



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

KRIPALAYA, KOTNOOR (D) NANDIKUR P.O, GULBARGA 585 102,
KARNATAKA, INDIA. gulbargadiocese@gmail.com
Website: www.gulbargadiocese.org

Circular No.196

+ ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

March 2022

Holy Father's intention: *For a Christian response to bioethical challenges.* We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Dear Rev Fathers, Sisters and Lay faithful, Jai Christ! Greetings of Peace in the Lord!

I am delighted to know some of the innovative programmes organized by our Commission Secretaries. Note these immediately in your diary and announce it properly to the people on Sundays and get into action immediately. Please make best use of the opportunities offered for your people, especially the youth and children.

Prayer for Peace in Ukraine: During the General Audience on Wednesday, 23rd Feb 2022, Pope Francis made a heartfelt appeal for peace in Ukraine. Pope Francis says his heart aches over the situation in Ukraine and announces a Day of Fasting for Peace on Ash Wednesday.

The Holy Season of Lent: We begin the Holy Season of Lent by celebrating the Ash Wednesday on 2nd March. Our beloved Pope Francis in his Lenten message based on letter to the Galatians 5: 9-10 has exhorted us: *"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all."* Beginning with the image of sowing and reaping, the Holy Father points out that *"Lent invites us to conversion, to a change in mindset, so that life's truth and beauty may be found not so much in possessing as in giving, not so much in accumulating as in sowing and sharing good news..."* I am sending you the summary of this message along with an appeal to all our people to take up Lenten practices desiring a true conversion of heart. Please distribute the same along with mite boxes to all families on or before the Ash Wednesday.

Lent invites us to pray and meditate on Christ's passion and death. It encourages the acts of charity and acts of mercy and a time of grace for those who neglect their spiritual life living in worldliness, to turn back to the Lord. Let this season draw us closer to the Cross of Christ, attract to the poverty of Christ and grow in richness of Christ. I request all Parish Priests/ Mission Directors/Sisters to organize various Lenten programmes in the Parishes/Zonal Levels where all faithful may be encouraged to meditate on the Passion of Christ and prepare well for the Easter celebration.

You are aware Inter-national Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March. It is a great day for all women, especially those under the Women Empowerment Programme. Thanks to all at ORBIT and Seva Sangama and other FBOs working for women development and specially our religious Sisters who along with social workers and animators work hard work for women empowerment. Happy Women's Day! I request all Parish Priests/

Mission directors to take initiative for organizing Women's Day in your respective mission centers and parishes on the theme: ಸಾಮರಸ್ಯ ಸಮಾನತೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಶಿಲ್ಪಿ ನಾವೇ (Saamarasya, Samaanathe, Namma Shilpi Naave) and make it a Day for all the women. Fr Victor Vaz, the director of ORBIT will send you other required information.

Anniversary of the election as Supreme pontiff of Pope Francis (2013): Cardinal George Mario Bergoglio was chosen as the 266th pontiff in the Church on 13th March 2013 and inspired by the great example of St Francis of Assisi, he chose to be called 'Francis'. We thank God for leading the church throughout the world through the inspiring leadership of Pope Francis. Let us earnestly pray God to bless him with good health and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and at the same time let us also work for fulfilling his aspirations and teachings in our life.

Solemnity of St Joseph (March 19): St. Joseph is the patron saint of the Catholic Church, unborn children, fathers, migrants and workers. He is honored as the Patron of many Parishes and Institutions in our Diocese. He is a father for every Christian family. I invite the youth in every parish to take initiative to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph honoring their own fathers during the celebration.

Inauguration and Blessing of St. Ann's Church, Wadi: will take place on Sunday, 11.00 a.m 13th March at Wadi. You are cordially invited.

SYNODAL MEETINGS AND REPORTS: The reports of the Synodal meetings need to be sent to the Dean before 15th of March. I request all Mission directors/ parish priests, the CRI and others to submit the reports of all the Synodal meetings in the parish, the original copy as well as the consolidated one at your earliest to your respective Dean so that they on their part are able to submit their consolidation reports in time to the Diocese.

Bible Patana: In collaboration with Social Communications and Bible Commissions 'Bible Patana' reading and meditating on entire Bible in 11 days will be held at Kristashrama, Kawdiyal from 3 -13th of March. The programme will be streamlined on YouTube. The organizers invite every able reader who desires to read the Word of God to participate. For further information kindly contact Rev Fr. Santosh Bapu (9448790575), Rev Fr. David D'Souza (9964885168) and Rev Fr. Roshan D'Souza (8105473029)

COMMISSIONS SPEAK:

Attention Commission Secretaries, the Annual Evaluation of DPP will take place on Saturday 26th March 2022 at Sugyan – the diocesan Pastoral Centre. The Regional Coordinator of KRPP Fr Faustine Lobo will facilitate the sessions. All the Commission Secretaries are expected to present their Reports and Plans for the coming year. Details of the programme will be sent to you in the coming weeks.

- Rev Fr. Stany Lobo, DPP Coordinator

Balajyothi/Sponsorship programme organises Balamilana on Saturday, 5th March at Bhalki. This programme is designed to motivate the children to dream high and remain focused in life. It's also a good occasion to know the growth of the children during year.

- Rev Fr. Vincent Thoras for Sponsorship Program

Youth Commission: I thank and appreciate for all the services that you do for our youth.

1. Registration Forms: I earnestly request you Parish Priests to collect the forms and document them in the parish office. Miss Grace (Jesus Youth Volunteer at Bhalki) will contact you for copies of the same and coordinate the collection. Please cooperate.
2. Reports : Please regularly update the youth meetings and programs conducted at your Parish or Mission. The best report will be honoured with a cash prize.
3. Marriage Bureau: A long-standing request of our parents and youth will be functional in coordination with the Family Commission from 19th March 2022 onwards. You are requested to inform the parishioners. We will send you the procedures soon.
4. Youth Symposium – Saturday 2nd April: Symposium on relevant current topics like Employment, Tips on attending interviews, writing resumes etc will be organized at Orbit. Please encourage our youth to participate from your respective mission centers. All you need to do is find at least 10 youth and inform me.

- Rev Fr. christhu Raj Nilagal, Secretary for Youth Commission

Diocesan level Catechism Exams will be conducted for the 7th & 10th Standard on the 6th of March. Question papers will be sent by the Commission Secretary. Top scorers will be awarded prizes during the Bhalki Jatra 2022. Catechism Exam for Children Std I to IX will also be held on 6th March or any convenient day within that week. Model question papers will be sent to you by the Secretary. Kindly prepare the children and motivate them to attend.

After a gap of two years we are happy to announce FAITH-FORMATION CAMPS, SANKAPA and PRERANA camps to be held this year during the forthcoming summer holidays. The Faith-formation camp will be held during the Holy Week (9th – 17th April). Other dates will be made known to you soon. Parish Priests are requested to plan the same and send the budget requirement to the Chancery Office. Those of you, who need the help of Brothers, may please contact Mons Stany Lobo. Please note, first come first served!

Rev Fr David D'Souza, Secretary, Commission of Catechism

A Warm welcome to Rev Fr John B Ganot MSFS to Gulbarga Diocese. He will serve at Mary Pawada Mathe Mandira Itga from 10th February. We wish him all the best in his ministry in Itga Mission.

Necrology:

- Elizabeth Machado (age 83yrs), mother of Sr Jacintha Machado DHM is gone to our heavenly abode on 18th February.
- Magdeleine Horta Mother of Sr. Milagrin Horta UFS passed away on 14th February we express our heartfelt condolences to Sr Milagrin.

Hearty condolences to Sr. Jacintha Machado DHM and Sr. Milagrin Horta UFS. May the departed souls rest in peace.

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2022

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| 1. | Consulter's Meeting/ KUCF Meeting |
| 2. | Ash Wednesday, Mass at the Cathedral |
| 5. | Bala Milana Pgm at Bhalki |
| 6-7 | Pastoral Visit – Itga |
| 13 | Blessing of St. Ann's Church, Wadi |
| 15 | Forum for Inter – Religious Peace and Harmony – Meeting |
| 19 | Blessing of New Deepalaya School Building, Santpur |
| 20 | Pastoral Visit- Jalasangi |
| 26 | DPP Evaluation |
| 27-31 | Retreat of the Bishops |

Please note the Programmes that follow in April

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| 7 th April | Chrism Mass |
| 9-17 April | Faith Formation- summer camp |
| 21 April | Diocesan Synod |
- Please Mark them in your Diary



Kripalaya, Bishop House
1st March 2022

† **Robert Miranda**
Bishop of Gulbarga

In the News:

- Family commission organised PRE-CANA programme on 5th and 6th February at Santhpur. 13 people participated.
- Congratulations to Sr Joseph Marie, Sr Alphonsa Mary and Sr Lissy Karapallil, From Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny in *Nav Sanidhya*, Vijayapura who celebrated their Golden Jubilee of religious life on 4th February 2022. God bless you with the joy of religious life until the end.
- Children (8) from Our Lady of Health church, Jalasangi received First Holy Communion on 6th of February. Congratulation to all children. May God bless you.
- MTCH along with Dr Swapna Patil, supported 28 differently able children through PMR and free medication to poor village children at MTC Hospital 6th of February.
- Faith-formation camp was organised in Ekamba Mission on 6th February. 68 Children from different villages participated. We appreciate the initiative taken by Fr. Anil Crasta and Holy Spirit Sisters to bring up Children in Catholic faith in the beginning stage of formation.
- Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes was blessed by the bishop at ORBIT premises in Humnabad on Saturday 26th February 2022 at 5.30 p.m. Congratulations to Fr Victor Vaz, director for his great initiative. May mother Mary bless all people who implore her at this grotto and obtain for the blessings of good health, happiness and prosperity.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

DATES	BIRTHDAY BABIES	DATES	BIRTHDAY BABIES
02	Fr. K.C Mathew SDB, Yadgir	15	Fr. Livin, Talmadige
03	Mons. Stany Lobo, Vical General	15	Sr. Cathrine Ekka MSMHC, Yadgir
03	Sr. Kathleen D'Souza SCB, Hulsoor	17	Fr. Cyril Lobo
06	Sr. Bernadate Dias UFS, Shorapur	19	Sr. Roseline Paul SMMI, Talmadige
07	Sr. Celelia Saldanha UFS Itga	19	Fr. Vincent Thoras, Jalasangi
07	Sr. Felcitas BS, Humnabad	19	Sr Sindhu Clare BS, Humnabad
08	Sr. Sulochana Dias UFS, bijapur	20	Sr. Smitha Joyce CssT, Gulbarga
09	Sr. M Reema Janet BS, Hebbal	21	Sr. Benita Gonsalves, Kankal
09	Sr. Achala CssT, Kalaburgi	25	Fr. Richard Mascrenhas SJ, Bidar
11	Sr. Anitha Antony UFS, Shorapur	29	Fr. Vinod AJ SJ, Kalaburagi
12	Sr. Mariyamma SJT, Vijayapur	31	Sr. Marie Joseph SJC
12	Sr. Grace Lima, CSST, Shahabad	31	Sr.Helen D'Souza UFS, Shorapur
12	Sr. Premila D,Souza BS, Jalasangi	31	Sr. Victoria Pais BS, Chittapur
12	Sr. Amala Rani SJT, Vijayapur		
14	Sr. Lynette Lopes CSJ, Bidar		



“Let us not grow tired of praying,”

“Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives,”

“Let us not grow tired of doing good in active charity towards our neighbour,”

-Pope Francis