



# DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 210

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA  
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

February 2023

## Holy Father's intention for the month:

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Dear Fathers, Sisters and brethren, Jai Christa!

I am glad, we had a wonderful experience at 34<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of CCBI (on 24-31) at St. John's, Bangalore on the theme: *Telling the Story of Jesus in our times in a Synodal Way*. His Eminence Antonio Luis Cardinal Tagle, the Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelisation, himself being a wonderful example inspired and motivated the Bishops by his talks on the theme. He called for a personal conversion of all concerned, the Bishops, priests, religious and all lay leaders to make the church truly Synodal way. We also dealt on the related themes such as Inter-religious Dialogue, Ecumenism, and dialogue with Nature - important themes for a forward looking church. I look forward to explain the fruits of our meeting to you. Thank you for praying for the success of this Event.

Cutting short this meeting, I attended the Consultation on Vijayapura Mission attended by all the Provincial Superiors and the Priests, Sisters serving Vijayapura Mission. Animated by Fr. Dion SJ, Provincial Superior, Fr. Francis Menezes SJ and Fr. Jerry D'Souza SJ. It was a very fruitful and conclusive consultation. Having done a SWOT analysis, the team now is very clear about their priorities and make Vijayapura a modal Mission.

Bhandavya Retreat for couples: Fr. Franklin D'Souza, Br. T.K George and Team will be preaching a retreat for families at Kaudiyal from 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. Kindly encourage couples from your Parish/ Mission Centre and Villages and send at least two couples to participate at least for a day preferably on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please be in touch with Fr. George Lobo.

## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord & World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life-(Feb 2)

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 waited for the Lord for many years and were rewarded with the opportunity to behold him, as well as pronounce significant prophecies. We pray for all the religious priests, Sisters and Brothers serving our diocese. My sincere and hearty thanks to all the Religious for their immense service and collaboration in this mission diocese. Along with CRI we have arranged a day of prayer and fellowship on Saturday 4th February at the Cathedral. A warm welcome to all the Religious and those following a consecrated way of life. We'll not be having a separate Recollection for the Clergy this month. Hence, I request all the diocesan clergy to be present and make it a Day for our Religious Priests, Sisters and Brothers.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes - Feb 11<sup>th</sup>: Blessed Virgin Mary is specially venerated on this day 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'. Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick on this day of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes to pray for the sick. It is

a day to offer prayers for people suffering due to various illnesses and those who care for the sick.

Holy Childhood Sunday falls on 12<sup>th</sup> 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 missions. We also gratefully remember the Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood supporting all our children's Study Homes (hostels) and pray for all people who offer their offerings of love for our children. Let us motivate and invite our children to be 'little missionaries' in the church. Please organise a meaningful celebration for the children at your Parish/ Mission centre.

Ash Wednesday and the Holy Season of Lent: Lent begins on 22<sup>nd</sup> with Ash Wednesday. It reflects our desire to spend 40 days fasting in imitation of Jesus, who fasted in the desert. It also has historical roots in the time when public sinners were required to do public penance during Lent, only to be readmitted to church at the Easter Vigil. Let us therefore, spend this Season of Lent with a desire to be equipped with power to overcome all evil in and around us, and come to celebrate Easter joyfully, the great victory of our Lord over sin and death. The church does not impose penance on us. Instead, it invites and encourages us to take up prayer, fast, abstinence on all other days of Lent voluntarily, and pray for ourselves and for all in need of God's love and mercy. Let us therefore, not limit our fast and abstinence practice only to two days but take up prayer, fast and alms giving on all the 40 days of Lent. I request all Parish Priests/Mission Directors to organize various Lenten devotions 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.

According to the Divine Law, repentance and reconciliation are two very important duties of every believer. I call upon each of you to follow the rules and regulations binding us -

- a) According to the Code of Canon Law (Can 1250) the days and times of penance for the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.
- b) Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by Bishops' Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14 year.
- c) The law of fasting binds those who have attained their 18 year and below 61year.

Conference of Catholic Bishops' of India (CCBI) gives the following guidelines:

1. Attend every day Holy Eucharist.
2. Spend every day at least 15 minutes in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
3. Read every day Bible at least for 15 minutes.
4. Every day at least for 15 minute meditate on the passion of the Lord.
5. Fasting.
6. Meditate on the Way of the Cross.
7. Compulsorily follow vegetable food (Abstain from fish and egg).
8. From your earnings at least 10 percent use it for charity purpose.

In our Diocese on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence and fast. On these days the faithful are requested to take only one meal and abstain from eating meat. The faithful are to abstain from eating meat on all Fridays of the year. On these days the faithful are requested to do some work of mercy or do some charity work as determined by Bishops' Conference.

Campaign against hunger and disease: Starting from Ash Wednesday till the Palm Sunday, whatever savings we make from our voluntary sacrifices, let us contribute towards church's Campaign against Hunger and Disease in India. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters give up your bad habits and luxurious living, follow the life of poverty that our Lord and Master followed. Let your sacrifices help the poor and hungry have proper food and care. May I request all the Parish Priests to give suitable guidance to all your Parishioners and also make available a mite box to every family which they will bring back on Palm Sunday.

Council of Priests' Meeting: will be on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> February. Members, please be present without fail. The COP Secretary has sent the agenda for discussion at the parish level. Directors please facilitate the discussion and send your reports to the COP Secretary at your earliest and by 5<sup>th</sup> latest.

Deanery Pastoral Council: I request the Deans to hold the Deanery Pastoral Council meetings on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. The sharing shall be on Pastoral activities as per the DPP.

**Please mark in your diary Programmes of next month (March):**

- 11 DPP Annual Evaluation
- 14-15 Personal Assessment programme for the Clergy
- 21 GDES Evaluation
- 30 Chrism Mass

**Commissions Speak:**

**Please submit the ear marked collections by 15<sup>th</sup> February - Procurator**

Bishop's Visit to Gulf: Goodwill Mission Group has generously come forward to facilitate bishop's visit to help Gulbarga Diocese. Let us all pray that the Lord bless the Good Will mission team and their endeavors. Kindly keep our Bishop in your Prayers.

Annual Evaluation of Diocesan Pastoral Plan: Dear secretaries, our Annual Evaluation of DPP will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Please be ready for annual reporting of your respective commissions.  
-Mons. Stany Lobo, DPP Coordinator

Commission for Catechetics: Diocesan level Catechism exam for 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Std students is to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March and for other children during the same time in the respective parishes and missions. Catechism classes shall be continued till the end of March.

- Fr. David D'Souza, Secretary of the commission for the Catechetics

Commission for Youth

1. Youth Commission Core committee Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 Sugyan, Pastoral Centre.

2. ICYM Office bearers Meet for Bidar, Bhalki, Humnabad and Aurad Zone on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 at Bhalki mission at 10.00 am. Office bearers are requested to come with the Action Plan and the report of the last six months. (President, Vice-president, Treasurer and Secretary )

3. ICYM/YOUTH Patron's Day: On Tuesday at 7<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the feast of St. Gonzolo Garcia the ICYM patron saint. To celebrate the day meaningfully I request the youth to organize a Youth Day in any one in the Parish/Mission/Village.

4. PUC Students' Meet will be conducted on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at ORBIT from 3-5pm. This motivation programme is to help the students to opt for professional courses and get into good colleges. The policy of the diocese regarding higher education will also be explained.

5. ISI, Bangalore (Third phase) training Youth Empowerment Training will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> February at ORBIT.

6. Season of Lent: Encourage the youth to take up the task of Organizing live Way of the Cross, Youth office will be happy to collaborate.

7. Summer Camp -RISE (Residential Intensive Spoken English Course): An intensive residential Spoken English course is planned for the youth of our Diocese. Since our youth are qualified but not employable because they lack basics like Spoken English and Computer, RISE Summer Camp is planned the following way.

Members: Only for 30 Students ( Boys/Girls).

Date: 1- 23 May 2023

Venue: Don Bosco Degree College, Yadgir

Course and Boarding Fees: Rs. 3000/- only

Subjects: English Reading, Writing Pronunciation, Conversation Practice, Grammar, Interview Skills, Computer and other co-curricular activities. Concession for genuine cases will be considered. Preference for those Completing II PUC this year.

- Fr. Christuraj SDB Secretary of the commission for Youth.

Yours in the Lord,

Kripalaya  
Bishop's House  
1-2-2023



† **Robert Miranda**  
Bishop of Gulbarga

#### **BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: FEBRUARY 2023**

- 2 - Mass at Christashrama, Kaudiyal
- 4 - Death Anniversary Mass of Simon Miranda, my brother at Gurpur, Mangalore
- 6 - Blessing of 'Maher' mission at Loni Village, Vijayapura
- 7 - Blessing of the Renovated Chapel Nagur/Ujini
- 8 - Blessing of the Renovated Chapel at Sunkanal/Ujini
- 9 - 10: 00 am Council of Priests Meeting  
- 04: 00 pm GDES Governing Body Meeting
- 10 - Mass at Don Bosco Chapel, Bablad
- 11 - Career Guidance for PUC Students
- 13 - Consultor's Meeting
- 14-15 - St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary Board Meeting
- 17 -21 - Meeting the Good Will Mission Group in Dubai
- 22 - Ash Wednesday
- 23 - Governing Body meeting Seva Sangama
- 27 - Blessing of Renovated Chapel Gudpalli/ Ujini
- 28 - Blessing of Renovated Chapel Kshanpur/ Ujini

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS**

<b>02</b>	<b>Sr. Mary Bastin Pinto UFS, Shorapur</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Sr. Savitha Quadros AC, Bidar</b>
<b>04</b>	<b>Sr. Clarice SRA, Santpur</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Fr. Faustine Crsata OCD, B. Kalyan</b>
<b>06</b>	<b>Fr. Arthur Pias, Kalaburagi</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Sr. Alphonsa Gadhe (Beth), Glb</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Sr. Sharmila Kumari SCB, Muchalamba</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Fr. Richard Stanly, Santpur</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Sr. Prithi SRA, Santpur</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Sr. Mable D'souza SCB, Hulsoor</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Fr. Wilson Fernandes, Bidar</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Sr Margaret UFS, Vijayapura</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Sr. Lailitha Mary SAB, Shahabad</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Fr. Anil Joel Prasad,</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Sr. Shelby Vergese SCCG, Bhalki</b>		