



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

January 2022

Papal Intention for January: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Dear Rev Fathers, Sisters and Brothers, JAI KHRISTA!

Thanks for the hearty greetings and meaningful celebrations of Christmas. Joy shared is joy doubled. I am glad, we have shared our joy with people of all faiths in most of our parishes and missions. In some places of our country our brothers and sisters were deprived of the joyful celebrations of Christmas because of the disturbances created by the fringed elements who are all out to create communal disharmony. Let us be watchful and offer these troublesome moments to God. Thanks to you all the Directors/Parish Priests/Sisters and PPC members for Celebrating Christmas sharing the joy with people of all faiths. God bless you all.

New Year Celebration helps us to realize God's way of letting us know that there is still a chance for us to change for the better, for a fresh and a new start, to set goals, overcome the bad habits and to improve one's Life-style. We begin this New Year with Mother Mary celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Let us implore Mother Mary to accompany us in our life journey. Happy New Year to you all.

Feast of Epiphany - January 2: We celebrate the Manifestation of our Lord to the whole world on Sunday January 2. After being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who came from the East to adore Him. Through this event Jesus becomes the Light to the Gentiles. The focus of the Epiphany is an affirmation of actual mission of Jesus' arrival on earth namely, Peace and Salvation for all people on earth.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - January 9: The Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord on Sunday, 9th January. This brings to an end of the Season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His Baptism in the Jordan, where Father reveals his Son, the Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove.

Synodal Meetings: You are aware that the Diocesan Synodal Team and Facilitators' training sessions were organized in three deaneries with good response from all. These days you were all busy with Christmas celebrations in your respective centers. Now is the time to focus our attention to organize Synodal meetings for different groups as it has been communicated to us. It is also necessary you catechize the people on coming Sundays about the Synodal process in your Parish Missions. Kindly arrange the Synodal meetings from Jan 10th – 28th February. Send us by Email your Programme of Synodal Meetings so that we can organize our presence with you whenever possible. We are organizing three more training programmes for Team members: Sisters, Priests and Laity on 4th January at Bidar, Santpur and ORBIT at 10:00 a.m. All Priests, Sisters who have not got any training and Lay facilitators are urged to

be present. Directors, please send your people to attend these meetings. Let the whole process of Synodality be carried out in a joyous and cordial atmosphere listening, discerning and deciding (if possible). For any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the Coordinators.

Clergy Synod - January 6: As informed already we have the Diocesan Clergy Synod on Thursday 6 Jan 2022 at Sugyan Gulbarga. All the priests, both diocesan and religious are expected to be present. Let us set aside the day for this purpose only. The programme will begin at 10 a.m. We extend a warm welcome to all the priests for the Diocesan Clergy Synod meeting.

Word of God Sunday - January 23: The Word of God is Lamp for my steps and Light to my path. Let us all strive hard to lead our flock according to the Word of God. Let us teach our faithful to love the Word of God and grow in a habit of daily reading the Bible during our family prayer /rosary. Please take the guidance of the Biblical commission.

Prayer Week for the Unity of all Christians (January 18 —25): is observed in the church between 18 -25 of Jan on the theme: “We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him”. (Matthew 2:2). On this occasion, we are going to reach out to our separated brethren as one of the Synodal activities in our respective places. Apart from this you are welcome to hold a special Prayer Service for Unity/Prayer Meetings in your respective Parishes/Missions.

Republic Day - January 26: India celebrates 73rd Republic Day on the 26th of January 2022 remembering Constitution of India that came into effect in the year 1950. Unfortunately, today we see the entire System of Governance in India - the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary - the three pillars of the governance along with the Press is completely under the control of the persons of a communal Ideology. It is necessary to wake up from our slumber and speak to the people on the sacredness and importance of the Constitution in order to save this country from peril. Let us therefore, observe this National Feast urging the people to raise their voice against any violation of the principles laid in the Sacred Book of the Nation, the Constitution.

Anti-Conversion Bill: We all are aware that the Government has already passed the Anti-Conversion Bill in the Legislative Assembly is keen to form a task force only to implicate Christian community of conversions. We have done our level best to prevail upon the Government against this Legislation which is against our Constitutional Rights. Last few months we are witnessing onslaught or attacks by the fringed groups on Christians in prayer. They do it, probably by the tacit support of the ruling party. I am Grateful to all the priests, the religious and also the people specially those leaders belonging to other faiths who participated and submitted the memorandum in your respective Taluka Headquarters. I thank all of you for coming together to stand united against this Anti-Conversion Bill. Let us continue our efforts working with secular minded people in our society.

The Government has now imposed Night Curfew for two weeks from 23/12/2022 at 10 p.m to 5 am in order to control the Omicron cases in the State. Inform the faithful of the villages and organise your pastoral ministry observing the Government guidelines. Please take care yourself too.

Annual Statistics: Kindly send the annual statistics of the Missions by the end of Jan 2022 and help us send the same to the Nunciature in time.

Bhandhavya -2022 (Retreat for Couples) January 2 : The Christashrama, Kaudiyal has organized Retreat for Couples' on Sunday 2nd January. Please encourage couples in your parishes/mission centers to participate. May this programme touch our couples and help them to lead a good and happy family life. Let us pray for the success of this Retreat.

Inauguration and Blessing of St Alphonsa Chapel, (Mugnoor) Jalasangi – will take place at 2.00 p.m on January 2nd. We are grateful to the hard work of Fr Robert Crasta for working out Minority funds and the construction of this Chapel. We also thank Fr Vincent Thoras and the Team at Jalasangi for all the efforts they have put in.

From the Procurator: The Interim Audit of the Diocese/CDSB will be held in this month (January). I request the Parish Priests/Mission Directors and Managers of the Pre primary schools to update the accounts till December 31st and submit to the procurator's office with all the documents - **Cash Book** (manual), Tally soft copy, Receipt Book, Bills & Vouchers, updated Bank Pass book or Bank Statement, FD receipts, (Fee Collection details and fee due list for Pre Primary Schools), PEA Collection details and PEA receipt book - **by 15th of Jan 2022**. *Please file bills and vouchers in a file and submit in an orderly way.*

Ear-marked Collections: Please remit the entire Ear marked collections upto December 2021 at the earliest, preferably on 6th January soon after the Synod meeting

The Regional Commission for Bible is offering Bible study in Kannada. This Bible study is a 20 months course. Each month the study material is sent to your address by post. The interested candidates can apply and get the benefit of the Course. The candidates are awarded with the certificate towards the end of the course.

Commissions Speak:

Commission for Youth –Synodal Meetings: I request all the Youth Animators to motivate our Youth to participate in the following activities:

9-Jan-22	Sunday	Bhalki Zonal Synod Meeting at Bhalki. (Bhalki, Muchlamba, Hulsoor and Halbarga)
14-Jan-22	Friday	Youth Meeting at Bijapur
16-Jan-22	Sunday	Humnabad Zonal Meeting. (Jalasangi, Talmadgi, Itga)
17-Jan-22	Monday	Bidar Zonal Synod Meeting at Don Bosco Bidar
22-Jan-22	Saturday	Orientation Programme on Civil Services for the PUC and Degree students at ORBIT Humnabad. Mr. Yeshappa,K.A.S) and other resource persons.
26-Jan-22	Wednesday	Aurad Zonal at Ujini (Santhpur, Ujini and Aurad)
30-Jan-22	Sunday	Gulbarga Zonal Synod Meeting at Bishop's House. Participants : Gulbarga, Sedam, Shahabad, Shahapura, Wadi, Chithapur and Sirnoor

Animators, please motivate your Youth to participate in the following programmes too.

- YouCat Quiz: Please encourage the youth to participate.
- I like to remind all the Youth animators to keep record of all the activities undertaken by Youth. Best report will be rewarded with a cash prize.
- Zonal Activities: Every zone is expected to organize: Sport's Day and Cultural Day during the year and each center is expected to organize at least one. If it has not taken place please do facilitate according to your convenience before the end of the year.

-Fr. Kristuraj SDB

Commission for Education: The interim audit of GDES schools will start from January 17th onwards. Managers and HMs, Kindly be ready with the necessary requirements.

– Steevan P. Veigas

Basic Christian Communities - Word of God for the month- The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17)

Necrology

- Mrs Christine age 87 grandmother of Fr Vincent Thoras Jalasangi passed away on 1st December. May she rest in Peace. Heartfelt condolences to Fr. Vincent Thoras.
- Fr Lawrence Pinto SJ, 88 years of age and 66 years in the Society of Jesus, went to his eternal abode on 16th December. He served as a Parish Priest at Vijayapura and also worked for Sindagi Mission for some time. We remember his generous service and pray for his departed soul. May God grant him Eternal Rest.
- Markus G age 70 father of Sr. Jayashree B.S. Principal of St Mary School, Kalaburagi passed away on 23rd December. May he rest in Peace. Heartfelt condolences to Sr. Jayashree B.S.

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022

- 2 - Blessing of the St. Alphonsa Chapel,
Mass at Retreat for couples
- 3 - GDES/Seva Sangam GB Meeting
- 4 - Training on Synod
- 6 - Clergy Synod
- 8 - Blessing of New Convent Building, Bidar
- 10- Consulter's Meeting
- 16- Platinum Jubilee of St. Christine AC
- 9-26 - Attending Syndal Meeting in Parishes



Kripalaya, Bishop House
1st January 2022

† **Robert Miranda**
Bishop of Gulbarga

In the News

- JMJ sisters' new community was opened on 15th Dec 2021 in Holy Family Mission, Kamalnagar in Bidar district. Thanks to Very Rev St Antony Mary, Provincial Superior and the Team for their generosity towards this Mission Diocese. All the best to dear Sisters Arogya Mary and Neelavathy, the members of the new community
- Congregation of Bethlehemite Sisters (Bethl) have opened a New community at Don Bosco, Bablad, Gulbarga on 17th December 2021. All the best to sisters Sr. Getrude, Sr. Nirmala and Sr. Jessie now serving the SDB Bablaad mission.
- Hearty Congratulations to Fr Edward Philip SJ and Fr. Santhosh Fernandes SJ on the occasion of their Final Vows in the Society of Jesus on 3rd of December. May God bless them abundantly.

- Diocesan Synodal Team Members and Facilitators Training were well organised at Bhalki(4th), at Sugyan, Gulbarga (11th) and at St. Anne Church Vijayapura (16th). Priests, Superiors of the Communities, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries of villages and facilitators were present in good number.
- On the occasion of World AIDS Day the following programmes were conducted in the Diocese. ORBIT distributed nutrition food kits to 50 HIV infected children. Mother Theresa Charitable Hospital Trust in association with SNEHA Charitable Trust and Buddhist Foundation celebrated the day organizing free medical camp and distributing dry food kits to 50 children and adults.
- Bidar ICYM unit organised Nratyostava -2021 at St. Joseph School Hall, Bidar, on 12 December. 13 teams participated. Hulsoor, Chittapur secured I and II place. CVTI, St. Joseph High School, Jamgi Colony shared consolation prizes. Boys Team from Bidar remained the performer of the event of the day. We thank director, sisters from Mission Centres who supported the Event by training the youth.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

DATES	BIRTHDAY BABIES	DATES	BIRTHDAY BABIES
1	Sr. Nirmala R UFS, Itga	18	Sr. Benignus BS, Jalasangi
1	Sr Nutan Tirkey RNDM, Almel	18	Sr. Aswitha D'Souza UFS, Shorapur
1	Balaraju A SJ, Sindagi	18	Sr. Renny D'Silva SCCG, Kankal
1	Sr. Shaila Rosario SCSC, Zalki	19	Fr. Steevan Veigas
3	Fr. Robert Crasta	21	Fr. K.J. Joseph SDB
5	Sr. Fathima BS, Kalaburagi	23	Sr. Evline Pinto UFS, Kawdyaal
6	Sr. Florian CstT, Kalaburagi	26	Fr. Lawrence Dalmeida CSC, Afzalpur
6	Sr. Elizabeth K SCCG, Kankal	27	Sr. Christine Misquith AC, Bidar
7	Fr. Augustine T.A SDB, Yadgir	27	Fr. Anthony Dass SJ, Bijapur
8	Fr. Anthony Lawrence SJ, Bijapur	28	Sr. Shanthi Priya AC, Bidar
12	Fr. John Paul CPPS	29	Sr. Cynthia Sequeira BS, Chittapur
12	Fr. Santhosh Fernandes SJ, Bijapur	31	Sr. Vijaya Mary SCCG, Bhaki
15	Fr. Antony Selvam MSFS, Sedam	31	Sr. Helen D'Souza UFS, Shorapur
16	Sr. Jyothis DSS, Halbarga	31	Sr. Victoria Pais BS, Chittapur
		31	Fr. K.J. Joseph SDB, yadgir

