

## **Update of 23-August-2024 on Stall Allotment for the Mount Mary Fair**

His Eminence, Oswald Cardinal Gracias, after hearing the appeals of many people, had decided, on compassionate grounds, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. of August:

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- To reduce the pricing for the stalls from Rs. 900 + GST per square foot to Rs. 550 per square foot + GST.
- The process of stall allotment would be the same as followed in 2023. This had been conveyed to the representatives of the stall holders by the Vice Rector, Fr. Sunder Albuquerque on 9-August-2024 and, again, personally by Auxiliary Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes on 12-August-2024. Cardinal Gracias has confirmed the same.
- Further, after the accounts for the FY 2024 are finalized, the issue of pricing of stalls for the Fair would be reviewed by a Committee of Experts appointed by the Cardinal. The Committee would recommend the pricing to be adopted in the following year, ie for the festival in 2025.

The Basilica, accordingly, made arrangements to issue the Application Forms for the temporary use of Stalls from Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup>. of August. However, the representatives of the stall allottees are still preventing the distribution of application forms.

The Basilica then made the Application Forms available online – on its **website: [mountmarybasilicabandra.in](http://mountmarybasilicabandra.in)** and **email: [stall.basilica@gmail.com](mailto:stall.basilica@gmail.com)**.

We request the devotees of Mother Mary to join us in prayer that this dispute be amicably resolved in time for the faithful and the pilgrims to enjoy the Fair.

**Fr Vernon Aguiar**  
**Rector**  
August 23, 2024