



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 226

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

April 2024

Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For the role of women: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

"We pray for the grace to be able to see the ways in which the women around us play such important roles in our lives. May we be able to thank these women, and serve them in acts of kindness and generosity, as we pray for all those whose dignity is not upheld as it should be." - *Pope Francis*

Dear Fathers, Sisters and brethren, **Happy Easter!**

With profound joy and heartfelt gratitude, I extend to each of you my warmest Easter blessings. As we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord, may I kindly request you to graciously convey my Easter wishes to your parishioners. May the radiant presence of the Risen Lord infuse our lives with boundless joy, enduring peace, and steadfast hope, illuminating our paths as we faithfully fulfill the divine calling to priesthood and consecrated life. Let us, with hearts overflowing with love, continue to embrace and share the transformative power of His resurrection in our daily endeavors.

1. House Blessing: Easter has arrived, and now is the perfect time for house blessings. Visiting the parishioners in their homes during the Easter time, the parish priest represents the Risen Lord meeting his people in the families bringing forgiveness, peace and hope of a new life with the Lord. I request all parish priests and mission directors to arrange house blessings at the earliest convenience, to initiate Family Blessings soon after Easter, and to ensure completion before the conclusion of the Easter Season.

2. Divine Mercy Sunday (April 07): The Divine Mercy Feast is a celebration of God's merciful love, as revealed in the Paschal Mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. This feast is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as "Divine Mercy Sunday." The origins of this feast can be traced to the visions and writings of St Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who received revelations from Jesus about His divine mercy. The Divine Mercy Feast is a celebration of God's merciful love, as revealed in the Paschal Mystery, and a call for the faithful to embrace and live out this divine mercy in their lives. On this Sunday, encourage people to go to confession, receive Holy Communion, recite of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, venerating the image of the Divine Mercy, symbolizing his mercy and love of God for all people.

3. Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (April 08): The Solemnity of the Annunciation is celebrated nine months before the Nativity of the Lord. The Annunciation recalls the day when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and revealed God's will that she become the Mother of the Son of God, and she accepted. This year because it would otherwise fall during Holy Week, the Annunciation will be observed on Monday, April 8. 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.

4. Vocation Sunday (April 21): "Good Shepherd Sunday" also known as "Vocation Sunday" is observed on fourth Sunday of Easter. Vocation Sunday is a time to reflect on the personal call that God has for each person, whether to priesthood, religious life, or

other vocations, and to pray for an increase in vocations to serve the needs of the Church and the world. It is an opportunity to reflect on the Call to Priesthood and Religious life and praying for those who are discerning their vocations. Please promote vocations in our families and Parish/Mission Centre by meeting children and their parents and prepare to send aspirants to the Apostolic School.

'Vocation Camp-2024'

In view of promoting vocations, the Commission for Vocation and Formation is hosting 'Vocation Camp-2024' for boys on **April 7-8** at **Holy Redeemer Church, Bhalki**, begins on **7th evening at 06.00 PM** and ends on **8th after lunch**.

Kindly encourage boys of Standard VIII and above. For more information contact Rev. Fr Deepak Furtado, Secretary, Commission for Vocation and Formation - 8861889762 or Dn Aron Vas, Vocation Promoter - 6366072347.

5. Feast of St Mark the Evangelist (April 25): St Mark the Evangelist, also known as John Mark, was one of the four Evangelists. He was born in Cyrene, a city in North Africa, of Jewish descent. St Mark accompanied St Paul and St Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but he later returned to Jerusalem. He also travelled with St Peter as his interpreter. Mark wrote his Gospel in Rome around 70 AD. The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels and focuses on the actions and deeds of Jesus rather than his teachings. Mark is also credited with founding the church in Alexandria, Egypt, and is venerated as the patron saint of that city.

6. Faith Formation Camp: I hope by now you have received the lessons and teaching material for the Faith Formation Camp prepared by the Commission for the Catechetics. Once again I remind you that these lessons provide you with only the required basic material. The teacher must study them, take pain to prepare the lessons suitable to the class one is teaching by adding his or her faith-experience. You can enrich the lesson by giving better examples, adding appropriate songs, action songs, dramatization etc. Make your lessons more and more experiential and let it be a joyful faith experience for our children receiving the knowledge of faith, values and convictions.

7. Election and Formation of the New Pastoral Councils: As the term of the present Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is getting over we announce to you the election process for the new PPC. Let us take all possible care to see that our people elect enthusiastic and selfless members to the new PPC, people who can work with us to implement the DPP by actively involving themselves into at least one or two Commissions. We will send to you the copies of the PPC Constitution. **Follow the proper procedures in the election process and send the names of the elected members in all the villages and wards, and also the list of PPC members (elected + nominated) for the approval.** We are sending you the schedule of the election of pastoral structures.

By /On	Process
21 & 28 April 2024	Awareness given to the people on the PPC Constitution and election process
5 May 2024	Village/ward level representatives are to be elected
12 May 2024	Election/Nomination to Parish Pastoral Council.
19 May 2024	Election of the Office bearers of PPC
26 May 2024	List of the newly formed PPC and PFC to be sent to the Bishop for approval.
2 June 2024	The new Parish Pastoral Council takes charge by oath taking

8. SANKALPA-2024: is scheduled from **April 11th to April 30th** (*Please note the correction to last month's circular no: 225*) for current 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students at Sugyan, Diocesan Pastoral Centre. Mission Directors/Parish Priests are requested to encourage only eligible and interested children for the program and to get the maximum benefit. There would be an entrance exam during the Faith formation Camp.

9. PRERANA Camp: You are welcome to hold *Prerana* Camp between April 14th to May 10th for all the children from 1st to 9th Standard desiring to study especially those deprived of good education in the villages. The afternoon time can be utilized to help children to know their talents organizing various faith formation and cultural activities. Let there be Prayer, *Bhajans*, Mass and Rosary every day. Please engage good teachers and able Camp Masters. Also, please get the budget approved before you begin the camp.

10. Summer Ministry for Brothers: Welcome to our Brothers studying in major seminaries in Mangalore and Bangalore who have come for their summer ministry.

11. New Translation of Kannada New Testament: I'm pleased to inform you that the KRCBC and Bible Society will be launching a new translation of the Kannada New Testament on April 24th. I request you to encourage your parishioners to read and engage with this new translation, which promises to offer fresh insights and understanding of the Scriptures in Kannada.

12. Election - 2024: As you may already know, the elections have been announced, presenting an opportunity for every eligible individual to make their voice heard. Voting is not just a right but a responsibility that shapes the future of our nation. Therefore, I urge you to encourage all our faithful who are eligible to cast their votes in the upcoming election. Make an announcement to bring awareness among our people and urge them to set aside their other commitments and prioritize this fundamental responsibility. You are welcome to organise an Easter get-together to make it an occasion to speak about this. On Election Day, request youth, PPC and catholic association members to help out senior citizens and disabled ones by taking them to the polling booth.

13. Vacation: I request all the priests who are planning to go for vacations, to make proper arrangements before your departure. You are kindly reminded not to leave the parish without ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to meet the pastoral needs of your parish/mission in your absence. This includes scheduling Masses, sacraments, and any other essential pastoral duties. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in ensuring the smooth functioning of your parish in your absence. Wishing you safe travels and happiness during your vacation.

14. ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS AND HOSTELS: Let us be concerned about the Education of the poor catholic children in the villages who do not have access to good Catholic education. Kindly motivate all the parents to admit the children to Catholic schools and hostels that they may be brought up in Catholic faith. After proper scrutiny, issue a proper recommendation letter to the HMs and Hostel Managers mentioning the amount the parents agree to pay at the time of admission. Let us take care that our children are admitted to hostels before 31st May, so that the remaining seats can be allotted to other Christians seeking admission in our schools. If your students (VIII – X, PUC, Degree, ITI, Diploma, Nursing and B.Ed) need GDES support, make the student write an application and forward them to the Secretary, GDES, before 15th July with your recommendation. Encourage youth to go for professional and skill trainings (ITI, Diploma, B. Sc, B. Com, B. Pharmacy, Nursing etc). Hereafter we may not be helping the youth who seek only a degree that makes them only non employable.

As per the Education Policy of the Church in India, catholic children shall not be denied admission in any of our schools. While admitting children to schools for 1st Standard, please motivate the parents to trust in God and admit them as Christians so that they can avail Christian minority scholarships.

After careful consideration to ensure the continued smooth functioning of our institutions and to provide the best possible facilities and services to our students the hostel fee has been raised to Rs. 12,000/-.

Please note, only 50% concession of school and hostel fees (and no further concession) is to be given for the needy, the daily wage earners (Coolie workers). This policy of concession to poor Catholic children must be observed by all – the Diocesan and Religious Institutions. I request all those who run the Study Homes to employ a good warden/teacher to take care of the children. Make it mandatory for Children/Students who seek financial help in our institutions to submit written applications.

15. Annual Catechism Exam Result: The results for the Diocesan Level Annual Catechism Exams for 7th and 10th standard students are now out. We congratulate all the students for their performance and dedication throughout the examination. We also express our sincere gratitude to the parish priests, mission directors and all the Catechism teachers for their commitment and guidance. Special thanks to Rev. Fr Deepak Furtado, Secretary, Commission for Catechetics, for his dedicated and tireless efforts in conducting the exam. The students who have secured the first, second, and third places in the Diocesan Level are as follows:

7th Standard				
Sl. No	Name	Parish	Marks	Rank
1	Emmanuel	Cathedral, Gulburga	100	1 st Place
2	Veronica	Holy Cross Church, Santhpur	98	2 nd Place
3	Stella D/o Sanju	Holy Cross Church, Santhpur	98	2 nd Place
4	Seemrita S	St Lawrence Church, Talmadgi	96	3 rd Place
5	Preeti Pandit	St Joseph Church, Bidar	96	3 rd Place
6	Sharadha Roylin	Humnabad	96	3 rd Place
7	Vivek	Holy Cross Church, Santhpur	96	3 rd Place
8	Preetham	Holy Cross Church, Santhpur	96	3 rd Place
9	Salmal	Holy Cross Church, Santhpur	96	3 rd Place
10	Sudheer	Holy Cross Church, Santhpur	96	3 rd Place
11	Sarala	Holy Cross Church, Santhpur	96	3 rd Place
10th Standard				
Sl. No	Name	Parish	Marks	Rank
1	Abinandhan	St Joseph Church, Bidar	98	1 st Place
2	Gayathri	Queen of Heaven, Chittapur	98	1 st Place
3	Roshani	Mary Pawada Matha Church, Itga	98	1 st Place
4	Nandini	Mary Pawada Matha Church, Itga	98	1 st Place
5	Divya Rani	St Lawrence Church, Talmadgi	95	2 nd Place
6	Ramya S	Sankapla Hostel, Kotnoor	95	2 nd Place
7	Meshak	St Francis Assisi, Halbarga	94	3 rd Place
8	Shridevi	Holy Cross Church, Santhpur	94	3 rd Place

16. From the Procurator: This year Final Audit of the Diocese/CDSB will begin from 20th of May. 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 20th 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 for 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2024
5. Balance confirmation letter from the Bank,
6. FD Interest certificate from the bank with details of TDS done by the bank.
7. Updated FD receipts (Original)
8. Fee analysis list (Fee Collection list in excel and fee due list for Pre Primary Schools- printed copy duly signed by the HM). It should match with tally.
9. PEA receipt books
10. PEA Collection details in excel.

Please number the bills and vouchers as in tally and file them and submit in an orderly way.

Those who want the assistance to complete the account can take appointment with the accountant Bhanu Prakash.

Commissions Speak:

Commission for Youth: Career guidance will be held at ORBIT for SSLC, PUC and Degree students on 28th April from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

- Fr Sachin Christy, Secretary, Commission for Youth

Commission for Laity: Gentle reminder to all the parish priests regarding the collection of names of government employees and lawyers from your respective parishes. If you haven't yet sent the names, kindly do so at your earliest convenience.

- Fr Mark Arun, Secretary, Commission for Laity

Commission for Family Life: PRE-CANA Programme will be held on 6th-7th April (Saturday and Sunday) at ORBIT. The programme begins on Saturday 09.30 AM and ends on Sunday at 04:00 PM.

- Fr Lawrence Arun, Secretary, Commission for Family Life


Commission for Social Communications: Kindly collect magazine subscription fees from your parishioners and send them to the diocesan account. Also requesting you to gather the postal addresses of the subscribers. This information will allow us to efficiently send the magazine directly to their homes via postal mail.

- Fr Roshan D' Souza, Secretary, Commission for Social Communications.

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: APRIL 2024

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|-------|------------------------------------------------|
| 02-05 | - Meeting Children in the Faith Formation Camp |
| 07 | - Mass at ORBIT |
| 09 | - Episcopal Ordination at Karwar |
| 13-14 | - Visit to Bijapur Missions |
| 18-27 | - Mission appeals abroad |

Kripalaya, Bishop's House
01 April 2024

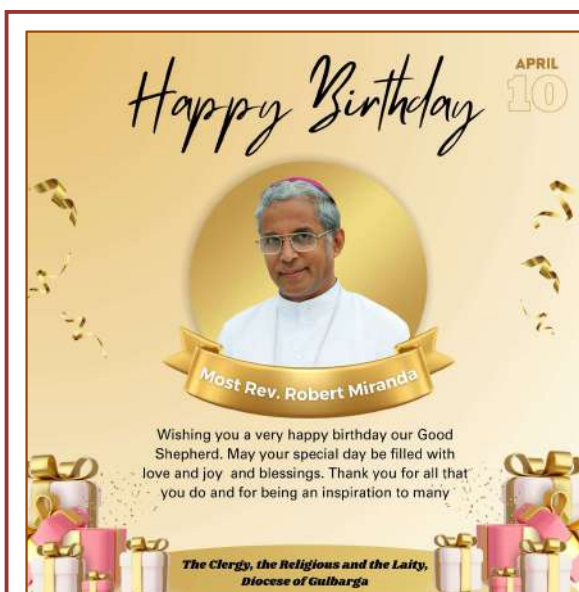

 † Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

04	Sr Clarice SRA, <i>Santpur</i>	15	Fr Wilbert Vinay Lobo, <i>Chincholi</i>
05	Fr George Lobo, <i>Kawadiyal</i>	16	Sr Precilla BS, <i>Chittapur</i>
06	Sr Maria Chrisette AC, <i>SJ Bidar</i>	17	Sr Cathrine Ekka MSMHC, <i>Yadgir</i>
07	Sr Stella Maria SMMI, <i>Talmadige</i>	21	Sr Carmel Jyothi DC, <i>Jalasang</i>
08	Sr Maria BS, <i>Chittapur</i>	22	Sr Preethi Leena BS, <i>Jalasang</i>
08	Sr Reena BS, <i>Humnabad</i>	24	Fr Fredrick D' Souza, <i>Kripalaya</i>
10	Sr Alphonsa Mary SJC, <i>Vijayapur</i>	24	Fr Devaraj, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
10	† ROBERT MIRANDA	24	Fr Sunil Mankare, <i>Itga</i>
12	Sr Vasantha SSpS, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	25	Sr Celestine Pinto SCCG, <i>Bhalki</i>
12	Fr Satish Kumar OFM, <i>Halbarga</i>	25	Fr Victor Anil Vas, <i>ORBIT</i>
14	Fr Robin Pereira MSFS, <i>Ekamba</i>	25	Cl. Manu Joseph SDB, <i>Yadgir</i>
14	Sr Arogya Mary JMJ, <i>Kamal Nagar</i>	27	Fr Gerald Sagar, <i>Shahabad</i>
14	Sr Gretta D'Cunha UFS, <i>Vijayapur</i>	28	Sr Divya Reshma UFS, <i>Sindagi</i>
14	Sr Synthia D'mello UFS, <i>Sindagi</i>	29	Sr Riving Kyndait RNDM, <i>Santpur</i>

HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DEAR FATHERS

12	Fr Naveen Lobo	27	Fr. Sunil Andrade
15	Fr. Anil Prasad	27	Fr. Roque D'Souza
16	Fr.Sandeep Goveas OCD	27	Fr. Stephen Veigas
17	Fr. Santhosh Babu	28	Fr. Roshan D'Souza CSC
20	Fr. Clary D'Souza	28	Fr. Robert Crasta
20	Fr. Santhosh Dias	28	Fr. Anil Crasta
22	Fr. Prashanth SAC	28	Fr. James Gonsalves SJ
22	Fr. Mark Arun Kumar SAC	28	Fr. David D'Souza
23	Fr. George Lobo	28	Fr. Fredrick D'Souza
24	Fr Kuriakose Puthenpureyil	29	Fr George Antony SCJ
27	Fr. Gerald Sagar	30	Fr. Thomas D'Souza SJ



You are warmly invited to join us for a Thanksgiving Eucharist at **11:30 AM** on **April 10th**, followed by a fellowship meal in celebration of Bishop Robert's birthday at **Sugyan, the Bishop's House.**

We all thank him profusely for guiding this mission diocese for these years. Kindly whisper a prayer for our bishop.

- Msgr Stany Lobo, Vicar General

News March 2024

Retreat by Lay Evangelizers (March 02): On March 2nd, lay evangelizers gathered for a retreat at *Kristashrama* Kowdiyal, immersing themselves in spiritual activities and discussions. Throughout the retreat, participants engaged deeply in reflections on their faith, deepening their understanding of evangelization while strengthening their spiritual bonds. Personal testimonies and experiences were shared, providing insights into individual faith. Their contributions fostered a rich spiritual atmosphere, facilitating collective growth within the retreat community. Overall, the retreat proved to be a transformative experience, nurturing both personal and communal spiritual development.

Session on Synthesis Report and Joint Session on COP & DPC (March 09): On Saturday, March 9th, a gathering convened to deliberate on the Synodal synthesis, marking a significant moment of collaboration and reflection. Following this, a joint session of the COP and DPC took place at Sugyan Pastoral Centre, amplifying the spirit of unity and shared purpose.

Two-Day Workshop on AI Tools (March 12 & 13): *Premavani* Communications organized a dynamic two-day workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools on March 12th and 13th, aimed to equip participants with cutting-edge AI technologies for enhancing productivity and efficiency in office environments. Rev. Fr Anil Fernandes, Director of Canara Communications in Mangalore diocese, led the workshop, offering insightful sessions and practical demonstrations. As part of the program, the Bishop inaugurated and blessed the new *Premavani* Studio on the first day of the workshop.

DPP Annual Evaluation (March 16): The Annual Evaluation of the DPP was convened on March 16th as secretaries of each commission presented their comprehensive annual reports. The Commission secretaries meticulously outlined their respective commission's achievements and envisioned pathways for the upcoming year. After the evaluation, the Bishop thanked everyone for working hard and being dedicated, emphasizing the importance of collective effort in fulfilling the pastoral vision of the diocese.

NECROLOGY

Mr James (65 Years), F/o Sr Pushpa, St Joseph Convent, SH Bidar entered into the eternal rest on 02 March 2024

May He receive him in His Eternal abode.

Our heartfelt condolences to dear Sr Pushpa and all his family members

Rev. Fr. Walter Lobo OCD,

A zealous missionary in the land of Tanzania who served in our diocese, entered into eternal rest on 27 March 2024.

May He receive him in His Eternal abode.