF REV. FR. PETER WANG – 5th March 2023

Rev. Fr. Peter Wang, a priest from the Diocese of Penang who is currently residing in Canada will be celebrating his 100th birthday on 5th March 2023. We remember him in our prayers as he remains close to our hearts here in the diocese.

11. HEAD OF CHINESE LANGUAGE APOSTOLATE SR. THERESA CHEW

Sr. Theresa Chew FdCC will be released from her responsibilities as the Head of Chinese Language Apostolate with effect from 1st March 2023. We thank Sr. Theresa for her dedicated and committed services in this ministry. The new head who will be replacing Sr. Theresa for this apostolate will be notified soon.

12. CHARIS PENANG TEAM

I am pleased to share with you the team of CHARIS PENANG, a service of communion with all the expressions of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Church in the Diocese of Penang. [CLICK HERE](#)

13. MISSION OF THE SISTERS OF THE INFANT JESUS IN THE DIOCESE OF PENANG

A new community of IJ sisters will be reopened at Light Street Convent in Penang. Along with this information, I am pleased to share with you the IJ communities in our diocese. [CLICK HERE](#)

Also for your information, the Convent Light Street (CLS) will be fully closed in 2024, while the CLS Secondary will be fully closed in March 2023 after the SPM examinations. As for the secondary school of Convent Pulau Tikus (CPT), it will be returned to the IJ Sisters in March 2023 after the SPM examinations.



UPDATES & HAPPENINGS OF THE DIOCESE

14. PUBLIC HOLIDAYS OBSERVED BY THE DIOCESAN OFFICE, PENANG

I wish to share with you the Public Holidays observed by the Diocesan Office, for your kind information.

The Diocesan Office is open from Mondays to Fridays at 8.30am – 5.00pm. [CLICK HERE](#)

15. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CARITAS MALAYSIA

We extend our appreciation for the contributions and efforts of Mr. Charles Bertille since the beginnings of the establishment of Caritas Malaysia, as an overarching body for all organizations involved in charity and development work for about three years now. Ms. Eta Ting, who is currently the Director of Caritas Sibu, assumes the position of the new Executive Secretary of Caritas Malaysia with effect from 16th February 2023.

16. APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION OF ASIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE - OFFICE OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS (FABC-OSC)

I ask for your prayers as I take on this new role and responsibility as Chairman of the FABC-OSC for a period of three years with effect from 1 January 2023. One of the important responsibilities which the FABC has entrusted to the FABC-OSC is the management and governance of Radio Veritas Asia (RVA). [CLICK HERE](#)



Bishop's Diary for March 2023



1 March 7.00 am	College General Inauguration Mass for New Academic Year 2023, College General, Penang
2 & 3 March 12.30pm	Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC) Central Committee Meeting, ZOOM
3 March 8.00pm	Graduation for "Diploma in Biblical Studies for the Laity" by Regional Biblical Commission, Stella Maris
4 March 9.00am	CHARIS Exco Meeting, ZOOM
4 March 6.00pm	Mass & Session – Church of Risen Christ, Kuala Lumpur
5 March 8.30am	Mass & Session – Church of Risen Christ, Kuala Lumpur
7 March 8.15pm	Session: Life Everlasting – "I believe in the Holy Spirit" Penang Diocesan New Evangelization, ZOOM
8 March 9.00am	Peninsular Malaysia Pastoral Team, Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, KL
8 March 3.00pm	Peninsular Malaysia Finance Meeting, Archbishop's Office, KL
13 March 10.00am	Penang Diocesan Education Council (PDEC) Meeting, Penang Diocesan Centre
14 March 10.30am	Visit of Father Founder and Mother General of Putri Karmel Congregation, Balik Pulau
16 March 8.00pm	Rite of Lector & Acolyte for candidates to Permanent Diaconate, Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM
18 March 10.00am	Blessing of the National Cancer Society Malaysia-Caritas Homes of Hope, Simee Ipoh.
18 March 6.00pm	Confirmation – Church of St. Joseph, Batu Gajah & Parish Feast Day Mass
19 March 9.00 am	Parish Feast Day Mass, Church of St. Joseph, Batu Gajah
26 March 8.00 am	Installation of New Parish Priest & Mass, Church of Our Lady of Good Health, Parit Buntar
28 March 4.00 pm	Clergy Monthly Recollection (CMR)
28 March 7.00 pm	Chrism Mass & Priestly Ordination of Deacon Raymond Raj & Deacon Desmond Jansen
29 March 9.00 am	Bishops' Staff Meeting, College General Major Seminary, Penang



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

**We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church;
may they find within the Church herself
a concrete response to their pain and suffering.**