



DIocese OF GULBARGA

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Circular No.204

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

September 2022

Pope's prayer intention for the Month: Abolition of the Death Penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country

Dear Rev Fathers, Sisters and Lay faithful

Bhalki Jathra which was initiated in 1995 in a small way to fulfill the spiritual aspirations of our small catholic community living among the majority of non-Catholics and people of other religions. Over the years, we have witnessed many pilgrims of all faiths participating in Bhalki Jathra. Today it has become a Diocesan level programme – the Mission Festival of our Diocese. The Jathra Preparation Meeting was held on 19th August at Bhalki. Accordingly, we now need to gear ourselves fully to this great faith event of our Diocese, to celebrate the Ruby Jubilee of the Bidar Mission along with the Jathra Utsav 2022 on 11-13 November 2022.

It was decided at the above meeting:

- To publish a souvenir of the Ruby Jubilee of the Bidar Mission containing the history of all the Missions and Institutions.
- To accord a public honor to all the priests, sisters and lay people who have made a great contribution to this diocese during the Jathra Utsav.
- All families shall contribute a minimum of Rs 500/- for the Jathra expenses. All those who contribute Rs. 2,000/- and more will be specially honoured.
- To organize competitions for children, youths, women, SHGs and men, and all such competitions shall be held by 30th October and the winners shall present their items at the Jathra Utsav.
- To promote 'Padayatra' (Pilgrimage Walk) from all the missions and parishes to the shrine from 1st October 2022. Pilgrims to inform the Director of Bhalki Mission well in advance so that all the arrangements for Mass, Confession and food can be made adequately.

In view of the above said events the Mission Directors are requested to send their articles on history and developments of the Parish, Mission Centre and Mission out-reach centres (villages) and Institution to the respective committee heads with a copy marked to the Coordinator and the Chancery Email as soon as possible, not later than 15th September. They can take the photo of the Congregation at an opportune time and send it along with other photos to be published in the Souvenir as early as possible, before 15th Oct. We also request them to send the names, current address and phone numbers of all the Priests, Sisters and Regents who worked in your respective missions in the past 25 years at your earliest, so that a letter of invitation reaches them by at least 20th of September

Following committees were formed and the responsibilities were shared at the meeting.

Coordinator : Fr. Roque N D' Souza, Director, Bhalki Mission

Secretary : Fr. Abhishek Moses, Sr Brigit SCCG.

Finance : Fr. Fredrick D'Souza, Fr. Roque Naveen, Mons Stany Lobo,
Sr Celestine SCCG, Mr Vidya Sagar

Publicity (Articles, Newspaper, Hoardings, Handbills): Fr. Mark Arun SAC, Sr. Margaret Kumar SCB, Mr. Shrinivas Bendre Bhalki.

Invitation, Travel & Accommodation : Fr. Vincent Thoras, Sr. Precilla BS, Mr. Jeevan Jalasangi and Team.

Honoring & Prizes: Fr. Steeven Veigas, Mr. NL Vinod, Mr Rajshekar Bhalki and team.
Cultural Programme and Competitions: Fr. Wilson Fernandes, Sr Reethika AC, Mr. Sudheer, and Team.

Souvenir (history of the Parish/Mission/Mission outreach centres/ Institutions, Articles /Advertisements etc): Fr. Santhosh Bapu, Fr. Stany Goveas, Stany Lobo. Fr Roshan, Sr Reethika, Fr Joseph Praveen, Fr Sachin Christi, Mr. Srinivas Bendre, Mr Sampath Katti, Sr Irene Tauro SCCG, Sr Reena SSpS

Shrine ministry & Decoration: Fr. Sunil Mankare and Team, Hulsoor.

Church ministry/Decoration: Fr. George Lobo and Team, Kaudiyal

Liturgy, Evangelisation : Fr. Gerald Sagar, Sr. Janet UFS, Mr.Arun and Team Itga.

Procession : Fr. David Antony, Sr. Neelavathy JMJ.

Food : Fr. Lawrence, Fr. Sunil Andrade, Ujini and Santpur Team.

Religious Stall : Fr. Livin SCJ, Mr. Swamidas Talmadige and Talmadgi Team

Bajans Competition : Fr. Anil Crasta and Ekamba Team

Night Vigil : Fr. Vincent Pereira, Fr. Anil Prasad and Team

Health : AMSK Sisters of Charity, Bhalki

Sports , Volunteers for the Events: Fr. Christuraj SDB, Sr. Leena BS and Mr. Sagar.

Vishesha Seva Prashasti: Fr. Santosh Dias and Team

Sound, Light, Tent & seating: Fr. Victor Vas and Team.

Decoration (Mantap/Till the Main Road): Fr.Salvadore Fernandes, Fr. Satish Kumar OFM Cap, Halbarga Team.

Exhibition : All Parishes/Missions to prepare a hoarding depicting their activities

BHALKI TEAM to take care of the Padayatra arrangements, Accommodation, Permissions, Inviting Local guests, Press conference, Police protection, Water supply, Parking, Cleanliness, Washroom arrangements, etc.

All the Committee heads are requested to add more members for their committee as per their need and send the list to the Coordinator, Secretary and Chancery by the end of September.

Good News for the Indian Catholic Church: Pope Francis installed Archbishop Filipe Neri (Goa) & Archbishop Anthony Poola (Hyderabad) as Cardinals on 27th August 2022 in Rome. Congratulations to both the Cardinals. We pray God's choicest blessings on your Eminences so that church in India may be guided by their Spirit led leadership. The entire church in India is proud of them.

St. Mother Theresa of Kolkata - Sept 5 : We are proud to call her Mother Theresa, a mother full of compassion and love, who impressed the whole world by taking care of the poor, dying, destitute, orphans and the aged. In 1946 Teresa realized her true calling, the call to give up everything and follow Christ into the slums to serve him among the poorest of the poor. Indeed she is a great model for all of us missionaries. She teaches us to be compassionate, to serve lovingly with utmost trust in the Lord. We are happy ORBIT, Humnabad and Mother Teresa Charitable Hospital, Kalaburagi serve the society under her patronage to bring hope to the poor, the sick and the suffering people in our Diocese. ORBIT and MTCH have organized a Blood Donation Programme, a programme for the specially abled children and widows on 3rd and 5th August respectively. Let us motivate and encourage our youth to donate blood to save the life of the sick and the dying.

Teachers' Day – Sept 5: is the day to thank the teachers who mould all our children and prepare them to be beautiful people for tomorrow. A teacher is the one who inspires, guides, enlightens and motivates to get the best out of the child. We are very grateful to all the teachers in our schools for giving their best service. Happy Teachers' Day! Best wishes and prayers for you all.

With grateful heart we remember Late Bishop Basil S D' Souza, the founder of Bidar Mission on his death anniversary (Sept 5), a great zealous missionary took the bold step to start the Bidar Mission in 1982. May God through his intercession obtain for us grace and blessings to work with apostolic zeal for God's Kingdom.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Sept 8): The birth of every human child is a concrete expression of God's love for humanity. The birth of Mary brought great joy to the entire humanity, because of her was born Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the mankind. Our Lady's Birthday has been described as 'the hope of the world and the dawn of Salvation'. As children of our heavenly mother, we joyfully celebrate her birthday and ask her assistance to be firm in our vocation amid all trials and tribulations. The church also celebrates our Blessed Mother Mary's birthday as the Girl Child Day. The best way to show our love to Mother Mary is to love and respect the girl children and women in the society as women and girl children need to enjoy gender-equity, freedom, opportunities for education and employment in our society. Let us celebrate the Girl Child Day, meaningfully accepting the girl child as God's precious gift.

Welcome to F Devasia Kalapuram MCBS, assistant to Fr Saadhu Joseph MCBS, Christagiri, Kamalapur. God bless your ministry dear Fr Devasia.

Need of Promoting Catholic Association: The Church in Gulbarga needs good leaders to represent the Church before the public and Government. As expressed by the people and clergy of the Diocese in the Synodal Meeting to promote Lay Leadership, a meeting of enthusiastic and interested lay people (both men and women), is called at St. Joseph Church Bidar Auditorium on Sunday 25th September at 2:30 pm. Hopefully, we will succeed in forming the first Lay Association in our Diocese and will have good leaders to lead the community before the public and the government, in particular. Please pray for this intention.

Excerpts from *Desiderio Desideravi* - the Apostolic Letter by Pope Francis on Liturgical Formation

The Liturgy: place of encounter with Christ

Here lies all the powerful beauty of the liturgy. If the resurrection were for us a concept, an idea, a thought; if the Risen One were for us the recollection of the recollection of others, however authoritative, as, for example, of the Apostles; if there were not given also to us the possibility of a true encounter with Him, that would be to declare the newness of the Word made flesh to have been all used up. Instead, the Incarnation, in addition to being the only always new event that history knows, is also the very method that the Holy Trinity has chosen to open to us the way of communion. Christian faith is either an encounter with Him alive, or it does not exist.

The Liturgy guarantees for us the possibility of such an encounter. For us a vague memory of the Last Supper would do no good. We need to be present at that Supper, to be able to hear his voice, to eat his Body and to drink his Blood. We need Him. In the Eucharist and in

all the sacraments we are guaranteed the possibility of encountering the Lord Jesus and of having the power of his Paschal Mystery reach us. The salvific power of the sacrifice of Jesus, his every word, his every gesture, glance, and feeling reaches us through the celebration of the sacraments. I am Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man possessed by demons at Capernaum, the paralytic in the house of Peter, the sinful woman pardoned, the woman afflicted by hemorrhages, the daughter of Jairus, the blind man of Jericho, Zacchaeus, Lazarus, the thief and Peter both pardoned. The Lord Jesus who dies no more, who lives forever with the signs of his Passion continues to pardon us, to heal us, to save us with the power of the sacraments. It is the concrete way, by means of his incarnation, that he loves us. It is the way in which he satisfies his own thirst for us that he had declared from the cross. (Jn 19:28)

CRI Office Bearers election was held on 27th August at Cathedral. Fr. Maxim, SJ was elected as Unit President, Sr. Vasatha, SSps, Secretary and Fr. Selvam, Msfs treasurer. I congratulate and wish you all the best.

Commissions Speak:

Family Commission is organizing Family Cell training programme. Participants are two exemplary married couples with 10 or more years of married life experience, one widow, one Sister from each Parish/Mission. It will be organized at Cathedral for Gulbarga, Yadgiri and Bijapur Deanery on Saturday 24th September, 10am to 1.00 pm and for Bidar Deanery on Sunday 25th September at 11am to 2pm at Bhalki.

Health Commission is conducting Cataract Screening Camp on September 10th and De-Addiction Camp from 20th September

Youth Commission:

- Youth Animators Training: 6th September 2022: Training and Evaluation program at ORBIT Humnabad will be animated by Fr. Gilbert Choondal SDB. The Directors, Youth Animators, Lay youth animatos and those interested can avail the opportunity. After the training program there will be an Evaluation of the youth ministry in the diocese.
- Bible Quiz: Diocesan Level Bible quiz will be held at Bhalki on 17th September 2022. Please organize a local Bible Quiz and select a team of four members to represent your Parish/Mission.
- Regional Youth Convention: Registration for the Youth convention has already began. Please finalize the list of participants and send the same to our office latest by September 17th.
- Youth Cross: Youth cross journey is already in progress. The contribution or offertory collected will be used for the youth convention. So please do encourage our people to contribute.
- Bhalki Zone Youth Meet: Bhalki Zone Meet will be held on 11th September at Bhalki.
- Magis 2022: Magis Youth convention will be held at Manvi in Raichur from 4th – 6th October. 30 youth can participate from our Diocese. Please inform the youth about this programme and send the names of participants by 15th September.

BEC meetings: Please take the Reading Luke 1.26-38 for the BEC meetings in September

Necrology:

- Mr. Baptist D'Souza, (84 years) father of Sr Patsy DSouza SCCG, the Administrator of Mother Theresa Charitable Hospital, Kalbauragi passed away on 16th August. May his soul rest in peace. Hearty condolences to Sr Patsy and members of the grieved family.
- Mrs. Martha Satyamma m/o Fr Sunil Mankare, the Director, St Anthony's Church, Hulsoor Centre passed away on 18th August. May she Rest in Peace. Extending our Hearty condolences to Fr Sunil and members of the bereaved family.

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME IN SEPTEMBER 2021

- 2 KUCF Meeting at Gulbarga.
- 3 MTCH Trust Meeting
- 4 Mother Theresa Day – ORBIT Programme
- 5 Mother Theresa Day – MTCH
- 6 Youth Animators' Training Programme - ORBIT
- 7 Talks to Deacons, St. Peter's Seminary, Bangalore
- 8 Shrine Feast at Harihar
- 11 Pastoral Visit to Sedam Mission.
- 12 KUCF Meeting at Yadgiri
- 16-18 KUCF Meeting at Gulbarga, Bidar and Yadgiri
- 18 Pastoral Visit to Wadi Parish.
- 20-21 Visits to Kamal Nagar and Ekamba.
- 22-23 Seminary Board Meeting and CCK Meeting, Bangalore.
- 24-25 Family Cell Training, Gulbarga and Bhalki.
Talks and formation of Catholic Association, Bidar
- 27 Blessing of OCD Monastery, Kadaganchi.
- 28 Visits to Hebbal and Talikote Mission.

Kripalaya, Bishop's Hosue
1st September 2022

† Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga

WISH YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

DATE	NAMES	DATE	NAMES
4	Br. Arun Rodrigus, ORBIT	15	Sr. Vinny Gonsalves SSpS, Ekamba
5	Fr. Deepak Furtado	18	Sr. Agnes FMA, Afzalpur
12	Fr Vincent Pereira, MTCH	18	Sr. Janet Dias UFS, Itga
12	Sr. Maria Kawadi SAB, Shahabad	22	Fr. Santhosh Dias
13	Fr. Ligoury Crasta OCD, Kadaganchi	23	Fr. Tomy Chirakkal SDB, Kalaburgi
15	Sr. Elsy SJT, Vijayapura	23	Sr. Leena B D'Souza SCCG, Talikote

In the News

- The Communication Commission and the Basic Ecclesial Community Commission organized a seminar for priests and sisters at Mother Theresa Church Hall, Kalaburagi on 9 August 2022. During the daylong session, Rev Fr Joachim Fernandes, Diocesan Commission Secretary for Mangalore Diocese, and Rev Dr Sudeep Paul MSFS, Regional

Commission Secretary for Social Communication and Director of Sandesh, Mangalore, were the resource persons. It was a lively session.

- Inauguration of Diocesan App: The Bishop blessed and inaugurated a new mobile app for the Diocese of Gulbarga on 9th August, which was developed by Fr Roshan D'Souza, the Secretary for Communication Commission.
- The Inter-religious Forum for Peace and Harmony, Kalaburagi organized various competitions for schools and colleges of Gulbarga city on 10th August 2022 at St Mary Church hall, Kalaburagi. On the occasion of our country's 75th Independence Day. Competitions were held on the theme: National Integration. 14 schools and a few colleges in Gulbarga city took an active part in the competition. Professor Sanjay Makal, the Secretary inaugurated the programme with an inspiring message. Prof Anil Patil, Smt Sampada Shah and Fr Devasia K MCBS were the judges for the competitions. All appreciated the efforts of the schools.
- From Inter Religious Dialogue forum, Surpur organised Rakshabandan Program which was held at Prajapitha Brhamkumari Vishvavidyalaya, Surpur. DYSP Dr Manjunath T, Prison Superintendent Sri. Imam Hussien, Fr Deepak and many religious representatives were present. All the representatives shared their views on Brotherhood and Women empowerment in society. After the program a fellowship meal was arranged for all.
- Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting was held at Sugyan, the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Kotnoor on 13 August 2022. Rev. Fr. Anil Prasad, Regional Secretary of the Pastoral Plan in Bangalore, was the resource person for the day, and spoke on the Anti Conversion Bill and CCK. The Diocesan Procurator, Fr Fredrick D'Souza, spoke on the Parish Finance Committee. In his address to the gathering, Bishop addressed the importance of the Synodal Church and our commitment to the journey ahead. Forty members were present for the meeting.
- Inauguration of the Journey of the Holy Cross and Celebration of National Youth Sunday was celebrated at Gulbarga 14th August.
- Seminar on NEP (National Educational Policy) and way forward was held on August 20th at Sugyan. Rev Fr Francis Assisi, Regional Education Secretary was the resource person of the day. All HM's and Managers of schools attended the meeting.
- Gulbarga Diocese CRI gathered at Cathedral Parish on 27th August. It was a great time for over 100 religious working in this diocese. The presence of our bishop and his Inaugural Message made a difference adding joy to the gathering. He acknowledged and praised the hard work of the Religious in different and difficult parts of the diocese. The programme was very meaningful and well appreciated. The new office bearers of CRI are: Fr Maxim Misquith SJ- President, Sr Vasantha SSpS, Secretary, and Fr Anthony Selvam MSFS, Treasurer. All the best to the new office bearers.
- Forming and Nurturing Faith of the Children is the essential part of the Mission. Faith Formation Camp was held at St Paul Mission, Ekamba on 27th with 35 Children from 4 villages.
- Sannidhi 2019 proved a great blessing, a spiritual bonanza for around 220 Youth who kept the Night Vigil on 27th August with Adoration Praise and Worship and listening to the Word of God. It was a good witness given by most priests and sisters of the deanery who accompanied the Youth to the Sannidhi Programme. Thanks Fr. Christhuraj SDB, Youth Director and DEXCO team and Fr. George Lobo and Team at Kaudayal Center who organized the event well.

A Tribute to a great Missionary Disciple - Fr Benjamine D'Souza

The Diocese of Gulbarga has lost a missionary stalwart in the person of Fr Benjamin D'Souza who passed away on 9th August 2022. The Church of Gulbarga, particularly the people in Bhalki mission feels great void created by his demise.

Fr Benjamin, a priest of the diocese of Mangalore, landed in the Bhalki in Bidar District in on 7th June, 1983 and started his mission staying in a small rented house. His missionary journey in Bidar Mission reminds us of his passionate love for Jesus like that of the St Peter and St Paul in the early church. It was by cycling he started to go to village after village. His passionate love for poor people and zeal for the missions at Bhalki soon started to yield fruits. People were soon received into the catholic faith and he became the founder of the the first communities of the catholic faithful at Bhalki. Visionaries like late Dr Sr Immaculate who served leprosy patients for more than 19 years in Bhalki and Catechist Late N.R Luke and many others derived great inspiration from Fr Benjamin. All those who came in contact with Fr Benjamin had experience of human and divine in him. All people have seen a holy man in the person of Fr Benjamin. He was known to all as Father Benjamin.

His second coming to Gulbarga Diocese has created another milestone in the mission launching into the deep. Within no time he took up mandate from the bishop of Gulbarga Diocese for a ministry of Inter Religious Dialogue at Satyanubhava center in the Basavakalyan Taluka in Bidar District. Here he dedicated his five years of service (2014-2019) in promoting dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among people of different religions. By organizing unique programmes under Inter-Religious Dialogue, he tried to bring unity, peace, and happiness among people of all faith. Credit goes go to Fr Benjamin for the sure foundation laid for the Inter Religious mission in our diocese.

Fr Benjamin was a miracle of God as several persons who have encountered him have always held him as a great guru. We all revere him. Several prominent leaders of all religions of four districts have expressed deep shock and sorrow at the passing away of Fr Benjamine. Yes, he lives in the hearts of all people. The Church of Gulbarga Diocese expresses deep sorrow and pain in the death of this great missionary disciple. The Church will always uphold the values and commitment of Fr Benjamin. May the Good Lord grant him Eternal life. May his soul Rest in Peace.

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ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಜಾತ್ರಾ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ 2022

ನವೆಂಬರ್ 11-13. 2022



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