



# DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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

Circular No. 231

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA  
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

September 2024

**Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For The Cry Of The Earth:** We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brethren, *Jai Christ!*

**1. Follow-Up on Laity Conventions:** I am glad that we had two successful Laity Conventions on August 3-4, 2024, for the Bidar Deanery at Don Bosco Hall, Chikpet, Bidar and on August 18, 2024, for the Gulbarga and Vijayapur Deanery at the Cathedral in Gulbarga. These gatherings were marked by the great enthusiasm of our lay leaders, where over 350 elected members were present, who expressed a strong commitment to collaborating with us in building a 'Synodal Church'. Their willingness to contribute to this shared vision is a source of great joy and hope for our future.

I would like to extend sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of these conventions. My special thanks to the Don Bosco Fathers at Chikpet Mission and the Parish Priest of the Cathedral in Gulbarga for their meticulous arrangements. I am also grateful to Fr Anil Prasad, Fr Santhosh Dias and Fr Vincent Pereira for their enriching sessions.

The matters discussed during these conventions are detailed in my Pastoral Letter, issued on August 28, 2024. I kindly request that you announce the guidelines outlined in this letter to the faithful during Sunday and weekday Masses, and seek their cooperation. Let us continue to work together in the spirit of synodality, fostering a Church that is communion, participatory and consciously working to fulfill the mission mandate of the Lord.

**2. Bhalki Jathra - 2024:** The Bala Yesu Jathra is scheduled to be held at Bhalki on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> under the theme "Pilgrims' Hope." This is a significant and faith-nourishing event for all our people, and it is essential that we work together in an organized manner to ensure its success. A cultural committee is formed under the leadership of Fr Wilson Fernandes and Fr Sachin Christy. A meeting to plan for the Jathra - 2024 will be held on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3:00 PM at Bhalki. All Parish Priests/Mission Directors, Superiors of Religious Communities, and at least two leaders from each PPC, preferably the Vice-President and the Secretary, are requested to attend.

**3. Visit of Caritas Team (Czech Republic):** Mr. Jaroslav, Director of Caritas Prague, and Mr. Petr Zavrel, a member of the Caritas Prague management team, visited the Gulbarga diocese on August 27-28, 2024. During their visit, they met the Directors of the Balajyothi Sponsorship Programme and Seva Sangam, Sankalpa students and also visited St Peter's School at Shahapur. They expressed their satisfaction with the progress made and extended their gratitude to all involved. We sincerely thank the Caritas Czech for their support to our children.

**4. St Mother Theresa of Kolkata (Sept 05):** We are delighted to honor the legacy of Mother Theresa, an inspiration of compassion and love that captivated the whole world with her firm dedication to caring for the poor, dying, destitute, orphans and the elderly. In 1946 she answered the call to follow Christ into the slums and serve the poorest of the poor. She is inspiring us missionaries to imitate her example and teaches us to serve with boundless love and trust in the Lord and we are proud to serve the society under her patronage especially through ORBIT (Humnabad) and Mother Teresa Charitable Hospital in Kalaburagi. Let all our efforts to love the poor bring hope to the poor, sick, and the suffering in our Diocese.

**5. Teachers Day (Sept 05):** Teachers' Day is a special occasion to express our deep gratitude to the teachers who shape the minds of our children and equip them with the tools to become the outstanding individuals of tomorrow. A teacher is not just an instructor but a source of inspiration, guidance, enlightenment, and motivation, striving to bring out the best in every child. We are immensely thankful to all the teachers in our schools for their commitment and dedication to providing the best education for all children. May I take this opportunity to wish all the teachers a Happy Teachers' Day and offer my prayers for them.

**6. Anniversary of Late Bishop Basil S. D' Souza (Sept 05):** With great pride, we commemorate the anniversary of the passing of Late Bishop Basil S. D' Souza, the visionary founder of the Bidar Mission. His deep passion for missionary work led him to courageously establish the Bidar Mission in 1982. We are profoundly grateful for this mission and pray that, through his intercession, God may bless us with the grace and steadfast dedication to carry forward our apostolic zeal for the glory of His Kingdom.

**7. The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Sept 08):** This feast marks the birth of Mary, honored as the Mother of God, and is a pivotal moment in the divine plan for humanity's salvation. This feast day highlights Mary's unique role in salvation history, her purity, and her willingness to embrace God's plan. As we celebrate this joyful occasion, we are reminded of Mary's virtues—her humility, obedience, and unwavering faith. As we honor our heavenly mother on her birthday, let us also recognize the significance of the Girl Child Day. The best way to honor Mother Mary is by loving and respecting girl children and women in our society. They deserve gender equity, freedom, and opportunities for education and employment. Let us celebrate Girl Child Day by acknowledging the girl child as a precious gift from God. Happy Feast to all!

**8. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sept 14):** This feast celebrated on September 14, honors the Cross of Christ as a symbol of salvation and redemption. This feast commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by St Helena in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It reflects on the profound theological significance of the Cross in Christian faith, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death. On this day, the faithful are invited to deepen their appreciation for the salvific power of the Cross and renew their commitment to its message of love and sacrifice.

**9. The Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (Sept 21):** celebrated on September 21, honors Matthew, one of Jesus' twelve apostles and the author of the first Gospel. This day reflects on his life, conversion from a tax collector to a devoted follower of Christ, and his pivotal role in the early Church. It highlights his dedication to spreading Jesus' teachings and the transformative impact of his calling.

**10. Contribution to Communio India:** Communio India, a CCBI venture has been helping mission dioceses in India for chapels in villages, faith formation activities and formation of seminarians and priests and religious. It is an organization started by CCBI years ago and has started to bear good results already. Our diocese's has also benefitted from Communio India. But our contribution to Communio India is very less. After discussing at the last Clergy meeting, we have decided to hold 'Communio India' collection hereafter every year on the feast of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary instead of Advent First Sunday. Please announce to the people on this Sunday itself so that our people are motivated to give a generous contribution.

**11. CDC Funds:** While appreciating the hard work of our priests in getting the funds approved from CDC, for various projects such as repair and renovation of chapels and churches, compound for burial ground, community halls etc., we request the respective priests to keep safe a copy of the file, approval copy and statement of accounts, copy of bills and vouchers etc. in your parish office and also submit one copy to the diocesan curia office (Procurator) for any government enquiry that is bound to take place.

**12. New Appointment:** Congratulations to Fr Anil Crasta as he is joining Caritas India Team as the deputy Secretary. God bless him with good health, happiness and success in his new responsibility. We wish him all the best for a successful and fruitful ministry. He will take up his office on 02<sup>nd</sup> September. We remain ever grateful to him for his immense contribution to this diocese. We appoint Fr Robin Pereira MSFS as the Director of Ekamba Mission w.e.f. 01 September 2024.

**13. Study of Vatican II Documents:** The Seventh episode will be streamed on 15.09.2024 on the theme "Sacred Scripture in the Liturgy", presented by Fr Clary D' Souza. The Eighth episode will be streamed on 30.09.2024 on the theme "Living the Liturgy in the Parish", presented by Fr David Antony.

**14. Congratulations to New Bishops:** We congratulate Bishop Joseph Susainathan and Bishop Arokiaraj Satish Kumar on the occasion of their Episcopal Consecration as auxiliary bishops of Bangalore archdiocese on 24 August 2024 at St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Bangalore. Twenty bishops, 300 priests and over 3000 people participated in this great and joyful event.

### **Commissions Speak:**

**Council of Priests:** The Council of Priests meeting will be on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Sugyan Pastoral Centre at 09:30 AM.

- Fr Vincent Pereira, Secretary, Council of Priests

**Commission for Proclamation & Evangelization:** There will be an orientation program for lay evangelizers on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 02:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar. We kindly ask the Parish Priests/Mission Directors to select two or more dedicated lay evangelizers from your parish who are enthusiastic about supporting our mission. Please send their names and contact information to us at your earliest convenience.

- Fr Abhishek Moses, Secretary, Commission for Proclamation & Evangelization

**Commission for Youth:** The Youth Commission is organizing *Yuvaspandana* programme for Bhalki Zone on 01<sup>st</sup> September 2024 at Bhalki and for Shahabad Zone on 02<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 at Wadi.

- Fr Sachin Christy, Secretary, Commission for Youth

**Commission for Family Life:** There will be Pre-Cana programme on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at ORBIT. Programme begins on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM and concludes on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. Please confirm the number of candidates to me at the earliest - 9535707929.

- Fr Salvadore Fernandes, Secretary, Commission for Family Life.

**Commission for Social Concerns and Development:** In honour of Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata, a blood donation camp will be organized on September 3, 2024, at ORBIT from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We encourage the youth to participate and contribute by donating blood.

- Fr Victor Vas, Secretary, Commission for Social Concerns and Development.


**Commission for Migrants:** The completed revised survey forms to be submitted to the Commission members by 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

- Fr Lawrence D' Almeida CSC, Secretary, Commission for Migrants.

#### BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: SEPTEMBER 2024

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 01      | - PPC/PFC training at St Joseph's Church, Bidar<br>Sacred Heart Church, Bidar. |
| 05      | - Blessing of New Chapel, Madergaon, Jalasangi Mission.                        |
| 06      | - KUCF Meeting   |
| 08      | - Feast of Nativity, Jalasangi<br>- Feast of Nativity, Cathedral               |
| 12      | - Bhalki Jathra Planning, Bhalki   |
| 14      | - PPC/PFC training at St Anne Church, Wadi                                     |
| 15      | - Mass, PPC/PFC Training, Hulsoor  |
| 21 - 22 | - Mission Appeal Urwa Parish, Mangalore  |
| 23-26   | - KRCBC Meeting  |
| 27      | - COP Meeting  |
| 28      | - Lay Evangelisers Training, Bidar   |
| 29      | - PPC/PFC training, Itga   |

Kripalaya, Bishop's House  
01 September 2024

  
† Robert Miranda  
Bishop of Gulbarga

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

<b>01</b>	Sr Arokya Mary SCB, <i>Hulsoor</i>	<b>15</b>	Sr Elsy SJT, <i>Vijayapura</i>
<b>03</b>	Sr Theresia hmr, <i>Aland</i>	<b>16</b>	Sr Edith Gonsalves SCSC, <i>Zalki</i>
<b>04</b>	Sr Jenny D'sa UFS	<b>16</b>	Sr Albina SHM, <i>Sedam</i>
<b>04</b>	Sr Celine Fernandes DHM, <i>Indi</i>	<b>17</b>	Fr Robert Rodrigues SJ, <i>Sirnoor</i>
<b>05</b>	Fr Deepak Furtado, <i>Sirnoor</i>	<b>18</b>	Sr Janet Dias UFS, <i>Shahapur</i>
<b>09</b>	Sr Josephine CCV, <i>Vijayapura</i>	<b>19</b>	Fr John Crasta SJ, <i>Bhalki</i>
<b>12</b>	Fr Vincent Pereira, <i>MTCH</i>	<b>22</b>	Sr Harshitha Csst, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
<b>12</b>	Sr Maria Kawadi SAB, <i>Shahabad</i>	<b>22</b>	Fr Santhosh Dias, <i>CBCI</i>
<b>13</b>	Sr Priyanka D' Souza SRA, <i>Ujini</i>	<b>29</b>	Bro. Joseph Sam SDB, <i>Chikpet</i>
<b>14</b>	Fr Jeevan D' Souza SJ, <i>Vijayapura</i>	<b>30</b>	Sr Secunda SRA, <i>Santpur</i>
<b>15</b>	Sr Simprose BS, <i>Chittapur</i>		

### News August 2024

**Training for YSM Animators at Sindagi (August 02, 2024):** The Youth Commission conducted a training session for YSM animators of the Bijapur deanery at Loyola School, Sindagi. The workshop aimed to equip the animators with essential skills and strategies to effectively lead and engage the youth. The training provided valuable insights and practical tools to enhance the animators' roles, fostering a more dynamic and supportive environment for youth ministry in the deanery.

**Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Rev. Fr Anand SJ (August 03, 2024):** The Loyola Community at St Xavier's, Sirnoor, celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Rev. Fr Anand SJ's religious life with great joy. The solemn Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by Fr Anand himself, was attended by Bishop, the Provincial Superior, and approximately 40 priests, including Jesuits and diocesan clergy. The event featured a felicitation program honoring Fr Anand's 75 years of dedicated service.

**Laiety Convention for Bidar Deanery at Chikpet (August 3-4, 2024):** The Lay Convention of Bidar Deanery was held at Don Bosco Church, Chikpet, under the theme "Jothe Jothe Nadeyonna, Dharma Sabheyana Bhelesonna," meaning "Let's Walk Together, Let's Be One Church." The event gathered the newly installed Village Pastoral Council, Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council members emphasizing unity and spiritual renewal. Participants engaged in discussions and activities strengthened their commitment to working together as one church community. The convention was a significant step towards fostering collaboration and deeper spiritual connection among the members of the deanery.

**Inter-Religious Forum Hosts Essay and Speech Competitions (August 08, 2024):** The Inter-Religious Forum for Peace and Harmony, Kalaburagi organized inter-school and college competitions in essay writing and public speaking at Mother Theresa Hall, Cathedral. A total of 34 institutions participated in the event, showcasing a high standard of student engagement and talent. The competitions concluded with an award distribution ceremony held at 3:00 p.m., attended by several dignitaries. The students' participation was notably impressive, reflecting the event's success in promoting excellence and inter-religious harmony.

**National Day of Prayer and Protest Held in Kalaburagi (August 10, 2024):** The All Karnataka United Christian Forum for Human Rights hosted a National Day of Prayer and Protest, to call for justice and equality. The event focused on religious



discrimination and urged the government to extend of Scheduled Caste (SC) status to Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians. Bishop Robert Miranda of Gulbarga addressed the gathering referring to the 1950 Presidential Order, which denies SC benefits to Christians for the past 75 years and presented a memorandum outlining the community's demands for the repeal of the 1950 order and the inclusion of all marginalized groups in SC benefits. The event ended with a unifying prayer, reinforcing the commitment to pursue justice and equality for religious minorities in India.

**Laity Convention Held in Gulbarga (August 18, 2024):** A Laity Convention for the Gulbarga and Vijayapura deaneries took place at Cathedral, Gulbarga, with 80 members in attendance. The convention, focused on the theme "Synodal Church: Journeying Together," featured Fr. Santhosh Dias and Fr. Anil Prasad as resource persons. Participants from various parish and mission centres engaged in discussions and activities centered on fostering a collaborative and inclusive church community.

**YUVA SPANDANA 2024 (August 18, 2024):** Muchalamba Mission hosted the YUVA SPANDANA 2024 programme for the Basavakalyan Zone on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024 under the theme "Unity and Diversity: Celebrating Our Commonality and Differences." The event saw the enthusiastic participation of over 50 youth members. The program aimed at fostering a sense of unity and appreciation for diversity among the youth of religions and faiths, highlighting the importance of celebrating both commonalities and differences within our community.

#### NECROLOGY

##### **Mr Kaithan D' Souza (72 Years),**

F/o Rev. Fr David D' Souza, Parish Priest, Surpur and Hebbal Mission and Sr Shobha D' Souza SRA, Santpur passed away on 24 August 2024.

May the Lord receive him in His Eternal abode.

*Our heartfelt condolences to dear Fr David D' Souza, Sr Shobha D' Souza and their family members.*



**Wishing everyone a joyful and blessed Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary!**

**May Mother Mary intercede for us, guiding and protecting us with her loving care.**