

**18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**  
**INAUGURATION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF GOOD**  
**SHEPHERD CONVENT, BELLARY**

The Good Shepherd's presence in Bellary began on 18th November 1875. Today, we officially inaugurated the 150th Jubilee Year of our convent. The celebration, though simple, was deeply meaningful.

The day began with a heartfelt thanksgiving prayer service. At 11:30 a.m., we celebrated the solemn Eucharistic liturgy, presided over by His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Henry D'Souza, the Bishop of Bellary, and concelebrated by 16 priests from neighboring parishes and institutions.

Sr. Lissy Chacko, our Province Leader, along with the Sisters from the Manvi, Madlur, and Chikkahesarur Communities, participated in the celebration.

The Eucharistic celebration commenced with a solemn procession, during which Sr. Lissy and the local leaders of the four communities carried the **Bible and Jubilee Candles**, respectively, followed by the priests.

During the service, Sr. Shanty Chacko, the Local Leader, presented a brief history of the Bellary Convent. This was followed by the lighting of the Jubilee candles. After the homily, the Sisters renewed their vows in a spirit of dedication and commitment.

The choir, led by Sr. Joan Mary and her team, with Master Noel on the keyboard, enriched the celebration with melodious hymns.

The event was graced by priests and sisters from our parish, members of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), staff from all our institutions, boarding children, and candidates. Sr. Felicitas extended a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all who contributed to the occasion. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal, which was enjoyed by all. It was truly a day of gratitude, joy, and divine grace. May the name of the Lord be glorified!

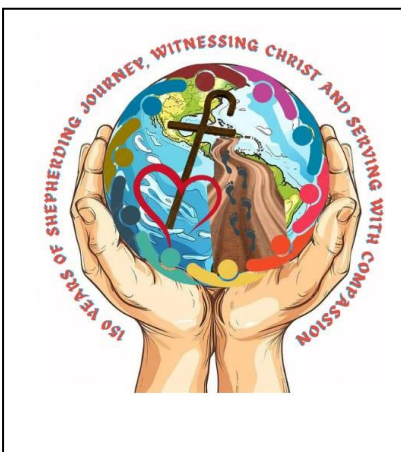
**How could we thank the Lord enough for all the graces that the Good Shepherd family received through Rev. Fr. Patrick Doyle, the holy priest, who invited the sisters to Bellary and confided them with works of Charity! He vacated his presbytery to accommodate the newly arrived missionaries! Over the years, the Good Shepherd Convent, Bellary became a haven for the orphans, the destitute, the poor, marginalized and the vulnerable; none were excluded from the compassionate care of the Shepherd!**

**The Theme for the opening of Jubilee year was:**

***150 years of shepherding journey; Witnessing Christ  
and Serving with Compassion.***

Drawing strength and guidance from the **Shepherd God**, we continue to reach out to the marginalized, the vulnerable, and the least among us with the tenderness of the **Shepherd's heart**, following the path laid by our pioneering Sisters. We carry this sacred mission forward with deep reverence, fully aware that we are entrusted with advancing the **Mission of Jesus**.

As a symbol of this journey, the **Jubilee Candle** will burn throughout the year in all four communities, embodying prayers and intentions for the Bellary Mission.



**ENTRANCE PROCESSION**



**LIGHTING OF JUBILEE CANDLE**



**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**



**INTRODUCTION**



**WORD OF GOD**



**VOTE OF THANKS**



**RENEWAL OF VOWS**





### Diocesan Jubilee Cross:

The Catholic Diocese of Bellary is set to celebrate its Platinum Jubilee on November 28, 2024. In preparation for this historic occasion, a special Cross, blessed by Rev. Henry D'Souza, is being carried in pilgrimage through all the parishes and institutions of the diocese.

We were deeply blessed to receive the **Jubilee Cross** during the inaugural ceremony of our **Sesquicentennial Jubilee**. The boarding children, Candidates, and Sisters joyfully welcomed the Cross with **arati**, flowers, and lamps. In a solemn procession, the Cross was brought to our Chapel, where it was venerated and honored during the **Eucharistic celebration**.

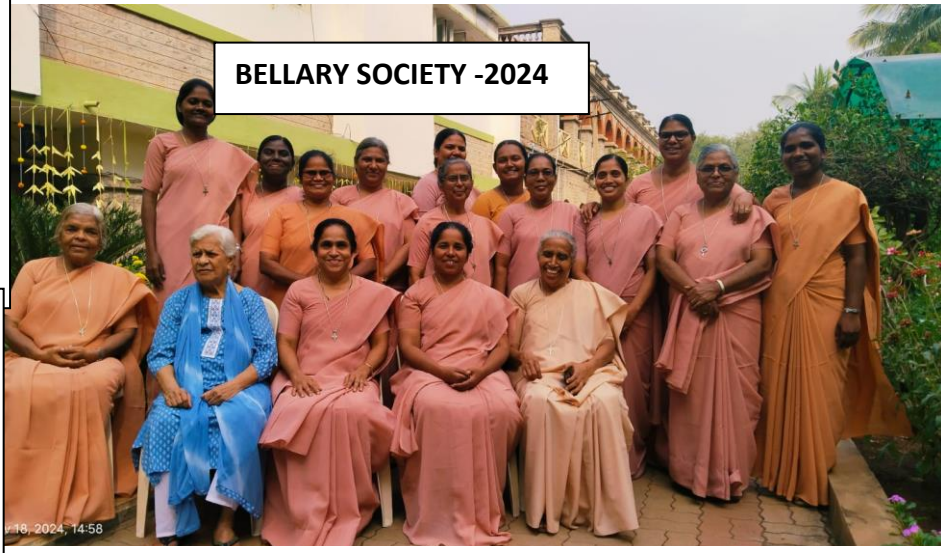
The day was marked by an hour of **special thanksgiving prayer**, offering gratitude for the abundant blessings received both today and over the past 149 years of our mission. Truly, it was a **day of grace**, filled with profound spiritual significance.



FELLOWSHIP MEAL



SISTERS OF BELLARY SOCIETY ALONG WITH BISHOP, PROVINCIAL AND CONCELEBRANTS



**BELLARY SOCIETY -2024**



**BELLARY COMMUNITY**



**BELLARY COMMUNITY WITH STAFF**



**BELLARY COMMUNITY WITH CANDIDATES**



**MANVI COMMUNITY**



**CHIKKA HESARUR COMMUNITY**



**MADLUR COMMUNITY**

**Conclusion:**

The inaugural function of the opening of the sesquicentennial Jubilee was a moment of grace, gratitude and joy. The joy was doubled with the arrival of the Diocesan jubilee cross to the chapel.

The celebration was more than a commemoration of the past; it was a springboard for the future. It called us to renew our zeal and embrace our mission with even greater fervor. The legacy of visionaries like Rev. Fr. Patrick Doyle and Mother Mary of St. Thomas Cullerton, our first Superior, alongside countless collaborators and benefactors, continues to inspire us to be shepherds of love and hope for all, especially the marginalized and forgotten.

As we honor the sacrifices and faith of those who have gone before us, we are challenged to carry their torch forward. May this Jubilee Year be a time of grace, renewal, and recommitment for all who share in this mission. Together, we continue to build a legacy of service and solidarity, ensuring that the Good Shepherd's love reaches every corner of society. With gratitude for the past, hope for the future, and joy in the present, we proclaim: "To God alone be the glory!"