



# DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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

Circular No. 248

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA  
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

March 2026

**Holy Father's Intention for the Month:** Focused on **Discernment and Peace:** the intention asks for prayers that nations move toward effective, particularly nuclear, disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy over violence.

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

- 1. Holy Week Celebration:** During the Holy Week, the Church celebrates the Paschal mystery of salvation, the last days of Christ's earthly life, his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, his Passion, Death and glorious Resurrection. On Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, we commemorate the Lord's entry into Jerusalem with a solemn procession, as we sing and praise God while waving palm branches to call to mind the victory of Christ over death. The Pascal Triduum is a moment of special grace for the faithful to enter into and participate in the paschal mystery in which dying He destroyed our death and rising, He restored our life. So, the sacred Easter Triduum shines forth as the culmination of the whole liturgical year.

Read diligently the instructions given in the ORDO as well as the Missal before you celebrate the Easter Triduum and your liturgy will become meaningful, beautiful and according to the mind of the church. I wish you and all the faithful a very fruitful celebration of the Holy Week.

## CHRISM MASS

Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at Cathedral. It is a blessed occasion we all come together, particularly the priests along with Bishop united in Christ the High Priest to bless the Holy Oils of Chrism, Catechumen and Anointing of the Sick, and experience the joy of the Unum Presbyterium.

It is also a day of Prayer and Recollection for all the Priests and Religious. Rev. Fr. Nirmal Miranda, Professor St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore has kindly consented to be the resource person of the day. The day's programme will begin with prayer at 9:30 a.m. and will end with the Chrism Mass at 5:00 p.m. I request all of you to be present. Just as we prepare our people, let us also spiritually prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Paschal Triduum. Please encourage our faithful to participate in the Chrism Mass. Mission Centre Directors, please remember to bring Holy Oil containers. The programme details will be sent to you soon.

- 2. FAITH FORMATION CAMP:** will be held at your Missions / Parishes from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April for all children from Standard IV to IX. The Commission for the Catechetics has prepared the lessons and other teaching material for you. These lessons provide you with only the required basic material. The teacher must study them well; take the time to thoroughly prepare the lessons suitable for each age group adding to the children's faith-experience. You can enrich the lessons by giving better examples, adding appropriate songs, action songs, dramatization, etc. Parish Priests/Mission Directors please involve

youth and catechism teachers to organize the faith formation camp well. Also invite people to contribute their 'mite' towards the expenses and acknowledge. Make sure that during this camp all the children learn the daily prayers by heart and guide them to conduct daily family prayers at home.

**SANKALPA CAMP:** The Sankalpa Camp will be held at Sugyan Pastoral Centre from 7<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April. Fr. Steevan Veigas, Secretary GDES will give you further information.

**PRERANA CAMP:** You are welcome to hold Prerana Camp between 7<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> for all slow learners in your Mission centres from 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Standard with the help of teachers, Balajyothi, and volunteers.

- 3. Parish/Mission Level Evaluation:** I request the Parish Priest / Mission Directors to hold the annual evaluation of the Pastoral Plan activities in the Easter Week of April and send the reports along with the annual budget by 30<sup>th</sup> April.
- 4. Divine Mercy Sunday:** The Feast of Divine Mercy celebrates the great mercy, love and patience of God our Father who is always willing to forgive us our sins and moral failures and calls us to embrace and live out this Divine Mercy in their lives. The Feast was formally established by Pope John Paul II on the Second Sunday after Easter. The origins of this feast can be traced to the visions and writings of St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, who received revelations from Jesus about His divine mercy.

#### Diocesan Pastoral Plan – Annual Evaluation 2026

DPP Annual Evaluation will be held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026, at 9:30 a.m., at Sugyan Pastoral Centre, Diocese of Gulbarga. Fr Anil Prasad Regional Coordinator will animate and guide the group to prepare the annual plan for year 2026-2027. Secretaries Kindly send the soft copy of your report for the year 2025-2026 and also your Action Plan for the year 2026- 2027 to Fr Bapu, the VG and DPP coordinator.

- 5. International Women's Day (March 8):** will be celebrated this year on the following theme: "ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಮತ್ತು ಸಹಕಾರದಿಂದ ಲಿಂಗ ಸಮಾನತೆ, ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ." I extend my warmest greetings to all the women in our Diocese and pray that God's blessings be upon them in abundance. I deeply appreciate the invaluable contributions of women religious in the pastoral mission of our Diocese. I extend my gratitude to ORBIT, Seva Sangama, and all the faith-based organizations (FBOs) dedicated to women's development across our Diocese. A special thanks to our religious Sisters, along with social workers, coordinators, and animators, for their dedicated efforts in empowering women. I kindly request that March 8, Sunday, be observed as Women's Day in all parishes. Additionally, ORBIT's programs will take place on March 11<sup>th</sup> in Gulbarga and on March 18 at ORBIT, Humnabad.

**7. Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 19):** St Joseph is revered as the patron saint of the Catholic Church, fathers, migrants, workers, and numerous parishes and institutions within our diocese. He is depicted as a just man and serves as a model of faith for all believers. As a worker, he embodies the dignity of labor and the fulfillment found in serving others, making his life an inspiring example for those engaged in various professions. I encourage the youth in every parish to take the lead in celebrating the Feast of St Joseph by honoring their fathers during this feast. Let us entrust our mission diocese to his loving care.

- 8. From the Procurator:** 1. The interim audit of the Diocese of Gulbarga, CDSB & GDES is in progress. They require certain clarifications. We request you to be present here when you are called.
2. Final audit will begin from 30<sup>th</sup> of April. We have to submit the updated tally by 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Please cooperate in this regard.
3. Kindly submit the Mission Centre Collections (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Every Month) by 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Please mark in your diary:**

**FAITH FORMATION CAMP 2026: 28<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April (Holy Week)**  
**SANKALPAPA/PRERANA CAMPS 2026: 7<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> April**

**Commissions Speak:**

Commission for Vocation and Formation: Vocation Camp for students of (Std VII to PUC II) for both Boys and Girls will be conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> April at Infant Jesus Shrine Bhalki. Parish Priests are kindly requested to encourage and motivate the children to participate actively.  
-Fr Deepak Furtado, Secretary

Commission for Family Life: The Marriage Preparation Course (Pre-Cana Course) will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> March from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar  
- Fr Salvodare Fernandes, Secretary

Commission for B.E.C: The BEC/SCC Animators Training Program for the Diocese of Gulbarga will be held on 7 – 8 March ( from Saturday 3:30 PM to Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 3:30 PM) at Sugyan Pastoral Centre, Gulbarga. All BEC/SCC leaders and animators are invited. This training will focus on Gospel Sharing in the wards and on forming the Deanery Resource Team (DRT) and Parish Resource Team (PRT). The Regional Secretary, BEC, and his team will guide us. Please attend and make good use of this opportunity.  
-Fr Clary D'Souza, Secretary

Welcome to Noel D'Sa, Jesus youth volunteer now serving the diocese in Bidar.

Statement of the CBCI Plenary Assembly is sent to you all by email. Please read the same.

Welcome to Brothers from the Seminary for the summer ministry

**Congratulations to the New Bishop for Udupi**

Congratulation to Msgr. Leslie D'Souza, who is appointed Bishop of Udupi by Pope Leo XIV on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026. ! The Episcopal Ordination will be held on Monday, 20 April 2026 at Milagres Church ground at Kallianpur at 9.00am. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and assure him of our prayers as he begins his episcopal ministry. Thanks to Bishop Gerald Lobo for his hard work as bishop of 26 years. May God bless him abundantly in his service to the Church.

## BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: MARCH 2026

- 02 - 06 - Evaluation and Scrutiny of School Annual Budgets
- 07-08 - Mission Appeal at Whitefield Parish
- 10- 13 - Retreat with Bishops
- 15 - Mission Appeal at Baallehonnor
- 16 - DPP Evaluation
- 18 - Women's Day Programme in Bidar
- 19-21 - School Evaluation and Budget Scrutiny
- 26 - Chrism Mass
- 29 - Mission Appeal - Derebail

Kripalaya, Bishop's House  
01 March 2026



†Robert Miranda  
**Bishop of Gulbarga**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

<b>03</b> Sr Daisy L. SCB, <i>Hulsoor</i>	<b>19</b> Fr Vincent Thoras, <i>Jalasangli</i>
<b>03</b> Fr Stany Lobo, <i>Bishop' House</i>	<b>19</b> Sr Roseline Paul SMMI, <i>Talmadige</i>
<b>06</b> Sr Anu Savariamamma SSA, <i>Wadi</i>	<b>20</b> Fr Bibin Jose SDB, <i>Chikpet</i>
<b>06</b> Sr Marian Baby FMM, <i>Chincholli</i>	<b>21</b> Sr Benita Gonsalves SCCG, <i>Kankal</i>
<b>07</b> Sr Lavisha D' Souza BS, <i>Humnabad</i>	<b>22</b> Sr Apoline UFS, <i>Vijayapura</i>
<b>07</b> Fr Jilson Jose Eirkattu SDB <i>Yadgir</i>	<b>25</b> Sr Sangeetha FMA, <i>Afzalpur</i>
<b>08</b> Fr Deepak Thomas OCD, <i>Kadaganchi</i>	<b>27</b> Fr Abhishek Moses, <i>Ekamba</i>
<b>08</b> Sr Brijit SCB, <i>Muchalmba</i>	<b>29</b> Fr Ronald Serrao SJ, <i>Vijayapura</i>
<b>08</b> Sr Sulochana UFS, <i>Shorapur</i>	<b>29</b> Fr Steevan Lawrence SDB, <i>Chikpet</i>
<b>11</b> Sr Anita Antony UFS, <i>Shorapur</i>	<b>30</b> Sr Kamala A. SCCG, <i>Bhalki</i>
<b>15</b> Sr Jish Padinajarepabil DC, <i>Humnbad</i>	

### News February 2026

Day of Consecrated Life: On the occasion of the celebration of the Presentation of our Lord, the day of the Consecrated life was celebrated in all the parishes of the diocese, and specially at the Deanery level at Bhalki (Feb 5), Gulbarga (Feb 7) and Vijayapura (Feb 2) with all solemnity and gratitude to all the Religious serving in the diocese

MCA DAY was held in all the parishes and also at the Zonal level at Ujini, Bhalki, Bidar, Jalasangli, Gulbarga and Hulsoor where over 575 children participated enthusiastically – 8 February. Children were given missionary orientation and five practices namely, to initiate daily family prayers, contribute to the church during offertory, pray for the missions, reading of the Word of God and speak about Jesus to at least 5 friends. Children participated devotedly in the Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, Rosary, Infant Jesus procession, and Holy Eucharist. Faith-based sessions and biblical skits, songs and dances helped the children to grow as young evangelizers and witnesses of Christ.

ICYM Day Celebration at the Diocese Level on (8th February 2026): 157 youth participated in the day long programe where Jesus Youth animated the youth and explained to the Youth the spirituality and mission oriented activities of Jesus Youth movement now spread to all the continents. Mr Albert, Jesus Youth coordinator at the regional level was the main resource person of the day. Relic of Saint Carlo Acutis was exhibited, and the youth received blessings of the saint. Information was shared about Vidhyanidhi and Grihanidhi. Thanks to Fr Sachin the Youth Director and all the organizers.

Carmel Jyothi Public Charitable Trust visited (24<sup>th</sup> Feb) the boarding house for poor girls and distributed water bottles, tiffin boxes, stainless steel water glasses, and caps at DSS Sisters

hostel for the girls. Mr. Thomas, a mathematician, taught the students simple tricks and easy methods of learning mathematics.

Carmel Jyothi Public Charitable Trust inaugurated (24 Feb) a three-month computer training program for 30 prisoners in the presence of prison authorities.

Free Eye Check-up Camp at Bethany English Medium School, Kalaburagi – (24 February 2026) :A total of 465 students, parents, and staff benefited from the eye check-up camp organized in collaboration with Anugraha Eye Hospital, promoting eye health and early detection of vision problems.

Parish Feast of Mary Pavada Mathe Church, Itga – was celebrated in all solemnity on (11 February 2026) Twenty six children received First Holy Communion. Rev. Fr. Robert Crasta, the main celebrant of the day, emphasized the importance of family prayer and Marian devotion. A large number of faithful from surrounding villages participated in the Holy Eucharist followed by fellowship.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – St Thomas Church, Shahabad (11 February 2026) The feast was celebrated with a candle procession, Rosary near Mother Mary's grotto, Holy Mass, and a family meal, bringing the faithful together in prayer and devotion.

Seminar on New Labour Codes at Sugyan (12 February 2026): A seminar on the four new labour codes was organized by the Commissions for Social Concerns and Education. The resource person Fr Vincent Periera explained the new laws on wages, ESI, PF, gratuity, social security, labour welfare, and occupational safety. Around 80 participants attended the workshop. Thanks to Fr Vincent Pereira for enlightening the participants. The seminar was a timely intervention.

The Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion were administered was administered by the Bishop to about 13 Adults and children in a grace-filled celebration at ORBIT on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026.Thanks to Fr Victor and Team.

World Day of the Sick at Mother Theresa Charitable Hospital, Kalaburagi (16 February 2026) :was observed with 15 TB patients through prayer and solidarity, seeking God's healing and strength upon the sick. Thanks to Fr Anil Crasta and team. Nutrition kits were also distributed to economically underprivileged TB patients for the second consecutive month to support their recovery. Gratitude is extended to the generous donors.

Blessing & Inauguration of St. Mary School, Aland(17 February 2026): The newly onstructed first floor was blessed and inaugurated during the Annual Day celebration. The event highlighted academic achievements, cultural performances, and gratitude to benefactors. Thanks to Fr Wilbert and Team.

Visit of Caritas Prague Delegation: Mr. Jaroslav Nemecek and Mr. Petr Zavrel from Caritas Czech visited the Diocese, participated in the Holy Eucharist, attended the inauguration of St. Peter's Prague School, Shahpur, and also visited the Old Age Home project site.

#### **NECROLOGY**

- Mr. Anthon Kaitan Branganza, beloved father of Sr. Lebara Branganza BS, Gulbarga.
- Mrs. Louramma, beloved mother of Sr. Harshitha CSST, Shahabad.

**Kindly remember the departed souls in your prayers**