



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 246

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

December 2025

Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For Christians in area of Conflict: Let us pray that Christians living in area of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

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

I Thank God for all the Grace filled events of the month, very specially for the Jatra Utsav 2025 and the visit of the His Excellency, Leopoldo Girelli, Papal Nuncio to India and Nepal. One could experience remarkable growth of the faith of our people seen in the active, devout and enthusiastic participation of people in large numbers as never before in the Eucharist as well as other Programmes, May God be praised! This faith experience of our people is the fruit of the hard labour all your putting in day and night all through the year. Thank you dear fathers and sisters, our people are growing stronger and stronger in faith every day.

I congratulate all of you for the success of the Bhalki Jathra 7-9 November 2025. It was truly a wonderful and memorable celebration of our faith. The careful meticulous planning and a good Team work contributed to the event's great success. I am deeply grateful to each one of you Fathers, Sisters, PPC members and volunteers, for your dedication, cooperation, and hard work. A special word of thanks goes to Fr. David Anthony, the convenor for his great leadership and all the Committees May the Lord continue to bless you all and keep us united in His loving care. Sincere thanks also to all the generous donors who supported this Event.

Clergy Annual Retreat (8th – 13th December): The 2025 Annual Retreat for clergy is scheduled from December 8th to 13th, 2025, at the Sugyan Pastoral Centre in Gulbarga. All priests are expected to arrive at the venue by Sunday, December 7, as the Retreat will commence with a morning meditation talk on December 8. I urge all the priests to dedicate these days solely to the Lord and to uphold this commitment without compromise. Rev. Lopoz 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 any valid reason, kindly inform me. Please request our people to pray for the priests in Retreat

1. The Holy Season of Advent: As we stand at the threshold of Advent, we are invited into a sacred time that restores our faith, renews our hope and deepens our love. This Season calls us to reflect on the profound mystery of the Incarnation, through which God shares His boundless love with humanity. Advent Season begins on Sunday, November 30th. It is both a time to prepare for the joyous celebration of Christmas and an opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds for the second coming of Christ. This holy season invites us to engage in prayer, Sacrament of reconciliation, preparing us to welcome the Saviour into our lives. Let us help one another, embrace the spirit of Advent and prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Priestly Ordination

As already announced, Deacon Ancy Lobo will be ordained priest on 30th December 2025, at Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral in Gulbarga at 03:00 PM. We invite everyone to pray for the Deacon as he prepares himself to receive this Sacred Ordination. Please inform Fr. Joseph Praveen, Parish Priest, Cathedral, the number of the participants attending the ordination from your parish / mission. Priests, Sisters and Lay people (Ph. 9632351072)

2. Feast of St Francis Xavier, Apostle of India (Dec 03): St Francis Xavier, revered as the Apostle of India and the Patron Saint of Missionaries, stands among the greatest missionaries in the history of Christianity. His life and work remains a powerful example and source of inspiration for priests, religious sisters, and lay evangelizers serving in this mission diocese. May his intercession help us to respond with the same fervent love that ignited his missionary zeal.

3. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Dec 08): As Catholics, we firmly believe that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without Original Sin. This unique privilege, granted by God at the moment of her conception, ensured that Mary was free from the stain of sin that affects all humanity. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception emphasizes Mary's exceptional purity and holiness, inspiring us to pursue purity of heart and a life of holiness. This feast also reminds us that God has a special plan for each of us and that He can grant extraordinary graces to help us fulfill our calling.

4. Christmas Preparation and Celebration: I urge you to convene a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting as soon as possible to thoughtfully plan for the Christmas. While we know everyone wishes to celebrate Christmas on December 25th, it is important to remind our community that the celebration will take place at the mission center or parish on the night of December 24th and the morning of December 25th. Village-level celebrations, however, can be scheduled from December 25th up to the Feast of the Epiphany. Encourage our people to invite individuals of other faiths, sharing the joy of Christmas with everyone an approach that fosters the true spirit of Christmas. It is important to guide the village community and make them understand that village celebrations should go beyond a simple festive Mass. A more enriching celebration as a concluding programme of Jubilee Year in villages can be achieved by involving children and youth in organizing public events that bring together both Christians and non-Christians, spreading joy, peace and harmony.

Remind the community that DJ sound systems, playing film songs, and dancing are not appropriate for Christmas celebrations. Instead, focus on Christmas songs and traditional folk dances like kolatam, accompanied by local instruments, to maintain the spiritual and cultural essence of the Season. Please assist village leaders in organizing their celebrations with care and devotion.

Finally, I urge Directors of missions and Parish Priests to collaborate at the Zonal level to host the Jubilee Year concluding Programme on 28th December at a convenient place. Choose a suitable venue and invite elected leaders, prominent people, and local officials as our guests. This gathering will be the best way to share the Christmas spirit across all communities, making the celebration inclusive the liturgy will be sent to you by WhatsApp. A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND ALL OUR PEOPLE.

New Appointments

1. Rev Fr Clevon D Gomes appointed Director of Santpur Mission w.e.f 30 Nov 2025
2. Rev Fr Derrick Barnabas appointed assistant director Santpur Mission w.e.f 30.11.2025
3. Rev Fr Lawrence Arun appointed Socius at St Joseph Church , Bidar

The Christmas Octave: The Christmas Octave covers eight days of feasts and holy celebrations in the Church, starting on Christmas Day and culminating on New Year's Day with the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The liturgy emphasizes that every day within this sacred Octave carries the spirit of Christmas, filled with the gladness of birth of Christ.

Dec 25: Nativity of the Lord

Dec 28: Feast of the Holy Family, Conclusion of Jubilee Year

Dec 26: Feast of St Stephen

Jan 01: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Dec 27: Feast of St John the Evangelist

New Year 2026: We give thanks to God for all the people of goodwill who supported us throughout 2025 and for the many grace-filled moments of various Jubilee celebrations experienced in our parishes, mission, and institution across our Diocese. Let us come together on the evening of December 31st, for the Eucharistic Adoration and Thanksgiving, as we prepare to welcome the New Year, 2026, as a cherished gift from the Lord. A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU All.

Annual Statistics: Please ensure the completion of the annual statistics of the parishes/missions and mission outreach centers (villages) and send the same to the chancery by 15th January 2026, preferably by post or a clear scanned copy to the email: chanceryglb@gmail.com. The required formats are enclosed.

KRCBC Programme of Promoting Youth to Civil Services: KRCBC has decided to send at least 5 candidates from the Region every year for a 10 months coaching in a reputed institute in the state for KAS, IAS, PSC and other Exams. The candidate you propose should be a graduate (or one who is hoping to qualify in the final exams next April) with 75% aggregate, good in English and general knowledge.

A Committee of Experts will do the scrutiny of the applications, conduct oral and written exams for all such candidates and select the best 5 for the coaching in June 2026. If you have one such candidate please contact me at the earliest.

Commissions Speak:

Commission for Family: Please note that the Pre-Cana Program is scheduled for Dec 5–6, 2025 at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar (Friday 9:30 AM to Saturday 4:30 PM).Kindly confirm the number of candidates from your parish by contacting me at 9902807501. Participation requires the approval of the Parish Priest. Participants are requested to bring their own bed sheets for the overnight stay on Friday. Thank you for your cooperation.

-Fr. Salu Fernandes,Secretary

Commission for Ecumenism and Dialogue: The Bidar Zone is organizing *Shathidotha*, an Inter-Religious Christmas Program, on December 18th, 2025, at Rangamandir, Bidar starting at 5:00 PM. You are dearly welcome.

- Fr Wilson Fernandes, Secretary, Commission for Ecumenism

Pope Leo XIV through the Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith has given a corrective note on mother Mary's roll in the redemption of mankind by he is exhortation Mater Populi Fidelis. He exhorts us not to use the titles of Mary as Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix/ Mediatrix of all Graces. Please find a clear/ explanation and elaborate. Served as attachment to this circular sent on WhatsApp.

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: DECEMBER 2025

02-03	-Visit of Donors
04	-Jubilee of Sr Maria Goretti SRA, Mangalore
05	-KUCF and Inter Religious Meeting
06	-Confirmation – Neo Cat
07	-Jubilee Mass Sedam
08-13	-Clergy retreat
13	-Christmas with Sponsorship Children, Bhalki & Village Visit – Beeri (B)
14	-Village Visit – to Kumar Chincholi and Othgi
16	- Inter –denominational Christmas
18	-Christmas with Prison inmates
21	-Mass at Santhpur, Team Meeting
24-25	-Christmas, Cathedral
28	-Jubilee Year – Final – Cathedral
30	-Priestly Ordination of Deacon Ancy V Lobo

+ R. Miranda

Kripalaya, Bishop's House
01 December 2025

† Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

01	Sr Jayarani SSA, <i>Wadi</i>	14	Fr Clevon D. Gomes, <i>Santhpur</i>
02	Sr Wilma Crasta SCCG, <i>Kankal</i>	18	Sr Veena G. Fernandes UFS, <i>Sindagi</i>
03	Sr Lucy Priya BS, <i>Chittapur</i>	24	Sr Ida D'Souza SCCG, <i>Muddebihal</i>
03	Sr Hilaria Pinto DHM, <i>Indi</i>	24	Sr Christina Flora SCB, <i>Muchalamba</i>
04	Fr Prasanna OFM, <i>Halbarga</i>	25	Fr Santhosh Bapu, VG <i>Gulbarga</i>
05	Sr Geeetha SCB, <i>Hulsoor</i>	25	Sr Natalia Baretto SCCG, <i>Gulbarga</i>
06	Sr Manisha Silva CSJ, <i>Bidar</i>	25	Sr Sweta Tirkey CSJ, <i>Bidar</i>
08	Sr Christina MSMHC, <i>Yadgir</i>	25	Fr Francis Anthony, <i>Gulbarga</i>
08	Sr Irene Tauro SCCG, <i>Talikote</i>	26	Sr Gracilda BS, <i>Chitapur</i>
10	Sr Priya D' Souza AC, <i>Bidar</i>	28	Sr Sharnlatha CSST, <i>Gulbarga</i>
11	Sr Priya Serrao UFS, <i>Shahapur</i>	28	Fr Salvadore Fernandes, <i>Halbarga</i>
13	Sr Jyothi D' Souza SAP, <i>Basavakalyan</i>	30	Sr Oliva Saldana RNDM, <i>Almel</i>
13	Fr Saji George SDB, <i>Yadgir</i>		

HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DEAR FATHERS

01	Fr John Thomas SJ, <i>Vijayapura</i>	23	Fr Faustine Crasta OCD, <i>Kadaganchi</i>
03	Fr Vincent Pereira, <i>Chittapur</i>	23	Fr Philip Raj Joseph SCH, <i>Shorapur</i>
03	Fr David, <i>Bhalki</i>	27	Fr Jith Joy SDB, <i>Yadgir</i>
03	Fr Clevon Gomes, <i>Santpur</i>	27	Fr Santhosh SJ, <i>Vijayapura</i>
03	Fr Vincent Thoras, <i>Jalasangi</i>	27	Fr Shabu Francis SDB, <i>Yadgir</i>
05	Fr Wilson Fernandes, <i>Bidar</i>	27	Fr Robert Rodrigues SJ <i>Gulbarga</i>
08	Fr Lawrence Arun, <i>Santpur</i>	28	Fr Praveen KJ SDB, <i>Chickpet</i>
08	Fr Aron Vas, <i>Gulbarga</i>	28	Fr Maxim Misquith SJ <i>Gulbarga</i>
08	Fr Ronald Pinto, <i>Bhalki</i>	29	Fr Saji George SDB, <i>Yadgir</i>
08	Fr Anthony Francis, <i>Gulbarga</i>	29	Fr William Miranda OCD
12	Fr Jilson Jose Erikattu SDB	29	Fr Devasia KV MCBS
13	Fr Arthur Pias, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	29	Fr Thomas Koonam SDB
17	Fr George SDB, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	30	Fr Joseph Vas Moteiro SJ <i>Bijapur</i>

17	Fr John Crasta SJ, Bijapur	30	Fr Deepak Thomas OCD, Kadaganji
19	Fr Devikanth Vivek SDB	30	Fr Bibin Jose SDB, Chickpet
20	Fr Martin Vijay SDB, Kalaburagi	31	Fr Thomas Palakuzha SDB
20	Fr Mithun John D'souza SDB	31	Fr Joby SDB, Kalaburagi

News November 2025

New Branch Office and Crèche Inaugurated at Yadrami (October 27, 2025): A new branch office of Sev Sangama, the social development wing of the Diocese of Gulbarga, was inaugurated and blessed at Yadrami, Kalaburagi. A new Crèche (ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮನೆ) was also launched to support early childhood care and learning. This expansion extends Sev Sangama's mission of service and empowerment to a new taluka in the district. May God bless this new venture and all who serve through it.

Apostolic Nuncio Visits Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhalki (November 1–2, 2025): His Excellency Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, paid his first visit to the Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhalki. He received a grand welcome with a bike rally and prayed at the Shrine before celebrating the Holy Eucharist with Bishop Robert Miranda and the clergy. In his homily, he reflected on the Beatitudes and encouraged the faithful to live the Gospel with joy. A felicitation programme followed, and the Nuncio hoisted the Jathra Flag, inaugurating the annual Shrine Feast. He also visited Holy Rosary Chapel, Bhajolga, where he appreciated the simple faith of the people and encouraged active participation in the Church's life. Thanks to Fr David and Team. Thanks to all the Priest's Sisters and People present on the occasion.

Apostolic Nuncio at the Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral, Kalaburagi (November 2, 2025): The Apostolic Nuncio continued his pastoral visit to the Cathedral in Kalaburagi. He was welcomed with a school band, cultural dance, and traditional Arathi. He inaugurated a newly installed portrait of Mother Mary on the Cathedral façade. Celebrating Holy Eucharist on All Souls' Day, he reminded the faithful of the Christian duty to pray for the departed. An inter-religious gathering followed with messages of peace and unity from leaders of various faiths. Students of St. Mary's PU College presented a dance performance, adding colour to the event. Thanks to Fr. Praveen Joseph and Team, for all Priests Religious and people who were actively present on the occasion.

Inter-Religious Deepawali Celebration – Vijayapura (November 7, 2025): St. Anne's Church Hall hosted the Inter-Religious Deepawali Celebration with speakers from Hindu, Christian, and Muslim communities. Emphasising the festival's message of light over darkness, they highlighted peace, mutual respect, and the value of interfaith dialogue in society.

Bhalki Jathrotsava 2025 – A Celebration of Faith and Unity (November 7–9, 2025): The Bhalki Jathrotsava drew thousands of pilgrims for three days of prayer, devotion, and cultural expressions. Formally inaugurated on November 7 by Bishop Robert Miranda with the release of doves symbolising peace, the event opened with a vibrant procession through the town. Two days that followed featured bhajans, Scripture reflections, healing prayers, festive Eucharistic celebrations, and Annadasoha for thousands, The Diocesan Cultural Fest showcased youth performances, competitions, and traditional dances. The concluding day included a solemn Eucharist presided over by Bishop Henry D'Souza of Bellary, followed by the lowering of the Jathra Flag. Under the leadership of Fr. David Antony, the Jathrotsava stood as a witness to faith, love, and fraternity, echoing the message: Pilgrims of Hope, let us celebrate bear witness over 2,500 people joined 'padayatra' before the festival.

Yuva Sangama, Vijayapura (November 15, 2025): Around 130 unorganized youth from six centres of Vijayapura participated in the Yuva Sangama organised by the Cluny Sisters at Navasanidhya. Marking Constitution Day, the programme began with tributes to Dr. B.R.

Ambedkar and recitation of the Preamble. Speakers emphasized youth responsibility of the youth in safeguarding constitutional values and combating corruption, injustice, and social evils. Participants also discussed the PPP model in Karnataka's health sector and the ongoing campaigns opposing privatization.

Rangoli Chaluvali – “Save Vijayapura District Hospital” (November 18–19, 2025): Women from Vijayapura gathered at 25 key locations, creating rangolis with messages demanding the protection of Vijayapura District Hospital and calling for a Government Medical College. Handbills were distributed, and citizens were engaged in discussions on the risks of privatization. Protests continued with strong slogans expressing public frustration over the government's silence despite 62 days of ongoing struggle. The march culminated at Ambedkar Circle.

Eucharistic Procession: was held at Bidar Sacred heart Church on the feast of Christ the King on Sunday 23rd November 2025. Jointly organised by Sacred Heart Church, St Joseph's Church, Bidar, Don Bosco (Chickpet mission) it was attended by priest's sisters of the deanery in good number. Thanks to Fr. Clary D'Souza and Team Fr. Santhosh Bapu, the vicar General was the main celebrant of the Eucharist.

NECROLOGY

- **Sr. Elizabeth SMMI:** Entered her eternal home on 16 November 2025; she had lovingly served the Talmadgi Mission for many years in the early years of the mission.
- **Mr. Jerome D'Almeida (70):** Father of Sr. Marita UFS passed away on 12 November 2025.
- **Rev. Fr Denis D'Souza (91):** He entered his eternal home on 16 November 2025. We thank God for his faithful ministry. He had contributed his generous mite to our diocese we remain ever grateful.
- **Mr. Paul D'Souza (68):** beloved brother-in-law of Fr Stevan Veigas passed away on 21 November 2025.
- **Mr. Mouris Thoras (59):** Uncle of Fr. Vincent Thoras passed away 24 November 2025.

Rest in the Peace of Christ. As we commend them to God's loving embrace, we entrust their families and religious communities to the Lord's comfort and strength.

Doctrinal Note on Marian Titles (*Mater populi fidelis*) – 4 November 2025

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF), with approval from Pope Leo XIV, issued a doctrinal clarification on several Marian titles, especially those connected to Mary's cooperation in salvation.

1. Purpose of the Document

- To provide clear guidance on how certain Marian titles should be understood and used.
- To affirm traditional Catholic teaching that **everything in Mary points to Christ**, the sole Redeemer.
- To correct misunderstandings caused by exaggerated or ambiguous titles.

2. Titles Encouraged

The Note supports titles that highlight Mary's loving spiritual motherhood:

- **Mother of Believers**
- **Mother of the Faithful**
- **Spiritual Mother**

These titles express Mary's role in nurturing faith without diminishing Christ's unique role.

3. Titles Addressed with Caution or Rejection

a. “Co-redemptrix”

- **Judged inappropriate and not to be used.**
- Risks obscuring the **unique mediation of Christ**.
- Previous Popes used the term occasionally but without defining it.
- Second Vatican Council avoided the title.
- Cardinal Ratzinger (Benedict XVI) and Pope Francis both advised against it.
- The term requires excessive explanations to avoid misunderstanding.

b. “Mediatrix” / “Mediatrix of All Graces”

- Must **not** imply that Mary adds to or replaces Christ's mediation.
- Acceptable only in a **subordinate, participatory** sense.
- “Mediatrix of All Graces” is considered theologically problematic:
 - Not clearly founded in Scripture or Tradition.
 - No human person can be the universal dispenser of grace.
 - Mary herself received grace, so she cannot be the source of all grace.

However, the term “**graces**” (plural) may be used when referring to Mary's intercessory help in the many blessings God grants.

4. Theological Principles Highlighted

- Christ is the **only Mediator** (1 Tim 2:5).
- Mary's role is always dependent on Christ and never equal to Him.
- Devotion to Mary should **increase** love for Christ, not distract from it.
- Avoid portraying Mary as a “lightning rod” to shield believers from God's justice.

5. Core Teaching Reaffirmed

- Mary cooperates in salvation as a **mother**, a model, and an intercessor.
- Her cooperation is **real but subordinate**; flowing entirely from Christ's saving work.
- Titles that could misinterpret or exaggerate her role should be avoided.
