



# 33RD NOTIFICATION AND UPDATES IN THE DIOCESE OF PENANG

My Dear People of God in Perak, Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan and Penang, I wish you warm fraternal greetings on this Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. With HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE, I assure you my prayers and blessings for the New Year of the Lord 2024.

As the Church in Peninsular Malaysia journeys towards the Malaysia Pastoral Convention 2026, She constantly discerns her vocation and mission in the light of the existing realities in relation to the FAMILY, CHURCH, ECOLOGY and SOCIETY.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us walk towards becoming a more synodal Church as we journey together in Celebrating, Listening, and Walking Together in a Spirit of Communion, Participation and Mission encouraged by the Unity of the Gift of Diversity in the Church. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us and teach us to be obedient to the Holy Spirit.

*Cardinal Sebastian Francis*



# JANUARY 2024

MONTH OF JANUARY  
PENINSULAR MALAYSIA  
PASTORAL FOCUS-  
**GIFT OF DIVERSITY**

INTENDED FOR ALL THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL  
IN THE DIOCESE OF PENANG



# FEASTS & SOLEMNITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY



**1st January 2024**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

**3rd January 2024**

**Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus  
(Parish of the Most Holy Name of  
Jesus, Balik Pulau)**



**7th January 2024**

**Solemnity of the Epiphany  
of the Lord**

**“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not  
male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”  
(Gal 3:28)**



## FEASTS & SOLEMNITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY



8th January 2024

**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

21st January 2024

**Word of God Sunday**



25th January 2024

**Feast of the Conversion of Paul**

**“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”  
(Gal 3:28)**



## UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS

### OF THE DIOCESE OF PENANG

#### 1. THANKSGIVING SOLEMN MASS & DINNER ON THE APPOINTMENT TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS | 8 JANUARY 2024

With a heart of gratitude, I look forward to meeting all of you and to celebrate this special occasion of the Thanksgiving Solemn Mass & Dinner together with all of you. Let us celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on this special day. [CLICK HERE](#)

#### 2. 2024 CANDIDATES TO THE SEMINARY AND THE PERMANENT DIACONATE FROM THE DIOCESE OF PENANG

I am pleased to share with you updates on the new and existing seminarians and candidates to the permanent diaconate. Let us continue to lift them up in prayer as we pray for more vocations in the vineyard of the Lord :

**Dennis Raj Rasu, Jan 2024-Jan 2025**  
Parish Of The Holy Rosary, Kuala Lumpur

**Leon James Gautier, 1st Year Theology**  
St. Peter's College, Kuching

**Mark Edward Calady Muniandy, 1st Year Theology**  
St. Peter's College, Kuching

**Melvin Dawson Michael Dass, 2nd Year Theology**  
St. Peter's College, Kuching



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(Gal 3:28)



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## OF THE DIOCESE OF PENANG

**Ron Fernandez Sandanasamy, 2nd Year Theology  
St. Peter's College, Kuching**

**Patrick Hillary Sandnasamy, 3rd Year Theology  
St. Peter's College, Kuching**

**Ashley Stephen Chau, 3rd Year Theology  
St. Peter's College, Kuching**

**Clement Lee Swee Meng, Initiation Year & Beda College  
College General Major Seminary, Penang**

**Vincent Yip Kar Chun, Initiation Year  
College General Major Seminary, Penang**

**Daniel Anthony Isak, Initiation Year  
College General Major Seminary, Penang**

**Raphael Marian Maria Joseph  
Candidate for Permanent Diaconate**

**Isaac Alfred Simbun  
Candidate for Permanent Diaconate**

**Anthony Michael  
Candidate for Permanent Diaconate**

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#### **3. REV. FR. JOACHIM ROBERT ATTENDS RENEWAL PROGRAM FOR MISSIONARIES (RPM) 2024**

Rev. Fr. Joachim Robert will be attending the Renewal Program for Missionaries (RPM) 2024 under the Faculty of Missiology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He will be away from the Diocese of Penang from early February 2024 until the end of July 2024. Deacon Andrew Loh will be the administrator of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Penang in the interim.

#### **4. KEMPEN KASIH LENTEN CHEQUE PRESENTATION TO PARISHES & UPDATES BY SOCIAL MISSION ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF PENANG**

In conjunction with Lenten Campaign 2024, Caritas Penang will be giving RM5,000 to all parishes in Penang Diocese for their Kempen Kasih Lenten initiatives on the 20th of January 2024 Saturday, at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Penang. I will be launching the 2024 Lenten theme and present a mock cheque followed by updates by the various Social Mission organizations in the Penang Diocese on their plans for 2024 starting from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

#### **5. PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF DEACON GEORGE VAITHYNATHAN**

Deacon George Vaithynathan from the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Silibin, Ipoh will be called to the Order of the Presbyterate and ordained diocesan priest on 2nd February 2024 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Silibin, Ipoh together with the Celebration of the World Day of Consecrated Life.

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## UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS

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### 6. PENINSULAR MALAYSIA PASTORAL THEME & FOCUS FOR 2024

Sharing once again the Liturgical Celebrations for 2024 along with the overall theme and monthly focus for the year has been compiled for your easy reference. [CLICK HERE](#)

### 7. THE YEAR OF PRAYER 2024

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. It started in Advent. I pray that each one of us may reflect on our life of prayer guided by the Holy Spirit. There is a particular focus on the Our Father, and this presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. Let us make every effort possible to consciously live a life of prayer at every present moment.

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## BISHOP'S DIARY

3rd Jan 2:00 pm	Launching of Hospital Fatimah's 50th Anniversary Celebration   Fatimah Hospital, Ipoh
8th Jan 6:00 pm	Thanksgiving Solemn Mass   Minor Basilica of St. Anne, Bukit Mertajam
8th-12th Jan	Catholic Bishops' Conference of Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei   Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM
13th Jan 10:00 am	Visitation from Melaka Pilgrims   Minor Basilica of St. Anne, Bukit Mertajam
14th Jan 8:00 am	Confirmation Mass   Church of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Ipoh
15th Jan 5:00 pm	Penang Diocesan Finance Committee Meeting   Pusat Keuskupan Katolik, Penang
15th Jan 7:00 pm	Appreciation Dinner – Penang Diocesan Finance Committee and Penang Diocese Catholic Heritage Conservation Committee   Penang
16th Jan 10:00 am	Council of Priests (COP)
16th-17th Jan	Clergy Monthly Recollection (CMR)
19th Jan 11:00 am	Appointment – Penang Diocesan New Evangelization Commission   Pusat Keuskupan Katolik
20th Jan 7:30 am	Meeting with CHARIS Peninsular Malaysia - Mass & Session   Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM
20th Jan 6:00 pm	Mass - Dedication of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit   Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Penang
21st Jan 3:00 pm	Parish Pastoral Assembly   Minor Basilica of St. Anne, Bukit Mertajam
23rd Jan 7:00 pm	Meeting with the Prefect of the Dicastery of Integral Human Development   Zoom
26th-28th Jan	Peninsular Malaysia Deacons & Wives Annual Gathering   Minor Basilica of St. Anne, BM
27th Jan 9:00 am	Catholic Formation for Evangelizers organized by Penang Diocesan New Evangelization Commission   Stella Maris Penang Road, Penang
28th Jan 8:00 am	Catechetical Sunday & Closing Mass for Peninsular Malaysia Deacons' and Wives Annual Gathering   Minor Basilica of St. Anne, Bukit Mertajam
29th Jan 9:30 am	Mass & Fellowship at Little Sisters of the Poor & Meeting with the Mother General   Little Sisters of the Poor, Batu Lanchang, Penang

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# JANUARY

## FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

**WE PRAY THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT MAY HELP US TO  
RECOGNISE THE GIFT OF DIFFERENT CHARISMS  
WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND TO  
DISCOVER THE RICHNESS OF DIFFERENT TRADITIONS  
AND RITUALS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.**