



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 240 † **ROBERT M. MIRANDA**
BISHOP OF GULBARGA June 2025

Holy Father's Intention for the Month: That the world might grow in compassion: Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

BEGINNING OF THE PONTIFICATE OF POPE LEO XIV – 18th May 2025

"Peace be with all of you!" - the first words of Pope Leo XIV. On May 8th, Cardinal Protodeacon Dominique Mamberti proclaimed to the city of Rome and to the whole world the news that the Conclave had elected Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A., as our Holy Father - Pope Leo XIV. As the first Augustinian Pope, Leo XIV is the second Roman Pontiff from the Americas. The 69-year-old is from the northern part of the continent, though he spent many years as a missionary in Peru before being elected head of the Augustinians for two consecutive terms. On May 18th, Pope Leo XIV presided at the Mass of Inauguration of his Petrine Ministry in Saint Peter's Square, and invited the Church to walk together along the path of God's love and remain united in one family. Over 200,000 pilgrims, leaders from around the world, and representatives of Christian denominations as well as religious delegations included Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Zoroastrian and Jains, among the many present for the celebration. It was a day of great joy and hope for Catholics around the world.

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

A warm welcome to all Priests, Sisters and Brothers who are newly joining the Missions and Parishes in our diocese. We wish you a fruitful ministry. Thanks to all who served this diocese for the past several years and now leaving on a transfer. We remain ever grateful to all of you dear Reverend Fathers and Sisters and wish you all the best in your new assignment.

1. With heartfelt gratitude to God, we celebrate a significant milestone in the life of the Diocese of Gulbarga — the joyful completion of 20 years of our journey as a missionary diocese. These two decades have been marked by perseverance, faith, and the generous witness of countless individuals who have labored with love for the growth of God's Kingdom in North Karnataka. I appeal to all Mission Directors/ Parish Priests and the Superiors of the Religious houses to hold an hour of Adoration in all the Missions/ Parishes on Sunday 1st June or Friday, 6th June giving thanks to the Lord for all His blessings and invoking His blessings on our Mission Diocese in the coming year.

2. **Deanery Level Mission Inauguration and Orientation Programmes:** Obviously, Mission Orientation Programmes which we are conducting every year are found useful, as they become an inspiration for the activities of the whole year with clear set goals and directives.

All the Priests, Directors, Managers and HMs, Superiors of Religious communities and new members are expected to be present for this programme. Other members of your teams are also welcome.

Date	Deanery	Place	Time
07.06.2025	Bidar Deanery	Bidar	9:30 a.m.
08.06.2025	Gulbarga Deanery	Cathedral	9:30 a.m.
15.06.2025	Vijayapura Deanery	St. Anne Church	8:00 a.m.

Rev. Fr. John Sequeira, OCD, the resource person, will share his rich experience with us. Please do not miss this Orientation Programme, as it would set the tone for mission work in your respective places. Besides these three Deanery Level programmes, we will also be meeting at the Zonal Level as mentioned in the Year Plan (2025 – 2026). Let's not miss these meetings for any reason.

3. **Diocesan Pastoral Plan - Journeying Towards Synodal Church Mission 2030:** From the first Pastoral Plan in 2006, we have come a long way, with the publication of Diocesan Pastoral Plan Mission 2030: Journeying Towards Synodal Church. The updated Pastoral Plan is the fruit of a collaborative and prayerful process involving parish priests, mission directors, religious superiors, sisters, lay leaders, and commission secretaries. I place on record my sincere appreciation to each of them for their spirit of sacrifice, teamwork, and unwavering commitment to the mission. It is my hope that this Pastoral Plan is not just a document, but a living, breathing path forward. We expect all the members in the Mission Team and all the Religious to include this as priority one. Let's walk together in the spirit of the Lord while implementing this plan.
4. **Catechism Faith Formation Classes:** Takes prime place in our pastoral programmes. Please see that Catechism is organised for children and youth on all Sundays at the parish and on weekdays in the villages from Sunday, June 1st.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sr. Matilda, parishioner of Sacred Heart Church, Bidar, has made her First Profession in the Cloistered Carmel on 2nd May 2025. She will now be known as Sr. Miriam.

5. **Admission to Schools and Colleges:** As the new academic year begins, it is important that our children and youth get admitted to good schools and colleges. As a policy, all catholic schools will give admission to the catholic children giving 50% fee concession to the poor. The diocese encourages all poor students to join job oriented courses or degree offering 50% of the fees as a study loan. I kindly request your assistance in providing proper guidance and motivation to the children, ensuring they have the best opportunities for their education. It has been observed that in many places, Catholic parents are not cooperating by paying even the 50%

of the fee they are responsible for. I request you to make announcement in the church and inform them about this concession. Please note, further concessions will only be considered for exceptional cases.

6. **Annual Report of the Mission Centre (2024-2025):** Please submit your annual report of the various Faith Formation activities in your mission centre during the year. Let the report contain information on Village visits, Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Pre-Cana Programmes, Marriages, Marriage Enrichment Programmes (MEP), Faith Formation Camps, MCA activities, Youth Activities, and any other activities with few photographs and statistics. Please submit the soft copy to chanceryglb@gmail.com. This is needed to prepare the consolidated report of the Diocese.

REMINDER: Please send ALL the members' names, contact numbers, date of birth, date of ordination and email id along with the photographs of your Parish / Mission / Communities to chanceryglb@gmail.com latest by June 8th.

7. **Solemnities and Feasts:**

- i) **Solemnity of the Pentecost Sunday (June 8):** The fifty days of the season of Easter will conclude with the Solemnity of Pentecost, when the church recalls how the Holy Spirit descended upon Mary and the Apostles, who were gathered together in the Upper Room, also known as the Cenacle. This also marks the beginning of the Church and the start of the Apostles' mission to announce the Good news that death is overcome, that Christ is Risen to all peoples, languages and nations. Jesus, having ascended into heaven, gave us the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (the Solemnity celebrated last Sunday), the first gift given to believers – the Person of Love poured out into our beings so we might live as children of God. We pray on the feast of Pentecost that the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, may fill us all with the love of Christ. Let us welcome the Holy Spirit, who abundantly lavishes upon us all its rich and variety of charisms, renew us, fills the hearts of the faithful, and enkindles in us the fire of love of Christ. Let us celebrate Pentecost with faith and a desire for the Holy Spirit to renew and revive the Church. Please organise vigil service or night adoration wherever possible. We shall especially surrender our mission to the Holy Spirit.
- ii) **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity or Trinity Sunday (June 15):** The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity calls us to celebrate the mystery of our Christian faith – the revelation of God – as the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, three distinct Persons united in total communion as one God. This Solemnity is a sort of synthesis and, above all, directs us toward the goal of our journey. This God, who presents Himself as One and Triune, is not all that distant as it seems, but is so very close to each one of us. This mystery is the base of the Church's communion, fellowship, its source of life and mission. The love, unity and joy in the relationship between the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit is a supreme model for all of our relationships within our Christian families, when we can live in a relationship of love with God and others.

iii) Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ - Corpus Christi (June 22): The Solemnity of *Corpus Christi* invites us to enter into another mystery, Christ who becomes Bread broken for us, Corpus Christi. This Bread, the Bread of angels, nourishes us on our journey toward heaven and it is as very near to us since it is perennially “broken” for us: This is my Body... This is my blood.” The real presence of Jesus Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist, a memorial of the His saving sacrifice. It is a sign that reminds all of us of the merciful love of God who becomes the food and drink of salvation for humanity on its early pilgrimage. This feast highlights for us the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the faithful.

iv) Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24): The Solemnity of the birth of St. John the Baptist commemorates his birth, which is seen as a day of triumph and joy, foreshadowing the birth of Christ. He was the last of the great prophets of Israel, the first to testify to Jesus, who initiated a baptism for the forgiveness of sins and, in this context, baptized Jesus; he was a martyr who died defending the Judaic law. This feast calls us to reflect on our call to prepare our hearts and lives for Christ our Lord.

This is also the day when our Diocese was erected (2005) by Pope Benedict XVI who also appointed me as the first Bishop of this new Diocese. May God be praised for all the marvels that He has done for me in this diocese.

v) Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 27): The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – also the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests – is celebrated on the Friday after the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. The devotion gained attraction with the revelations of our Lord to Sr. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), to whom in a vision He said, “*My Divine Heart is so passionately in love with humanity that it can no longer contain within itself the flames of its ardent love. It must pour them out. I have chosen you for this great plan.*” This feast helps us to see the immense love and mercy Christ has for all people in the world. Jesus’ Heart symbolizes His compassion, forgiveness and unconditional love for humanity. In 1995, Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests on this same day so that the priesthood might be protected in the hands of Jesus, rather in his heart, so it could be open to everyone. Let us teach people to consecrate their families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Divine Heart of Jesus, I offer you through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Mother of the Church, in union with the Eucharistic Sacrifice, my prayers, actions,
joys and sufferings of this day in reparation for sins and for the salvation of all people,
in the grace of the Holy Spirit for the glory of the Heavenly Father. Amen.

vi) Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles (June 29): This celebration is a liturgical feast in honor of the martyrdom in Rome of the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul. The entrance antiphon on their solemnity focuses our minds on this mystery in these words: “These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.” Church’s liturgy also emphasizes Peter’s profession and Paul’s teaching. Peter’s mission emphasized professing Christ to his fellow Jews, the Chosen People while Paul’s announcement was to the Gentiles. On this Solemnity the words of St. Augustine exhorts us, “Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching and their confession of faith” (Office of Readings).

8. **TRANSFERS AND NEW ASSIGNMENTS – 2025 (continued)**

No.	Name	To	w.e.f.
11.	Rev. Fr. David Fernandes, SAC	Director of St. Joseph the Worker, Muchalamba Mission	03.06.2025
12	Rev. Fr. Derrik Barnabas	Assistant Parish Priest to St. Joseph's Church, Bidar	01.06.2025
13	Rev. Fr. Kulandai Albert, CSC	Assistant Director of ORBIT	03.06.2025
14	Rev. Fr. Salvadore Fernandes	<i>Socius</i> to Rev. Fr. Robert Crasta Christ the King Church, Ujini Mission	02.06.2025
15	Rev. Fr. Satish Kumar, OFM Cap	Director of the Anugraha, Halbarga Mission	01.06.2025
16	Bro. Ancy Vion Lobo	Diaconal Ministry at Bhalki Mission	01.06.2025

A WARM WELCOME TO REV. FR. DAVID FERNANDES, SAC, REV. FR. DEREK BARNABAS, REV. FR. KULANDAI ALBERT, CSC, REV. FR. VINCENT LOBO. WE WISH THEM A FRUITFUL MINISTRY.

Thanks to the Capuchin Fathers for taking up pastoral and mission work at Halbarga Mission.

NECROLOGY

Sr. M Sarita BS who served Humnabad Centre, Passed away on 30 April 2025

Sr. Stephine BS who served Jalsangi Mission, Passed away on 1st May 2025

Fr. Dominic Savio Veigus who served as Parish Priest of Halbarga Mission Passed away on 20th May 2025.

Mr. Joseph Charles Thomas, Beloved Father of Fr. Deepak Thomas (OCD) of Kadaganchi Mission, Passed away on 6th May 2025. May the Lord receive him in His Eternal abode

Our heartfelt condolences to all the family members.

9. **SSLC Results:** Commendations to all the Managers, Principals and Faculty members for your hard work and dedication. Compared to the previous year our results this year are poor. HM's and Managers please do not be discouraged; rather motivate the staff to work for the best result in the year to come. Let's continue our efforts of imparting value based education to our students and make them responsible citizens of this nation. May God bless you all.

No.	Name of the School	Result %
1	Sneha Sadan, Kankal	100%
2	Loyola School, Sindagi	100%
3	Deepalaya School, Santhpur	95%
4	St. Anne School, Basavakalyan	95%
5	Anugraha School, Halbarga	95%
6	Prerana School, Shorapur	92%
7	Premanjali Convent School, Ujini	91%
8	St. Joseph Eng. Med. School, Bidar	91%
9	Bethany High School, Kalaburagi	90%
10	Bethany Eng. Med. School, Chittapur	90%
11	St. Joseph Eng. Med. School, Kalaburagi	88%
12	Bethany School, Humnabad	86%
13	Sneha Sangam School, Vijayapura	85%
14	Mount Carmel School, Shahabad	85%
15	Vidya Jyothi School, Hulsoor	82%
16	RNDM School, Almel	81%
17	St. Joseph Kan. Med. School, Bidar	80.89%
18	Bethany Kan. Med. School, Chittapur	80%
19	St. Mary's School, Kotnoor	78%
20	St. Mary School, Cathedral	77%
21	St. Peter School, Shahapur	76%
22	Loyola Eng. Med. School, Vijayapura	75%
23	St. Joseph Kan. Med. School, Kalaburagi	72.50%
24	Don Bosco School, Bablad	57%
25	St. Ambrose School, Wadi	68%
26	Sacred Heart English Medium High School, Talikote	65%
27	Berni High School, Jewargi	62%
28	Divya Jyothi High School, Bhalki	36%

10. **Thanks to Seminarians:** We thank all the Seminarians from Udupi Diocese who came for their mission exposure programme to our Diocese at Bhalki and Kamalnagar. Their ministry has indeed enriched them and helped our people.

11. Commissions Speak:

Commission for Faith Formation: On Sunday, 1st June, all parishes are requested to inaugurate Faith Formation classes and begin on Sunday, 8th June.

Orientation Program for catechism Teachers (Gulbarga Deanery) on June 21st (Saturday) 9:30a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - Mother Theresa Hall, Gulbarga.

Orientation Program for Catechism Teachers - Bidar Deanery (Holy Redeemer Church, Bhalki) on June 22nd (Sunday) 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Resource person - Rev. Fr. Vijay Machado, Executive Secretary, CCBI commission for Faith Formation, Goa.

- Fr. Deepak Furtado, Secretary

Commission for Proclamation and Evangelisation: MCA Animators training programmes at Zonal level are scheduled on 21st June for Gulbarga and on 22nd June for Bidar.

- Fr. Abhishek Moses, Secretary

Commission for Social Communication: As per the National Pastoral Plan, schools are encouraged to establish various clubs such as the Media Club, Eco Club, Science Club, etc. We kindly request the Headmistress of the High School to initiate a Media Club in your esteemed institution in alignment with this directive. For guidance and support in setting up the club, please contact Fr. Roshan, who will assist you in this process.

The Media Club will play a vital role in educating students about the responsible use of media and help them avoid its potential dangers. Media Club inauguration at all Schools will be held on Friday, 27th June for Gulbarga and Saturday, 28th June for Bidar.

- Fr. Roshan D'Souza, Secretary

Commission for Youth:

8th June – ICYM Office Bearers Election at each Parish respectively

21st June – YSM Animators training at Bidar at Sacred Heart Church for Bidar Deanery

22nd June – Youth Animators training for Bidar Deanery at Sacred Heart Church

24th June – YSM Animators training for Gulbarga Deanery at Cathedral hall

28th June – YSM Animators training for Vijayapura Deanery at Loyola school, Sindagi

29th June – ICYM Office Bearers training at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar

- Fr. Sachin Christy, Secretary

Commission for Women:

A meeting of Animators and two representatives of the Women's Commission will be held on June 14th at 2:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar (Bidar Deanery), and on June 15th at 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral, Gulbarga (Gulbarga Deanery).

- Sr. Maria Reetha, Secretary

Commission for Migrants:

The Migrants Commission's team meeting to plan for the year will be held on 14th June.

- Fr. Satish Kumar OFM Cap., Secretary

Commission for Ecology:

As we celebrate the Jubilee year 2025 the Ecology commission of our Diocese would like to encourage and promote the environment by planting 2025 plants in collaboration with commission for social concerns. Hence I would like to request you to join this venture by planting the fruit plants in your campus. We will be supplying quality and guarantee fruit plants. We will pay 50% of the price. I request ICYM, GDES and women commission to collaborate with us to make this venture successful.

- Fr. Vincent Thoras, Secretary

12.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

02	Sr. Juliana Pereira HMR	18	Sr. Hrudaya Mary JMJ
06	Sr. Felicy Rose SMMI	19	Fr. Sunil Andrade
06	Sr. Gloria Maria Crasta SCCG	20	Sr. Susan Joseph SJC
07	Sr. Reshma Francis D'Souza UFS	21	Fr. Sandeep Goveas OCD
09	Sr. Lilly Maria MC	21	Fr Philip Raj Joseph Sch
10	Sr. Precinta SMMI	21	Sr. Maria Vanitha Ferrao UFS
11	Fr Christopher Xavier SJ	22	Sr. Remolin Knar RNDM
11	Sr. Leena D'Costa SCSC	28	Sr. Pramila Anthonymuthu SCCG
15	Sr. Kavitha Lobo BS	29	Sr. Cynthia Cardoza SCCG
15	Sr. Sheela Jenifer DSS	30	Fr Roshan Pinto SJ

13.

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: JUNE 2025

- 01 - Mass at Halbarga Mission, Blessing of 'Assisi Nivas' Halbarga
- 07 - Mission Inauguration and Orientation - Bidar
- 08 - Mission Inauguration and Orientation – Gulbarga
- 10 - Blessing of renovated Chapel at Dhupatmahagaon
- 14 - Blessing of renovated Chapel at Kurkunta, Sedam
- 15 - Mission Inauguration and Orientation - Vijayapura
- 17 - Zonal level Planning (Basavkalyan, Bhalki)
- 18 - Zonal level Planning (Aurad, Bidar)
- 19 - Zonal level Planning (Humnabad)
- 20 - Sevasangama / GDES G.B. Meeting
- 21 - Catechism Teachers Training and MCA Training for Animators – Bidar Deanery
- 22 - Catechism Teachers Training and MCA Training for Animators – Gulbarga & Vijayapura Deanery
- 23 - Mother Teresa Charitable Hospital G.B. Meeting
- 26 - Mission Orientation (New comers) – Bidar Deanery
- 29 - ICYM /YSM Election & Training /Mass at Chincholi Mission

Kripalaya, Bishop's House
31 May 2025



† Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga

News May 2025

- 1. Yuvachethana Youth Commission Career Guidance:** Yuvachethana, the youth wing of the Diocese of Gulbarga, at ORBIT, Humnabad, A successful and impactful Career Guidance Program was organized by drawing the participation of 37 enthusiastic youth from various mission centers. Thanks to Fr. Sachin Christy, Youth Director, for organizing this programme for our youth.
- 2. Labour Day celebration:** On May 8th at Bablad's brick kiln in Gulbarga by the Commission for Labour partnered with Don Bosco PYaR and Divine Nursing Institute, Gulbarga to commemorate Labour Day with a life-changing two-hour medical camp. Nearly 70 brick kiln workers and their families, who are often overlooked in their tireless toil at this uplifting event, received medical check-ups, medicines and tonics.
- 3. Sankalpa Camp:** The Commission for Education (GDES) organised its yearly Sankalpa Camp at Sugyan Diocesan Pastoral Centre from 21st April to 11th May, aimed to promote children towards Civil Services. With 64 exceptionally bright students in attendance, the camp focused on imparting essential soft skills and motivation to pursue careers in Civil Services. Activities included educational sessions, soft skills development workshops, motivational talks, mock examinations and individual mentoring. The camp achieved notable outcomes, including enhanced their self-knowledge, self-confidence and decision for life. Thanks to Fr. Steevan Veigas, Secretary GDES, and his team for all their efforts.
- 4. Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Ancy Vion Lobo:** With great joy and gratitude to God, Bro. Ancy Vion Lobo was solemnly conferred with the Diaconate by Most Rev. Robert Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga on 11th May 2025 at Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral, Kalaburagi. Priests, religious, family members and faithful from various parishes participated with a spirit of joy and thanksgiving, as the Church welcomed a new deacon into its service.
- 5. Training programme for all HMs/Principals and teachers:** The Commission for Education organised training programmes for all HMs/Principals and teachers from different schools conducted at three locations Gulbarga, Bidar and Vijayapura. This structured initiative was designed to equip our educators with the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to improve their teaching practice and student outcomes. Rev. Fr. Edward Philip SJ from Mysore was the resource person.
