



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 224

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

February 2024

Holy Father's intention for the month: For the terminally ill, we pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

“Human life, given its eternal destiny, keeps all its value and all its dignity in any condition, also of precariousness and fragility, and, as such, is always worthy of the greatest consideration. Many good hospices do for palliative care, where the terminally sick are accompanied by qualified medical, psychological and spiritual support, so that they can live with dignity, comforted by the closeness of dear persons, the final phase of their earthly life. I hope that such centers will continue to be places in which the “therapy of dignity” is practiced with commitment, thus nourishing love and respect for life.” - Pope Francis

Dear Fathers, Sisters and brethren, *Jai Christa*,

I will be attending the 36th CBCI General Body Meeting at St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore from 30th January to 7th February on the theme: Church's Response to the Current Socio-Political Situation in the Country and the Benefits and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence. Please pray for the success of this CBCI meeting.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life (Feb 2): The Feast of the presentation of the Lord, celebrated on February 2nd, commemorates the event when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord and fulfill the requirements of the Law of Moses. The liturgy of the day invites us to organize the blessing of candles and the faithful coming into the Church in a procession, holding lighted candles in their hands, proclaiming Christ as the light of the world. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life are closely connected, as they both highlight the consecration of Christ and the consecrated life in the Church. The feast reminds us of the importance of obedience to God's law and the poverty and virginity embraced by those in consecrated life. On this occasion we specially pray for all the religious priests, sisters and brothers serving our diocese. My sincere thanks to all the Religious for their immense service and collaboration in this mission diocese.

INVITATION

Warm welcome to all of you dear Sisters, Brothers and Fathers of all Religious Congregations serving this diocese as we celebrate

The Day of the Consecrated Life

at the diocesan level,

On Saturday 3rd February 2024 at the Cathedral from 09:30 AM to 04:00 PM.

Please consider this as my personal invitation.

(Request the Parish Priests/Mission Directors to coordinate and help the sisters to reach the venue)

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (Feb 11): This feast commemorates the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Saint Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, in 1858. 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. Since the feast falls on Sunday, you may plan the same on Saturday 10th or Monday 12th. This day is a significant event in the Catholic Church that emphasizes the importance of prayer, closeness and care for the sick. Let's then on this day offer our prayers for people suffering due to various illnesses and those who care for the sick.

Holy Childhood Sunday (Feb11): Holy Childhood Sunday is celebrated on 11th February, the second Sunday of the month. The motto of the Missionary Childhood Association is children evangelizing, children praying for the children, children helping children worldwide. 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. I urge Parish Priests/Mission Directors to revive MCA and support the children in contributing, in their own small way, to the church's mission. I appeal to all of you to inspire them to be active representatives of the Church's mission by organizing activities and events that match their age and excitement on this Sunday or on the following Sunday.

To make this day a meaningful celebration, you know we are organizing MCA children's convention at the diocesan level for three days from 9-11 February at Bhalki under the theme "ಯೇಸು ನನಗಾಗಿ, ನಾನು ಯಾರಿಗಾಗಿ?", for the children from Class **VI to X**. **Please note, the convention is now extended to children from Class VI to X**. For more details refer the special circular no. 223(A) issued on 22.01.2024. I request all the Parish Priest/Mission Directors and Sisters to cooperate by motivating the children, bring them to the venue and by your presence.

Ordination to the Diaconate (Feb10): On the Second day of the Diocesan MCA Convention, Bro. Regi Ronald and Bro. Francis will be ordained Deacons during the Eucharistic celebration at 10:30 AM. I welcome all of you dear Fathers, Brothers and Sister to be present for the Diaconate Ceremony and make our brothers happy.

Ash Wednesday and the Holy Season of Lent: The Holy Season of Lent begins on 14th with Ash Wednesday. The imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a symbolic reminder of our condition as sinners and our need for repentance and conversion. It is a call to reject evil and do good, which is a gift from God.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a time of prayer, penance, and greater attention to the needs of others. The Lenten journey is a time to relive with Jesus the 40 days that He spent praying and fasting in the wilderness before beginning His public mission, which ultimately led to His sacrifice on the Cross and His victory over death. It is a season of reflection and preparation for Easter, where we relive the phases of the mystery of salvation. Therefore, Lent is a season of deep meaning for Christians, as it recalls significant biblical events and invites believers to participate in the journey of conversion and renewal through prayer, fasting, and works of charity.

I request all the 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 one 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 Fridays 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 and the law of fasting binds those who are 18 years and below 60 years.

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: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the 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 as determined by Bishops' Conference. In the diocese there are many who fast on all the 40 days of Lent having only one meal. It's good to remind and encourage the people.

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.

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

16 - DPP Annual Evaluation 21 - Chrism Mass

Government Funds for Christian Minorities: I appreciate the efforts of Reverend Fathers in obtaining government Funds for Christian Minorities allotted through CDC for church renovation, compound wall, community hall, etc. While remaining grateful to God and the government, let us be transparent in spending, maintaining proper accounts and also submit completion reports (UC) to the minority department. Money allotted to one site/project is not to be spent for another. Those of you who have obtained the grants for several projects, take care you work one project after another and not at a time all the projects. The balance amount, if any shall be deposited in the same account where you have received the funds. Please remember, you are held responsible for the projects, and not the one who takes your place. I thank you and wish you all the best.

Train Timings: Explore the convenience of train travel, a reliable and comfortable transportation option for your journeys via Gulbarga - Bidar. Feel free to use the following information for your travel plans. Safe journey.

Gulbarga to Bidar		Bidar to Gulbarga		Days
Train	Time	Train	Time	
07745 DEMU Special	07:30AM	07761 DEMU Special	07:30AM	Daily Except Sundays
07662 Bidar DEMU	10:35 AM	07746 DEMU Special	10:35 AM	
07747 DEMU Special	01:30 PM	07763 DEMU Special	01:30 PM	
07764 Bidar DEMU	04:40 PM	07748 DEMU Special	04:40 PM	

From the Procurator: The Interim Audit of the Diocese/CDSB will be held from 15th February. I request the Parish Priests/Mission Directors and Managers of the Pre primary schools to update the accounts till 31st January and submit to the procurator's office with all the documents, **Tally soft copy, Receipt Book, Bills & Vouchers File, updated Bank Pass**

book or Bank Statement, **Renewed FD receipts, (Fee Collection details and fee due list for Pre Primary Schools), PEA Collection details and PEA receipt book** - by 10th of February 2024. Please file bills and vouchers in a file and submit in an orderly way.

Regarding Funds received from CDC: If the money received for your project can't be spent by this financial year end, as per instructions received from the auditor, you are expected to keep the remaining balance as Fixed Deposits in the name of the Chapel/Church where you have the project.

Bhandhavya 2024, Retreat for Couples: The Christashrama, Kawadiyal has organized Retreat for Couples' on 02 February from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM. 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.

Deanery Recollection/ Review:

Day	Date	Deanery	Place
Thursday	01 February	Bidar	Bhalki
Saturday	03 February	Gulbarga	Cathedral
Sunday	04 February	Vijayapur	Vijayapur

Commissions Speak:

Commission for Catechetics: Diocese Level Annual exams for 10th and 7th Standard students will be conducted on 25th February (Fourth Sunday). Kindly conduct exam in your mission centers/Parish. (10th and 7th standard Question papers will be supplied by the Diocesan Catechetical Commission). For other students kindly conduct catechism exam on 3rd March in centers or weekdays in villages.

Please Note: Confirm the number of students of 10th & 7th standard (Kannada or English) to the personal WhatsApp number of commission secretary: 8861889762.

- Fr Deepak Furtado, Secretary, Commission for Catechetics

Commission for Basic Ecclesial Communities: SCC training on 4th February at Sedam.

- Fr Clary D' Souza, Secretary, Commission for BEC

Commission for Youth: *Yuwachethana* organises Mega-Bible Quiz competition for the youth. For Gulabarga denary on 18th February (Sunday) at Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral, Gulabarga and for Bidar denary on 25th February (Sunday) at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar at 09:00 AM. Topics for the quiz are the book of Genesis, Exodus and the Gospel of Matthew. Participants are 5 youth from each Parish.

- Fr Sachin Christy, Secretary, Commission for Youth

Commission for Education: In order to accommodate schools engaged with their Annual Day programmes, the Tally training program is postponed to 2nd and 3rd February at Sugyan, Gulbarga.

SANKALPA-2024 is scheduled from April 3rd to 25th for current 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. Kindly announce this in your respective parishes and centers.

- Fr Steevan P. Veigas, Secretary, Commission for Education

Commission for Health: The Mother Theresa Charitable Hospital will be organizing De-Addiction Camp every month from February 29 onwards. For more details, refer Circular no. 223 (01.01.2024).


Free surgery Camp: Dr Om Indo German Hospital, Chittapur, is organizing free cleft lip and palate surgery camp from February 11-19, along with other treatments at a concession. Spread the word and encourage those in need to make use of this opportunity. For more details call: 7090560912.

- Fr Vincent Pereira, Secretary, Commission for Health.

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: FEBRUARY 2024

01 - 07	- CBCI Meeting, St John's Bangalore
08 - 09	- St Peter's Seminary Board Meeting, Bangalore
10 - 11	- MCA Convention, Bhalki
11	- Visit to Chemegaon, Ekamba Mission
13	- Blessing of Renovated Chapel, Borgi - Blessing of Renovated Chapel, Kandergol
14	- Ash Wednesday
15	- Synodal Synthesis - Second Session - GB Meeting ORBIT/Seva Sangam
16	- Consultor's Meeting
18	- Pastoral Visit, Wadi
21 -23	- Visit to Hebbal, Talikote, M.Bihal, Kaakal, D. Hippargi, Sindagi
25 - 26	- Pastoral Visit, Chittapur

Kripalaya, Bishop's House
01 February 2024


† Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

01	Sr Annamma Huttimani SAP, Basavakalyan	14	Sr Savitha Quadros AC, Bidar
02	Fr Arogya Das SAC, Hulsoor	14	Sr Lailitha Mary SAB, Shahabad
02	Sr Mary Bastin Pinto UFS, Shorapur	14	Sr Jaya CCV, Vijayapura
04	Sr Jenny D'sa UFS,	15	Fr Faustine Crasta OCD, Basavakalyan
05	Sr Divya Rani Kavadi JMJ, Kamal Nagar	15	Sr Florine Vas UFS, Vijayapura
06	Fr Arthur Pias, Neo-Catuchumen	19	Fr Rajashekhar Gundiga CSC, Afzalpur
08	Fr Kanikya Swamy Vijay Kumar, ORBIT	20	Sr Mable D'souza SCB, Hulsoor
09	Sr Mukti Regina RNDM, Santpur	20	Sr Margaret D'Souza UFS, Vijayapura
12	Sr Preeti SRA, Santpur	22	Fr Yesudas SDB, Chikpet
13	Fr Wilson Fernandes, Bidar	28	Sr Pavithra D Souza BS, Hebbal

Necrology

Bro. Benedict Rosario SJ, known for his devoted service in Bijapur mission, entered into eternal rest on 13th January 2024. May He receive him in His Eternal abode.

News January 2024

Inauguration and Blessing of Loyola College New Building (3rd): Vijayapura witnessed the inauguration of Loyola Pre-University College on January 3, 2024. The event, attended by dignitaries and clergy began with an invocation. Bishop blessed the college building, offering prayers for its success wished setting a positive tone for its future endeavours.

Mother Petra's birth Centenary Mass at DSS Convent (5th): The Birth Centenary Mass of Mother Petra was celebrated at the DSS Convent, Halbarga, presided over by the Bishop. The event marked a significant milestone in honoring the life and legacy of Mother Petra who devoted herself to serving others.

Silver Jubilee of Sr Anitha SSPS (6th): The Silver Jubilee Mass of Sr Anitha SSPS was celebrated with great fervor at Sugyan Chapel, Gulbarga. The Thanksgiving Mass was presided over by the Bishop, who thanked the Lord and highlighted Sr Anitha's remarkable journey of selfless service and her steadfast devotion to her vocation.

General Election Awareness programme (8th - 9th): General Election Awareness programme 'Eddelu Karnataka' took place on 8th and 9th at ORBIT and Mother Theresa Hall, Gulbarga respectively aiming to educate citizens about the significance of their participation in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Priests, sisters and a good number of people attended this programme.

Blessing and Inauguration of Don Bosco School (10th): The blessing and inauguration of the Don Bosco School in Chikpet, Bidar by the Bishop marked the beginning of a new chapter in the school's history. The event was graced by the presence of the Bishop, Provincial & team and a good number of religious, dignitaries and people. In addition, the school also observed its Annual School Day, exhibiting the talents and achievements of its students.

Synodal Synthesis Seminar at ORBIT (23rd): A study seminar on the Synod Synthesis was held at ORBIT. The seminar commenced with insightful online sharing by Fr Yesu Karunanidhi, CCBI Secretary for Bible Commission, followed by detailed explanation by Fr Anil Crasta, Fr Clary D' Souza, Fr Roque N. D' Souza and Fr Joseph Praveen. The session included a reflective 'Conversation in the Spirit' exercise. The programme was conducted skilfully by Fr Federick D' Souza. The event was a great success bringing together 36 participants, including secretaries, priests, sisters and lay representatives.

Anugraha School Inauguration (24th): The Inauguration and Blessing of new school building and Annual Day celebration of Anugraha School at Halbarga was celebrated with gaiety. Fr Stany Lobo, the Vicar General blessed the new school building. He was also the chief guest at the School Day programme.

Unity Octave Prayer Service (25th): AKUCFHR organised Unity Octave prayer service at Hindustani church, Kalaburagi. Bishop, the president of the Forum along with other Forum members, priests, religious sisters, pastors and members of the congregation attended the prayer. The event not only served a platform for spiritual reflection but also highlighted the commitment to work together despite differences.

Capacity Building Training for Youth (26th to 28th): Capacity building training module V & VI was held at Sugyan, Gulbarga for the youth of the diocese aiming at empowering youth. 25 youth of the diocese were present for this programme.