



# DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 242

† **ROBERT M. MIRANDA**  
**BISHOP OF GULBARGA**

August 2025

**Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For mutual coexistence:** Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

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

## 1. **Jubilee Year 2025 - Samavesha (Lay Leader's Convention) for PPC/VPC/PFC members, Priests and Sisters**

To enhance the involvement of the members of our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), Parish Finance Committee (PFC) and Village Pastoral Council (VPC) in implementing the Diocesan Pastoral Plan at the village parish, deanery and diocesan levels, we are organizing **Samavesha -Lay Leader's Convention** for Bidar Deanery on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at St Joseph's High School Hall at Bidar (For Gulbarga and Vijayapura Deanery it will be on 21<sup>st</sup> September at the Cathedral) Rev Fr. Anil Prasad, Coordinator KRPPC and Fr. Richard Menezes OCD have graciously agreed to lead this event as the resource persons. The programme begins on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August by 9.30 a.m. and ends by 4.30 pm. I urge all Priests, Sisters, PPC, PFC and VPC members to attend this significant event. I request the Parish Priests/ Directors to help the participants to reach the venue in time.

## 2. **Anniversary of Gulbarga Diocese and my Episcopal Ordination (August 18):**

Our Diocese joyously steps into the year 21<sup>st</sup> since its formal erection and inauguration on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2005. The Lord has abundantly blessed this diocese. Filled with deep gratitude in our hearts, let us continue to serve and enhance its vibrancy. This date also marks the anniversary of my Episcopal Ordination. I am deeply grateful for your whole hearted support and cooperation for the last 20 years. I humbly request your prayers that I may continue to lead and serve this mission Diocese with the heart of Jesus, Our Good Shepherd. I'll be celebrating a Thanks giving Mass at the Cathedral on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> evening at 6:00 pm. You are dearly welcome to join me.

## 3. **Feast of St. John Mary Vianney (August 4):** St. John Vianney was born in France to a poor farming family. Though a slow learner, he was ordained because of his deep devotion. In 1818, he was sent to the village of Ars, where he served for the rest of his life. Known for his holiness and spiritual insight, he spent up to 18 hours a day hearing confessions. His fame drew thousands, making Ars a place of pilgrimage. In 1848, he received the Légion d'Honneur, which he sold to help the poor. Pope Pius XI later named him the patron saint of all the priests. Let us pray through the intercession of St. John Vianney, may we grow in pastoral charity and lead others to Christ. Amen. **(Please note , we will be celebrating this Festive Mass on the day of Clergy Recollection on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July)**

## 4. **Justice Sunday (August 24):** Dear Fathers, Sisters, and Mission Directors, Justice Sunday will be observed on **August 24**, with the theme: **"A Call for Climate Justice and the Common Home."** We are called to an ecological conversion that

leads to genuine transformation and a critical awareness of false solutions. Let us celebrate this day meaningfully by promoting care for creation, climate justice, and a sustainable lifestyle in our parishes and mission centres. The liturgy for the day will be sent to you shortly by email.

#### 5. **Gulbarga Diocesan Website**

Dear Parish/Mission Directors Diocesan & Religious, please send a clear and well-angled photo of your Church Building that best represents your Church, Institution and a Recent Mission Team Photo. Note: While sending photos via WhatsApp (8105473029) or Email (dioceseofgulbarga@gmail.com / roshanprays4u@gmail.com), please ensure it is in image format (JPEG/PNG)

#### 6. **Transfers And New Assignments – 2025 (Continued)**

| No. | Name                      | To                                                                                        | w.e.f.     |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 14. | Rev. Fr. Vincent Pereira  | Parish Priest of Queen of Heaven Church Chittapur and In charge of Diocesan Legal matters | 13.07.2025 |
| 15  | Rev. Fr. Anil Crasta      | Director of MTCH                                                                          | 10.07.2025 |
| 16  | Rev. Fr. Fredrick D'Souza | Continues as the Procurator of the Diocese                                                | 10.06.2025 |

#### 7. **SOLEMNITIES AND FEASTS:**

**Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord (August 6):** Jesus is transfigured on a mountain—His clothes became dazzling white, and Moses and Elijah appeared. Peter, James, and John witness His divine glory. A voice from heaven proclaims, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.” The Transfiguration reveals Jesus’ true identity and prepares the disciples for His passion. It reminds us that glory comes through the cross.

**Feast of St. Lawrence (August 10):** St. Lawrence was a deacon of Rome, known for his charity to the poor. When ordered to hand over the Church's treasures, he presented the poor and sick, saying, “These are the treasures of the Church.” He was martyred on August 10, 258. His life is a witness to faith, service, and love for Christ.

**Memorial of Maximilian Kolbe (August 14):** Born in Poland in 1894, Maximilian Kolbe saw a vision of the Virgin Mary offering him two crowns—one for purity, one for martyrdom—and he chose both. He became a Franciscan priest, spreading devotion to Mary through media and missions, including in Japan. In 1941, at Auschwitz, he volunteered to die in place of another prisoner. He died a martyr of charity.

**Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15):** The Assumption celebrates Mary being taken body and soul into heaven. Free from sin, she was not subject to decay. Her Assumption is a sign of hope, showing the destiny God promises to all who are united with Christ. This day also marks the 78th anniversary of India’s Independence—a time of both spiritual and national celebration. Mother Mary is a perfect model for us to experience inner freedom and freedom from all evil.

**From Procurator:** Please remit all the Year Marked Collections up to July by 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Please update your Parish/Mission Centre Tally up to July 31<sup>st</sup> and submit to the procurators Office by 20<sup>th</sup> of this month

## 8. COMMISSIONS SPEAK:

### **Commission for Youth:**

**August 10th National youth Sunday** Please observe this date with deep importance and make our Youth happy

- August 10<sup>th</sup> Aurad zonal youth gathering at Santhpur
- August 17<sup>th</sup> Bidar zonal youth gathering at Sacred Heart Church Bidar
- August 17<sup>th</sup> Basavakalyan Zonal youth Gathering at Muchalamba
- August 31<sup>st</sup> Humnabad zonal youth gathering at Talmadgi

Fr. Sachin Christi, Secretary

**Commission for Laity:** Greetings from Laity Commission. We are glad to bring to your kind attention regarding the Laity Convention Jubilee Celebrations. It is going to be on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025 at St. Joseph's Hall at Bidar. Kindly share this good news and announce in your respective parishes and centres. The participants are PPT, PPC, and VPC members. Let's make it a joyful jubilee celebration in the great year of 2025.

Fr. Lawrence Arun, Secretary

**Commission for Education:** Dear Parish Priests and Mission Directors, Applications are invited for the Poor Students Fund for the academic year 2025–26. Kindly note that due to budget constraints this year; assistance will be extended only to genuinely deserving students. Priority will be given to students from economically poor families who are struggling to pay school fees, especially those who are academically performing well but unable to afford their education. As per last year's policy, students pursuing Arts or B.A. courses will not be considered for financial assistance unless there is a grave and exceptional reason, duly approved by both the Parish Priest / Mission Director. We request your cooperation in ensuring that this limited fund reaches the most deserving cases.

Fr. Steevan Veigas, Secretary

**Commission for Health:** De-addiction Camp August 22- September 6 Camp Fee: Rs 12000 Concession for Catholics can be availed by producing recommendation letter from the Mission Director or Parish Priest.

Fr. Anil Crasta, Secretary

**Commission for Women:** A seminar on 'Health & Wellness' will be held at 2:00 p.m. on 23rd August 2025 at Sacred Heart Church Bidar for the Women Commission animators and office bearers of Bidar Deanery.

The Women Commission of Gulbarga Deanery is organizing a retreat on August 10th, 2025. from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the women of Gulbarga Deanery at Mother of Divine Grace Church, Gulbarga.

Sr. Maria Reetha, Secretary

**Commission for Social Concern and Development:** General Board Meeting of Seva Sangama / ORBIT on 13<sup>th</sup> August

Fr. Victor Anil Vas Secretary

**Commission for SC/ST:** The SC/ST Commission is organizing a One-day Orientation Programme for Core Group Members and Selected Leaders on 6<sup>th</sup> August. All concerned are requested to take note and participate actively.

Fr. David Anthony, Secretary

**Diocesan Directory:** Dear Fathers and Sisters, We are happy to inform you that the new *Gulbarga Diocese Directory 2025* has been published and are now available at Sugyan. The cost of each copy is ₹100

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

|    |                               |    |                                   |
|----|-------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| 02 | Fr Anand Prabhu SJ            | 17 | Sr. Saroj Karedan SRA             |
| 04 | Sr. Maria Reetha AC *         | 18 | Fr. Clary D'Souza ** (Dean-Bidar) |
| 05 | Sr. Sujata Ekka SSpS          | 18 | <b>GULBARGA DIOCESE</b>           |
| 05 | Sr. Mary Karippaparambil SCCG | 19 | Sr. Vinisha Reshma Rodrigues      |
| 07 | Sr M Vinitha Gonsalves BS     | 20 | Sr. Hilda Fernandes SCCG          |
| 08 | Sr. Gracy Veigas UFS          | 20 | Sr. Vijaya Joseph SCCG            |
| 08 | Sr. Leera Mondonca SCCG       | 21 | Bro. Darren Pius Corda            |
| 09 | Sr. Anisha Pinto UFS          | 21 | Sr. Leenet Monteiro SRA           |
| 09 | Sr. Kanickamary Cruze SAB     | 22 | Sr. Bindu Varghese SJT            |
| 09 | Fr. David D'Souza **          | 22 | Sr Maria Fernandes UFS            |
| 12 | Sr. Maria Swetha AC *         | 24 | Sr. Vincy SMMI                    |
| 13 | Sr. Helen Misquith RNDM*      | 26 | Fr. David Antony **               |
| 13 | Br. S. Michael Raj SHJ *      | 26 | Fr. Lawrence Arun **              |
| 13 | Sr. Saritha Souza SCCG *      | 31 | Sr. Angeline Sequeira UFS *       |
|    |                               |    |                                   |

## HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DEAR FATHERS

|    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 06 | Fr Anand Prabhu SJ                |
| 06 | Fr. Wilfred Naveen Dsilva OFM Cap |

## BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: AUGUST 2025

- 02 Jubilee Samavesha 2025- Bidar
- 03 - Mass at Hupla Village
- Mass at Hunaji Village
- 04 - Bhalki School Visit
- 06 -Village Visit to Ekamba
- 07 - C.O.P. / Consultors Meeting
- 08 - School Visit to Santhpur
- 09 - C.R.I. Annual Meeting –Gulbarga
- 10 - Mass at Sacred Heart Church Bidar
- 11 - Sacred Heart School Visit at Bidar
- 13 -Seva Sangama Orbit- G.B. Meeting
- 14 - Diocese Finance Committee Meeting
- 15. - Independence Day
- 16 -SC/ST Committee Meeting
- 17 - Pastoral Visit to Muchalamba
- 18 - Diocesan anniversary (Episcopal Ordination Day)
- 19 -G.D.E.S. Gov. Board Meeting
- 21 -Village Visit To Gudpalli - Kashempur
- 23 - Diocesan Think-Tank Meeting
- 24-25 -Pastoral Visit to Shahabad
- 27-28 - Clergy Recollection - Sugyan
- 30 - Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting - Sugyan

Kripalaya, Bishop's House  
31 July 2025



† Robert Miranda  
**Bishop of Gulbarga**

## News July 2025

- 1. The Zonal Level Jubilee Celebration of Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC)** The Zonal Level Jubilee Celebration of BECs was held in Bidar and Bhalki with enthusiastic participation from the Bidar, Aurad, Bhalki, Humnabad, and Basavakalyan zones. Bishop Robert Miranda presided over both events, highlighting the vital role of BECs in deepening faith at the grassroots. Fr. Maxim Dias, Regional Secretary of the BEC Commission, shared valuable insights on community building and lay participation. In Bidar, discussions focused on renewing BECs with a practical action plan. The celebration in Bhalki on 20th July 2025 began with a prayerful presentation of the Word of God, followed by the Holy Eucharist. Cultural performances added color to the event, which truly reflected the spirit of communion, participation, and mission in a Synodal Church.
- 2. HASIRU Jubilee and Laudato Si Week (5th to 11th July):** Hasiru Jubilee and *Laudato Si* Week was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm across the diocese in most of the parishes, with creative awareness programmes among the students and staff at various institutions and schools, poster making competitions, Clean-up Drives, planting saplings, Online Quiz, a special Eucharist focused on Creation and the Environment inspiring and encouraging one another to care for our common home. Thanks to Fr. Vincent Thoras and the Commission for inspiration and motivation in arranging the plants.
- 3. Seva Sangama distributes aids and appliances (July 5):** Director of Seva Sangama, Fr. Victor Vas along with his dedicated team distributed 49 various aids and appliances to children with delayed development at Kalaburagi sponsored generously by Rise Bionics. The Bishop presided over this programme attended by Rise Bionics, APPI and others.
- 4. Prisoners were released from Kalaburagi Central Jail:** In a compassionate move by Fr. William OCD, Secretary of the Carmel Jyothi Public Charitable Trust and Fr. Maxim Misqith, representative of Prison Ministry of India, Kalaburagi Diocese coordinated the release of three prisoners from Kalaburagi Central Jail. Though their sentences were complete, they remained in jail due to their inability to pay a fine of ₹10,000 each. Responding to a request from the Chief Superintendent, Carmel Jyothi with the help of generous donors paid the fines and facilitated their release. Computer training program for the inmates of Kalaburagi Central Jail was another initiative organized and launched in July 2025. It aims to equip 30 prisoners with essential computer skills, thereby increasing their chances of employment and self-reliance after release. These acts are a symbol of hope, renewal, and the Church's mission of mercy.
- 5. Church foundation stone was laid at Gorchincholli, Hulsoor:** Fr. Clary D'Souza and team blessed and laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new church at Gorchincholli, Hulsoor. Sisters and Lay faithful came together to celebrate this new beginning.

- 6. ICM DEXCO Elections:** Fr. Sachin Christy, Secretary of the Youth Commission organised the ICM DEXCO election on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at ORBIT, Humnabad. Mrs. Veleena Gonsalves, the Regional Youth President, was the resource person and led the youth through several engaging and creative activities. At the end of her session, the DEXCO election was conducted. Bishop Robert Miranda, in his address, encouraged the youth to be more active in their parishes and later presided over the oath-taking ceremony for the newly elected DEXCO members. A total of 45 youth and 8 animators were present for the program.
- 7. Women's Cell Session:** With the aim of unity and upliftment, women from Chickpet, Daddapura, and Nemthabad gathered at Don Bosco Chickpet for a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Steven Lawrence SDB, followed by animated the session and guided them in forming a women's cell organised by Sr. Reeta Maria AC, Secretary of the Diocesan Women's Commission. Leaders were elected, roles accepted, and the day ended with tea and a shared commitment to build a Synodal Church and transform society.
- 8. Visit to Shimoga Diocese:** To gain practical insights for launching a Cooperative Bank in our diocese, the ORBIT and SevaSangam team, accompanied by the Bishop, visited SMSSS (Shimoga Multipurpose Social Service Society) on 22nd and 23rd July 2025. Studying Sthree Bandhu, a successful women-led cooperative The team participated in Okkuta meetings and visited Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and also met the Cooperative Bank personals. This exposure provided valuable learning on cooperative models, grassroots mobilization, and legal frameworks—preparing The Team similar initiatives in our diocese.
- 9. Grandparents Day:** All the parishes across the diocese joyfully celebrated the feast of St. Ann and St. Joachim, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as *Grandparents Day*. Special prayers were offered for grandparents during the Eucharistic celebrations. The faithful honored the elderly with love and gratitude, recognizing their vital role in nurturing faith and family values. Various parishes organized felicitation programs, cultural events, and moments of sharing, creating a spirit of warmth and unity among generations.

#### NECROLOGY

- Sr. Edmund BS of the Bethany Congregation passed away on 15th July. She served in our Diocese with great dedication, especially in the Jalasangi and Hebbal Missions. Her loving service and missionary zeal will always be remembered.
- Mrs. Juliana Lobo, Mother of Sr Kavitha Lobo BS, Chittapur, passed away on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Valerian D'Almeida, Father of Sr Sandra BS, Chittapur, passed away on July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. Christin Lobo, Grandmother of Dn. Ancy Lobo, passed away on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Eternal Rest Grant unto Them O Lord and Let Perpetual Light Shine on them May They Rest in Peace

**Our heartfelt condolences to all the family members.**

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