

**A brief report about the Inauguration of the Eparchy of Mandya and
the Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. George Njaralakatt**

After the announcement of the erection of the eparchy of Mandya and the Episcopal nomination of Msgr. George Njaralakatt, a Central Committee and various subcommittees were formed to organize the inauguration of the eparchy and the Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. George Njaralakatt. The committees were convened a few times at Infant Jesus Cathedral at Hinkel, Mysore and the committees planned out the programme in detail. Bishop Jose Porunnedom, Bishop of the eparchy of Mananthavady was the Chairman of the Central Committee. Msgr. George Moolayil, the protosyncellus of the eparchy of Mananthavady, Rev Fr Sebastian Koottumkal MST, the Regional Director of Manday Mission, Rev Fr Varghese Koluthara CMI, Provincial Superior of Mysore Province, were the Vice Chairmen of the committee. Rev Fr Gervasis Mattam, the diocesan Procurator and Rev Fr Paul Koottala the Parish Priest of Infant Jesus Cathedral, Hinkel functioned as the General Convenor and Joint Convenor respectively.

On 7th April, 2010 at 01.30 pm the faithful extended a warm welcome to the bishops and dignitaries who came from various eparchies in Kerala as well as in Karnataka. The procession began at 01.45 pm. When the procession reached in the Stage, Bishop Jose Porunnedom, Bishop of the eparchy of Mananthavady welcomed the participants in Kannada as well as in English languages. It was followed by the welcome address in Kannada by Rev Fr Gervasis Mattam, the eparchial procurator of Mananthavady. Then Rev Fr Joseph Paruvummel, the eparchial Chancellor of Mananthavady read out the Decree of the Erection of the eparchy of Mandya as well as the Canonical Letter of the Appointment of Msgr Geroge Njaralakatt as the bishop of Mandya.

The main celebrant of the Episcopal Ordination was His Grace Mar George Valiamattam, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Tellicherry. The co-celebrants were His Grace Mar Jacob Thommkuzhy, the Metropolitan Emeritus of Trichur and His Excellency Mar Jose Porunnedom, the Bishop of the eparchy of Mananthavady. Rev. Fr. James Athikalam MST, the Director General of the Missionary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle, was the Archdeacon of the ceremony. Msgr George Moolayil, the protosyncellus was the master of ceremony. His Grace Most Rev. Bernard Moras, the Archbishop of Bengaluru delivered the Homily. After the Ordination Ceremony, the Holy Mass was presided over by Mar George Njaralakatt. When the Holy Mass was over, at 05.00 pm Bishop Mar George Njaralakatt was installed as the first bishop of the eparchy of Mandya. 25 bishops, 300 priests and hundreds of religious sisters and around five thousand lay faithful attended the Ceremony.

After the installation ceremony there was a short public meeting to congratulate Bishop George Njaralakatt. In the meeting, His Excellency Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy, the Bishop of the eparchy of Belthangady as well as Sri. Siddha Ramayya, the opposition leader of the Karnataka legislative assembly congratulated the new bishop. At the end of the meeting Bishop George Njaralakatt thanked each and everyone who helped to make the ceremony ever memorable in the history of the eparchy of Mandya.