



# ARCHDIOCESE OF BANGALORE

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Ref. No. :

17<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay faithful,

**Our great concern for the people affected by the torrential rain  
and floods in Kerala**

It is very heartbreaking news indeed to learn about the torrential rain and related floods and landslides in Kerala since August 8. As reported in the Press and Social Media, about 100 persons have already lost their lives; lots of damages have been done to the properties and crops; many houses and buildings are inundated; thousands of people are stranded without food and water; and public and private transportation facilities, and communication networks are also disrupted. And, as a result, people are unable to communicate with each other and to share their woes and worries with their own kit and kin. The normal life of the people in Kerala is greatly affected and has come to a standstill. The loss estimated by this natural calamity seems to be very high and it is estimated that it may go up considerably. As predicted, it would take months to rehabilitate those affected by these recent floods and incessant rains.

At this crucial and difficult times, it is our Christian and humanitarian concern to outreach our help to them. Many NGOs and other philanthropic organizations have already plunged into action to alleviate the sufferings of these people by rendering them whatever assistance they could give. But the financial and material help given are not quite sufficient and inadequate to make good the loss.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), in its recent Press Release, has said: "...We share the anguish of the people affected by this huge natural disaster and we wish to express our closeness to them."

"...While trying to help people in the affected areas without discrimination of faith, or class, wherever it is possible for us to reach out, we appeal to people of good will all across the country and elsewhere to come to the aid of our suffering brethren."

Joining hands with the CBCI and other Organizations, we, in the Archdiocese, express our solidarity with those who are affected due to this natural calamity, and also share our great concern for their rehabilitation. While praying for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives, we also pray for the spiritual strength to their bereaved family members that they may accept this irreparable loss with courage and strength. We also assure those who have lost their wealth and property that our prayers for them would soon help them be rehabilitated to continue their normal life.

Dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters and friends, may I very earnestly appeal to all of you to observe **the Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2018** as: **“The Outreach Sunday to the Flood Victims in Kerala.”**

**I request you to include this very important point in the Announcements made on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 at all the Masses.**

*On this Sunday, we will do the following:*

- We will pray for those who have lost their lives, and for their families and friends. And also for all those who are greatly affected by these unforeseen and sudden calamities.
- We will make the Second Collection (after Holy Communion) exclusively for this purpose.
- Perhaps, we can ask our people to put their contributions in the envelopes that are distributed on 19<sup>th</sup> August, and during the coming week, which they will offer it on the 26<sup>th</sup> August, during the Second Collection. Please distribute the envelopes to the people with your church seal.

**May I also request the Superiors of the Religious Communities and the Heads of the Educational Institutions to pray for these victims, and also to raise funds for their rehabilitation.**

**Please submit the full collections to the Archdiocesan Finance Office on/before 30th August without fail** so that our contributions can be forwarded to the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Conference immediately.

With best wishes and God's blessings,

Yours in Christ,



**+ Peter Machado**  
*Archbishop of Bangalore*