



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 195

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

February 2022

Holy Father's intention:

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Dear Fathers, Sisters and brethren, Jai Christa!

Thanks to every one of you for sharing my sorrow on the sudden demise of my dear brother Sunny. He was a great benefactor of this mission diocese. Your messages touched me and helped me to accept and cope with the situation. May he rest in Peace.

Some Guidelines for Evangelisation Work in the context of the Anti Conversion Bill: You are aware, the Karnataka Government has passed the Anti-Conversion Bill in the Assembly on 23rd December 2021. It is likely to become a Law in the coming days. In the light of this draconic Law, it is very important that we, remaining committed to the Mission of the Lord, plan our activities in this new situation.

We are working in a blessed land in a blessed way. We have experienced the Lord's presence in wonderful ways and there is no question of getting afraid of any force. The Lord is in control of everything around us. We have been working among Christians and people of other faiths whom we are reaching out in a holistic way. By and large, people of all faiths have been appreciating and supporting our work. Yet, as our Lord has said "Be ye wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Mt 10.16) we need to go on, well aware of the evil growing around us. I request you to keep the following guidelines in mind as you continue ever more zealous in the good work you are doing in the diocese.

In the Institutions: Be Secular in your approach. While having school assembly and public programmes make sure the students/teachers read the Bible and also readings from Scriptures of other religions of the people around. It is also meaningful read from the writings of great Men and Women of all times.

- Establish good rapport with people around. Explain to the Staff, Students and parents of our students about the aims and objectives of the school, especially our efforts of forming young minds as responsible citizens of our Nation that we love as much or more than others do. Include lessons on Constitution for classes IX and above. Have children Clubs/YSM/Youth Groups where children of all faiths work together and take part in debates on issues affecting the peace and justice for all people. Speak to them about Anti-Conversion Bill as well, as a violation of Fundamental Rights.
- On School matters, just say to anyone coming to you to intimidate you: "we take only Official Instructions coming from the Department or our Superiors...you can approach them'. Please do not talk more or get into arguments when people come with an evil intention.

Social Work: Speak to people informally about Anti Conversion Bill and know whether people stand by you. Motivate them to stand for justice and truth when confronted by the Communal elements. Let alone the PRO or SpokesPerson of the organization speak or give the press statement. Please do not argue, or try to convince people who come to trouble you.

Faith Formation:

- Please speak to our people about the developments leading to the Anti-conversion bill of the Karnataka Government. Find out whether people are aware of the RSS, *Bhajrangdal*, *Ramsene shakhas* that may exist in their village. Make sure people are strong in faith and courageous, faithful to the Lord and the church, ready to face people opposing them while praying. Motivate people to witness and protect the church through Word of God, homily.
- Build up rapport with people, with leaders at the grass root with local, officials such as PDO, Police Sub Inspector, Local *Swamijees*, *Panchayath* Chairman, MLA and others who can help us. Please maintain good relationship with them and don't remain strangers to the people around. Build up relationship even with BJP or RSS activists.
- Remember women can challenge the troubleshooters better. Motivate them.
- Have a Register containing only the names (family wise) of your people, to be shown to people in case any official asks. Tell them that our people have been followers of Jesus for over 100 years. They only change the church and go where their spiritual aspiration are best met. Do not show any other records.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord 2nd Feb: that occurs forty days after his birth, signifies Jesus the true Light of the World entering the Temple and consecrated to the Lord. It is appropriate that the faithful walk into the church holding lighted candles in a solemn procession welcoming Jesus the Light of the World. Taking inspiration from Simeon and Anna who were present waiting for the Lord's coming for long years and rewarded as the privileged ones to behold him, and also pronounce great prophecies.

We are invited by the church to observe this day as the Day of the Consecrated Men and Women Religious. Holy Father has given the same prayer intention for the month to pray especially for the women religious and consecrated persons. I request the Parish Priests, to observe this day meaningfully with our people praying and felicitating the Religious serving their parishes and missions. My sincere and hearty thanks to all the Religious for their immense service and collaboration in this mission diocese.

Feast of our Lady of Lourdes - Feb 11th: Blessed Virgin Mary is specially venerated in honor of her apparitions that occurred in 1858 in the locality of Lourdes in France to Bernadette and her companions. It was at Lourdes that Our Lady called herself "the Immaculate Conception" and gave the world her message that we must repent for our sins. We also celebrate this day as the 'World Day of the Sick'. It is a day to offer prayers for the people suffering due to various illnesses. Let's pray for all the sick and old people in our parishes, and also for those who care for them lovingly.

Holy Childhood Sunday falls on 13th February, the second Sunday of the month. To make it a meaningful celebration let us bring our MCA children together and foster in them zeal and love for the mission work of the Church. Let children participate in missionary work through prayer, sacrifices and offerings. We also gratefully remember the Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood supporting all our children Study Homes (hostels) and pray for all people who offer their offerings of love for our children. Let us motivate and invite the children to be 'little missionaries' and also, inspire their parents to stand by them always encouraging and supportive. Please organise a meaningful celebration for the children at your Parish/ Mission centre.

Clergy Recollection: will take place on Wednesday 16th evening to 17th afternoon of February at Sugyan Pastoral Centre. I want all the Clergy and the Religious priests to take part in this spiritual exercise. Please be present without exception.

Annual Statistics: Please help us to be faithful to Nunciature. Send your annual statistics latest by 15th Feb 2022.

Pastoral Visits: Pastoral Visits have been planned in the following order. This time, I wish to hold evaluation/training of the PFC, PPC, PPT and also village visits. Please prepare your children for the Confirmation

Feb 13 - 15	Pastoral Visit to Ujini	Feb 20 - 21	Pastoral Visit to Halbarga
Feb 27 - Mar 1	Pastoral Visit to Bidar	Mar 06 - 08	Pastoral Visit to Itga
Mar 20 - 22	Pastoral Visit to Jalasangi	Apr 03 - 05	Pastoral Visit to Bhalki
Apr 24-26	Pastoral visit to Santpur		

Commissions Speak:

Dear Rev. Fathers (Parish Priests/Directors),

SYNOD 2023: We have been organizing Synod consultations in our Parishes and Mission Centers. We have requested the Parish Priests/Mission Directors to synthesize all the Synod consultations of your parish and submit the same to the Deans by 15th March 2022 who will synthesize all the reports from the deanery and submit to the Diocese. The content of the synthesis may be organized according to the following questions, which are offered as suggestions. The aim is to aptly convey the diverse fruits, insights, joys, and challenges of the synod experience and discernment among the people of the diocese:

1. In terms of the process of the consultation, what were the main steps taken in the Parish? What were the main questions posed? What was done to engage as many participants as possible and to reach out to the peripheries? Approximately what proportion of people in the Parish/Mission Centre participated in one way or other? Were there any groups of people whose participation was specially noteworthy? Where there specific groups of people who did not participate for any reason?
2. What was most significant about the whole experience of the consultation? What were the high points and low points, or the consolations and desolations? What dispositions, attitudes, or feelings were notable? What tensions or disagreements emerged from the listening process? What topics or issues gave rise to diverse points of view? Overall, what were the fruits that the Holy Spirit has brought about through this experience? Among the feedback from the local meetings, what was particularly significant, surprising or unexpected
3. Overall, what has the Holy Spirit inspired the community to see regarding the current reality of synodality in the local church, including the present lights and shadows? What did participants have to say about areas where the Church is in need of healing and conversion, in its spiritual life, culture, attitudes, structures, pastoral practices, relationships, and missionary outreach?
4. In what ways is the Holy Spirit inviting the local church to grow in synodality?

- Fr Fredrick D'Souza, Coordinator, Synod 2023

SCC: The Reading for sharing in the SCC, Lk: 2:22-40 (The Presentation of the Lord.)

Health Commission: Mother Theresa Charitable Hospital Trust has come forward to assist and rehabilitate alcohol addicts from poor families. It is organised from 21st Feb to 01st March, at Mother Theresa Charitable Hospital premises. Kindly encourage people in your mission centre who are addicted to alcohol to join the camp and get healed of the addiction. For further information, kindly contact – Fr Vincent Periera : 9481163708.

Commission for Catechetics: Diocesan level Catechism exam for 7th & 10th Std students will be held on 27th February and for other children class wise exams to be held during the same time in the respective parishes and missions.

Vocation Camps for boys and girls:

- For the centers of Ujini, Ekkamba, Santhpur, Bhalki, Halbarga, & Bidar
Eligibility: 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th & PUC Date: February 12 & 13
Venue: Santhpur. Arrival: 12th February by 5pm
- For the mission centers of Jalasangi, Talamadigi, Itga, Humnabad, Kaudiyal Basavakalyan Muchalamba & Hulsoor on February 19 & 20 Venue: Orbit
Arrival: 19th February 5pm

Family Commission: _PRE-CANA programme will be organised from 5th Saturday 9:30 am to 6th Sunday 4:30pm at Santhpur

Procurator: We had asked to submit the accounts of your Parishes / Mission Centres by 15th of January; only a few have submitted the accounts. I request all of you to submit the accounts latest by 5th of February. Please pay the ear marked collections also by 15th February

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: FEBRUARY 2022

2	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
5	Jubilee Mass – Cluny Sisters – Vijayapura
7- 8	KRCBC Meeting
13	Pastoral Visit – Ujini Mission
18-19	KUCF awareness Programme
16-17	Clergy Recollection.
17	Consulters' Meeting
20	Pastoral Visit – Halbarga
21-26	School Budget Meetings
23-24	KRCBC, Seminary Board Meeting, B'lore
27-29	Pastoral Visit - Bidar

Yours in the Lord,

Kripalaya
Bishop's House
31-1-2022



† **Robert Miranda**
Bishop of Gulbarga

Necrology:

- Mrs Bridgit D'Souza, (Age 67) from Varkady Mangalore, mother of Sr Pramila Jalsangi, is gone to our heavenly abode on 6th of January.
- Saritha Maria Pinto (Age 38), sister of Fr. Deepak Furtado, director, Shorapur - Hebbal mission is gone to our heavenly abode on 19th of January due to road mishap
- Simon Miranda(67yrs), brother of our Bishop is gone to our heavenly abode on Tuesday 25th January.
- Angeline Mendonca (Age 88) from Shirva, Sister of Sr. Benignes BS, Jalsangi is gone to our heavenly abode on 28th of January.

Hearty condolences to Fr. Deepak Furtado, Sr. Pramila BS, Sr. Benignus BS, and our dear Bishop. May they Rest in Peace.

In the News:

[BANDHAVYA – 2022:](#) A day's retreat was organized for the married couples on 2 January, 2022 at Krishthashram, Kaudiyal. Rev Fr. Roman Pinto of Shimoga Diocese was the preacher who animated the retreat. There were 35 couples from different Mission Centres who participated in the retreat. It was a beautiful experience for the couples to know each other in the light of the Word of God, forgive one another and begin their life once again experiencing the joy of love.

[Blessing of St. Alphonsa Chapel at Mugnoor, Jalsangi Mission:](#) January 2nd was a great day to be remembered by the faithful of Mugnoor village, a sub-station of Jalsangi Mission. Most Rev. Robert Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga, blessed and inaugurated the New Chapel in the presence of priests, religious sisters and faithful and dedicated it in honour of St. Alphonsa. His Lordship appreciated and thanked Fr Vincent Thoras the Mission Director, Fr Fernandes the Assistant Director, Bethany Sisters, the youth who organized the programme, and in a special way Fr Robert Crasta who worked hard in building this chapel with the help obtained from the Christian Minority Fund of the the Karnataka Government. All the elders of the community and Royal Youth Group of Mugnoor made the day memorable. Shri Rajshekar B Patil MLA, Shri Dr Basavalinga Pattadevaru, President of Anubhav Mantap- Basavakalyaan, Sri Dhammananda Bhantegi, Shri Arjun Kanak, were present for the Inter-religious programme that followed.

[Blessing of St Joseph Convent \(Sisters of St. Joseph, Chambery\) at Bidar :](#) The newly built convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery at Gurunanak colony was inaugurated and blessed on 11th January, 2022 by Most Rev. Robert Michael Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga. Very Rev. Sr. Cecile Coutinho, the Provincial Superior of the Nagpur Province present on the occasion inaugurated the house by cutting the ribbon, followed by thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration. Good number of priests and religious were present for the occasion. Thanks to Fr Wilson who worked hard for this convent building, and all the best to the Sisters serving at the Sacred Heart church, Bidar.

[Golden Jubilee celebration of Sr Christine Misquith AC:](#) was held on 17 January 2022 at St. Joseph's Church, Bidar. Most Rev Robert Miranda, the Bishop along with many priests celebrated the Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist during which Sr Christine renewed her vows and committed herself once again to the Lord's work. from near and far. Very Rev Sr. Maria Shamitha AC, the provincial Superior, several AC sisters from Managalore, and Parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, Bidar took part in this joyful event meaningfully. There was a pretty long programme of felicitation to Sr Christine AC the Jubilarian attended by a host of dignitaries,

officers, prominent people from all communities. Congratulations to Sr. Christine AC and hearty thanks for her valuable service in our Diocese.

Prayer for Unity of Christians: Karnataka United Christian Forum, Gulbarga organized a prayer service at Kalaburagi Christ Methodist Church on 20th Jan, 2022. The Bishop and Heads of various church denominations were present along with some of their prominent community leaders. Thanks to all participants and Pastors for your cooperation. Similar programmes were held at Chincholi, Wadi, and Itga Mission. Thanks to all the Fathers who have taken this great initiative.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

13	Fr. Wilson Fernandes, Bidar	22	Fr. Anil Joel Prasad, Aland
14	Sr. Lailitha Mary SAB, Shahabad	22	Fr. Jose Prem Britto, Santhpur
15	Fr. Faustine Crsata OCD, Ujini	22	Sr. Rose Mary RNDM, Almel
15	Rosaline SSpS, Ekamba	22	Sr. Usha SAB, Aland
17	Sr. Luciani BS, Kalaburagi	26	Fr. Daveedu Yesudass SDB
19	Fr. Nidin SDB, Chikpet	26	Sr. Janet Prasanya SSA, Wadi
21	Sr. Nirmala Joseph, Bethl, Kalaburagi	26	Fr Jeevan James SJ, Vijayapur
21	Sr. Severine D' Sa UFS, Vijayapur	29	Sr. Janet Prasanya, Wadi