



## DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 247

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA  
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

January 2026

**Holy Father's Intention for the Month:** Pope invites the faithful to pray **with the Word of God**, that it may nourish lives, bring hope to communities, and help build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

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

### 1. Words of Appreciation:

Greetings of this Holy Season of Christmas and Happy New Year. Christmas this year has been a grace-filled event, taking us on to New Year 2026. I thank every one of you for your prayers and personal greetings. May the Divine Babe, the incarnate Saviour be with you, bless you all through the New Year. I am glad the Christmas was solemn and Joyful celebration everywhere in villages and town.

I thank all the priests, sisters and lay faithful for your enthusiasm and active participation in all the Jubilee Programmes during the year. These Jubilee Programmes including the Nuncio's visit and the grand Jathra 2025 were signs our unity and of vibrant faith of the church in Gulbarga. May the Lord reward all your efforts abundantly. Let us continue this Jubilee journey with the same enthusiasm, walking together as witnesses of hope, accompanied always by Jesus, our true Hope.

I am sure you have your own plans and resolution for your own life as you begin the New Year 2026. May the New Year truly become a year of special blessings from God for you and your people. Remain blessed always, as you are a chosen instrument of God who loves, cares and blesses us all the time.

I wish you include the following Resolutions for the year 2026 along with yours:

- A. To get the entire Team involved in introducing family prayer in your parish/mission.
- B. To initiate alter server's Sodality.
- C. Regular catechism classes.

I am sure you agree that, all these ministries are missing in our parishes partly or wholly. Let's make up for this in all sincerity. Remember it is when children are closed to God that he speaks to them and calls them to his service.

I also want you to hold PPC and VPC meetings as stipulated. Only when you share your concerns with them they begin to realize their role as chosen leaders of the community please remember not all are born leaders. They become leaders under your gentle care, guidance and support..

### CLERGY RECOLLECTION

Clergy Recollection shall be held on 15 - 16 January at Sugyan. All the Clergy of the Diocese and Religious Priests are expected to be present.

**Subsidy for Housing:** I am glad to announce Mr Michael D'Souza, a Dubai based Mangalorian donor has assured to help us with a subsidy of 1.5 lakhs rupees for Housing for the poor. Very soon we will be taking up this project. This help will be given only after day applicants will complete their houses to the roof level. More details will be given to you shortly. You may announce this to the people, so that those who are already constructing can apply for this immediately. Let's help our people have a decent house with at least a living room, kitchen and toilet and live in dignity

**Loan for Higher Education:** Again, this is a Blessing to our students taking up technical and professional courses. It is not a scholarship or subsidy. It is an interest free loan offered to intelligent, committed and promising students who intend to go in for Teachers training,

Diploma, Nursing, Engineering, Pharmacy and Medical etc. passing CET, and NEET and such other Entrance Exams. Once these beneficiaries complete their studies and get job, they should pay back the loan on a monthly basis. For your information, the Edu Care Loan is successfully implemented in Mangalore and Udupi with 95 - 98% success. Let us announce this scheme to our people so that our students having an aim in life prepare themselves, and appear for CET and other entrance exams in the coming months. We thank Mr Michael D'Souza for the generous assistance he has assured us. We pray for him and his family. I expect the directors to get to know all the youth eligible for this loan and collect their latest Marks Cards. Shortly will send you more details on requirements and procedures of promoting/ recommending your students for this Loan.

**2. Annual Statistics:** Please ensure the completion of the annual statistics of the parishes, missions and mission outreach centers (villages) and consolidate them to provide the Mission Center Statistics, including details of the villages. The finalized data should be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 on the day of clergy Recollection, before also send it to our email: [chanceryglb@gmail.com](mailto:chanceryglb@gmail.com).

**3. Republic Day (Jan 26):** India celebrates its 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on January 26, 2025, commemorating the day in 1950 when the Constitution of India came into force. This occasion reminds us of our responsibility to understand and uphold our constitutional rights while actively engaging in the democratic process. The Constitution grants us the power to express our views, seek justice, and play a role in the nation's development. On this significant day, let us encourage everyone to stand against any violations of the principles enshrined in our Constitution and work together to uphold its values.

**6. From the Procurator:** There is a change in the system Audit this year. We have to send the Tally Data to the Auditors in advance. After which they will give us the date for auditing. Hence I request the Parish Priests/Mission Directors and Managers of the Pre Primary Schools to update the accounts till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and submit to the procurator's office with all the below mentioned documents by 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2026,

1. Tally Soft copy (to be continued in last year's audited copy)
2. Receipt books
3. Bills & vouchers (should be numbered and filed in a file)
4. Updated bank pass book or bank statements
5. FD receipts – updated
6. PEA receipt books,
7. PEA collection details (in excel sheet-soft copy)
8. Pre-primary school – Fee Collection details in excel sheet, Receipt books, Bills and Voucher file, Salary Register, Fee analysis list (refer manual for Parish priests - annexure 15 & 16 on page 42),.

## **2. Solemnities and Feasts:**

- a) **The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Jan 01):** The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, celebrated on January 1<sup>st</sup>, marks the eighth day of Christmas and the beginning of the New Year. This important feast invites us to entrust the coming year to Mary, seeking her blessings on us and the diocese. The title "Mother of God", placing this celebration on the first day of the year, the Church emphasizes Mary's pivotal role in the life of Christ and in the Church. This solemnity offers an opportunity to contemplate the profound mystery of Mary's role as the Mother of God and her active participation in her Son's mission. As we observe this feast, let us entrust our lives and aspirations for the year ahead to her loving care and guidance.
- b) **The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Jan 04):** The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated this year on January 4<sup>th</sup>, honors the visit of the wise men who came to worship the infant Jesus. Tradition identifies these wise men as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. As wise men from the East, they followed a guiding star in their quest to find the promised Messiah. This event signifies the Messiah's revelation to the Gentiles, portraying Jesus as the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God, and the Savior of the world. The celebration serves a call for the Church to share the Gospel with those who have yet to hear it and to rekindle faith in those who have strayed.
- c) **The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan 11):** Church observes the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, on January 11<sup>th</sup>, a meaningful occasion in the Catholic tradition. This

celebration marks the end of Christmas Season and the start of Ordinary Time. It commemorates Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, an event that reveals the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Inviting us to reflect on our own baptism and calling to live as God's children.

**3. Prayer Week for the Unity of all Christians (Jan 18-25):** The Church observes the Prayer Week for Christian Unity from January 18 to 25, centered on the theme: 'There is one body one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling' Eph 4:4 Kindly I request Directors and Parish Priests to include a special intention for Christian unity in every Mass throughout this week. Additionally, consider organizing a prayer gathering inviting the non-Catholic Christian brothers and sisters to join in fellowship and prayer at your parish.

**BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: JANUARY 2026**

- 01 - New Year- Cathedral
- 02 - Meetings on Housing/Vidya Nidhi/Women co-operatives/Legal matters
- 5-7 - To Mangalore First Mass/ Visit to CODP
- 08 - School Day Prpgram - Chincholi
- 10-11 - Mission Appeals Assumption Church B'lore
- 13-14 - Visit to Bidar Schools
- 15-16 - Clergy Recollection, Sugyan, Glb
- 17 - Inauguration of St.Mary School Building Humnabad
- 18 - Jubilee Mass of Sr. Philomina B.S.
- 20 - COP/Consulter's Meeting
- 23 - Holy Cross School- Afzalpur – School Day
- 24-25 - Mission Appeal at St. Patrick's Church – B'lore
- 27 - Regional Evangelization Commission Meeting – B'lore
- 28 -Seminary Senate Meeting
- 31 - St Don Bosco Feast Yadgir

Kripalaya, Bishop's House  
01 January 2026



†Robert Miranda  
**Bishop of Gulbarga**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS**

<b>1</b>	Sr Sunitha Pinto UFS, <i>Bijapur</i>	<b>15</b>	Fr Antony Selvam MSFS, <i>Sedam</i>
<b>1</b>	Sr Nirmala UFS, <i>Surpur</i>	<b>15</b>	Sr Veera Fernandes Ssps <i>Kalaburagi</i>
<b>1</b>	Sr Nutan Tirkey RNDM, <i>Almel</i>	<b>16</b>	Sr Sujitra DC, <i>Jalasangi</i>
<b>2</b>	Sr Vinisha Mal SSpS, <i>Ekamba</i>	<b>19</b>	Fr Steevan Veigas, <i>GDES</i>
<b>3</b>	Fr Robert Crasta, <i>Ujini</i>	<b>19</b>	Fr Davasia KV MCBS, <i>Gurmitkal</i>
<b>3</b>	Fr Sonychen SDB, <i>Chickpet</i>	<b>19</b>	Sr Lilly Paul SCCG, <i>Kankal</i>
<b>3</b>	Sr Jenita AC, <i>Bidar</i>	<b>20</b>	Sr Jane Rachel BS, <i>Humnabad</i>
<b>4</b>	Sr Josphine F. SRA, <i>Santhpur</i>	<b>21</b>	Sr Shruthi CSST, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
<b>5</b>	Fr Joseph Jerald SJ <i>Kalaburagi</i>	<b>21</b>	Sr Rose Ann BS, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
<b>6</b>	Sr Florian CSST, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	<b>22</b>	Sr Philomina D'sa DHM, <i>Indi</i>
<b>8</b>	Fr A. Lawrence SJ, <i>Vijayapur</i>	<b>23</b>	Sr Jacintha SCCG, <i>Talikote</i>
<b>8</b>	Sr Josephine SJC, <i>Vijayapura</i>	<b>24</b>	Sr Lehara BS, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
<b>10</b>	Fr George K. SDB, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	<b>26</b>	Fr Joseph Praveen, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
<b>12</b>	Sr Mary Prabha SCCG, <i>Kankal</i>	<b>27</b>	Sr Christine Misquith AC, <i>Bidar</i>
<b>12</b>	Sr Perpetua Lopes DHM, <i>Indi</i>	<b>28</b>	Sr Shanthi Priya AC, <i>Bidar</i>
<b>13</b>	Sr Shakuntala CCV, <i>Viajayapura</i>	<b>28</b>	Sr Florita BS, <i>Humnabad</i>
<b>14</b>	Sr Shimtihun <i>Hoojon FMA</i>	<b>31</b>	Gretta D Cunha Ufs

**HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DEAR FATHERS**

<b>05</b>	Fr Sonychen SDB, <i>Chikpet</i>	<b>05</b>	Fr Steven Lawrence SDB
<b>05</b>	Fr Antony Selvam, <i>Sedam</i>	<b>06</b>	Fr Ronald Fernandes CSC

## News December 2025

**Silver Jubilee Celebration of St. Francis Xavier Church, Sedam (on 8 December 2025):** Thanksgiving Mass presided over by Bishop Robert Miranda of Gulbarga. The celebration included a procession, Benediction, felicitation to former parish priests, release of a Jubilee Souvenir, blessing of the renovated presbytery, and cultural programmes by parish children. Congratulations to Fr. Anthony Selvam MSFS and Parishners.

**BalaJyothi Christmas Celebration with Sponsored Children at Bhalki (13 December 2025):** The BalaJyothi Child Sponsorship Programme celebrated Christmas with around 350 sponsored children at the Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhalki. The programme included Holy Eucharist, cultural performances, and distribution of Christmas gifts, highlighting the Diocese's commitment to child welfare. Thanks to Fr Vincent Thoras and all animators for their hard work all through the year.

**Inter-Religious Christmas Celebrations:** We are happy that Inter-religious Christmas celebrations were held at Sathyanubava Dialogue Centre BasavaKalyan (15<sup>th</sup>), Shanthi Dootha at Ranga Mandir Bidar (18<sup>th</sup>), Bethany High School Chittapur (18<sup>th</sup>), Talikote Mission 20<sup>th</sup>), Xavier P.U. College (23d), Bhalki Mission (24<sup>th</sup>), St Ann's Church Bijapur, Cathedral Church (Inter – religious Forum) on 28<sup>th</sup> and many other places. We thank all of you for organizing these programmes. May God bless you all.

**Launch of Michael D' Souza Vision 2030 (MDV2030) Initiative (December 2025):** The Michael D' Souza Vision 2030 (MDV2030) initiative was launched on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Bishop's House Mangalore, focusing on education and shelter for sustainable community development. Church leaders in Mangalore and dignitaries from Gulbarga and Karwar Dioceses participated, offering prayers and support for the initiative.

**Women Cell of Chittapur Extends Support to Needy Families (December 2025):** The Women Cell members of Chittapur, under the leadership of Sr. Kavitha BS, extended generous support to needy families by providing food and clothing, reflecting Christian charity and compassion.

**Vidya Nidhi Orientation Programme at Humnabad,( 27 December 2025):** An Orientation Programme on Vidya Nidhi (Mr. Michael D'Souza and Family Endowment Fund) was held on 27 December 2025 at ORBIT, Humnabad, for the youth and parents of the Bidar Deanery. About 140 PUC and Degree students participated. The programme included a motivational input and a reflective exercise for students, followed by an address by Bishop Robert Miranda, who explained the vision and purpose of the Endowment Fund. The programme concluded with a festive meal, celebrating the true spirit of Christmas.

**Karunada Seva Prashasti 2025 Award:** (Fr. William Miranda OCD):Kadaganchi, Kalaburagi, was awarded the Karunada Seva Prashasti 2025 in recognition of his dedicated service.The honour acknowledged his committed contribution to society and his selfless service to the community.

**Priestly Ordination in the Diocese of Gulbarga, (30 December 2025):** The Diocese of Gulbarga celebrated the Priestly Ordination of Rev. Fr. Ancy Vion Lobo on 30 December 2025 at the Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Dr. Robert Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga, who ordained Deacon Ancy Vion Lobo as a priest for the Diocese.Fr. Ancy, hailing from Loretto Parish, Mangalore, responded generously to God's call to serve the Church. In his homily, the Bishop exhorted the new priest to be a shepherd after the heart of Christ, rooted in prayer and service. Priests, religious, family members, and the faithful joined in prayer and thanksgiving. Hearty congratulations to Rev. Fr. Ancy Vion Lobo. The ordination was a joyful and grace-filled moment for the local Church.

Happy New Year  
2026

**MAY THIS NEW YEAR BRING BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS TO SERVE THE LORD  
CHEERFULLY AND FAITHFULLY.**