



# DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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

Circular No.243

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA  
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

September 2025

**Holy Father's Intention for the Month: for our relationship with all of creation.** Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

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

## RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISIONS MADE BY THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS August 07<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**For the Involvement and Training of the Laity:** It was resolved that all Vice Presidents and Secretaries at first level must undergo training. Parish Councils and lay animators should also receive training at the Zonal Level.

**Identifying the Professionals in the Parish:** It was resolved that the Secretary of Laity Commission will prepare standard forms for all parishes to identify professionals. Data collection is to be completed by September 15. Consider forming groups of professionals for on-going support and guidance. The purpose is to:

- Strengthen parish activities using professional expertise.
- Enhance community services, including education, health, and legal aid.
- Ensure proper use of resources by matching skills with parish needs.
- Provide mentorship programs for Youth from experienced professionals.

**Impact of Lay Associations:** It was resolved to:

- Appoint Spiritual Directors for all lay associations.
- Ensure that all activities are conducted with approval of the parish Priest.
- Provide initial support from the diocesan level to strengthen leadership.
- Implement changes with a six-month trial period and review progress.
- Begin revitalization at the deanery level before starting parish unit.

**For Christian Unity and Civic Engagement:** It was resolved to make every effort to build consensus within the community in all villages for selecting one Christian leader all villages coming under a mission. Once a leader is agreed upon, the community shall support and vote collectively, thereby strengthen and influence in local governance. The Parish Priests/mission directors shall ensure this process.

**Formation of Think Tank Group:** Recognizing the need for strategic planning and effective oversight of diocesan initiatives, the Council resolved to form a Think Tank Group on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This group will provide expertise guidance, and ensure coordinated action across all parishes and mission centres.

The PPC & PFC Convention and BEC Jubilee of Gulbarga Deanery will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025 at St. Mary Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral, Gulbarga. All the respective representatives from the parishes of Gulbarga and Bijapur deanery are cordially welcome.

**Family Prayer Initiative:** to encourage regular family prayer and strengthen spiritual growth at home. It was resolved that by August 30, 2025, prayer cards for the families will be developed and distributed. The initiative aims to foster unity and deepen faith life within families. Fr. Sagar has been assigned responsibility for this initiative.

**Annual Contribution Framework:** It was resolved that a minimum contribution of Rs. 500 per family Per Year be set as the annual contribution, subject to adjustment based on local capacity. Parish Pastoral Councils are entrusted with determining the final contribution amounts to ensure feasibility for all families. Contributions shall be voluntary and deposited directly into the bank, ensuring transparency and accountability. The families with fixed income are encouraged to pay the Tithe (1/10) of the income every month. In parishes whenever this system introduced may be continued with more diligence

**Burial Ground for Priests:** It was resolved to plan and develop a new burial ground for priests of the Diocese of Gulbarga at Mother Teresa Charitable Hospital Trust, Uploan Village, Kapnoor Post, and Kalaburagi – 585104. This initiative will provide dignified and organized burial facilities for the diocesan priests.

**Parishes, Mission Centres & Jurisdictions:** It was resolved to establish a committee consisting of the Vicar General, Deans, and Zonal Leaders to define boundaries and responsibilities of all mission centres. Final decisions are to be completed by December 2025 to ensure clarity in Evangelisation, reach the unreached, and smooth operation across all mission centres.

**Liturgical Matters:** It was resolved to address the liturgical aberrations by conducting an input session by inviting experts at the earliest.

**I endorse all the above decisions of the COP. They come to force with immediate effect. Please read out the pertinent points to people during Sunday announcements.**

1. **St. Mother Theresa of Kolkata – (5<sup>th</sup> September):** We are delighted to honor the legacy of Mother Theresa, an icon 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. Mother Theresa teaches us to serve with boundless love and trust in the Lord and we are proud to serve society under her patronage especially through ORBIT (Humnabad), and Mother Teresa Charitable Hospital in Kalaburagi. Our joint efforts bring hope to the poor, sick, and the suffering in our Diocese. Glad to know that on 3<sup>d</sup> September, ORBIT and Youth Commission have organized a Blood Donation Program from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Please encourage the youth to donate blood.
2. **Teachers' Day, (5<sup>th</sup> September)** : A day to express our gratitude towards the Teachers who shape the minds of our children and equip them with the tools to become outstanding persons of tomorrow. A teacher is not just a mere instructor, but a source of inspiration, guidance and enlightenment, who strives to bring out the best in every child. We are greatly thankful to all the teachers in our schools for their steadfast commitment and dedication providing the best education to all children. Happy Teachers' Day! Our heartfelt wishes and prayers are with you always.

The Diocese of Gulbarga, in collaboration with KRSC, will establish the Charismatic Diocesan Service Team through a formation program on 14th September from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Priests, Sisters, and lay faithful who wish to participate are requested to submit their names to Fr. George Lobo (Kawdiyal) or Fr. Clery on or before 5th September.

3. **Anniversary of Late Bishop Basil D'Souza:** We proudly honor Late Bishop Basil S D' Souza, the visionary founder of Bidar Mission, on the anniversary of his passing (Sept 5). His unwavering passion for missions inspired him to start Bidar Mission in 1982. We are grateful for this Mission and pray that God, through his intercession, may bless us with the grace and dedication to continue our apostolic Zeal for the glory of God's Kingdom in the Diocese.
4. **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Sept 8):** The birth of every human child is said to be a concrete expression of God's love for humanity. The birth of Mary brought great joy to the entire humanity, because of her was born Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the humankind. Our Lady's Birthday has been described as 'the hope of the world and the dawn of Salvation'. As children of our heavenly mother, we joyfully celebrate her birthday and ask her assistance to be firm in our call amid all trials and tribulations. The church also celebrates our Blessed Mother Mary's birthday as the **Girl Child Day**. The best way to show our love to Mother Mary is to love and respect the girl children and women in the society as they need to enjoy gender-equity, freedom, opportunities for education and employment in our society. Let us celebrate the Girl Child Day meaningfully accepting the girl child as God's precious gift. Happy feast to you all!
- (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 has been very less. You're aware we have decided to hold 'Communio India' collection on the feast of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary. Please announce to the people on this Sunday itself so that our people are motivated to give a generous contribution.) Please announce about this collection well in advance to people.**
5. **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 4th 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.
6. **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.
7. **Bishop Francis Serrao Appointed as Bishop of Mysore:** His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has appointed Bishop Francis Serrao, S.J. (66), as the new Bishop of Mysore On August 15, 2025. He has been serving as Bishop of Shimoga since 2014 and is also the Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Ecumenism. Bishop Serrao becomes the 9th Bishop of Mysore, succeeding Archbishop Bernard Moras, who had been serving as Administrator since 2024. The diocese, comprising Mysuru, Mandya, Kodagu, and Chamarajanagar, has 1, 34,000 Catholics across 93 parishes.

Kindly Block the Dates for the following upcoming programmes

- Youth Retreat September 19–21, 2025 at Bhalki.
  - Jeevan Jyothi Camp (for 10th Std Students) September 27–29, 2025 at Bhalki.
- Kindly motivate and encourage the Youth and 10<sup>th</sup> Std students to participate in these programmes.

Fr. Sachin Christy, ICYM Director

## COMMISSIONS SPEAK:

**Commission for Education:** Application for study loan the poor students applying for Loan for studies may do so by Nov 25 the latest. Directors, please recommend the applications of only the poor students not having any fixed income, and give your assessment of the candidate adequately. Make sure:

- The copy of the fees paid by the student to collage is enclosed.
- The student gives an undertaking to repay this loan when they are employed.

Fr. Steevan Veigas, Secretary.

**Commission for Family:** Marriage Preparation Course will be held on September 19th& 20th at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar for all those preparing for marriage. The sessions will be guided by Fr. Salvodar Fernandes, Family Commission Secretary. For registration, contact 9902807501. Don't miss this meaningful step towards a joyful and grace-filled married life

- Fr. Salvador Fernandes, Secretary.

**Commission for Women:** The Women's Commission members will celebrate Girl Child Day in their respective centres with various programmes and activities aimed at creating awareness, promoting the dignity of the girl child, and encouraging equal opportunities for their growth and development."

- Sr. Maria Reetha, Secretary.

### BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: SEPTEMBER 2025

- 1-13 Celebration of the Nativity at London and Manchester, Mission Appeal
- 14 Charismatic Service Commission - Gulbarga Diocese
- 15 KUCF Meeting
- 18-19 Golden Jubilee of St. Peter's Pontifical Institution
- 21 Laity & BEC Convention programme - Cathedral
- 22-26 KRCBC Annual Meeting
- 27 GDES- GB Meeting

Kripalaya, Bishop's House  
31<sup>th</sup> August 2025



† Robert Miranda  
Bishop of Gulbarga

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

DATE	NAMES	DATE	NAMES
1	Sr Arokia Mary SCB Hulsoor	14	Sr Jyothi Lakra BS Hebal
4	Sr. Celine Fernandes.DHM, Indi	15	Sr. Elsy SJT, Vijayapura
5	Fr. Deepak Furtado	15	Sr. Simprose BS, Chittapur
9	Sr. Josephine Vimala CCV, Vijayapur	16	Sr Albina SHM, Sedam
12	Sr. Dora Lewis SAP Basavakalyan	19	Fr. John Crasta SJ,
12	Fr Vincent Pereira	22	Fr. Santhosh Dias
12	Sr. Maria Kawadi SAB, Shahabad	22	Sr. Harshitha CSST, Kalaburagi
13	Priyanka D'Souza SRA Ujini	30.	Sr. Secunda SRA, Santhpur
14	Sr Papulamma JMJ Devara Hipargi		

### HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DEAR FATHERS

28

Fr. Joseph Gerald SJ

## News August 2025

- 1. Clergy of Gulbarga Diocese Reflect on Synod Final Document and Plan Implementation:** *Gulbarga, July 31, 2025* — about 50 clergy of the Diocese of Gulbarga gathered at Sugyan, Kotnoor, for a day of reflection on the Final Document on Synodality and its Implementation Pathways. Rev. Fr Praveen Joy Saldanha, Professor of Systematic Theology, St. Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore, served as the resource person. Bishop Robert Miranda emphasized ongoing formation and the need for continuous theological and pastoral learning. Fr Praveen underlined the “Glocal” approach — applying Synodal proposals locally while keeping a global vision — and echoed Pope Leo XIV's call for a missionary, dialogical, and welcoming Church. Through group discussions, clergy charted practical pathways for diocesan implementation. The day concluded with introducing the Catholic *Connect App* by Fr Roshan D'Souza and a renewed commitment to walk together on the Synodal path.
- 2. Laity Convention Marks Preparations for Jubilee 2025:** *Bidar, August 2, 2025* — The Diocese of Gulbarga held a one-day Laity Convention at St. Joseph's Convention Hall, Bidar, as part of preparations for the Jubilee Year 2025. The theme was “ಜೊತೆ ಜೊತೆಯಾಗಿ ಸೇರೋಣ, ಧರ್ಮಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸೋಣ” (Together, let us build the Church in communion and service). Bishop Robert Miranda inaugurated the event, stressing the laity's vital role in parish life and missionary leadership. Fr. Anil Prasad and Fr. Richard Menezes offered reflections on pastoral care, responsibility, and service through acts of mercy, urging participants to ask, “What can I do for the Church?” Parish groups discussed practical steps for greater lay involvement, later affirmed by the Bishop. The day concluded with the Eucharist, where Parish Vice Presidents pledged their commitment to serve the Church.
- 3. Peaceful Protest in Vijayapura:** *August 5, 2025* — The Christian community, along with other minority groups and self-help groups, held a peaceful protest in Vijayapura against the injustice faced by Sisters in Chhattisgarh and the ongoing attacks on minorities violating their fundamental rights. A memorandum was submitted to the Deputy Commissioner's office. Gratitude was expressed to all priests and sisters for their presence and support.
- 4. CRI (Gulbarga Diocese) Elects New Leadership, Strengthens Commitment to Synodality:** *August 9, 2025* — The CRI Gulbarga Diocese meeting gathered 92 participants for prayer, reflection, and planning. Bishop Robert Miranda and the CRI President set the tone with messages on mission and collaboration. The new diocesan executive team was elected: Fr. Ronald CSC (President), Sr. Mariyamma SJT (Secretary), and Sr. Lydia Cutinha UFS (Treasurer), along with zonal teams. Resource person Fr. Vincent Pereira emphasized that synodality requires listening, involving youth and families, building faith-filled communities, and walking together in mission. The Bishop, in his homily at the Holy Mass, urged all to keep Christ at the center, live with gratitude, and serve the poor with love.
- 5. Women's Retreat – Synodal Jubilee Year 2025: August 10, 2025** — The Commission for Women, Gulbarga Deanery, organized a Women's Retreat as part of the Synodal Jubilee Year 2025. The retreat brought women together for prayer, reflection, Adoration, Eucharist, and renewal in the Lord's presence. The sessions, led by Fr. Gerald Sagar, Fr. Vincent Pereira, and Fr. Stany Lobo, highlighted the role of women in the Bible and inspired participants to grow in prayer. Deanery priests were available for confessions, and the event concluded with gratitude to all who contributed and participated, making it a spiritually enriching experience.
- 6. General Health Camp:** *August 4–9, 2025* — The CNFE health team organized health camps and awareness programmes in Gandhi Chowk, R D Mil, Hadagali, and Jamkhandi. The initiative promoted basic health awareness and provided primary medical check-ups, benefiting the local communities.
- 7. Independence Day Outreach by ICYM Bhalki:** On the occasion of Independence Day, 22 members of ICYM Bhalki visited the Central Jail and Mother Teresa Old Age Home in Bidar on 15th August 2025. As part of the celebrations and community outreach, the youth team aimed to spread joy, share the patriotic spirit, and engage meaningfully with the inmates and elderly residents. Cultural and entertaining programs, along with games, were conducted to refresh and uplift their minds.

- 8. Youth Commission Holds Zonal Gatherings:** Gulbarga, August 2025 — Marking National Youth Sunday, the Youth Commission organized zonal gatherings across the diocese. On August 10, the Aurad Zone met at Santhpur with 55 youth. Resource person Mr. Nandadeep Borale urged youth to be responsible leaders. On August 17, three zones gathered: Bidar Zone at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar, with 55 youth, inspired by a session from Fr. Derek Barnabas and strengthened through Eucharist and activities. Basavakalyan Zone at Muchalamba fostered fellowship and unity. Bhalki Zone hosted 35 youth at Bhalki, where Fr. Clevan encouraged joyful living of faith. The series concluded on August 31 at Talmadgi with the Humnabad Zone gathering. Youth expressed joy and gratitude, calling the events days of faith, fellowship, and service.
- 9. Justice and Peace Sunday Observed at Bhalki Parish:** Bhalki, — In view of Justice and Peace Sunday, Bhalki Parish organized a justice awareness program at the church and honored parishioners working for peace and justice. Among those felicitated were Mr. Dhanraju Suyavamshi (High Court Lawyer), Mr. Sanju Kumar, Mr. Dathatri (Retired Indian Army), and Mr. Sathish (Taluk President, Samaja Kalyan).
- 10. 20th Episcopal Ordination & Canonical Erection of Gulbarga Diocese: Kalaburagi, August 18, 2025-** The Diocese of Gulbarga celebrated with joy the 20th Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Robert Miranda and the 20th anniversary of its Canonical Erection at the Cathedral. A solemn Thanksgiving Eucharist was followed by a short stage program with cultural items and felicitations, recalling the Bishop's missionary journey. In his message, Bishop Miranda expressed deep gratitude to God and to all collaborators, urging the faithful to build a Synodal Church rooted in love and service. The Diocese thanks all priests, religious, and laity who made the celebration meaningful and memorable.
- 11. Health and Wellness Seminar at Bidar Deanery:** Bidar, August 23, 2025 — The Women's Commission of Bidar Deanery organized a Health and Wellness Seminar at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar, focusing on holistic health and healthy living practices for women. Resource person Dr. Sony, an Ayurvedic doctor, emphasized balanced nutrition, exercise, stress management, preventive healthcare, and the role of prayer in inner healing. An interactive session addressed women's health concerns and highlighted the need for awareness on legal rights in future programs. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks and refreshments, leaving participants motivated to pursue healthier lifestyles.

## NECROLOGY

Msgr. Aloysius D'Souza, a saintly priest who faithfully served the Lord with humility and love, has been called to his eternal home. For 72 years he lived his priesthood with dedication, touching countless lives through his ministry and witness. His simplicity, prayerful spirit, and commitment to the Church remain an inspiration to all who knew him. We thank God for the gift of his long and fruitful life. May the Lord, whom he served so faithfully, welcome him with open arms into the joy of heaven. Our heartfelt condolences to all the family members.

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