



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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

Circular No. 210

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

March 2023

Holy Father's Prayer Intention: *For victims of abuse:* We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

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

Prayer for Peace in Ukraine: We recall the beginning of the war in Ukraine caused by the Russian invasion a year ago. A war that, one year passed, is still going on, and causing intense suffering, thousands of injuries and deaths and massive destruction. Let us pray earnestly to God to enlighten the mind of the people who are in the position.

Prayer for Victims of Earthquake in Turkey and Syria: Let us keep in mind and pray for over 35,000 People who died due to an Earthquake on 6th of February in Turkey and Syria and millions who are wounded, suffering left with no shelter or belongings. Caritas India has appealed to all the dioceses in India to rise this crisis, pray and contribute generously to its Lenten campaign (mite boxes already given to all families)

Self Assessment and Renewal Programme for the Clergy: A programme of self assessment and renewal programme is organised for the clergy on 14-15th of March at Sugyan. Very Rev. Fr Dionysius Vaz SJ, Provincial Superior of Jesuits, will be the resource person for the sessions. All Parish priests and Assistants, Diocesan and Religious are expected to attend the programme. Other Religious priests who wish to be part of it are welcome and may kindly contact Mons Stany Lobo. The programme will begin at 9:30 am on 14th and end on 15th evening.

CHRISM MASS and RECOLLECTION: will be celebrated on Thursday, 30th March 2023 at the Cathedral. It is a blessed occasion we all come together, particularly the priests along with our Bishop united in Christ the High Priest to bless the Holy Oils of Chrism, Catechumen and Anointing the Sick and experience the joy of the Unum Presbyterium.

It is also a day of Prayer and Recollection for all the Priests and the Religious. Rev Fr Nirmaldas, Vice Rector and Professor at St Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, has kindly consented to be the Resource Person of the day. The day's programme will begin with the prayer at 9.30 am, and will end with the Chrism Mass at 05.00 pm. I request all of you to be present. Just as we have prepared our people, let us also spiritually prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Paschal Triduum. Please exhort our faithful to participate in the Chrism Mass. Mission Center Directors, please remember to bring Holy Oils containers. The programme details will be sent to you soon.

Inter-National Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March. It is a great day for all women, especially those assisting the women empowerment Programmes in the diocese. Thanks to

all at ORBIT, Seva Sangama and all the FBOs working for women development all over our Diocese. Special thanks to our religious Sisters who along with social workers, coordinators and animators work hard for women empowerment. Happy Women's Day! Here are programmes on this regard. Please note, the Women Cell members as far as possible shall join the Womens's Day programme of ORBIT, Seva Sangama or other FBO programmes and not have a separate programme. For further information kindly contact Fr Victor Vaz, the director of DSS. The Programmes of the DSS will be on 11th March at Bidar, 13th at Gulbarga, 17th at Wadi, 20th at Bhalki, 21st at Humnabad and 24th at Basavakalyana

Please note the Programmes that follow in April

2-8	April	Faith Formation summer camp
10	April	Submission of accounts and Documents for the Annual Audit
11 - 30	April	Sankalpa and Prerana Camps

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 his leadership in the church and throughout the world. Let us earnestly pray God to bless him with good health and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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

Annunciation of the Lord (March 25) Angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Savior. As Mother Mary invited to play a special role in God's plan for salvation surrendered herself to God's plan, let us submit ourselves to her powerful intercession that we may also surrender to God's will in our life.

From the Procurator: This year Final Audit of the Diocese/CDSB will be held from **15th to 30th April**. I request the Parish Priests/Mission Directors and Managers of the Pre primary schools to update the accounts till March 31st and submit to the procurator's office with all the documents by **10th of April**.

Kindly submit flowing documents:

1. Tally soft copy (please continue in the latest audited Tally),
2. Receipt Books,
3. Bills & Vouchers (to be continued in the same file of interim audit,
4. Bank Statement
- 5. Balance confirmation letter from the Bank,**
- 6. FD Interest certificate from the bank**
7. Updated FD receipts
8. Fee analysis list (Fee Collection details and fee due list for Pre Primary Schools),
9. PEA receipt book
10. PEA Collection details

Please number the bills and vouchers and file them and submit in an orderly way. Please see that all the Ear marked collections inclusive of the previous year's balances are remitted to the Diocese without any delay.

COMMISSIONS SPEAK:

- The Annual Evaluation of DPP: Attention, Commission Secretaries, the Annual Evaluation of DPP will take place on Thursday 16th March 2023 at Sugyan – the DPC. The Regional Coordinator of KRPPC Rev Fr Anil Prasad will facilitate the sessions. Bishop will be present. All the Commission Secretaries are expected to present their Annual Reports and Plans for the coming year following the report format already sent to you. Kindly mail a soft copy of the same to me latest by 10th March. Please revert back to me for any information. - Rev Fr. Stany Lobo, Coordinator, DPP
- Annual Budget Presentation and NEP Preparedness : A full day session will be held on Tuesday 21st March at Sugyan, the DPC, on our preparedness for NEP that is likely to be implemented by the Government from June 2023. All the Managers and HMs shall attend this programme. I also request to bring the School Evaluation and Budget sheets duly completed. HMs of schools run by the Religious are welcome to attend with prior information.
- SANKALPA Camp: this year would be held at SUGYAN, Bishops House from 11th to 30th April. Mission Directors/Parish Priests are requested to encourage only eligible and interested children for the program and to get the maximum benefit. Others can be sent to PRERANA Camps that could be organized at the Parish/Zonal or Deanery level. Please contact me for SANKALPA Screening Test dates and the Procurator for conducting PRERANA Camp with the Tentative Budgets. - Fr Steevan Veigas, Secretary, GDES
- Balajyothi/Sponsorship programme organises *Balamilana* on Saturday, 4th March at Bhalki. This programme to begin at 9.30 am on that day, 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. For any clarification, please contact me or Sr. Stella Mendonca. - Fr. Vincent Thoras, Coordinator (Sponsorship Programme)
- The Diocesan level Catechism Exams will be conducted for the 7th & 10th Standard on Saturday 4th March and for all others on Sunday 5th. Question papers for VIIth and Xth will be sent to you by the Commission Secretary. Top scorers (two) shall be awarded prizes during the Faith formation camp or on any one of the Sundays in your parishes. Kindly prepare the children and motivate them to attend the exams without fail.
- FAITH-FORMATION CAMP will be held this year in all parishes during the forthcoming Holy Week (2 – 8th April). 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! - Fr David D'Souza, Secretary, Commission of Catechism
- Family Commission: PRE-CANA Programme will be held on the 25 - 26th (Saturday and Sunday) at ORBIT. The programme begins on Saturday Evening 05.00 pm. Please let me know the number of candidates from your Parish/Center who wish to attend. - Fr Lawrence Arun, Secretary, Family Commission

- Free Medical Camp and health check-up at Mother Theresa Hospital on 4 - 5th of this month. Those above 50 years can attend this camp and get the facilities. Priests and Sisters, please take benefit of this,

- Fr. Vincent Pereira, Secretary, Health Commission


The Santhpur Mission Team will be organizing the live Way of the Cross in the on Friday, 31st of March at 5.00 pm. I request you all to encourage the youth of the zone and all people to participate in this spiritual journey.

A Warm welcome to Rev Fr Robin Pereira MSFS to Gulbarga Diocese. He will serve at St. Joseph Church at Bidar. We wish him all the best in his ministry.

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2023

4		Bala Milana – Bhalki
5		Confirmation at St. Josphe's Church Bidar.
6-10		Attending Retreat for Karnataka Bishops
14-15		Clergy Renewal Programme – Sugyan
16		DPP Evaluation
18-19		Mission Appeal – Bejai Parish, M'lore
21		GDES Programme for HMs and Managers on NEP Preparedness School Budgets/NEP Programmes
23	5pm	Blessing of Renovated Chapel –Gudpalli (Ujini Mission)
24	10am	Blessing of Renovated Chapel – Beldal (Ujini Mission)
30		Chrism Mass.

Kripalaya, Bishop House
1st March 2023


† **Robert Miranda**
Bishop of Gulbarga

Necrology:

- His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Ignatius Paul Pinto, (98) Archbishop Emeritus of Bangalore, passed away around 01.30am on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at the Senior Citizens' Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Richmond Town, Bangalore. He was the First Bishop of Shimoga. The mortal remains of this great soul, a giant leader and a man with a vision were laid to rest at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Bangalore on 10th Feb. May you rest in the bosom of Jesus our Shepherd
- Mr. Joseph father of Sr. Lalitha SAB, Shahabad expired on 12th February.
- Mr Anthonappa father of Fr. Prashanth SAC at Muchalam Mission expired on 25th February.
- Mrs. Florine D'Souza, mother of Sr. Theresa D'Souza SAP, superior at St Ann's community at Basavkalyan is gone to the eternal abode on 27th February.

May the departed souls through the mercy of God rest in peace. Hearty condolences you Father and Sisters, the members of the bereaved families.

In the News:

- Kristashrama Kaudiyal, Basavakalyan organised three days Couples Retreat: 'Bhandavya 2023' on February 1 - 3rd, 2023. Fr Franklin D'Souza (Diocese of Shimoga) Bro. T. K. George from Davanagere and Bro. Harshit from Yesu Sparsha Team conducted the retreat on living a true Christian family life. We thank Director Fr George Lobo and Sisters there for organizing this event participated by over 700 people.
- Home for Women in Distress (Neelamma), Orphans (Anugraha) and the aged (Sangama) by MAHER a charitable foundation founded by Sr Lucy Kurien was blessed by Bishop Robert on 6th February at village Loni at Zalki (Vijayapura) on 6-2 2023. Bishop Robert blessed and inaugurated the new buildings in the presence of Fr. Francis SJ the Mission Superior, Priests and Sisters of Vijayapura Deanery, and a big gathering of local people of all faiths, their leaders and the founder members of the Maher Group and Donors.
- The newly renovated Christ the King Chapel, Nagur M and St Thomas Chapel, Sunkanal and Sacred Heart Chapel, Khasempur in Ujini Mission were blessed and inaugurated on 7th, 8th and 27th February 2023, by the Bishop. A large number of faithful participated in the Holy Eucharist marking the Inauguration. Fr Sunil Andrade, and their team have labored tirelessly to renovate these chapels with a separate hall for other meetings. A good number of leaders of other communities were present at the public programme appreciated the work of the church on these occasions. Hearty Congratulations to them all.
- Hearty thanks to all Fathers and Sisters for conducting the Holy Childhood Day in a beautiful, creative and memorable way for children 12th February. I truly believe these celebrations will leave an impact in the young minds and a belief that they are called by Jesus to do His mission in little ways.
- Career Guidance and Motivational seminar for the PUC Students was held at ORBIT on 11th February. Thanks to Fr. Christuraj SDB for organizing this programme.
- The 'Goodwill Mission' group along with Mangalore Konkani Group members organized a meeting with Bishop Robert Miranda at Dubai on 19th February giving our Bishop a platform to meet and thank all the well-wishers and donors of the above groups supporting our diocese. Mr Ronald Sequeira presented the report about Gulbarga Mission project, EXPLAINING how great the support has been from Goodwill Mission members over the past years. Prakash Kokatnur, one of the Core Group member of the 'Goodwill Mission Group who visited the Gulbarga diocese during the last year along with Bro Sebastian Thomas shared his experience about the Gulbarga diocese and spoke about the history and evolution of the Goodwill Mission. There was a PPT Presentation by the Most Rev Bishop Robert Miranda explaining development of the diocese. He also put forward current needs and projects of the diocese. Members of Good will Mission team were happy to hear from the Bishop about the mission progress in this diocese. Let pray that the Lord may bless all these members for their love and sacrifice for our diocese.

- The Golden Jubilee of Vidya Rani Convent and Shishu Vihar Pry School was celebrated at Bethany Convent and school premises Chitapur on Tuesday 28th Feb. The celebration started with Solemn Eucharistic Celebration celebrated by the bishop. A good number of priests, sisters along with the local parishioners actively participated and gave thanks to God for 50 years of the presence of Bethany sisters in Chitapur. There was also a public programme well attended by over 2000 people attended by distinguished guests included V Rev Sr Sally B.S, the Provincial Superior and Team, ex provincials and a good number of Bethany Sisters and Teachers who served this mission in the last 50 years. The cultural programme of the children was indeed grand and meaningful.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

DATES	BIRTHDAY BABIES	DATES	BIRTHDAY BABIES
01	Sr. Assumpta BS, Kalaburagi	12	Sr. Amala Rani SJT, Vijayapur
01	Sr. Arpana SRA	14	Sr. Lynette Lopes CSJ, Bidar
02	Fr. K.C Mathew SDB, Yadgir	15	Fr. Livin, Talmadige
03	Mons. Stany Lobo, Vicar General	15	Sr. Cathrine Ekka MSMHC, Yadgir
03	Sr. Kathleen D'Souza SCB, Hulsoor	17	Fr. Cyril Lobo
07	Sr. Felcitas BS, Humnabad	19	Sr. Roseline Paul SMMI, Talmadige
08	Sr. Sulochana Dias UFS, bijapur	19	Fr. Vincent Thoras, Jalasangi
09	Sr. M Reema Janet BS, Hebbal	19	Sr. Sindhu Clare BS, Hebbal
09	Sr. Achala Csst, Kalaburagi	20	Sr. Smitha Joyce Csst, Kalaburagi
11	Sr. Shwetha, Kamal Nagar	20	Fr. Karakkattu Mathew SDB
11	Sr. Anitha Antony UFS, Shorapur	22	Sr. Apoline Mascarenhas UFS
12	Sr. Mariyamma SJT, Vijayapur	21	Sr. Benita Gonsalves SCCG, Kankal
12	Sr. Grace Lima, CSST, Shahabad	26	Sr. Pasca Selva Mary (Beth)
12	Sr. Premila D,Souza BS, Jalasangi	27	Fr. Abhishek Moses, Bhalki

"Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience."

- Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2023

