



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No.209

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

Januarv 2023

Papal Intention for January: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Dear Rev Fathers, Sisters and Brothers, JAI KHRISTA!

God called back to himself the Humble Servant of his Vineyard, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: The 95-year-old Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI passed away on Saturday at 9:34 AM in his residence at the Vatican's Mater Ecclesiae Monastery. He Shepherded the Church from 2005 until his resignation in 2013 due to ill health. It was he who erected our diocese of Gulbarga and appointed me as the first Bishop on 24-06-2005. May God welcome him into His eternal abode.

Thank you very much for the meaningful and fruitful celebration of Christmas. I am pleased to know in all parishes, mission centers, villages and institutions the Christmas celebration went on beautifully well. I also thank you for your personal greetings. May God be praised for helping us to celebrate the birthday of our Lord with our people, and especially with people of other faiths. Indeed, it was a grand Christmas all over. There was a huge crowd of people of other faiths at Vijayapura church and Gulbarga Cathedral. People were found to be very eager to visit the church and have a 'Darshan' of the Lord Jesus. I appreciate all of you who organized an Inte-Religious Christmas Celebration as part of Christmas in villages, Mission centres or Parish. Thank you. The 'Christmas Mela' the first of its kind at Ekamba Mission was also good success. Congratulation to Fr. Anil Crasta and his Team.

Feast of Epiphany (Jan 8): The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi. 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 (Jan 9): The Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord on Sunday, 8th January. This brings the Season of Christmas to an end. The Church recalls our Lord's second manifestation or Epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His Baptism in the river Jordan, where the Father reveals his Son and the Spirit. Jesus' baptism reminds us of our mission: to experience the presence of God within us, to live as the children of God and witnessing Christian life.

Word of God Sunday (Jan 22): The Word of God is a 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 know and love the Word of God, and grow in a habit of daily reading of the Word of God personally or during family prayer /rosary.

Prayer Week for the Unity of all Christians (Jan 18 –25): is observed in the church between 18 -25 of January on the theme: “Do good; seek justice.” The entire scriptural passage for the theme is Isaiah 1:12-18, lamenting a lack of justice among the People of God. Yet, it also promises redemption by encouraging acts of justice. Today, separation and oppression continue to manifest and the systemic perpetuation of racism is still prevalent. Its existence has unfairly benefitted some, including churches, and burdened and excluded others. Therefore, it is an invitation for us to ensure Christian commitment to justice and mercy and pray for the people who suffer. I request the Directors, Parish Priests to make an intention everyday during the week and also have an inter-denominational prayer meeting at least once during the week.

Republic Day (January 26): India celebrates 74th Republic Day on the 26th of January 2023 remembering Constitution of India that came into effect in the year 1950. Being an Indian, we too are fully responsible for what happens in our country. We should not let go priceless sacrifices of Freedom Fighters and make this country a slave of corruption, inequality and social discrimination, 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. Make it an important day in the life of your people around.

Monthly Recollection: *Dear Fathers, as mentioned in the Year Plan, we'll be having Monthly Recollection for all priests on 4 - 5 Jan 2023. Fr Victor Machado, a pioneer missionary of our diocese had kindly consented to share his experience and views on Mission. He will be sharing his mission experience with us on 4th evening soon after Supper. So, kindly reach the venue by 6:30 pm on Wednesday.*

Annual Statistics: Kindly bring the Annual Statistics of the Mission/Parishes when you come for the Recollection and help us send the same to the Nunciature in time.

Bhandhavya - 2023 (Retreat for Couples- Feb 1-3): The Christashrama, Kaudiyal has organized Retreat for Couples' on 1-3 February. 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.

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** (please continue in the audited copy of last year), **Receipt Books, Bills & Vouchers, updated Bank Pass book** or Bank Statement, updated **FD receipts, Fee analysis list** (Fee Collection details and fee due list for Pre Primary Schools), **PEA Collection details** and **PEA receipt book - by 15th of Jan 2022**. *Please number the bills and vouchers and file them and submit in an orderly way.*

Ear-marked Collections: Please remit the entire Ear marked collections up to December 2022 at the earliest.

Hearty congratulations to Sr Flavy Castelino RNDM who is elected as the Provincial Superior of RNDM Bangalore Province, along with Sr Helen (Superior at Dupatmagaon) Sr Cecilia (Almel) as Councilors. God bless Sr. Flavy RNDM and the Team. wish you all the best to your new responsibilities.

Welcome to Fr. George MST of The Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (MST) Congregation, He is officially appointed by Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil, bishop of Samshabad for the pastoral care to the migrant families of Syro Malabar Church in Gulbarga. We welcome and wish him a fruitful Ministry.

Kannada Bible copies available: Dear Fathers and Sisters, Kannada Bible Copies are available at Sugyan. Due to rising cost of Paper and Printing cost is gone up to 370/- per copy. However, the diocese is offering a subsidy of 100 rupees for the poor.

Family Commission is organizing PRE-CANA Programme on 14th – 15th Sunday 4:30 pm at ORBIT. Please let me know the number of candidates from your Parish/Center for the course.
-Fr Lawrence Arun, Secretary for the Family Commission

Proclamation Commission: is organizing Lay Evangelizers training programme on 8th at Bhalki and 15th Gulbarga at 10:00 am. Kindly encourage People to participate in this training Programme . -Fr. Jerald Sagar, Secretary for the Proclamation Commission


Necrology

Mr. Maria John Joseph Brother of Fr. John Paul, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church passed away on 20-12-2022. May he rest in peace. Hearty condolences to Fr John Paul and the members of the bereaved family.

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023

1	New Year Day Inter- Religious Celebration of Christmas and New Year.
06	KUCF Meeting
08	Pastoral Visit – Muchalamba
11	Evangelisation – Reginal Commission Meeting
15 - 16	Village Visit –Jamgi Colony –Bidar
21	New Manigampur, Maharajwaadi School Day, Santpur
22	Silver Jubilee of Sneha Sangama – Kanakal
23-31	CCBI Meeting Bangalore

Kripalaya, Bishop House
1st January 2023


† **Robert Miranda**
Bishop of Gulbarga

In the News

- The newly built Presbytery and the Chapel of Holy Cross Fathers were blessed by Most Rev. Robert Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga on 3rd December 2022 at Afzalpur. The new house was inaugurated by the Very Rev. Br Paul Bednarczyk CSC, Superior General of the Congregation of Holy Cross in the presence of the Very Rev. Fr Roque D'Costa, Provincial Superior of South India Province, and a number of Holy Cross Fathers, Diocesan Fathers, Sisters, and lay faithful who participated in this ceremony. Congratulations to Fr. Lawrence D'Almaida and Fr. Roshan D'Souza and wish you a wonderful ministry in Afzalpur Mission.
- One day Pastoral consultation programme on the Theme: Anti Conversion bill and the Way Forward was held at ORBIT for the Director, Parish Priests, and Religious Superiors of the Bidar and Gulbarga deaneries on 6th December 2022. Rev Fr. Faustine

Lobo, Parish Priest of Kinnigoly Parish, Mangalore, and Rev Fr. Theyol Machado SJ, from Vijyapura Mission, were the resource persons for the day. Over 60 participants participated and benefited from this event, which was well conducted by the Bishop, Vicar General, and team.

- Hearty congratulations to dear Sr. Archana, Rajani, Prabha, Kavitha, Sangeetha from Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Queen of the Apostles (SRA) who celebrated Silver Jubilee on 8th of December Hearty congratulations. Bishop Robret was the Main Celebrant at the Eucharist.
- Youth commission in collaboration with the Indian Social Institute Bengaluru organized the second phase of 'Capacity building' from 9 – 11 December 2022 at Sugyan Pastoral Centre at Gulbarga. 21 youths from different Parishes participated in the programme. The resource persons were Mr. Shujayathulla, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Manohar from the Indian Social Institute Bengaluru. The program was well coordinated by Fr. Nilagal Christhu Raj SDB and Sr. Leena BS.
- Hearty congratulations to Fr. Wilson, the Manager, Sr Savitha AC principal, the Staff and the students of St. Joseph English Med School, Bidar who celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the school on 17th Dec 2022. Congratulations and God bless for all the good work done at this esteemed Institution.
- Sponsorship Day was celebrated meaningfully at Bhalki and at Sugyan on 17th and 18th of December. Children presented various Christmas Programmes beautifully. The Bishop addressing the Children Thanked Fr. Vincent Thoras the Coordinator, Sr. Stella Mendonca and all the Parish Priests, Sisters in charge.

Sardar Joga Singhji Kalyan Karnataka award has been awarded by his Excellency Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Honorable Governor of Karnataka to our beloved Bishop on 26th December at Shri Guru Nanak Dev Engineering College, Bidar on the occasion of the 90th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Joga Singh, the Founder of Shri Nanak Zhira Sahib Foundation, Bidar. Congratulations! - Mons. Fr. Stany Lobo

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

DATES	BIRTHDAY BABIES	DATES	BIRTHDAY BABIES
1	Sr. Nirmala R UFS, Kawdiyal	19	Fr. Steevan Veigas, Kalaburagi
1	Sr Nutan Tirkey RNDM, Almel	20	Sr. Jane Raachel BS, Hebbal
3	Fr. Robert Crasta, Talikote	21	Sr. Gretta D'cuna UFS, Shahapur
3	Sr. Jenita AC, Bidar Mission	22	Sr. Carmel SJC, Vijayapura
5	Sr. Fathima BS, Kalaburagi	23	Sr. Evline Pinto UFS, Kawdyal
6	Sr. Florian Csst, Kalaburagi	23	Sr. Jacintha Crasta SCCG, Talikote
6	Sr. Elizabeth K SCCG, Kankal	26	Fr. Praveen Joseph, Kalaburagi
6	Sr. Jyothis DSS, Halbarga	25	Sr. Philomena SHM, Sedam
7	Fr. Augustine T.A SDB, Yadgir	26	Fr. Joseph Praveen
8	Fr. Anthony Lawrence SJ, Vijapura	26	Fr. Lawrence Dalmeida CSC, Afzalpur
10	Sr. Alphonsa Mary SJC, Vijayapura	27	Sr. Christine Misquith AC, Bidar
12	Fr. John Paul CPPS, Bidar	28	Sr. Shanthi Priya AC, Bidar
12	Fr. Santhosh Fernandes SJ, Vijapura	29	Sr. Cynthia Sequeira BS, Chittapur
15	Fr. Antony Selvam MSFS, Sedam	29	Sr. Sajana CSST, Kalaburagi
16	Fr. Lancy Manoj Fernandes SJ	30	Sadhu Joseph MCBS
16	Sr. Jessie Clara (Beth), Kalaburagi	31	Sadhu Joseph MCBS
31	Sr. Vijaya Mary SCCG, Bhaki	31	Fr. Koorapillil Joseph SDB (KJ)
18	Sr. Renny D'Silva SCCG, Kankal		

