



## DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 247

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA  
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

February 2026

**Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For children with incurable diseases:** Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

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

**1. Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the Day of Religious and Consecrated (Feb 02):** The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, celebrated on February 2nd, marks the occasion when Mary and Joseph brought the Baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, in accordance with the Law of Moses. On this day, the liturgy encourages a procession where with lighted candles enter the church (temple) to meet Jesus, the Light of the World. This feast is also celebrated as the day of the Religious and those Consecrated. On this special day, let's pray and greet all the religious priests, sisters, and brothers serving in our diocese, expressing heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable service and collaboration in the mission of the Church. I request the Deans to organize the programme of the Day of the Consecrated, express our gratitude to all who work for our mission diocese and pray that their presence becomes truly prophetic one.

CBCI General Body Meeting will be held at St. John's Institute of Medical Science on 3-10 February with the theme: Rooted in Christ, Faithful to the Constitution (Faith and the Nation: The Church's Witness to India's Constitutional Vision.) Please pray for the success of this meeting.

**2. M.C.A. Gathering:** a Zone-level MCA Children's Gathering will be organized on 8-9 February in the respective zones. We kindly request your support and cooperation to make this programme meaningful and successful. Request the zone leader to call for a meeting and plan the programme well.

**3. ICYM Day:** ICYM Day will be celebrated on February Sunday 8th Feb at ORBIT. On this occasion, Jesus Youth will animate and guide our youth, helping us to celebrate the day meaningfully. We kindly request you to encourage all the youth of your parish to participate actively in this celebration and make this programme a successful.

I'm sorry that I can't be present on the events in the diocese. But I want to say to all – the MCA children, Youth, and the Religious that I am with you in spirit. May God help us to work together for His glory and build up our diocese. Dear Rev Fathers and Sisters, let's make these programmes successful and memorable.

Seminar on New Labour Code and forthcoming GP Elections : will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October at Sugyan, Bishop House. New Labour Law recently enacted by the Central Government must be passed studied by all priests, Sisters, HMs and Managers. Therefore, all of you dear Rev Fathers, Sisters, Superiors, HMs and Managers keep this day free and attend the same without exceptions. We'll also be planning for the GP elections which will soon be held. Programme begins at 9.30 am sharp and end with lunch at 2.00 pm

**4. Ash Wednesday and the Holy Season of Lent (Feb 18):** The sacred Season of Lent begins on the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. The imposition of ashes on this day serves as a symbolic reminder of our human frailty, our need for repentance, and conversion. It is an invitation to turn away from sin and embrace goodness, a grace given to

us by God. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time dedicated to prayer, penance, and a heightened awareness of the needs of others. This season mirrors the 40 days of Jesus' prayer and fasting before starting His public ministry—a journey that ultimately led to His sacrifice on the Cross and His triumph over death. Lent is a period of spiritual preparation for Easter, inviting believers to reflect on the mystery of salvation and renew their commitment to faith through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. I encourage all Parish Priests and Mission Directors to organize Lenten devotions in their respective parishes and missions, fostering deeper meditation on the Passion of Christ and meaningful preparation for the Easter celebration. It is a day of Prayer, fast and abstinence for all those above the age of 14 and below 60.

**From the Procurator:** The interim audit begins from 18th February. Please be prepared to be present at bishop's house when you are called for clarification.

### **Lenten Observances as per the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI):**

- ❖ Attend the Holy Eucharist daily.
- ❖ Spend at least 15 minutes in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament each day.
- ❖ Read the Bible for at least 15 minutes daily.
- ❖ Meditate on the Passion of Christ for at least 15 minutes every day.
- ❖ Observe fasting as an act of penance.
- ❖ Reflect on the Way of the Cross.
- ❖ Follow a vegetarian diet, avoiding fish and eggs.
- ❖ Set aside at least 10% of your earnings for charity.

### **Lenten Practices in Our Diocese:**

- ❖ Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are designated as days of fasting and abstinence. On these days, the faithful are encouraged to consume only one meal and refrain from eating meat.
- ❖ All Fridays of the year are to be observed as days of abstinence (from meat.)
- ❖ In addition to fasting and abstinence, believers are encouraged to engage in acts of mercy and charitable works.
- ❖ Many faithful in the diocese choose to fast for all 40 days of Lent, consuming only one meal a day. This practice is commendable, and we should continue to remind and encourage one another to embrace it.

### **Campaign Against Hunger and Disease:**

From Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, the Church runs a special Campaign against Hunger and Disease in India. The savings from our Lenten sacrifices is our contribution for this noble cause of the church. Let us use this occasion as an opportunity to let go all our bad habits and excessive lifestyles, embracing instead, the humility and poverty of Christ.

I request all Parish Priests to guide their parishioners in these Lenten practices and providing each family with a mite box, which they will return on Palm Sunday as an offering of their sacrifices.

The Day of the Consecrated Life will be celebrated at the deanery level: for the Bidar Deanery at Bhalki along with a Recollection on Thursday, 5 February 2026. And for the Gulbarga Deanery on Saturday, 7 February 2026 with Recollection at Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral, Gulbarga. Both the Deans cordially invite you all the Priests and Religious for these programs.

**5. Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (Feb 11):** This feast commemorates the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Saint Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, in 1858. It was at Lourdes

that Our Lady called herself “the Immaculate Conception” and gave the world her message that we must repent for our sins. We also celebrate this day as the ‘World Day of the Sick’. Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick to pray for the sick. On this feast of our Lady of Lourdes Let’s then on this day offer our prayers for sick and suffering people.

**6. Appointment:** Rev Fr. David Anthony Appointed Secretary to the Laity Commission w.e.f. from 01.02.2026. Thanks to Fr Lawrence Arun for his services to the commission.

### Commissions Speak

**Commission for Catechetics:** Diocese-level Annual Catechism Examinations for 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> standard students will be held on 28 February (*Saturday*) at your parish or mission centres. (*Question papers will be sent to you.*)

Catechism Examinations for other students (*Std I to VI, VIII and IX*) are to be conducted on 1<sup>st</sup> March, either at the centres or in villages on weekdays as convenient.

Vocation Camp for students of (Std VII to X) will be conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> April at Bhalki. Parish Priests are kindly requested to encourage and motivate the children to participate actively.

**Please Note** Faith Formation Summer Camp to be held in all the parishes and missions from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Sunday) Please Contact Fr. Deepak 8861889762

-Fr Deepak Furtado, Secretary, Commission for Catechetics

**Commission for Education:** Please note, Sankalpa Camp 2026 will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> April

-Fr Steevan, Secretary, Commission for Education

### BISHOP’S PROGRAMME: FEBRUARY 2026

01	Mass at Christashrama Kaudiyal
03 - 10	CBCI Meeting
12	9:30 a.m. Training on Labors Laws, GP Elections 2:30 p.m.Meeting on Faith Formation Camp- 2026
13-14	KRSC – Training Programme, Shimoga
15	Chrism/Holy Communion – ORBIT Silver Jubilee Mass, Talmadigi
17	Programme- Blessing of Aland School
18	Ash Wednesday – Mass at Cathedral
19	Forum Meeting
22	Training Programme of PPC Vice President/Secretaries
24-27	KRCBC Meeting Bangalore/ (Seminary Board,KRCBC,CCK)
28	Meeting on GP elcections Mission Expansion for Superiors and Directors

Kripalaya, Bishop’s House  
01 February 2026



† Robert Miranda  
Bishop of Gulbarga

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

<b>02</b>	Fr Arogya Das SAC, <i>Hulsoor</i>	<b>12</b>	Sr Amala Sabrina SSA Wadi
<b>02</b>	Sr Mary Bastin UFS, <i>Shorapur</i>	<b>13</b>	Fr Wilson Fernandes, <i>Bidar</i>
<b>03</b>	Fr Wilfred Dias CSC Afzalpur	<b>14</b>	Sr Savitha Quadros AC, <i>Bidar</i>
<b>03</b>	Fr Kulandai Albert CSC Orbit	<b>14</b>	Sr Lailitha Mary SAB, <i>Shahabad</i>
<b>03</b>	Sr Eugene Simon SCCG, <i>Bhalki</i>	<b>14</b>	Sr Jaya CCV, <i>Vijayapura</i>
<b>04</b>	Sr Jenny D’sa UFS, <i>Itga</i>	<b>15</b>	Fr Faustine Crasta OCD, <i>Kadaganchi</i>
<b>05</b>	Sr Matilda Xaxa MSMHC Yadgir	<b>15</b>	Sr Florine Vas UFS, <i>Vijayapura</i>
<b>06</b>	Fr Martin SDB, <i>Bablad</i>	<b>17</b>	Sr Rosa Florine SCCG, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
<b>06</b>	Fr Arthur Pias, <i>Neo-Catuchumen Kalaburagi</i>	<b>18</b>	Sr Sekunta Xess CSJ, <i>SH Bidar</i>
<b>10</b>	Fr David Fernandes SAC Muchalamba	<b>20</b>	Sr Mable D’souza SCB, <i>Hulsoor</i>
<b>11</b>	Sr Zeena Menezes BS, <i>Hebbal</i>	<b>22</b>	Fr Anil Prasad, <i>KROSS</i>
<b>12</b>	Sr Preeti SRA, <i>Santpur</i>	<b>23</b>	Sr Anna Olickal SJC <i>Vijayapur</i>

**Happy Ordination Anniversary (05 Feb):** Fr Steevan Lawrence SDB, *Chikpet Mission*

## News January 2025

**Queen of Heaven Parish – (01 Jan 2026):** The New Year was meaningfully celebrated with municipality workers, followed by pastoral visits to the sick, domestic, social, and health workers. Prayers, New Year greetings, and Holy Communion were offered to the sick, invoking God's blessings of health, peace, and hope for 2026.

**Christmas–New Year Programme at Aurad Prison (01 Jan 2026):** A Christmas–New Year programme was held at Aurad Prison with games, prayer, carol singing, and a message on repentance and renewal by Fr. Derik, Santpur. Gifts were distributed to 23 inmates. Eight Sisters and three Fathers from the zone were present.

**Orientation on Vidya Nidhi & Gruha Nidhi Projects (06 Jan 2026):** An orientation and consultation meeting was held with Fr. Vincent D'Souza (CODP Director) and Mrs. Reena regarding the Vidya Nidhi Education Endowment Fund and the Gruha Nidhi Housing Project. Bishop Robert Miranda and diocesan representatives participated, focusing on effective implementation in the diocese.

**People's Movement Victory – Vijayapura (8 Jan 2026):** After four months of peaceful public resolve, the Karnataka Chief Minister announced the phased establishment of medical colleges, trauma centres, and super-speciality hospitals, including in Vijayapura. This victory highlights the power of grassroots unity.

**Service to Deaf and Dumb Children – Kadaganchi (11 Jan 2026):** Carmel Jyothi Public Charitable Trust visited deaf and dumb children in Gulbarga and distributed essential household items.

**PAUSTIK TB Nutrition Initiative Launched (17 Jan 2026):** PAUSTIK, a nutrition support initiative for economically disadvantaged TB patients, was inaugurated at Mother Teresa Hospital, Kalaburagi. The programme provides free nutrition kits for six months along with subsidized medical treatment.

**New School Building Inaugurated – St. Mary School, Humnabad (17 Jan 2026):** The new school building of St. Mary English Medium School, Humnabad, was blessed and inaugurated by Bishop Robert Miranda. The school's first Annual Day was also celebrated with cultural programmes and prize distribution.

**Family Day Celebration – St. Thomas Church, Shahabad (18 Jan 2026):** Family Day was celebrated with Holy Mass, games, prize distribution, a community meal, and a special blessing of vehicles.

**Nutrition Support to TB Patients – Aland Taluk (20 Jan 2026):** Carmel Jyothi Public Charitable Trust distributed protein-rich food to 27 TB patients in Aland Taluk.

**St. Peter High School Block Inaugurated at Shahapur (22 January 2026):** The newly constructed St. Peter High School Block at Shahapur was inaugurated and blessed by Most Rev. Dr. Robert Michael Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga, in the presence of clergy, civil authorities, and well-wishers. The Inauguration coincided with the Annual Day of the School, marking a joyful milestone in its educational mission.

**Ecumenical Unity Octave Prayer Services (21 & 23 January 2026):** As part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Prayer Services were held across the Diocese. An ecumenical prayer service was conducted on 21 January 2026 at the Good Shepherd Methodist Tarfile Church, Gulbarga, organized by the Karnataka United Christian Forum for Human Rights (KUCFHR), with the participation of Priests Sisters Pastors, and leaders from various Christian denominations and a good number of people. Unity Octave Prayer Services were also held at the Missionary Action Prayer Fellowship Church, Bhalki, and on 23 January 2026 at the Sathyanubhava Centre, Basavakalyan, organised by the Basavakalyan Zone, bringing together Christians of different denominations in prayer for unity and harmony.