

January 18th, 2010 was a memorable and happy day for the diocese of Mananthavady. The reason is the erection of the new diocese of Mandya in Karnataka. Diocese of Mananthavady had its territory in three states, namely, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. It was indeed a vast area of 48000 sq. kms. One can imagine the difficulties to administer such a vast diocese with varied cultures and languages as well as geographical differences. In August 2007 the diocese of Bhadravathi was erected carving out the civil district of Shimoga in Karnataka from Mananthavady. Now, a second diocese is created with its see at Mandya. The new diocese comprises of the civil districts of Mandya, Mysore, Chamarajnar and Hassan. The civil district of Chickmangalur was simultaneously transferred to the diocese of Bhadravathi since is very close Bhadravathi and far from Mandya. Rev Msgr. George Njaralakatt, belonging to the diocesan clergy of Mananthavady is the first bishop of Mandya. He is at present serving as the vicar general of the diocese of Bhadravathi. The erection of the new diocese and the appointment of Msgr. Njaralakatt was announced at 4.30 pm on Monday, 18th January 2010 at Infant Jesus Church, Hinkel near Mysore. Infant Jesus Church is the cathedral of the new diocese. At Kalenahalli between Mysore and Mandya will be the Episcopal residence of the Bishop of Mandya. The Episcopal ordination of Msgr. Njaralakatt will take place at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 7th April 2010. The diocese of Mananthavady wishes the new diocese and its first bishop God abundant blessings and every success.