

150 Years of Grace – Sesquicentennial Jubilee Highlights

Good Shepherd Convent, Bellary 1875-2025

Opening Moments of the Jubilee Year: 18th November 2024

The Jubilee bell rang with joy for the Good Shepherd Mission in Bellary on **18th November 2024**, marking the official opening of the sesquicentennial year 1875-2025. During a solemn Eucharistic celebration, **Most Rev. Dr. Henry D'Souza**, Bishop of Bellary, formally declared the Jubilee Year open. The occasion was graced by the Province Leader and her team, together with priests and religious from across the Diocese—a truly heavenly moment as gratitude and treasured memories filled every heart.



The **Jubilee candles** glowed with the symbolism of our journey: gratitude for the past, wholehearted commitment in the present, and hope for the future. They stood as a tribute to the toil of our pioneers, the fidelity of our sisters and mission partners today, and the promise of the mission yet to unfold. The **Jubilee logo**, too, beautifully captured the essence of the Good Shepherd mission—paths lovingly walked in service and compassion.



Throughout the year, the community engaged in special prayers, reflective activities, research, and creative initiatives meant to rediscover the roots of our mission. Some of these memorable moments include:



1. *“One Day at the Pasture, a Lifetime of Grace” – A Session for Lay Mission Partners & Collaborators: 23rd August 2025*



This meaningful programme brought together the mission partners and collaborators of Bellary mission. The day



unfolded in an atmosphere of prayer, reflection, deep listening, and creative engagement.

Participants journeyed through the life and values of **St. Mary Euphrasia**, gaining renewed appreciation for her spirit and vision. The solemn Eucharist quenched spiritual thirst and filled every heart with peace and joy. The shared agape meal further strengthened bonds of unity as daughters and partners in the mission of St. Mary



Euphrasia. Indeed, a day spent in the “pasture” became an experience of grace, one to be cherished for a lifetime.

2. Roots and Wings – Inauguration of the Museum

In our quest to rediscover the history of the Good Shepherd Mission in Bellary, a museum titled “**Roots and Wings**” was inaugurated. Significant events and milestones were carefully curated and displayed through printed panels, enabling future generations to reflect upon. Antique objects from the early days of the mission were preserved elegantly in glass cases. Mission partners and collaborators walked through the gallery in awe and gratitude, deeply touched by the legacy entrusted to us.



3. Blessing of Newly Constructed Classrooms of St. Philomena's Kannada



Medium High School: 15th November 2025

As part of the sesquicentennial celebrations of the Good Shepherd Convent, five new classrooms were constructed for the children of St. Philomena's



s Kannada Medium High School—most of whom come from poor socio-economic backgrounds.

This long-cherished dream now allows the boys of St. Mary's Higher Primary School to continue their high school education in the same campus. What a joy it was for the parents and children!

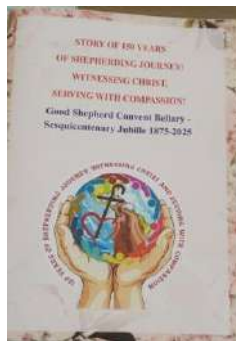
Most Rev. Henry D'Souza, Bishop of Ballari, blessed the new facility, and **Sr. Lissy Chacko**, our Province Leader, inaugurated the classrooms. The teachers prepared a meaningful prayer service, invoking God's abundant blessings upon every child who will walk these corridors of learning.

4. Jubilee Memorial of Grace: 15th November 2025



A beautiful memorial structure was erected in gratitude to God Almighty and in honour of our pioneer Sisters—women of faith, courage, and unwavering dedication. It stands as a lasting reminder of their sacrifices and of the mission entrusted to them.

At its centre rests the **heritage bell**, symbolizing the countless blessings poured out by our Shepherd God. As its resonant sound echoes across the lush green convent campus, may it continue to remind us of God's enduring compassion embracing all who enter this sacred mission.



Enshrined within the memorial is a **scroll of blessings** and the official declaration by Bishop Henry D'Souza marking the closure of the Sesquicentennial Year. Alongside these rests a **booklet narrating the history and chronology of our mission**, preserving our treasured legacy for generations to come.

5. Institution of the Sesquicentennial Scholarship: 15th November 2025

St. Mary's Higher Primary School has always served the most disadvantaged children of society. They come seeking not only quality education, but also the dignity, love, and care they experience here—values dear to our Mother Foundress.

Believing firmly that **education transforms lives**, and inspired by St. Mary Euphrasia's vision of empowering the young and the poor, we instituted a **Sesquicentennial Scholarship** for ten meritorious students. This initiative stands as a lasting legacy of our 150 years of service in Ballari, affirming our commitment to nurture hope, excellence, and opportunity. The scholarships were awarded to the children during the closing ceremony of the Sesquicentennial celebration.



Sesquicentennial Thanksgiving and Closure: 15th November 2025- 150 Years of Shepherd's Journey in Ballari: Witnessing Christ & Serving with Compassion.



*Jubilate, everybody—let joy fill the air!
For God has blessed us beyond compare.
Come, rejoice with grateful hearts today,
Praise to our Lord on this Jubilee day!*

The long-awaited day of the Grand Jubilee Celebration finally arrived after a year of eager anticipation and dedicated preparation. The entire campus sparkled with beauty, radiant like a bride adorned in her finest jewels. The convent stood tall and proud, bearing witness to 150 years of compassionate service and faithful shepherding.

As the lights illuminated the campus, sisters, friends, children, staff, and well-wishers from near and far gathered in joyful unity to share in the celebration. The ringing of the heritage bell heralded the solemn commencement of the festivities.



Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore; Rt. Rev. Dr. Henry D'Souza, Bishop of Ballari; and Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga, along with 25 priests and 40 Good Shepherd Sisters, entered the Eucharistic celebration in a grand procession led by the School Band of St. Philomena's Composite PU College. It was a moment of deep pride and abundant grace for everyone present. The tiny tots of the Kindergarten welcomed the procession with flowers, while the choir lifted hearts in prayerful harmony through a melodious entrance hymn.



The theme of the Eucharistic celebration was Thanksgiving, beautifully symbolized through meaningful offerings, including the Jubilee Logo and the Good Shepherd emblem.

Following the Holy Mass, the celebration continued with a vibrant cultural programme and a heartfelt felicitation ceremony, marking a memorable and grace-filled milestone in the history of the community.



Release of Documentary:



An audiovisual documentary capturing the history and mission of our mission in Bellary was released. The film touched every heart as it unfolded the remarkable journey of the sisters. <https://youtu.be/DNmUzBd29fM>

From France to Bellary - A Journey of the Heart- A Tribute to the Missionaries of Bellary!

From **Angers**, where a dream was born,
To **Vellore**, where hope took root,
And from Vellore to **Bellary**,
Where grace found a home in dusty streets.

They travelled from the familiar to the unknown,
Hearts steady, steps brave,
Carrying nothing but faith,
And a fire that would not fade.

Against the winds, against the odds,
They opened doors that had long been shut,
Gathering the weak into their arms,
Lifting the fallen with tenderness.

They stitched dignity into torn lives,
Wiped tears that history forgot,
Lit lamps in silent corners
Where darkness had lingered too long.

A journey of compassion,
A tapestry of courage,
A mission that crossed borders and hearts—
Still beating today, vibrant as ever,
Still whispering:

*There is no land too distant,
No child too lost,
No wound too deep
For the Good Shepherd's love!*

Honouring former Superiors, Mission Partners and Benefactors



Former Superiors who toiled for the mission were gratefully remembered, thanked and honored.



Ten staff members who completed 25 years or more in our Good Shepherd Institutions in Ballari were honoured for their loyalty and commitment—a proud and joy-filled moment for all.



Our benefactors were also recognized with gratitude for walking with us, helping God's light shine in the lives of the least and the lost.

The celebration concluded with an agape meal, strengthening our bonds as one Good Shepherd family.

Conclusion

As the Sesquicentennial Jubilee year draws to a close, our hearts overflow with gratitude for the countless blessings God has bestowed upon the Good Shepherd Mission in Ballari. What began 150 years ago as a humble seed of faith, planted in difficult soil by courageous pioneer Sisters, has grown into a flourishing mission of compassion, empowerment, and hope. Every celebration, every prayer, every symbolic gesture, and every face filled with joy stands as a testimony to God's unfailing love and to the enduring spirit of St. Mary Euphrasia.

This Jubilee year has been a sacred pilgrimage—one that invited us to look back with thankfulness, to live the present with passion, and to embrace the future with renewed commitment. Through moments of remembrance and celebration, through creative initiatives and acts of service, we rediscovered the depth of our heritage and the beauty of our shared mission. The legacy handed down to us now calls us forward with fresh zeal, courage, and faith.

We remain deeply grateful to our Congregational and Province Leadership Teams, our Mission Partners, Collaborators, Benefactors, Staff, Students, and Well-wishers who have journeyed with us hand in hand. Your support, dedication, and love continue to strengthen and sustain the mission entrusted to us.

As we step beyond this historic milestone, we carry forward the same fire that inspired our pioneers—a fire that still burns with compassion for the poor, the young, the vulnerable, and the forgotten. May the Good Shepherd lead us onward to new pastures of hope and transformation, enabling us to be instruments of His tenderness in a world longing for healing.

With hearts united, we pray:

*May the next 150 years be a symphony of grace, service, and love—
all for the glory of God and the dignity of every human person!*



Sisters from SWI and CEIN



Local Area Community, Bellary



Bishops, Priests and Sisters

Good Shepherd Mission, Bellary — Forever Faithful, Forever Grateful.

By:

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