



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 249

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

April 2026

Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For Priests in Crisis: Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

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

1. **Holy Week and Easter:** During Holy Week, the Church celebrates the Paschal mystery of salvation, the last days of Christ's earthly life, his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, until his Passion, Death and glorious Resurrection. The Paschal *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. The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ. Therefore, Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the "Feast of feasts," the "Solemnity of solemnities."

Please diligently read 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 extend my heartfelt Easter blessings on each of you. Kindly convey my Easter greetings to your beloved parishioners and fellow members of your religious communities. May the Risen Lord enrich our lives with his blessings of happiness, serenity and optimism as we continue to fulfill the divine mission bestowed upon us.

2. **House Blessing:** The practice of House Blessing is a beautiful tradition preserved for centuries in the Church. Visiting the parishioners in their homes during Easter time, the Parish Priest represents the Risen Lord meeting his people in the families bringing forgiveness, peace and hope of a new life with the Lord. I request all the Parish Priests to begin 'House Blessings' soon after Easter and complete the same before the Easter Season ends.

VISHWASA SAMBRAMA 2026: to be held at your Missions / Parishes from 7th to 12th April for all children from Standard IV to IX. The Commission for the Faith Formation 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 time to thoroughly prepare the lessons suitable for each age group. You can enrich the lessons by giving better examples, adding appropriate songs, action songs, dramatization, etc. Please share your personal faith experiences and you can make the lesson experiential. Parish Priests/Mission Directors, please involve youth, teachers and others to organize the Faith formation camp well. Please invite people to contribute their 'mite' towards the camp expenses and acknowledge.

3. **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 our 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.

4. **Parish/Mission Level Evaluation:** I request the Parish Priest / Mission Directors to hold the annual evaluation of the Parish Pastoral Plan activities in the Easter Week of April and send the reports along with the annual budget by 30th April.

SANKALPA CAMP: The Sankalpa Camp will be held at Sugyan Pastoral Centre from 15th April to 7th May. Fr. Stevan Veigas, Secretary GDES will give you further information.

5. **PRERANA CAMP:** You are welcome to hold Prerana Camp between 21st April to 10th for all children especially slow learners and those deprived of good education. From 4th to 9th STD classes, desiring to study. The afternoon can be utilized to help children to discover and develop their talents by organizing various faith and cultural activities. Let there be Prayer, Bhajans, Mass and Rosary every day. Please engage good teachers and able Camp Masters. Also, please get the budget approved before you begin the camp.
6. **From the Procurator:** This year Final Audit of the Diocese/CDSB will begin from 27th of May 2026. But we are expected to send the Tally soft copies to the Auditors by 15th of April. Hence I request the Parish Priests/Mission Directors and Managers of the Pre-Primary Schools to update the accounts till March 31st and submit to the office with all the documents before 15th April.

Kindly submit the following documents:

1. Tally soft copy (please continue in the latest audited Tally)
2. Receipt books
3. Bills and vouchers (to be continued in the same file of interim audit)
4. Bank Statements for 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 (Soft copies from the Bank are preferred)
5. Balance confirmation letter from the Bank as on 31-03-2026
6. FD Interest certificate from the bank with details of TDS done by the bank for 01.04.25 to 31.3.2026
7. Updated FD receipts (original)
8. Fee Collection List of Pre Pry schools and Promotion of Education Account
9. Fee analysis list in excel sheet. A summary of Fee due list for Pre-Primary Schools and Promotion of Education account– should be printed duly signed by the HM).
Kindle see that the figures in Fee analysis list matches the figures in Tally.
10. PEA receipt books

Please number the bills and vouchers as in Tally and file them and submit in an orderly way in a bag

GDES: All the school managers are requested to follow the same time.

Joint meeting of COP and DPC: A joint meeting of the Council of Priests and Diocesan Pastoral Council will be held on Tuesday 14.04.2026 at 9:30 a.m. All the members are expected to be present. Please cooperate.

Commissions Speak:

Commission for Catechetics: The Karnataka Regional Commission for Faith Formation is organizing online classes for catechism teachers in both Kannada and English. Kindly motivate all catechism teachers in your parish/institution to participate in this course. Thank you for your support and cooperation. Link will be sent to you shortly.

Happy to announce the results of catechism exams STD 7th and 10th: We congratulate all students for their hard work and dedication. A special thanks to our Sisters and Teachers for their selfless service and guidance in shaping our children's spiritual journey.

1.	Nancy	10th	Shahabad	97
2.	Anjali Synthia	10th	Shahabad	97
3.	Kishor	10th	Jalasangi	97
4.	Arpita	10th	Jalasangi	97
5.	Rakshith	10th	Sankalpa	96
6.	Sawmya D/o Samuel	10th	Jalasangi	95
7.	Srasti	10th	Jalasangi	95
1.	Annlin	7th	Shahabad	98
2.	Archana	7th	Jalasangi	98
3.	Sevanthi	7th	Itga	98
4.	Ann Maria Jeny	7th	Gulbarga	96
5.	Grace Puthukulagara	7th	Gulbarga	96
6.	Shilviya	7th	Itaga	96
7.	Nisha	7th	Gulbarga	94
8.	Kusum	7th	Jalasangi	94
9.	Joel	7th	Sacred Heart Bidar	94

-Fr. Deepak Fudtado, Secretary, Commission for Catechetics.

Commission for Youth: Career Guidance Programme will be held on Sunday 12th April at 9:30 a.m. for all those who have completed 10th and PUC at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar.

-Fr. Sachin Christy, Secretary, Commission for Youth.

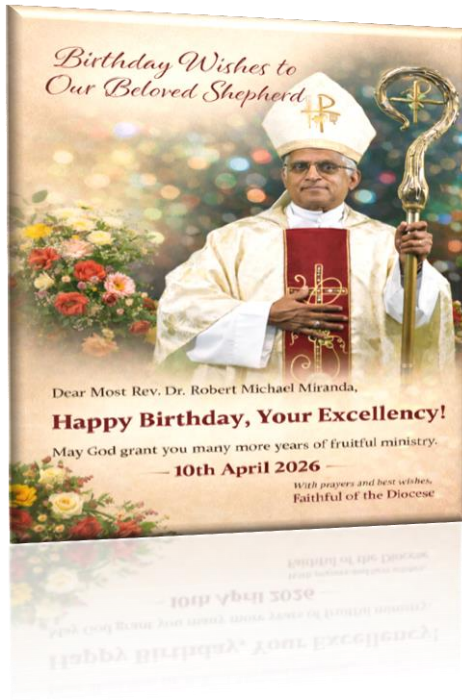
Please celebrate Ambedkar Jayanthi on 14th April and Basava Jayanthi on 20th People will appreciate very much. Good to be more secular

VOCATION CAMP 2026; In view of promoting vocations, the Commission for Vocation and Formation is hosting 'Vocation Camp-2025' for boys and girls from April 14th to 15th at Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhalki, beginning 14th evening at 6:00 p.m. and ending on 15th after lunch.

Kindly encourage boys and girls of Standard VIII to PUC. For more information you may contact Rev. Fr. Deepak Fudtado, Secretary, Commission for Vocation and Formation (+91 8861889762). I invite all the Parish Priests to make extra efforts to promote vocations to priesthood and religious life and send the possible candidates from Standard 8th to 2nd PUC for the above vocation camp.



WISH YOU ALL A HOLY AND FRUITFUL TRIDUUM AND A JOYFUL AND HAPPY EASTER



Dear Fathers and Sisters,
 We are delighted to share that Most Rev. Robert Miranda, our beloved Shepherd, will be celebrating his birthday on 10th April. Let us join in gratitude for his guidance, encouragement, and unwavering commitment to our mission diocese. You are warmly invited to the Thanksgiving Eucharist on 10th April at 6:00 PM at the Cathedral, followed by a brief felicitation and dinner. Let us hold our Bishop in our prayers, offering thanks for his inspiring leadership and pastoral care.

— Msgr. Santhosh Bapu, Vicar General

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: APRIL 2026

02	-	Holy Thursday
03	-	Good Friday
04	-	Easter (Catherdal)
07	-	Consulter's Meeting/Finance Committee Meeting
07-08	-	Faith Formation Camp
08	-	G B Meeting – Orbit/Sevasangama
14	-	COP/DPC Meeting
15	-	Vocation Camp
16	-	Seminarians Meet

Kripalaya, Bishop's House
 01 April 2026

† Robert Miranda

Bishop of Gulbarga

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

05	Fr. George Lobo, Kaudiyal	19	Sr. Nikita CSST, Gulbarga
05	Sr. Wilma Maria Crasta SCCG, Kankal	20	Fr. Shabu Francis SDB, Yadgir
06	Sr. Maria Chrisette AC, Bidar	22	Sr. Rita FMM Chincholi
07	Sr. Stella Maria SMMI, Talmadagi	22	Sr. Preethi Leena BS, Jalasangi
08	Sr. Maria BS, Chittapur	23	Fr. Derek Barnabas, Santhpur
08	Sr. Kavitha Noronha SRA, Ujini	24	Sr. Arpitha FMM, Chincholi
09	Sr. Mariamma SJT, Bijapur	15	Fr. Wilbert Vinay Lobo, Aland
10	† ROBERT MIRANDA Bishop of Gulbarga	24	Fr. Sunil Mankare , Itga
10	Sr. Maria Shwetha AC, Bidar	24	Fr. Fredrick D'Souza, Gulbaarga
12	Sr. Vasantha Prathipati SSpS, Gulbarga	25	Fr. Victor Anil Vas, Humnabad
12	Fr. Satish Kumar OFM Cap, Halbarga	26	Sr. Reni Sebastian SJC, Bijapur
14	Sr Anisha Frank AC, Bidar	27	Fr. Gerald Sagar, Shahabad
14	Sr. Veena G. Fernandes UFS, Sindagi	28	Sr. Divya Reshma UFS, Shahapur
14	Sr. Synthia D'Mello UFS, Sindagi	29	Sr. Riving RNDM, Almel

HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DEAR FATHERS

15	Fr. Anil Prasad	27	Fr. Gerald Sagar
16	Fr. Sandeep Goveas OCD	27	Fr. Steevan Veigas
17	Fr. Santhosh Bapu	27	Fr. Sunil Andrade
20	Fr. Clary D'Souza	28	Fr. Fredrick D'Souza
20	Fr. Santhosh Dias	28	Fr. Anil Crasta
21	Fr. Vincent lobo	28	Fr. David D'Souza
23	Fr. George Lobo	28	Fr. Robert Crasta
24	Fr. Kuriakose Puthenpureyil	29	Fr. George Antony SCJ
25	Fr. Wilfred Dias CSC	29	Fr. Kulandai Albert CSC
26	Fr. William Selvaraj CSC	30	Fr. Thomas D'Souza SJ
27	Fr. Roque N. D'Souza		

News March 2026

Walk with Christ Inspires Young Minds(1st March 2026): The Kalaburagi Zone of the Conference of Religious India (CRI) organized a Lenten Youth Programme titled “*Walk with Christ*” at St. Thomas Church, Shahabad. Centered on the theme “*Empowering Young Minds – Growing in Faith and Fellowship,*” the gathering brought together youth in a spirit of prayer, reflection, and unity during the Holy Season of Lent. Rev. Fr. Roshan D'Souza, Director of Premavani Communications, delivered the keynote address on “*Spiritual Journey with AI,*” encouraging the responsible and creative use of technology for evangelization. The Holy Eucharist, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Antony Selvam, served as the spiritual high point of the programme. The presence of Bro. Michael SHJ, CRI Gulbarga Zone President, along with several religious sisters, added grace to the occasion. The event concluded with fellowship, leaving participants spiritually enriched and motivated. Thanks to the Organizers.

Deanery Leadership Training Prepares for Panchayat Elections (28th February 2026): the Bidar and Gulbarga Deaneries organized Pastoral Council Meetings and Leadership Training sessions in preparation for the upcoming Grama Panchayat Elections. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions on electoral roll revision and civic responsibility. Around 200 potential candidates were identified, and a District-Level Committee was constituted to guide the initiative. Parishes were also instructed to convene PPC meetings before March 10 to ensure voter list verification and effective community mobilization. Dr. Isabella Selvaraj Xavier served as the resource person for both Bidar and Gulbarga sessions. Approximately 375 participants benefited from the training. We sincerely thank all parish priests and superiors for their dedicated efforts in mobilizing participants. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the deanery coordinators, resource person, and all participants for their active involvement and commitment to responsible leadership and civic engagement.

BEC Animators' Training Strengthens Grassroots Faith Communities (7-8th March 2026): Two-day training for Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) Animators was held at Sugyan Pastoral Centre, Kotnoor. Led by Rev. Fr. Maxim Dias, the programme focused on deepening the spirituality and leadership of animators. Participants engaged in practical pastoral exposure through ward-level prayer services, fostering a deeper understanding of BECs as vibrant faith communities. 30 Animators participated.

Retreats and Women's Day Celebrations across Parishes (8th March 2026): several parishes marked a spiritually enriching day with retreats and International Women's Day celebrations: **At Queen of Heaven Church,** a retreat led by Rev. Fr. Sunil Andrade included Confession and Eucharistic Adoration. Women were honored for their contributions, with thanks to Sr. Kavitha Lobo and the organizing team.

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Halbarga, hosted a Lenten Retreat with 250 faithful, led by the KRSC team, followed by a Women's Day celebration.

Parishioners from St. Anne's Church, Vijayapura, undertook a pilgrimage to St. Paul the Hermit Shrine, Mudagal, participating in the Way of the Cross and Holy Eucharist. We gratefully acknowledge and thank all parish priests, religious sisters, organizers, and volunteers who made these celebrations spiritually fruitful and memorable.

Parish-Level Meetings on Panchayat Elections (2nd March 2026): Various parishes including Halbarga, Talmadgi, and Hulsoor conducted Parish Pastoral Council meetings to discuss strategies for the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections. Emphasis was placed on voter list verification and identifying suitable candidates to serve the community. We thank all parish leaders and council members for their proactive efforts in guiding the faithful toward responsible civic participation.

Inauguration of Cluny Sisters' Social Centre at Maltanda(18th March 2026): On, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny inaugurated a new social centre at Maltanda, Vijayapura. The event, graced by Sr. Zeena, Vice Provincial, marks a significant expansion of their mission in social outreach and empowerment. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and sincere thanks to the Cluny Sisters for their dedicated service and for establishing this centre as a beacon of hope and charity.

International Women's Day Celebrations – March 2026: Diocese-wide Celebrations: International Women's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm across the Diocese of Gulbarga, highlighting the dignity, leadership, and contribution of women in the Church and society. Various parishes, institutions, and social organizations organized meaningful programs including prayer services, awareness sessions, cultural events, and social outreach initiatives.

Humnabad (18 March 2026): Celebrated under the joint auspices of Beladingalu District Federation and ORBIT at Super Function Hall on 18th March. The program began with an awareness rally, followed by talks on empowerment and leadership by Ms. Vidyavati. Most Rev. Dr. Michael Miranda encouraged women to take active roles in society and leadership. Over 900 women participated.

Santhpur – Deepalaya Social Centre (17 March 2026): Organized in collaboration with Deepalaya and ORBIT, with around 400 Self-Help Group members. A free eye camp by Sailens Eye Hospital, Bidar, benefited many participants.

Seva Sangam & Sthree Vani (13 March 2026): Held at Mother Teresa Hall with around 400 participants. **Parish & Mission Level Celebrations:** Women's Day was celebrated in all parishes with prayerful and joyful participation at Mudnal, Itga, Hulsoor, Talmadgi, Bhalki, Vijayapura, Ujini, Afzalpur, Shahabad, Wadi, Sedam.

Diocese of Gulbarga – Chrism Mass and a Day of Recollection: On Thursday 26 March 2026, the Diocese of Gulbarga held the Chrism Mass and Day of Recollection at Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral, Kalaburagi, with the participation of all the priests and religious of the diocese. The day began with a recollection talk by Rev. Fr. Nirmal Miranda, followed by Adoration and Confession, helping the clergy prepare spiritually for Holy Week. The Chrism Mass was solemnly celebrated by Most Rev. Dr. Robert Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga, along with all the priests. In his homily, the Bishop highlighted key pastoral priorities: a deep life of prayer, interreligious dialogue, strong grounding in the Word of God, and a preferential love for the poor. The priests also renewed their priestly promises. During the Mass, the Holy Oils were blessed and consecrated. The celebration concluded with gratitude expressed by Rev. Fr. Joseph Praveen and a renewed spirit of unity and mission among the clergy as they prepare for Holy Week and Easter.