



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 241

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

July 2025

Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For formation in discernment: Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

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

Thanks for your participation in the Deanery Zonal Level Programmes of Mission Orientation and Pastoral Planning. You were present in good numbers. All the Directors, except in one place, presented the progress and changes of their mission well. It was amazing to see the enthusiasm of our PPC members. Please include them in your PPP – Parish Pastoral Plan. I hope, by now, you are ready with your Action Plans for the Year 2025-26. Please send us a copy at your earliest for our records.

I also would like to see a change at the village level, Village Pastoral Committee (VPC), taking an active role in organizing all the Pastoral Services, such as: Catechism, MCA, Youth, BEC, Liturgy, Bhajans and PRO role. Please assign these roles to them and according to their aptitude and talents. This in place and with your constant support – you'll see things far better for you in the villages. The village community will become a vibrant faith community. Directors, please do not forget to hold an informal meeting of the VPC at least once in 2 months. Your support and accompaniment matters a lot.

So also, mark in your Year Plan the PPC and PFC meetings (3 each), so that we truly become a Synodal Church. Please share the dream of the Church and implement the same to the best of our abilities. Let's not be cynical or pessimistic. Instead, let's do our part and leave the rest to God. Your mission is great. It's God's gift in your hands.

I also feel, our missions/ parishes also need to be supported by our prayers and sacrifices. Therefore, I wish you have an hour of Adoration on Fridays every week according to the convenience of the Team Members. You are in my prayers always.

Family Prayer: As you are aware, as most of our families do not have daily family prayer, make it a point to introduce 'Family prayer' in every family during your regular family visits. Directors / Parish Priest, please ensure daily family prayer in all families entrusted in your care.

Finally, hold monthly Team Meetings regularly every month. Evaluate the past month's activity and plan for the next month. Well begun is half done, they say. We've begun the Year well. Let's continue in the same spirit till the end. Let our aim be only to become a Synodal Church – of Communion, Participation and Mission.

CLERGY RECOLLECTION

1. Clergy Recollection shall be held on 30th and 31st July at Sugyan. Please ensure all Priest and Religious are present.

2. **BEC Jubilee Celebrations:** The Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) has charted out zone-wise Jubilee Year celebrations according to the details mentioned below. Let's make it a truly memorable event.

Date	Zone	Place
06.07.2025 Sunday	Aurad & Bidar zone	Bidar
20.07.2025 Sunday	Bhalki & Basavakalyan zone	Bhalki

3. **HASIRU Jubilee and Laudato Si Week (5th to 11th July):** During this Jubilee Year 2025, Gulbarga Diocese plans to symbolically plant **2025** saplings – not only planting them but also caring and nurturing them. This Green Initiative also marks the 10th Anniversary of *Laudato Si*, the landmark encyclical by Pope Francis on the care for our common home. I encourage all parishes and mission centres to take up this initiative and foster a spirit of loving concern for our environment and the world we live in. Please make it a memorable event in your parish.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO ALL NEW PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS WHO HAVE JOINED GULBARGA DIOCESE. MAY YOUR TIME SPENT HERE BE FRUITFUL FOR YOU AND ALL THOSE WHOM YOU COME IN TOUCH WITH.

4. **Update of Council of Priests (2024 – 2027):** As new transfers have taken place the Council of Priests have been updated accordingly. The list has been enclosed with the circular for your reference.

Annual Report of the Mission Centre (2024-2025)

A gentle reminder to submit your annual reports (according to the format) either in hard copy or via email to chanceryglb@gmail.com

5. Solemnities and Feasts:

Solemnity of the St. Thomas the Apostle of India (July 3): St. Thomas, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ, came to India in 52 A.D., and landed at Kodungallur on the Malabar (presently Kerala) coast. He was martyred in 72 A.D. His tomb is venerated until this day. It is St. Thomas who upon seeing the risen Christ makes that historical confession as, "My Lord and my God!". His sudden realization of truth made Thomas the first person to explicitly acknowledge Jesus' divinity. St. Thomas journey of faith, his missionary zeal which lead him to preach the Gospel in India, and his martyrdom calls each one of us as we work in different mission and ministries in our mission diocese and to ask St. Thomas to intercede for us.

Congratulations to Fr. Shabu Francis, SDB & Fr. Kuriakose, SDB from Don Bosco, Yadgir and Don Bosco, PYaR who are honored by local authorities on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour on 12th June for their tireless efforts in rescuing and rehabilitating child labourers.

Feast of St. Mary Magdalene (July 22): The memorial of Saint Mary Magdalene was elevated to a Feast by Pope Francis during the Jubilee of Mercy to highlight the relevance of this woman who had such a great love for Christ and who was very much loved by Christ.

She faithfully followed Christ after receiving love and forgiveness for her sins without judgment or condemnation. She had the honor of being the *prima testis* (first witness) of the resurrection of the Lord, the first to see the empty tomb, and the first to hear the truth of his resurrection and the also the first to witness to Christ's resurrection before the apostles. Christ had a special consideration and mercy for this woman who showed such great love toward Him. St. Mary Magdalene is the patron saint of converts, repentant sinners, and pharmacists.

Feast of St. James, the Apostle (July 25): James the Greater, of the sons of Zebedee, as he was known, along with his brother John, were zealous followers of Christ. We read in Acts 12:1–3, Herod Agrippa, who ruled Judea from 41–44, martyred James the Greater as a way of appeasing the Pharisaic Jews who were opposed to Jesus and His followers. The place where St. James is buried is now *Santiago* (Saint James) of *Compostela* (field of stars) and has been a major pilgrimage site the *Camino de Santiago* (Way of Saint James), Spain is a route traveled on foot. As we honor this holy Apostle, ponder his willingness to stand strong in the face of persecution and death. That courage must inspire us to have hope and strength in the face of anything we endure in life.

Memorial of St. Joachim and St. Anne – Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary (July 26): Today the Church celebrates the parents of the Virgin Mary, the grandparents of Jesus, Saints Joachim and Anne. In their home, Mary came into the world, accompanied by the extraordinary mystery of the Immaculate Conception. Mary grew up in the home of Joachim and Anne; she was surrounded by their love and faith: in their home she learned to listen to the Lord and to follow his will. Saints Joachim and Anne were part of a long chain of people who had transmitted their faith and love for God, expressed in the warmth and love of family life, down to Mary, who received the Son of God in her womb. How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith! (Pope Francis) This Feast is also celebrated as the **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly (July 27).**

Memorial of St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu (July 28): St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu was born in Kudamalur, the Arpookara region, in the diocese of Changanacherry, India, on the 19th of August 1910. From her birth, the life of the Blessed was marked by the cross, which would be progressively revealed to her as the royal way to conform herself to Christ. She joined the convent of the Franciscan Clarists at Bharananganam in 1935 as a novice. Jesus, however, wished to lead His spouse to perfection through a life of suffering, even her final year of life was a continuous agony with the discovery of a tumor which had spread throughout her organs. Through it all she entrusted herself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, gladly undergoing it all for His sake. She entered into her heavenly abode finally joined eternally to Christ on 28th July 1946.

Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola (July 30): Ignatius from Loyola, Spain, began his adult life as a knight and soldier where he learned many sins, gambling, fighting, treachery, and womanizing. At a battle his leg was injured. It was during the period of convalescence that he experienced a radical conversion to Christ. He documented his spiritual progress, eventually publishing his insights in his classic, the *Spiritual Exercises*. His ideals and creative leadership drew impressive followers, including St. Francis Xavier who came to evangelise India. They founded the Society of Jesus, preeminent Catholic Order of men in the world. It is to be gratefully remembered that the Jesuits saved Europe from

Protestantism, evangelized entire countries by themselves, educated the higher classes of many nations for centuries, and taught a Catholic humanism of the highest caliber.

6. Commissions Speak:

Commission for Women:

Gulbarga Diocese Women Commission organizes retreat for women of Gulbarga Deanery on August 10th from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. at Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral. Please announce this on Sunday, 3rd August.

- Sr. Maria Reetha, Secretary

Commission for Liturgy:

Training on Liturgy and Liturgical Norms on 19th July for All Priests and Sisters at Sugyan.

- Fr. Gerald Sagar, Secretary

Commission for Ecology:

As we celebrate the Jubilee year 2025 '*Laudato Si*' week from 6th July, 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, Women commission and Commission for Social Concern to collaborate with us to make this venture successful.

- Fr. Vincent Thoras, Secretary

7.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

01	Sr Usha BS	13	Fr Wilson Moras SJ
03	Fr. Wilfred Dsilva OFM Cap	15	Sr. Anees George SCSC *
06	Fr. Ronald Fernandes CSC **	16	Sr Mary Naik JMJ
06	Sr. Sandra Maria BS*	19	Sr. Gracy Ulahannan SSA*
06	Fr. Joby Kanimattathil SDB	20	Fr. Regironald Pinto
06	Fr. Josephvaz Monteiro SJ *	21	Fr. George Antony SCJ*
06	Sr. Cynthia D Souza SSpS	23	Sr. Saritha Clara D'Souza SRA *
07	Sr. Jenifer Dias SRA	23	Sr. Anjali CCV
07	Sr. Dorathi Fernandes SCCG	26	Sr. Janet A. SCSC
08	Sr. Sanjukta RNDM	29	Fr. Sachin Christi
09	Fr. Sumanbalu SJ	30	Sr. Ignatia Ekka SRA
10	Sr. Joanna Coelho SCCG		

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: JULY 2025

- 02 - Prayer at Christasharama, Kaudiyal
- 03 - WEP Leaders meet in ORBIT
- 06 - BEC Jubilee – Bidar & Aurad Zone
- 06 - DexCo Election
- 11-13 - Mangalore
- 16 - Mass at Jamgi Colony
- 17 - GDES General Body Meeting
- 19 - Seminar on Liturgy and Liturgical Norms (For All Priests and Religious)
- 20 - BEC Jubilee – Bhalki & Basavakalyan Zone
- 21-23 - Visit to DSS Shimoga / Udupi
- 25 - Visit to Hunaji Village – Kosam / Kon Melkunda
- 26 - Visit to Divya Jyothi School, Bhalki
- 28 - Visit to Milagres School, Itga
- 30-31 - Clergy Recollection (Sugyan)

Kripalaya, Bishop's House
30 June 2025

† Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga

News June 2025

- 1. Inauguration of new Presbytery – Assisi Nivas:** The new presbytery named Assisi Nivas was inaugurated and blessed by Bishop Robert Miranda and Vicar General Rev. Fr. Santhosh Bapu at Halbarga Mission on June 1st. Fr. Salvadore Fernandes and Fr. Satish Kumar OFM Cap, the new Parish Priest, Sisters and faithful of Halbarga Mission were present.
- 2. Mission Orientation Program across Deaneries:** Mission Orientation Programmes were successfully conducted at Kalaburagi, Bidar and Vijayapura Deaneries on June 7, 8 and 15 June 2025 respectively. Rev. Fr. John Sequeira, OCD, the resource person shared his rich experience and inspired those who participated. The orientations were insightful and discussions focused on the mission of Jesus and His identity. On this special occasion, Bishop Robert Miranda released the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan: Mission 2030, Building a Synodal Church at Bhalki on 7th June.
- 3. Meeting of Faith Based Organisations:** A meeting was held for all the Faith Based organisations in the presence of Bishop Robert Miranda on June 16th. Each organisation presented their achievements and challenges. It was agreed to form a Network Organisation for all FBO's in the Diocese. Thanks to Fr. Victor Vas, Director ORBIT, for organizing this meeting.

NECROLOGY

David Simeon, Former Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman, passed away on 10 June 2025. May eternal rest be granted him for decades of his remarkable public service.

Our heartfelt condolences to all the family members.

- 4. Blessing of Holy Spirit Church at Dhupatmahagaon village:** Bishop Robert along with and Vicar General Fr. Santhosh Bapu blessed the newly renovated Church dedicated of the Holy Spirit at Dhupatmahagaon village, Santhpur on June 10th. All the faithful gathered together for this joyful and memorable occasion which began with a Eucharist followed by a cultural programme and fellowship meal. Thanks to Fr. Lawrence, Director, for his hard work towards the renovation of the Chapel.
- 5. Inauguration of Chapel at Kurukunta, Sedam:** The newly renovated chapel at Kurugunta, Sedam was inaugurated and blessed on June 14th with a Eucharistic celebration led by Bishop Robert Miranda and Vicar General Rev. Fr. Santhosh Bapu. A special note of gratitude to Fr. Anthony Selvam MSFS for his dedication and tireless efforts in making the renovation a reality.
- 6. Memorial service / Shradhanjali for Late David Simeon:** A heartfelt Shradhanjali organised by Karnataka United Christian Forum for Human Rights (KUCFHR) was held on June 14th in honor of Late David Simeon, Former Karnataka Legislative Council Chairman, who passed away on 10 June 2025. On this touching ceremony, Bishop Robert Miranda and Vicar General Rev. Fr. Santhosh Bapu, the family members, community leaders and politicians paid rich tribute to Late David Simeon and expressed admiration and gratitude for his decades of public service and leadership.
- 7. Zonal Planning Meetings:** On June 17, 18, 19 the Zonal Planning Meetings were held at Basavakalyan, Bhalki, Aurad, Bidar and Humnabad respectively, in the presence of Bishop Robert Miranda and Vicar General Fr. Bapu, who facilitated the meeting, guiding the participants in the implementation of the DPP in the spirit of Synodal planning and grassroots mission realities seeking active participation of the PPC members.
- 8. Domestic Workers Day:** 16th, 18th and 24 June at various centres, parishes and institutions across Gulbarga Diocese International Domestic Workers Day was celebrated in appreciation of our domestic staff and upholding dignity of labour.
- 9. Catechism Teachers Orientation:** The Commission for Faith Formation organised Deanery-wise Catechism Teachers' Orientation Program for Catechism Teachers and Animators on 21st and 22nd June at Gulbarga and Bidar respectively. Rev. Fr. Vijay Machado (Secretary, CBCI Commission for Faith Formation, Goa) practical and dialogical approach made the program highly interactive and engaging, providing participants' concrete methods and insights to enhance their ministry. Bishop Robert Miranda encouraged everyone to make the most of this enriching experience.
- 10. ICYM Elections, Training and Inauguration:** Fr. Sachin Christi, Secretary for Youth Commission coordinated the ICYM elections across the diocese and conducted training sessions for ICYM and YSM Office bearers and animators on Sunday, June 29th. The training focused on the active participation and youth contributions to the local churches.

DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS 2024 -2027

<u>Ex-Officio</u>	Name	Place	Mobile No
Bishop	Most Rev. Robert M. Miranda	Kripalaya	9448568555
Vicar General	Msgr. Santhosh Bapu	Kripalaya	9448790575
Chancellor & PRO	Msgr. Stany Lobo	Kripalaya	9448716111
Procurator	Fr. Fredrick D'Souza	Kripalaya	9480200497 (p) 9482912497 (o)
<u>Deans</u>	Fr. Joseph Praveen	Kalaburagi	9632351072
	Fr. Clary D' Souza	Bidar	9972540237
	Fr. Sunil Fernandes S.J	Vijayapura	9740078338
<u>Elected Members</u> Bidar Deanery	Fr. Robert Crasta	Ujini	9964002484
	Fr. David Anthony	Bhalki	8861408025
	Fr. Victor Vas	Humnabad	9843112739
	Fr. Arogyadas SAC	Hulsoor	9665404138
	Fr. Satish Kumar OFM Cap	Halbarga	8762578713
Kalaburagi Deanery	Fr. Vincent Pereira	Kalaburagi	9632266168
	Fr. Gerald Sagar	Shahabad	8722195758
	Fr. Stephen Veigas	Shahapur	9449273504
	Fr. Antony Selvam	Sedam	9916455915
Vijayapura Deanery	Fr. Joseph Vaz Monteiro SJ	Vijayapura	8123870289
	Fr. Sunil Andrade	Talikote	9845799129
<u>Nominated Members</u>	Fr. Maxim Misquith SJ	Kalaburagi	8150005601
	Fr. Wilson Fernandes	Bidar	9481541478
	Fr. Roque Naveen D'Souza	Chincholi	9845833657
	Fr. Clevon Gomes	Santpur	8861091762