



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 233

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

November 2024

Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For anyone who has lost a child: We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

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

1. Bhalki Jathra Utsav (08 -10 Nov): With immense joy and deep gratitude to God for His abundant blessings, we are delighted to invite you to the Bhalki Jathrotsava, the mission festival of our Diocese taking place from November 8-10, 2024. This occasion is a testament to the growth and development of our Missions, for which we are profoundly thankful to the Almighty. We urge all priests, sisters, and volunteers to work wholeheartedly with the Organizing Committee in fulfilling the tasks assigned. Let us work together and make this Jathra Utsav a remarkable and cherished faith experience for all. As is customary, we will be sending the offertory collection of first Sunday of November from our missions and parishes to support the Jathra expenses. I request you to encourage your people and friends to contribute generously to this worthy cause. Thank you for your support and dedication.

This year we conclude the Jathra with an Inter-religious programme named as 'ಅಂತರ ಧರ್ಮೀಯ ಸಮಾಗಮ'. All the priests, sisters are expected to be present for this programme and stay till the end. The programme of the day ends with lowering of the flag at 04:00 PM. Please cooperate.

2. Clergy Annual Retreat (17 - 22 Nov): The 2024 Annual Retreat for clergy is scheduled from November 17 to 22, 2024, at the Sugyan Pastoral Centre in Gulbarga. All priests are expected to arrive at the venue by Sunday, November 17, as the Retreat will commence with a morning meditation talk on November 18. I encourage everyone to dedicate these days solely to the Lord and to uphold this commitment without compromise. Rev. Fr Juventius Adrade CSSR will be leading the sessions. Please remember to bring your Bible, Personal Mass diary and cassock with you. If anyone is unable to attend the Retreat for valid reasons, kindly inform me. Please request our people to pray for the priests in Retreat. Thank you for your cooperation.

3. Priestly Ordination: We are happy to announce that Deacons Arone Vaz, Reginald Pinto, and Antony Francis will be ordained priests on December 08, 2024, at 3:00 PM at the Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral in Gulbarga. We invite everyone to join us in prayer as they prepare to receive this Sacred Ordination. May this significant milestone deepen their commitment to serve and inspire our community.

4. Solemnity of All Saints Day (01 Nov): On this day, the church commemorates the feast of all the Saints, both known and unknown. This celebration serves as a reminder that each and every one of us is called to strive for holiness and that saints are individuals who, like us, lived on this earth but always remained steadfast in their faith

in God. In a special manner, we offer our prayers to all the saints, their continued assistance and guidance throughout our life's journey. Additionally, as we observe Karnataka Rajyotsava Day, let us fervently pray for our State, its leaders, and all people in Karnataka that they may experience peace, equality, justice, and prosperity.

5. All Souls Day (02 Nov): On this day we honor and remember those who have passed away, praying for their eternal rest while reflecting on our own mortality. As we strive to follow the example of the holy souls who came before us, traditions like visiting cemeteries and lighting candles allow us to celebrate the lives of our loved ones. It is essential to educate our people about the practice of offering prayers and Masses for the repose of souls throughout November, and to encourage visits to Graveyards as a means of remembrance. Those who pray for the deceased in a cemetery can receive an Indulgence for the dead: a Plenary Indulgence from November 1 to November 8, and a Partial Indulgence on other days. On November 2, a Plenary Indulgence for the dead can be obtained under the usual conditions, which include visiting a church, receiving the sacraments, and praying for the Pope's intentions.

6. World Day of the Poor (17 Nov): Pope Francis' message for the 2024 World Day of the Poor centers on the theme "the prayer of the poor rises up to God," (Sirach 21:5). He emphasizes that the poor hold a special place in God's heart and reassures us that God will never abandon or ignore our prayers, even in silence. The Pope encourages everyone to befriend the poor and to emulate Jesus' example of solidarity with the marginalized. He suggests that love can be expressed through simple gestures, such as a smile or a comforting word. People may be exhorted to contribute for the poorest in the mission. The complete message from Pope Francis has been shared with you via email and in the WhatsApp group.

7. Solemnity of Christ the King (24 Nov): On the last Sunday of each Liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, observed on the Sunday before Advent begins. As we prepare to enter the Advent season, this day serves as a powerful reminder of Christ's reign as the King of the world, our eternal sovereign and the ultimate judge of humanity. Traditionally, an Eucharistic Procession is held at the deanery level on this day. I request the Deans to coordinate the Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, 24 November and encourage all priests within the deanery to work together for this event. If November 24 is not feasible, an alternative option is to hold the procession on Sunday that coincides with the Feast of the Epiphany.

8. Constitution Day (26 Nov): Constitution Day, or 'Samvidhan Divas', is observed in our country on November 26 to honor the adoption of the Constitution of India. The Constituent Assembly officially adopted the Constitution on November 26, 1949, which came into effect on January 26, 1950.

9. Study of Vatican II Documents: The eleventh episode will be streamed on 15.11.2024 on the theme "The Sacraments", presented by Fr Santhosh Bapu. The twelfth episode will be streamed on 30.11.2024 on the theme "Sunday", presented by Fr Steevan Veigas. Please send the link to your friends. Let all the people benefit from these talks.

10. Youth Retreat: The Youth Retreat on 19-20 October 2024 was a good success. But many more could have made it. While thanking Fr Sachin and Team for the great effort put in we are compelled to withhold approval of some of the scholarship applications. Such students may meet us with a note from Parish Priests on 01st December. Please

note, it is mandatory for students to attach a copy of the Jeevan Jyothi Camp certificate along with loan application.

11. Hearty Congratulations: Hearty congratulations to Rev. Fr Lawrence D' Almeida CSC, on his election as the Provincial Superior of the Holy Cross Congregation. On behalf of the Diocese of Gulbarga, we extend our wishes and blessings to him during this significant moment in his ministry. May God's grace illuminate his path and may the Holy Spirit guide him in leading the Congregation to become ever more vibrant and Spirit-filled. We thank him for his valuable contribution to the diocese at Afzalpur Mission, as COP member and consultor.

12. New Encyclical: We welcome Holy Father, Pope Francis' new Encyclical 'Delexit nos' ("He loved us") issued on 24 October 2024. We are giving you a summary of the document part by part in this and forth coming issues.

Commissions Speak:

Commission for Family Life: There will be Pre-Cana programme on 30th November and 1st December 2024 at ORBIT. Programme begins on Saturday 30th at 9:30 AM and concludes on Sunday 01st at 04:30 PM. Please confirm the number of candidates at the earliest

- Fr Salvadore Fernandes, Secretary, Commission for Family Life

Commission for Youth: The Youth Commission is organizing *Yuvaspandana* programme for Humnabad zone on 24th November at ORBIT

- Fr Sachin Christy, Secretary, Commission for Youth

Commission for Education: Dear Head Mistresses, Managers, Principals & Correspondents, Karnataka Regional Commission for Education (KRCE) has represented with the State Education Text Book Committee for considering our inputs by the Textbook Drafting Committee while rearranging the syllabus and contents as well as reviewing the teaching & student assessment methodology. Kindly gather your inputs for the KRCE Zonal Meeting to be held on 11th November 2024 at 9:30 AM at Sugyan Pastoral Centre, Gulbarga. List the inputs from your Primary school & High School separately on your unit letter head. Please nominate one teacher each from Primary & High School, to submit the data at the Zonal meeting. Kindly ensure it is carried out and completed.

- Fr Steevan Veigas, Secretary, Commission for Education

Commission for Health: There will be De-Addiction Camp on 17th November 2024 at Mother Theresa Charitable Hospital, Kalaburagi

- Fr Vincent Pereira, Secretary, Commission for Health

Eucharistic Procession: On behalf of Priests, Sisters, and lay leaders of the Bidar Zone, I cordially invite you to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday, November 24th at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar. The festivities will begin with a festive Mass at 2:30 PM, followed by a Eucharistic Procession and a communal meal. We request the presence of all Priests, Sisters, and lay faithful to join in this event.

- Fr Clary D' Souza, Dean Bidar Deanery

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: NOVEMBER 2024

- 01 - KUCF Meeting
- 02 - All Souls Day, Cathedral
- 03 - Feast, Daddapur Chapel
- 04 - Consultor's Meeting
- 08-10 - Jathra Utsav 2024
- 14 - Programme, Chincholi School
- 17 - PPC Training, Itga
- 18-22 - Clergy Retreat
- 24 - PPC Training, Talmadigi
- 27 - 28 - Jubilee - Bellary Diocese



† Robert Miranda

Bishop of Gulbarga

Kripalaya, Bishop's House
01 November 2024

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

05	Sr Priyanka BS, <i>Chittapur</i>	18	Sr Stella SCCG, <i>Muddebihal</i>
07	Sr Elvina Souz BS, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	20	Sr Philomena SCCG, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
07	Sr Karuna CSS, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	20	Fr Roshan D' Souza, <i>Wadi</i>
11	Sr Rosemary CSJ, <i>SH Bidar</i>	21	Sr Lovita CSST, <i>Shahabad</i>
11	Sr Lincy Chacko, <i>Afzalpur</i>	23	Fr Thomas D'Souza SJ, <i>Vijayapura</i>
13	Sr Jacinta DHM, <i>Indi</i>	23	Sr Rita D'Souza DHM, <i>Indi</i>
14	Sr Philomena BS, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	24	Sr Shelji CSS, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
14	Sr Papulamma JMJ, <i>D-Hippargi</i>	24	Sr Rexy SJT, <i>Vijayapura</i>
15	Fr Jeson OFM Cap, <i>Halbarga</i>	28	Sr Reena SSpS, <i>Ekamba</i>
15	Sr Leera Maria BS, <i>Humnabad</i>	30	Cl Nithun Varghese SDB, <i>Yadgir</i>
16	Sr Reethika AC, <i>SJ Bidar</i>	30	Sr Shobha SCCG, <i>Muddebihal</i>
18	Bro. Royston Pinto, <i>Santpur</i>		

HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DEAR FATHERS

06	Fr Christopher Xavier SJ, <i>Ujini</i>	29	Fr Victor Anil Vas, <i>ORBIT</i>
10	Fr Sunil Mankare, <i>Itga</i>	29	Fr Wilbert Lobo, <i>Chincholi</i>
15	Antony Lawrence Sj, <i>Vijayapura</i>	30	Fr Joseph Praveen, <i>Cathedral</i>
29	Fr Salvadore Fernandes, <i>Halbarga</i>		

News October 2024

Jeevan Jyothi Camp at Bhalki (October 10-13, 2024): The Jeevan Jyothi Camp took place from October 10 to 13, 2024, in Bhalki, bringing together 96 SSLC students for an enriching experience. Centered on the theme "ಹೊಸ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಗಳು ಹೊಸ ಕನಸುಗಳು" the camp featured insightful sessions led by 16 resource persons, covering various foundational topics for the students' future. Participants engaged in interactive discussions and activities designed to inspire personal growth and ambition. The camp aimed to equip students with valuable skills and knowledge as they prepare for the next phase of their education.

MAGIS Kalaburagi at St Xavier's PU College, Sirnoor (October 10-12, 2024): The MAGIS Program at St Xavier's PU College in Kalaburagi took place from October 10 to 12, 2024, under the inspiring theme "Creating a Hope-Filled Future." Over 300 enthusiastic youth from North Karnataka participated in this dynamic event. Among them, more than 35 youth from our diocese joined the MAGIS, showcasing their commitment to personal and community development. The program featured engaging activities and discussions aimed at empowering young leaders to envision and work towards a brighter future.

Visit of Sponsors from Wickede, Germany (October 12-18, 2024): From October 12 to 18, 2024, our diocese welcomed a group of sponsors from St Antony Parish in Wickede, Germany. Their visit was an expression of support and dedication to the children in our missions. Throughout their stay, they engaged with the community, witnessing the firsthand impactful mission work being done. The sponsors expressed their appreciation for the efforts being made and shared valuable moments with the children they support. We extend our gratitude to them for their love, sacrifice, and commitment to our mission.

Youth Retreat at Bidar (October 18-20, 2024): A youth retreat was successfully conducted from October 18 to 20, 2024, at St Joseph School in Bidar, with 157 participants. Led by Fr Roman Pinto, the retreat featured inspiring talks and spiritual reflections aimed at deepening the youth's faith and promoting personal growth. Sessions covered the significance of the Word of God and the importance of Confession, fostering a deeper connection to their spirituality. Additionally, a healing prayer session provided participants with an opportunity for reflection and renewal.

NECROLOGY

Mr George Purdado (72 Years),

F/o Rev. Fr Deepak Purdado, Rector, Sacred Heart Minor Seminary, Sirnoor,
passed away on 13th October 2024.

May the Lord receive him in His Eternal abode.

Our heartfelt condolences to dear Rev. Fr Deepak Furtado and his family members

Bro. T.K. George (69 Years),

A good friend of this mission diocese passed away on 14th October 2024.

May the Lord receive him in His Eternal abode.

Our heartfelt condolences to his dear and near ones.

***Dilexit Nos* (“He loved us”) of Pope Francis**

Insights and Invitations

I. Profile of the Encyclical

Pope Francis released his fourth encyclical on 24 October 2024, titled *Dilexit Nos* (“He loved us”) reflecting on ‘the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ.’ The encyclical with its 5 chapters runs into 220 paragraphs, and has 227 citations. The encyclical follows *Lumen Fidei* (2013), *Laudato Si’* (2015), and *Fratelli Tutti* (2020).

II. The why?

To make meaning of the symbol of heart that we are able (a) to understand the love of Jesus Christ (cf. DN 2); (b) to follow the imperative of returning to the ‘core’ of ourselves in today’s peripheral world (cf. DN 81); and (c) “to seek a deeper understanding of the communitarian, social and missionary dimension of all authentic devotion to the heart of Christ” (DN 163).

III. Heart:

Symbol and Significance Heart is the ‘inmost part; the centre of the body, soul and spirit; locus of desire; place where decisions are made; it unites the rational and the instinctive aspects of a person’ (DN 3). The heart ‘lies hidden beneath all outward appearances’ (DN 4) and is ‘concealed’ (DN 6); it is ‘the locus of sincerity’ (DN 5), ‘the ultimate of judge of who we are’ (DN 6). The existential questions ‘lead us back to the heart’ (DN 8). Heart ‘creates a synthesis, where we encounter the radical source of our strengths, convictions, passions and decisions’ (DN 9). Heart is ‘the dwelling place of love’ (DN 16, 21). The ‘heart’ coexists with other hearts and makes respectable relationships possible (DN 12). ‘Heart’ refers to ‘an integrated corporeo-spiritual person’ (DN 15). In the heart of each person there is a mysterious connection between self-knowledge and openness to others (DN 18). The heart unites the fragments as in the life of Mary who ‘put things together in heart’ (Lk 2:19), and ‘kept’ (Lk 2:51) (DN 19). Reconciliation and peace are also born of the heart. (DN 28). Our hearts are not selfsufficient, but frail and wounded (DN 30). Hatred, indifference and selfishness can also reign in our hearts. (DN 59). The image of heart ‘has become a symbol of personal intimacy, affection, emotional attachment and capacity for love’ (DN 53).

IV. Our crisis today

In our ‘liquid’ world today, people are frenetic, distracted, dominated by technology, and impatient; they lose their centre (DN 9). The heart has been ignored in anthropology (DN 10). We have devalued both heart and what one speaks from the heart (DN 11). The heartlessness creates alienation from self, others, and God (DN 12). A society dominated by narcissism and self-centredness will increasingly become ‘heartless’ (DN 17). The algorithmic world tends to make every thought and will predictable and uniform (DN 14). However, the algorithms of the artificial intelligence can never capture the (extra)ordinary things of our lives (DN 20). The wars, violence, indifference we face today make us ask a simple question, ‘Do I have a heart?’ (DN 23). What we need is a ‘change of heart’ (DN 29).

V. The Heart of Jesus in the Gospels

The heart of Christ is “ecstasy”, openness, gift and encounter (DN 28), the unifying principle of all reality (DN 31). Christ showed the depth of his love for us not by lengthy explanations but by concrete actions (DN 33). Christ shows that God is closeness, compassion and tender love (DN 35). Jesus gazed upon the crowds and those who sought Him with deep compassion (DN 39-41). Jesus spoke to those who encounter Him, and His words carried a profound emotional weight (DN 43-44). The cross is Jesus’ most eloquent word of love (DN 46). Our devotion must ascend to the infinite love of the Person of the Son of God, yet we need to keep in mind that his divine love is inseparable from his human love (DN 60).

(To be continued)