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DIOCESE OF MANDYA
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April 29, 2026

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Dear Reverend Fathers, Religious and People of God,

Peace and prayerful greetings to you from the Bishop's House, Mandya.

It is with great joy that I learn about the dedicated care our parishes are providing for the children with special needs within our community. At the diocesan level, our **Special Angels Ministry**, under the banner of **Wings of Hope**, is reaching out to 43 families with the assistance of 45 devoted volunteers from various parishes. This team of volunteers extends vital support for their medical, educational, governmental, spiritual, and financial needs.

To further our mission, we are planning a **Diocesan-level common First Holy Communion and Confirmation** on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 (a Public Holiday), at 04.00 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Ulsoor. St. Sebastian's Church, Indiranagar. Father Shijo Kodkkathanathu VC, the Parish priest has generously offered to host this event, in liaison with the coordination of Special Angels Ministry.

Why this special Ceremony for Children with Special Needs?

1. For providing a **dedicated annual platform for the Special Children** of our diocese to receive these Holy Sacraments.
2. For being part of a **special liturgy that is uniquely designed** to be friendly and accessible to their needs.
3. For issuing a **Diocesan Level Certificate**, co-signed by the Eparchial Bishop and the child's Parish Priest.
4. For providing **an annual gathering that promotes solidarity** and strength among all families of Special Children in our diocese.
5. For conveying a powerful message that, **as a diocesan family, we walk beside them** in their unique journey of faith.

I request all Parish Priests to encourage those Special **Children who have not yet received** First Holy Communion and Confirmation to partake in this sacred occasion. If a family has already planned these sacraments in their home diocese or on another date, they may certainly proceed with those plans; however, I kindly ask you to encourage them to attend this ceremony nonetheless, along with the fellowship gathering and agape.

Thank you for your continued support and pastoral care. We hope to have this event every year in May, when we have the public holiday for *Bakrid*.

Yours in Christ,



Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath
Shepherd of Mandya

For more details, kindly contact:

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