



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 253 † **ROBERT M. MIRANDA**
BISHOP OF GULBARGA August 2026

Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For evangelization in the city: Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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

1. Training on Parish structures :

As agreed at the online meeting held on 7th July, instead of 'Laity Samavesha', this year we will be having a training on the Parish structures, namely the PPC, PFC and VPC for All Priests, Superiors of the religious communities, Vice Presidents, and Secretaries of all Parish councils on Saturday, 15th August at ORBIT 10 AM to 2 PM. Fr. Santhosh Dias is expected as the resource person. Please be present without fail. The same programme will be held for Gulbarga and Bijapur deanery on August 16th.

2. Anniversary of Gulbarga Diocese and my Episcopal Ordination (August 18):

Our Diocese joyously steps into 22nd year since its formal Inauguration on 18th August 2005. The Lord has abundantly blessed this diocese. Filled with deep gratitude in our hearts, let us continue to serve and enhance its vibrancy. This date also marks the anniversary of my Episcopal Ordination. I am deeply grateful for your whole hearted support and cooperation for the last 21 years. I humbly request your prayers that I may continue to lead and serve this mission Diocese with the heart of Jesus, Our Good Shepherd. I'll be celebrating a Thanks giving Mass at the Cathedral on Monday 18th evening at 6:00 pm. You are dearly welcome to join me.

3. Feast of St. John Mary Vianney (August 4): St. John Vianney was born in France to a poor farming family. Though a slow learner, he was ordained because of his deep devotion. In 1818, he was sent to the village of Ars, where he served for the rest of his life. Known for his holiness and spiritual insight, he spent up to 18 hours a day hearing confessions. His fame drew thousands, making Ars a place of pilgrimage. In 1848, he received the Légion d'Honneur, which he sold to help the poor. Pope Pius XI later named him the patron saint of all the priests. Let us pray through the intercession of St. John Vianney, may we grow in pastoral charity and lead others to Christ. Amen.

Feast of Saint John Maria Vianny and clergy recollection will be held on 5-6 august 2026. Detailed program will be sent to the priests and religious (priests) shortly. We expect all priests to be present. I also request the ppc secretary and superiors of the religious community to organize a short felicitation, greeting the priest's happy feast on fourth august or any other suitable time.

4. Justice Sunday (August 24): Dear Fathers, Sisters, and Mission Directors, Justice Sunday will be observed on **August 23^d**, with the theme:



"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Amos 5:24. The liturgy for the day will be sent to you shortly by email.

5. **Year of Family:** will be meaningful and more fruitful if we make use of the Media and arrange YouTube programmes of motivational talks, interviews and Personal interviews etc for our people. I invite all the Priests, Sisters, and people to come forward to share your knowledge and experiences with people on YouTube. Please contact Fr Roshan D'Souza, Secretary for communications who will coordinate and do the proper recording for the YouTube

I request all the Parish Priests to follow the program of the Year of Family given in the last circular dated 25-07 -2026 sent to you by WhatsApp. Accordingly, the Monthly Theme for Family Catechesis on First Sundays of the Month shall be :

Month	Theme	Scripture
August 2026	The Family: God's Beautiful Plan Parents: First Teachers of Faith	Genesis 2:24
September 2026	God's Word at the Heart of Every Family	Psalms 119:105
October 2026	Missionary Families: Witnesses of Christ	Matthew 28:19
November 2026	The Family that Prays Together	Matthew 18:20
December 2026	Preparing Our Homes for Christ	Luke 1:38
January 2027	The Holy Family: Model of Every Christian Family	Luke 2:51-52
February 2027	Christian Marriage: A Covenant of Love	Ephesians 5:21-33
March 2027	Healing and Reconciliation in Families	Luke 15:20
April 2027	Families: Pilgrims of Hope	John 20:21
May 2027	Mary: Mother and Guide of Every Family	John 19:26-27

6. **Vidyanidhi programme:** as soon as we receive the applications or Vidyanidhi (by 31st July) a committee will conduct a scrutiny and will finalise the list of applicants who will be called for the interview on Wednesday, 19th August at 10 AM. Please make sure the applicants from your parish are present for the interview. Mr. Lionel and Mr. Oswald representatives of Michael D'Souza Family Charities will be addressing and conduct interviews for Youth selected for Vidyanidhi.

Dear parish priests, we are also going to request all those who received education loan from GDES so far and are now employed to repay their loans. Kindly collect their addresses, WhatsApp numbers and send it to us as early as possible. Let us teach and motivate our youth to be grateful for the assistance or support they received for their studies. Please cooperate.

7. SOLEMNITIES AND FEASTS:

Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord (August 6): Jesus is transfigured on a mountain—His clothes became dazzling white, and Moses and Elijah appeared. Peter, James, and John witness His divine glory. A voice from heaven proclaims, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." The Transfiguration reveals Jesus' true identity and prepares the disciples for His passion. It reminds us that glory comes through the cross.

Feast of St. Lawrence (August 10): St. Lawrence was a deacon of Rome, known for his charity to the poor. When ordered to hand over the Church's treasures, he presented the poor and sick, saying, "These are the treasures of the Church." He was martyred on August 10, 258. His life is a witness to faith, service, and love for Christ.

Patron Saint of Prisoners Maximilian Kolbe (Prison Ministry Sunday) (August 14): Born in Poland in 1894, Maximilian Kolbe saw a vision of the Virgin Mary offering him two crowns—one for purity, one for martyrdom—and he chose both. He became a Franciscan priest, spreading devotion to Mary through media and missions, including in Japan. In 1941, at Auschwitz, he volunteered to die in place of another prisoner. He died a martyr of charity.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15): The Assumption celebrates Mary being taken body and soul into heaven. Free from sin, she was not subject to decay. Her Assumption is a sign of hope, showing the destiny God promises to all who are united with Christ. This day also marks the 78th anniversary of India's Independence—a time of both spiritual and national celebration. Mother Mary is a perfect model for us to experience inner freedom and freedom from all evil.

8. COMMISSIONS SPEAK:

Commission for Youth:

National Youth Sunday 2026, to be observed on Sunday, 9 August 2026, with the theme "Take courage! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). I request all the Parish Priests to organize a meaningful liturgy and a small get-together.

- August 2nd Aurad zone youth gathering at santhpur.

Fr. Sachin Christi, Secretary

Commission for Media and Social Communications:

Gulbarga Diocesan Website: Dear Parish/Mission Directors Diocesan & Religious, please send a clear and well-angled photo of your Church Building that best represents your Church, Institution and a recent photo of the Mission Team. Note: While sending photos via WhatsApp (8105473029) or Email (dioceseofgulbarga@gmail.com please ensure it is in image format (JPEG/PNG)

Fr. Roshan D'Souza, Secretary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

02	Fr. Anand Prabhu SJ, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	14	Fr. Praveen Kumar SJ, <i>Vijapur</i>
04	Sr. Maria Reetha AC, <i>Bidar</i>	17	Sr. Saroj Karedan SRA, <i>Ujini</i>
05	Sr. Mary Kaippaparam SCCG, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	18	GULBARGA DIOCESE
07	Sr. M Vinitha Gonsalves BS, <i>Humnabad</i>	18	Fr. Clary D' Souza, <i>Itga</i>
08	Sr. Leera Mondonca SCCG, <i>Kankal</i>	20	Sr. Hilda Fernandes SCCG, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
09	Fr. Sandeep Gonsalves SJ, <i>Vijapur</i>	20	Sr. Vijay Joseph SCCG, <i>Kankal</i>
09	Sr. Anisha Pinto UFS, <i>Itga</i>	21	Sr. Leenet Monteiro SRA, <i>Santpur</i>
09	Fr. David D'Souza Shorapur	22	Sr. Maria Fernandes UFS, <i>Vijayapur</i>
09	Fr. David D' Souza, <i>Hebal</i>	23	Sr. Rose Mary DSS, <i>Halbarga</i>
12	Sr. Maria Swetha AC <i>Bidar</i>	26	Fr. David Antony, <i>Bhalki</i>
12	Sr. Priyanka Sanju D' Souza UFS, <i>Shahpur</i>	26	Fr. Lawrence Arun, <i>Kaudiyal</i>
13	Sr. Saritha Souza SCCG, <i>Muddehebela</i>	26	Sr. Deepthi Thomas SMMI, <i>Talamadgi</i>
13	Br. Micheal raj SHJ, <i>Jewargi</i>	31	Angeline Sequeira UFS <i>Kaudiyala</i>

HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DEAR FATHERS

06	Fr Anand Prabhu SJ, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
06	Fr. Wilfred Naveen Dsilva OFM Cap, <i>Halbarga</i>

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: 2026

- 02 - 03 Pastoral Visit to Halbarga Mission
- 05-06 Vianny Day / Clergy Recollection
- 07 Village Visit –Jalasangi (Hippergav/Mothergav)
- 08 School Visits- Cathedral
- 09 - 11 Pastoral Visit to Bhalki Mission
- 12 School Visit Kotnoor
- 13 Visit of Provincial (SAB)
- 15 Training on Parish structures At Bhalki
- 16 Training on Parish Structures At Gulbarga
- 15. Independence Day
- 16 - 17 Pastoral Visit to Santhpur Mission
- 18 -19 Diocesan Anniversary (Episcopal Ordination Day)
- 18 – 19 Griha Nidhi inspection and Vidya Nidhi – Interview by Michael D'Souza and family charities
- 20 School Visit Chincholli
- 23 - 24 Pastoral Visit – Itga Mission/ Arivu – Bhalki Zone
- 26 - 27 Visit to Talikote/ M. Bihal/ Kankal
- 29 Diocesan Pastoral Council

Kripalaya, Bishop's House
31 July 2026



† Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga



News July 2026

1. **CRI Annual General Body Meeting (26 June 2026):** The Conference of Religious India (CRI), Gulbarga Diocese, held its Annual General Body Meeting at the Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral, Kalaburagi. Priests and religious from across the Diocese participated in the gathering. Rev. Fr. Roshan D'Souza delivered a session on *Magnifica Humanitas*, the Encyclical of Pope Leo XIV. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Most Rev. Dr. Robert Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga, who encouraged the religious to be faithful witnesses of Christ through prayer, unity, and dedicated service. The programme also included group discussions, fellowship, and planning for future pastoral initiatives. Sincere thanks to the Cathedral Parish, the CRI Office Bearers, and all the priests and religious who contributed to the successful organization of the Annual General Body Meeting.
2. **Women's Commission Formation & Inauguration Programmes (30 June – 26 July 2026)** : The Women Commission of the Diocese organized formation programmes for the women of the Gulbarga and Bidar Deaneries, animated by Sr. Lidwin Fernandes, National Secretary of the Women Commission. The participants reflected on the vocation, dignity and mission of women in the Church and society. Bishop Robert Miranda encouraged them to become "living witnesses of faith" in their families and parishes. During the month, Women's Commissions were also inaugurated at Hulsoor, Chincholi, Santhpur, Itga (Mary Pawada Mathe Church), Bidar and other mission centres. Office bearers were elected and action plans were prepared for the Year of the Family. We thank all the Parish Priests, Religious Sisters, Commission Coordinators and the women who actively participated in strengthening the Women's Commission throughout the Diocese.
3. **Bala Jyothi Tuition Centres Inaugurated (3 July 2026):** Bala Jyothi Tuition Centres were inaugurated at Udbal and Hakyal villages with the participation of 67 children. The programme emphasized academic excellence, discipline, prayer and value-based formation. Daily tuition, Rosary and Holy Mass were introduced for the children. Sincere thanks to all the Fathers, Sisters, teachers and volunteers for beginning this valuable educational ministry.
4. **Parents' Orientation and PTA Meetings (4th, 25th July 2026):** Parents' Orientation Programmes and PTA Meetings were successfully conducted at St. Peter School, Shahapur; Prerana School, Surpur; Bethany English Medium School, Humnabad; and St. Mary's

School, Kotnoor. The resource persons emphasized that the family is the first school and parents are the primary educators responsible for the holistic formation of their children. We appreciate all the school managements, teachers and parents for their wholehearted participation.

5. **Youth Commission and ICYM Activities (5–26 July 2026):** The Diocese witnessed several Youth Commission and ICYM programmes. Youth Commissions were inaugurated at Santhpur and Hulsoor. Zonal Youth Gatherings were held at Bhalki, Basavakalyan and Bidar, while ICYM outings, elections, planning meetings and leadership programmes strengthened the youth apostolate across the Diocese. We thank the Youth Commission, all Parish Priests, and Religious and youth leaders for their dedicated service to our young people.
6. **Laudato Si', Vanamahotsava and Creation Care Celebrations (6–26 July 2026):** Laudato Si' Week, Vanamahotsava and Creation Care programmes were celebrated enthusiastically throughout the Diocese in parishes, schools, hostels and institutions including Chittapur, Vijayapura, Bidar, Santhpur, Gulbarga, Chincholi, Aland, Itga, Kotnoor, Shahapur, Sedam, Hulsoor, Muchalamb and many other centres. Activities included tree plantation, environmental awareness programmes, competitions, cleaning drives, Eucharistic celebrations, Adoration, pledges to protect nature and the distribution of saplings to families. We sincerely thank all the schools, parish communities, Religious Congregations, students and volunteers for promoting care for our common home.
7. **Family Ministry Programmes (6–26 July 2026):** As part of the Year of the Family, Sacred Heart of Jesus pictures were distributed to families at Itga and Santhpur. Family relationship seminars, Marriage Enrichment Programmes, Parents' Orientation Programmes and Grandparents' Day celebrations were conducted in several parishes. The faithful were encouraged to strengthen family prayer, mutual love and Christian values. We appreciate the Family Commission, Parish Priests and all those who organized these meaningful family programmes.
8. **Prison Ministry and Social Service (4–16 July 2026):** Carmel Jyothi Public Charitable Trust, Kadaganchi, continued its compassionate outreach through the release of two prisoners by paying their pending fines, a free dental camp benefiting 79 inmates, a health and legal aid camp at Sedam Sub Jail, distribution of protein food kits to TB patients and a Labour Smart Card Registration Camp for unorganized workers. Prison visits and counselling services were also conducted. We gratefully acknowledge Carmel Jyothi Public Charitable Trust, Prison Ministry of India, medical professionals, government officials and all benefactors for their generous collaboration.
9. **Deanery Recollections (9 & 11 July 2026):** The Bidar and Gulbarga Deaneries held their recollections for priests and Religious. The programmes included spiritual conferences by Fr. Cyprian Fernandes OCD, Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, Holy Eucharist and sharing of pastoral plans for the Year of the Family. We thank the Deans and all those who organized these spiritually enriching recollections.
10. **Pastoral Visits (12–27 July 2026):** Bishop Robert Miranda conducted pastoral visits to Jalasangi Parish, Kumarchincholi, Othgi and Vijayapura. During these visits he administered the Sacraments, met parish organizations, visited families and the sick, encouraged catechesis and family prayer, planted saplings and strengthened the faith of the people. We thank the Parish Priests, Parish Councils and all the faithful for their warm welcome and excellent organization.
11. **Feast Day Celebrations (5–26 July 2026):** Several parish feasts were celebrated with devotion across the Diocese, including the Feast of St. Thomas at Shahabad, Mount Carmel Feast at Chittapur and Don Bosco Bidar, Feast of St. Anne at Vijayapura and the blessing and inauguration of the renovated St. Ann Church at Wadi. These celebrations included Holy Eucharist, processions, cultural programmes and fellowship meals. We thank all the Parish Priests, benefactors, volunteers and parishioners whose generous service made these celebrations meaningful.

12. **Educational and Student Formation Programmes (15–22 July 2026):** Student orientation programmes, YCS/YCSM inauguration, MCA activities, catechism programmes and value-based educational initiatives were conducted in several schools and parishes. Students were encouraged to develop leadership qualities, discipline, and responsibility and Christian values. Our sincere appreciation to all the educational institutions, teachers and students for their active participation.
13. **Gruha Nidhi Field Verification (11–12 July 2026):** The Diocese conducted field verification visits to applicant families under the Gruha Nidhi Housing Project across Bidar Deanery to ensure that housing assistance reaches the most deserving beneficiaries. We thank the Vicar General, Sevasangama Team, Parish Priests and all involved in this important social ministry.
14. **KRSC Planning Meeting (18–19 July 2026):** The Karnataka Regional Service of Communion (KRSC) conducted its planning meeting at the Bishop's House, Gulbarga, to prepare the Regional Action Plan for 2026–2029, with special focus on Youth Ministry, Pro-Life and evangelization. We thank KRSC members and all who contributed to the successful planning meeting.
15. **NGO Seminar (24 July 2026):** The Commission for Social Concern and Development organized a seminar on the "Current NGO Scenario and the Way Forward for Faith-Based Organizations." Representatives from various organizations participated and benefited from the sessions on sustainability and future planning. We thank the Commission, the resource person and all the participating organizations.
16. **Grandparents' Day Celebrations (26 July 2026):** Grandparents' Day was celebrated with great joy in many parishes including Gulbarga Cathedral, Sacred Heart Church, Shahapur, Bidar, Hulsoor, Santhpur, Kamalanagar, Bhalki and Vijayapura. The celebrations included Holy Eucharist, special prayers, cultural programmes, felicitation of grandparents, distribution of gifts and fellowship meals. We sincerely thank all the Parish Priests, Religious, MCA children, youth and parishioners for honouring our beloved grandparents with love and gratitude.

NECROLOGY

- Father of Sr. Arpitha Precilla SMMI (Talmadgi Mission): Kindly pray for the repose of his soul and for God's consolation to Sr. Arpitha and her family. †
- Mr. Cyril Fernandes (Bijapur Mission): Beloved father of Fr. Sunil Fernandes and brother-in-law of Fr. Dayananda Prabhu. Kindly remember him in your prayers. †
- Fr. A. M. Joseph: Staff member of St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary. Kindly pray for the repose of his soul.

Eternal Rest Grant unto Them O Lord and Let Perpetual Light Shine on them May They Rest in Peace

Our heartfelt condolences to all the family members.
