



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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CIRCULAR NO.221

† ROBERT MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

DECEMBER 2023

Papal Intention: For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Success of Bhalki Jatra: Congratulations to you dear Fathers and Sisters! The Bhalki Jatra 2023 and the Ruby Jubilee of Bhalki Mission were truly a delightful and memorable Event of faith. The meticulous planning and execution made the event a successful. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you dear Fathers, Sisters, PPC members, and Volunteers for your dedication, cooperation and hard work. I am grateful to Fr Roque N D'Souza for his leadership. May the good Lord bless you always keep us united under his loving care. A special word of thanks to all the generous donors who contributed for this event. Please thank people of your parish for the generous contribution to Jatra Utsav 2023 and distribute the Jubilee souvenirs to all Catholic families.

Holy Season of Advent: We are on the threshold of the Season of Advent, a time that restores our faith, renews our hope and deepens our love. In this Season we reflect on the great mystery of Incarnation, which reveals God's sharing of love on humanity. We begin the Season of Advent on Sunday, 3rd December. We know, this Holy Season has a twofold character: it's a time to prepare for the great celebration of Christmas and to prepare our mind and heart for the second coming of Christ. This is a time to prepare ourselves by prayer, reflection, confession and reconciliation to welcome the Saviour in our hearts. Please help our people to observe the spirit of Advent and prepare themselves spiritually well for the celebration of Christmas.

Christmas preparation and celebration: I urge you to convene a PPC meeting at the earliest and plan well for Christmas. It is true, all people want Christmas to be on the same day on 25th. Please tell them, only at the Parish/ Mission Christmas celebration is held on 24th night and on 25th morning. The village level programmes can be spread out from 25th until the feast of Epiphany. Jesus is the Saviour of the world and only inviting people of other faiths, sharing the Christmas joy with all people we can celebrate Christmas meaningfully. This is what we need to teach and convince our people. Village level celebrations with just a festive mass and no public programme are like fulfilling merely an obligation. Let our children and youth take initiative and organize a good public programme and make it a truly meaningful and joyful celebration for all, Christians and non Christians alike. Please tell them DJ sound systems, film songs and dances are not allowed. You may play only Christmas songs with folk dances like kolatam and other instruments. Please extend your help to village leaders to organize their Christmas well.

I also request Directors of missions/parishes come together at Zonal Level and organize an Inter – Religious Christmas Programme in a suitable place inviting elected leaders, leaders of other communities, prominent people of the place, officials etc.

Christmas Octave: The Octave of Christmas includes eight days of feast days and holy celebrations in the Church, beginning on Christmas Day and concluding on New Year's Day the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. The Liturgy gives us the instruction that every day within the Octave is celebrated with the Joy of the Nativity of our Lord. They are:

Dec 25 - Nativity of the Lord

Dec 26 - Feast of St. Stephen

Dec 27 - Feast of St. John the Evangelist

Dec 28 - Feast of the Holy Innocents

Dec 31 - Feast of the Holy Family

Jan 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Communio Sunday (3 Dec) As in the recent past, the Church in India celebrates Communio Sunday on the First Sunday of Advent. Its objectives are: (i) to build a culture of sharing among the Catholic faithful in order to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need; (ii) to encourage the faithful to pray and to support the missions and the missionaries and to promote vocations to consecrated life; (iii) to inspire the lay faithful to volunteer to work in mission areas and (iv) to promote the formation of our people as missionary disciples. Communio is from us, for us and by us. Please motivate people to contribute generously to Communio

Feast of St. Francis Xavier the Apostle of India (1506-1552): St. Francis Xavier, honoured as the Apostle of India and Patron Saint for all Missionaries ranks one among the greatest missionaries in Christian history. He is a great example and inspiration for us Priests, Sisters and Lay evangelisers serving this mission Diocese. May St Francis Xavier intercede for us that we also may respond to that same love which set him on 'fire'.

The Immaculate Conception of blessed Mother Mary (8th December): we firmly believe that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without Original Sin. According to Catholic doctrine, this special grace was granted to Mary at the moment of her conception, freeing her from the stain of original sin that affects all other human beings. The Immaculate Conception highlights Mary's unique purity and holiness which serves as a model for us to strive for purity of heart and holiness in our own lives. This feast reminds us that God has a plan for everyone of us and can bestow unique graces upon us.

Annual Statistics: Please complete the Annual statistics of mission outreach centres (villages) and consolidate them to give us Mission Centre Statistics along with those villages by 15th January 2024.

New year 2024: We thank God for all the people of goodwill who have supported us throughout the past year 2023 and for the grace-filled events at every Parish/mission and institution in our Diocese. Let us arrange the Eucharistic Adoration and Thanksgiving on Sunday 31st evening and welcome the New Year, 2024, as a precious gift bestowed on us by the Lord.

From the Procurator: The Interim Audit of the Diocese/CDSB will be held from 10th 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, updated Bank Pass book or Bank Statement, 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.

Youth Commission:

Empowering Programme for YSM Students and Animators to be conducted on 16th December (for Bidar denary) at Bhalki will begin at 10 am. I request all the HMs to send 10 High school students along with one animator.

Rexco Election will be held at Bangalore. Representatives from Gulbarga diocese will be Yeshappa from Ujini and Malashree from Humnabad

Family Commission: PRE-CANA Programme will be held on the 30 – 31st (Saturday and Sunday) at ORBIT. The programme begins on Saturday Evening at 05.00 pm. Please let me know the number of candidates from your Parish/mission center who wish to attend this programme by 24th December. - Fr. Lawrence Arun, Secretary, Family Commission

Ecumenism & Dialogue: A Christmas Inter religious Programme called 'Shathidootha' is organised on December 16th in the Ranganandhir district of Bidar. The event is being coordinated by St. Joseph Church Bidar along with Ecumenism Commission. - Fr. Wilson Fernandes, Secretary, Ecumenism and Dialogue

Association of Catholic Lay Employees in Government Service: Bringing together all our catholic government employees and forming an Association would benefit our youth and community very much. Therefore, kindly send their names of all catholic employees including teachers along with their mobile number to me by whatsapp as early as possible. Similarly, there is an important mandate given by the church to form a Legal Cell in every diocese. In this connection please send me also names of Catholic Lawyers, including Priests and Sisters along with their mobile numbers at your earliest.

-Fr. Arun Mark Kumar SAC, Secretary, Laity Commission

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER-2023

- 03 Visit to Yadgir
- 8 Blessing – Family Mission – Kamalnagar
Inter – Religious Programme – Satyanubhava
- 9 School Day - MCC Shahabad
- 9 Sponsorship Children Christmas Pgm (Bidar Deanery) at Bhalki
- 10 PPC/PFC Training Programme – Bhalki
- 11 Seva Sangama & FBO Meet
- 14 Silver Jubilee St. Joseph Kannada Medium School, Bidar
- 15 KUCFHR Christmas Programme Kalaburagi
- 16 Aland School Inauguration
School Day – St . Josephs School Kalaburagi
- 17 Sponsorship Children Christmas Pgm (Glb Deanery) at Sugyan
- 22 School Day – St. Mary High School, Kotnoor
- 25 Christmas Celebrations



Kripalaya, Bishop's House
01-12-2023

† Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga

In News:

- The Inter-religious Forum for Peace and Harmony organized an Elocution and Essay Competition for High School and College students of Kalaburagi at Mother Theresa Community Hall in Gulbarga. The event took place on November 25th, on the occasion of Constitution Day (Sun, 26 Nov, 2023). A total of 180 students took part in the competition, and we congratulate all the winners. It is essential to educate the younger generation on Constitution and its significance, and motivate them to protect and uphold it.
- The Divine Mercy Chapel in the village of Hippergaon (Maria Ashram, Jalasangi) was solemnly blessed on November 25th. The presence of the Goodwill mission group members and donors brought immense joy to the villagers. It is noteworthy that this chapel is the first permanent one to be fully sponsored by the Goodwill mission group. We express our gratitude to the dear friends in the Goodwill mission group for their great love, concern, and continuous support towards this mission diocese. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and thanks to F Vincent Thoras, the director of Maria Ashram and his Team for their dedicated efforts in fostering a strong community in Hippergaon. May God bless the entire team and the people of Hippergaon.
- Eucharistic Procession was held in Bidar city on the day of Feast of Christ the King on 26th Nov. People attended in large number. Thanks to Fr. Wilson, Fr. John Paul, Fr. James SDB, Sisters, PPC and Catholic Association, Bidar who worked hard for this holy event.
- Annual Retreat for Clergy was held at SUGYAN Pastoral Center from (26th November to 2nd December). Thanks to the Preacher, Rev Dr. Gregory Pinto SVD for his excellent reflections and spiritual insights.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Date	BIRTHDAY BABIES	Date	BIRTHDAY BABIES
01	Sr. Vasantha SSA, Wadi	14	Sr. Neena BS, Chittapur
03	Sr Lucy Priya BS, Chittapur	17	Sr Nancy Lobo FMM, Chincholli
03	Sr Hilaria Pinto DHM, Indi	18	Sr Veena Fernandes UFS, Vijayapura
04	Fr. Prasanna OFM Cap, Halbarga	18	Sr.Santhoshi JMJ, Devara Hippargi
05	Sr Lilly D'Almeida SCCG, Kankal	18	Sr Cecilia Tirkey RNDM. Almel
05	Sr Geetha C SCB, Hulsoor	21	Sr. Vijayamary V Thomas SCCG, GLB
05	Fr. Magimaidas (Bgllore), Ujini	24	Sr. Ida D'Souza SCCG, Muddebihal
08	Sr Irene Tauro SCCG, Talikote	25	Fr Santhosh Bapu, Aland
10	Sr Reeni CstT, Kalaburagi	25	Sr Shobha SRA, Santhpur
10	Sr.Priya D Souza A.C, Bidar	27	Sr Wilma Mathew BS, Jalasangi
14	Sr Teresa Lynette, Shahabad	28	Fr Salvador, Halbarga, Bhalki
14	Fr Clevan Gomes , Shahapur	30	Sr Oliva Saldana RNDM, Almel

HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY TO YOU DEAR FATHERS:

Date	Ordination Anniversary	Date	Ordination Anniversary
03	Fr Vincent Pereira, MTCH	27	Fr. Maxim Misquith SJ, Kalaburagi
03	Fr David, Kamalnagar	27	Fr. Lawrence D CSC, Afzalpur
03	Fr Clevon Gomes, Santpur	27	Fr. Robin Pereira MSFS, Ekamba
03	Fr Vincent Thoras, Jalasangi	27	Fr. Lancy F SJ, Vijayapura
05	Fr Wilson Fernandes, Bidar	27	Fr. Santhosh W SJ, Vijayapura
08	Fr Lawrence Arun, Santpur	28	Fr. Jins John SDB, Yadgir
13	Fr. Arthur Pias, Kalaburagi	29	Fr. John Muttathuparambil
17	Fr. Kollashany George SDB, Chikpet	29	Fr Devasia KV MCBS
18	Fr. Praveen KJ SDB, Chikpet	29	Fr. Madapillil Jins SDB
19	Fr. Devaraj, SDB	30	Fr. K.C Mathew SDB
23	Fr. Faustine Crasta OCD	30	Fr. Francis Menezes SJ, Vijayapura
23	Fr Philip Raj Joseph Sch, Shorapur	30	Fr. Deepak Thomas OCD, Kadaganji
27	Fr. Prashanth Sequeira SJ, Vijayapura	30	Fr. Joseph Praveen, Kalaburagi
27	Fr. Jim Jose SDB, Yadgir	30	Fr. Mathew KSDB, Chikpet
27	Fr. Jith Joy SDB, Yadgir	31	Fr. Joby Kanimattathil SDB
27	Fr. Augustine T.A SDB, Yadgir	31	Fr. K.J. Joseph SDB, Yadgir
27	Fr. Santhosh SJ, Vijayapura	31	Fr. Keezhethan Sebastian SDB
27	Fr. John Crasta SJ, Bhalki		
27	Fr. James Paul SDB, Chikpet		

Diocese of Gulbarga

ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತ ಜಯಂತಿ 2025



ಜುಬಿಲಿ ಲಾಂಛನದ ಅರ್ಥ



ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತನ ಶಿಲುಬೆಯು ಎಂದಿಗೂ
ಕೈ ಬಿಡಲಾಗದ ಭರವಸೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.
ಏಕೆಂದರೆ ನಮಗೆ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ
ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಕಷ್ಟಕರವಾದ ಕ್ಷಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
ಅದರ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಯಿದೆ.

ನೌಕಾಯಾನದ ಅಲೆಗಳ
ಚಲನೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಶಿಲುಬೆಯು,
ತನ್ನನ್ನು ತಾನೇ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲು
ರೂಪಾಂತರಗೊಂಡ ಭರವಸೆಯ ಸಂಕೇತವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ಅಂಕಿ ಅಂಶಗಳು ಪ್ರಪಂಚದ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಮೂಲೆಗಳಿಂದ
ಮಾನವೀಯತೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.
ಮೊದಲನೆಯವರು ಶಿಲುಬೆಯನ್ನು ಹಿಡಿದಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಂತೆ
ಅವರು ಜನರ ನಡುವಿನ
ಒಗ್ಗಟ್ಟನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಲು ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಅಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಈ ಸಂಕೇತವು ಅಲೋಲ ಕಲೋಲವಾದ ಜೀವನದ
ಸಮುದ್ರದ ಯಾತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಕಷ್ಟಗಳನ್ನು ನೆನಪಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.
ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ, ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಘಟನೆಗಳಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಪಂಚದ
ಘಟನೆಗಳಿಂದ ಎದುರಾಗುವ ಕಷ್ಟಗಳು ಅಚ್ಚಲ ಭರವಸೆಯನ್ನು ಬಯಸುತ್ತವೆ.

Happy Christmas!

The birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may the joy and peace of the Christmas season fill your hearts and homes.