



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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

Circular No.254

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

September 2026

Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For the care of water. Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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

I was indeed happy that all of you—the Parish Priests, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries—were present for the planning meeting on 15th -16 August at Bhalki and Gulbarga. Your presence and active participation is greatly appreciated. It shows your commitment to the pastoral mission of the Diocese. You may remember that the training was focused on building vibrant and effective Parish Pastoral Councils. Fr Santhosh explained to you clearly the roles and responsibilities of the Parish Priest, the Vice-President and the Secretaries. I hope, this training has helped all of you to understand your respective roles better and to work together as a team for the growth and renewal of our parishes.

As I go around the parishes for the parish Pastoral Visit, I feel very happy about the great spiritual enthusiasm of the people. I believe the number of people present and their active participation in the Holy Eucharist and other activities during the Pastoral Visit is a proof of their growth in faith and also their love for the Church. This I believe is the result of your hard work all through the year. Thank you very much. I sincerely thank all of you my brother priests, sisters, PPC members and all those who work tirelessly to build vibrant and faith-filled communities in your respective parishes. At the same time, I urge you to entrust appropriate responsibilities to the PPC members and also to members of Village Pastoral Committees according to their interest and competency.

Family Survey and ARIVU PROGRAMME : I hope by now you have completed the Family Survey. As said before, the family survey has two parts. The first one on the family pastoral needs (Sacraments) to be fulfilled by you, and the second part speaks about the social benefits that every family should get. In the forthcoming ARIVU program marked in the Year Plan, the Secretaries for Social Development, Women, Youth, and Laity will attend the Zonal Meetings to create awareness on the social benefits, and make sure that all the people have their basic social benefits with the help of your parish level leaders (PPC, Youth, Women and Laity). The Secretaries will teach the people how to get these benefits and will also train one or two youth, women cell members, PPC members, and other volunteers, to continue applying for these benefits for families that do not have the very essential benefits like the Health card, the Ration Card, the Aadhaar Card, the Smart Card or Labor Card, the Voters ID, etc. Therefore, I request you to complete the survey of the social data as early as possible and inform the people about this program of awareness in your respective zonal center. Kindly take interest in this and make sure that people get the benefit which is due to them.

Please understand, the Year of the Family is not only about strengthening families in their faith and spiritual life; it is also about caring for the dignity and well-being of every family, especially those who, for various reasons, have been unable to avail themselves of the basic benefits available to them. Therefore, I request all of you to complete the social-data portion of the Family Survey as early as possible. Please also inform and motivate the people in your respective parishes and villages to participate in the ARIVU programme at the designated Zonal Parish.

BIDAR DEANERY RECOLLECTION & JATHRA PLANNING MEETING

On Thursday, 3rd September 2026, we will have the Bidar Deanery Recollection for all the Fathers and Sisters of the Deanery, along with the Vice-Presidents and Secretaries of all Parishes and Mission Centres. Immediately after the recollection, we will have our 1st Planning Meeting for the upcoming Infant Jesus Jathra. Since this is our first meeting and important preparations need to be initiated, kindly be present for the meeting without fail. Your presence, participation, and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

1. St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata – (5th September):

We are delighted to honor the legacy of Mother Theresa, an icon of compassion and love that captivated the whole world with her firm dedication to caring for the poor, dying, destitute, orphans and the elderly. In 1946 she answered the call to follow Christ into the slums and serve the poorest of the poor. She is inspiring us missionaries to imitate her example. Mother Teresa teaches us to serve with boundless love and trust in the Lord and we are proud to serve society under her patronage especially through ORBIT (Humnabad), and Mother Teresa Charitable Hospital in Kalaburagi. Our joint efforts bring hope to the poor, sick, and the suffering in our Diocese. Glad to know that on 4th September, ORBIT and Youth Commission have organized a Blood Donation Program from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Please encourage the youth to donate blood. Mother Teresa Charitable Hospital also invites you to attend the inauguration of Padre Pio Block with the launch of new health initiatives like Mother care, Divya Sparsha and Arogya Sathi on 7th September at 4:30 PM.

2. Teachers' Day, (5th September):

A day to express our gratitude towards the Teachers who shape the minds of our children and equip them with the tools to become outstanding persons of tomorrow. A teacher is not just a mere instructor, but a source of inspiration, guidance and enlightenment, who strives to bring out the best in every child. We are greatly thankful to all the teachers in our schools for their steadfast commitment and dedication providing the best education to all children. Happy Teachers' Day! Our heartfelt wishes and prayers are with you always.

3. Anniversary of Late Bishop Basil D'Souza (5th September):

We proudly honor Late Bishop Basil S D' Souza, the visionary founder of Bidar Mission, on the anniversary of his passing. His unwavering passion for missions inspired him to start Bidar Mission in 1982. We are grateful for this Mission and pray that God, through his intercession, may bless us with the grace and dedication to continue our apostolic Zeal for the glory of God's Kingdom in the Diocese.

4. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th September):

The birth of every human child is said to be a concrete expression of God's love for humanity. The birth of Mary brought great joy to the entire humanity, because of her was born Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the humankind. Our Lady's Birthday has been described as 'the hope of the world and the dawn of Salvation'. As children of our heavenly mother, we joyfully celebrate her birthday and ask her assistance to be firm in our call amid all trials and tribulations.

The church also celebrates our Blessed Mother Mary's birthday as the **Girl Child Day**. The best way to show our love to Mother Mary is to love and respect the girl children and women in the society as they need to enjoy gender-equity, freedom, opportunities for education and employment in our society. Let us celebrate the Girl Child Day

meaningfully accepting the girl child as God's precious gift. Happy feast to you all! **Communio India, a CCBI venture has been helping mission dioceses in India for chapels in villages, faith formation activities and formation of seminarians and priests and religious. It is an organization started by CCBI years ago and has started to bear good results already. Our diocese's has also benefitted from Communio India. But our contribution to Communio India has been very less. You're aware we have decided to hold 'Communio India' collection on the feast of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary. Please announce to the people on this Sunday itself so that our people are motivated to give a generous contribution to Communio. Please announce about this collection well in advance to people.**

Celebration of the Mass for the Care of Creation – 20 September 2026

The CCBI requests all dioceses and parishes to celebrate the Mass for the Care of Creation on the Third Sunday of September, 20 September 2026, in view of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The updated liturgical guidelines and texts are enclosed for use. All parishes are requested to celebrate this Mass prayerfully and meaningfully, encouraging the faithful to deepen their Christian responsibility to care for God's creation and our common home, in the spirit of Laudato Si'. The liturgy and relevant materials for the celebration will be sent to you shortly by email. All the Mission Directors and Parish Priests are kindly requested to make the necessary arrangements and ensure the meaningful celebration of this Mass.

COMMISSIONS SPEAK:

Commission for Education:

- Dear Managers and HMs, The first phase of the GDES Counseling Course will be held from 23rd morning at 9:30 a.m. to 25th afternoon. Every GDES institution must send at least one committed teacher; big schools are requested to send one teacher from Primary and one from High School. Kindly select teachers who genuinely care for children and ensure their participation.
- The GDES Inter-School Sports Competition will be held on 26th September 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at Chandrashekar Patil Stadium and the Cultural Competitions on 27th September 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary School, Kotnoor. All Managers and HMs are requested to mark the dates and encourage maximum student participation. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

-Fr. Steevan Veigas, Secretary.

Commission for Youth:

ICYM Humnabad Zonal Gathering will be held on 13th at ORBIT. All concerned are requested to encourage maximum participation of youth and make the gathering a meaningful and joyful occasion.

-Fr. Sachin Christi, Secretary.

Commission for Social Communication:

I request all Zonal and Deanery Leaders to organize a one-day AI Training Programme for priests and religious at the Zonal or Deanery level at a convenient time. Kindly coordinate and contact me for further details and arrangements.

-Fr. Roshan D'Souza, Secretary

Commission for Women:

The Women's Commission members are requested to celebrate Girl Child Day on 8th September in their respective centres through suitable programmes and activities promoting the dignity, equal opportunities and overall development of the girl child.

-Sr. Maria Reetha, Secretary.

Commission for BEC:

The BEC/SCC Training Programme for Animators of Bijapur Deanery will be held on Sunday, 13 September 2026, at St. Anne's Church, Vijayapura. The programme begins with Holy Eucharist and concludes at 2:00 p.m. All Animators are requested to participate actively.

- Fr. Clary D'Souza, Secretary.

A warm and joyful welcome

To Br. Arun Rodrigues and Br. Manoj Francis on the successful completion of their studies and their return to the Diocese for pastoral ministry. We thank God for their dedicated formation and perseverance. May the Lord bless them with wisdom, zeal, and joy as they begin this new chapter of service among God's people in the Diocese. We are happy to welcome them back and wish them a fruitful and grace-filled pastoral ministry!

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: SEPTEMBER 2026

- 03 -Bidar Deanery Recollection at Bhalki Jathra Meeting
- 04 -Provincial's Visit
Rev. Fr. Dionysius Vas SJ, *Provincial, of Karnataka Jesuit Province*
Rev. Sr.Sally B.S, *Provincial of Dharwad Province*
- 06 - Pastoral Visit – Hulsoor
- 08 - Nativity of BVM – Mass at Cathedral
- 9-10 - Visit to Talikote, Muddebihal and Kankal
- 13 - Pastoral Visit – Talmadgi
- 20 -Pastoral Visit – Wadi
- 21-25-KRCBC/Seminary Board Meeting
- 26 - GDES Inter-School Sports Competition
- 27 -Pastoral Visit - Ujini

Kripalaya, Bishop's House
31th August 2026



† Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

DATE	NAMES	DATE	NAMES
03	Sr. Valentina Rodrigues BS, <i>Chittapur</i>	15	Bro. Kulandai Yesu SHJ, <i>Jewargi</i>
04	Sr. Veronica Tirkey SSpS, <i>Ekkamba</i>	15	Sr. Shantha Lakra CSJ, <i>Bidar</i>
04	Sr. Celine Fernandes DHM, <i>Indi</i>	15	Sr. Simprose BS, <i>Chittapur</i>
05	Fr. Deepak Furtado, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	15	Sr. Pramita Mariya D'Souza UFS Shorapur
06	Sr. Lilly John CSJ, <i>Bidar</i>	16	Sr. Albina SHM, <i>Sedam</i>
08	Sr. Kanika Mary Cruze SAB, Shahabad	17	Fr. Robert Rodrigues SJ, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
09	Sr. Monthi Britto BS, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	19	Fr. John Crasta SJ, <i>Vijayapur</i>
11	Sr. Heleena BS, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	21	Sr. Shruthi CSSJ, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
12	Sr. Dora Lewis SAP, <i>Basvaklayan</i>	22	Sr. Harshitha CSST, <i>Shahabad</i>
12	Fr. Vincent Pereira, <i>Chittapur</i>	22	Fr. Santhosh Dias, <i>Bangalore</i>
13	Sr. Sajitha CSST, <i>Kalaburagi</i>	25	Sr. Mamatha CSST, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
14	Sr. Jyothi Dooru BS, <i>Hebal</i>	30	Sr. Secunda SRA, <i>Santpur</i>
14	Sr. Papulamma JMJ, <i>Devarahippargi</i>		

HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DEAR FATHERS

28	Fr. Joseph Gerald SJ
29	Fr. Sandeep Gonsalves SJ, Vijayapura

News August 2026

- Youth Ministry (2-9 August 2026):**

The Diocese organized several youth programmes in August, including the Young Students Movement (YSM) at Divya Jyothi School, Bhalki (2 August), Aurad Zone Youth Gathering at Santpur (2 August), ICYM – Circle of Grace at Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral, Gulbarga (2 August), and National Youth Day at St. Joseph's Church, Bidar (9 August). The programmes focused on faith, leadership, discipline, service, teamwork and active participation in the Church. They included prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Eucharist, discussions, games, fellowship and youth formation. The sessions also addressed the dignity of the human person, challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence, government schemes and youth leadership. We thank the priests, Sisters, school management, teachers, youth leaders and all who supported these programmes.

- **Feast of St. John Mary Vianney Celebrated across the Diocese (2–3 August 2026):**

The Feast of St. John Mary Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, was celebrated with joy and gratitude across various parishes and mission centres. Priests were honoured through prayers, felicitation, gifts, shawls, garlands and saplings, along with Parents'/Elders' Day celebrations. Special programmes were held at Sedam, Bhalki, Vijayapura, Bidar, Humnabad, Santhpur, Anugraha Ashram, Jalasangi, Itga and other centres. The celebrations expressed the love, gratitude and prayerful support of the faithful for their priests.

- **Clergy Gathering and Recollection at Sugyan Pastoral Centre (6 August 2026):**

The Diocese of Gulbarga held its annual Clergy Gathering and Recollection at Sugyan Pastoral Centre, focusing on prayer, reflection, fraternity and pastoral renewal. Fr. Vincent Pereira gave an inspiring talk on Pope Leo XIV's *Magnifica Humanitas*, encouraging priests to respond creatively to contemporary pastoral challenges. The clergy participated in prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation and Holy Mass. Most Rev. Dr. Robert Miranda encouraged the priests to remain united, deepen their spiritual lives and serve with renewed zeal.

- **Pastoral Visits: (2-24 August 2026):**

Most Rev. Dr. Robert Michael Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga, undertook pastoral visits to Halbarga Mission (2–3 August), Holy Cross Church, Santhpur (16–18 August), and Itga Mission (23–24 August). The visits included Holy Mass, administration of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, blessing of new facilities, meetings with PPCs, priests, Sisters, youth, women's groups and children, visits to mission stations, schools and the sick, and discussions on pastoral and institutional development. The Bishop encouraged the faithful, students and pastoral groups to grow in faith, Gospel values, service and active participation in the mission of the Church. We thank God for these fruitful pastoral visits and pray for His Lordship's continued guidance and ministry.

- **Bishop's Visits to Educational Institutions (8 & 20 August, 2026):**

Most Rev. Dr. Robert Michael Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga, visited St. Mary Institutions, Kalaburagi (8 August) and Little Flower School, Chincholi (20 August). He interacted with students and staff, reviewed the institutions' progress, visited classrooms and offered valuable guidance. He encouraged everyone to pursue excellence rooted in faith, discipline, Gospel values and service. We thank His Lordship for his pastoral presence, encouragement and blessings.

- **BEC Training for Gulbarga Deanery Animators at Mother Teresa Community Hall (16 August 2026):**

A training programme on Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) was organized for Gulbarga Deanery animators to strengthen their knowledge, skills and commitment to accompanying small Christian communities. Fr. Clary D'Souza coordinated the programme, and Fr. Antony Selvam MSFS served as resource person. The training focused on faith-sharing, fellowship, active participation and community building.

- **Laity Formation (15 & 16 August 2026):**

Laity Training Programmes were held for the Bidar Deanery at Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhalki (15 August) and for the Gulbarga and Bijapur Deaneries (16 August) on the theme "Strengthening Parish Structures for Effective Mission." PPC Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries and Superiors of Religious Congregations participated. Fr. Santhosh Dias, National Secretary of the CBCI Commission for Health, led the sessions, focusing on strengthening parish structures, collaboration and active participation in the mission of the Church. Most Rev. Dr. Robert Miranda encouraged the participants to build active and vibrant Parish Pastoral Councils.

- **Grandparents' and Elders' Day (16–17 August 2026) :**

Grandparents' and Elders' Day was celebrated at Bannalli, Udbal, Itga and Mudnal, bringing together more than 55 elderly persons. The celebrations included prayer, fellowship, interaction, games and honouring of elders with shawls, sarees and blankets. The programmes emphasized respect, care and dignity for the elderly, especially within the family and community. We thank all who supported and contributed to these meaningful celebrations.

- **Gruha Nidhi Housing Assistance Distributed (3–4 August 2026):**

Most Rev. Dr. Robert Miranda distributed Gruha Nidhi Housing Programme cheques to beneficiaries. The first instalment of ₹1,00,000 was given to 10 beneficiaries from Bidar, Kaudiyal, Talamadgi, Jalsangi and Itga under the Second Batch. The second instalment of ₹50,000 was released to three beneficiaries from Shahabad, Bidar and Ujini under the First Batch. All concerned are requested to follow donor guidelines carefully and give preference to genuinely needy families building simple and dignified homes.

- **Free Eye and General Health Camp at Koralli Village, Aland Taluk (10 August 2026):**

Carmel Jyothi Public Charitable Trust, in collaboration with Divine Super Specialty Hospital and Anugraha Eye Hospital, organized a Free Eye Check-up and General Health Camp at Koralli village. 87 patients received outpatient services, and 13 patients were identified for cataract surgery. The camp provided medical consultation, eye examinations and health awareness to the villagers.

- **Independence Day Celebrations in Sub Jails Humnabad and Aurad (14–15 August 2026):**

ORBIT Social Work Centre and Bethany English Medium School celebrated Independence Day with inmates of Taluka Sub Jail, Humnabad, through cultural performances, games and a message of hope and transformation. At Sub Jail, Aurad, PMI India organized games and cultural activities, with students presenting a Lezim drill. The programmes promoted freedom, unity, responsibility, hope and dignity among the inmates.

- **Prison Ministry: (9 & 18 August 2026):**

Prison Ministry Sunday was observed at St. Anne's Church, Vijayapura (9 August) with prayer and Holy Eucharist, remembering inmates, their families and those involved in prison ministry. At the District Prison, Bidar (18 August), Carmel Seva Trust, Don Bosco ITI Training Institute and the Prison authorities conducted vocational training, with certificates awarded to seven women inmates who completed tailoring training and electrical fitting training inaugurated for 15 male inmates. These initiatives promoted dignity, skills, healing and self-reliance among inmates.

- **Outreach Visit to BRIMS Government Hospital at Bidar (16 August 2026):**

Youth from St. Joseph's Church, Bidar, visited BRIMS Government Hospital under the leadership of Sr. Jenita A.C. and Fr. Jayanth. Nine ICYM members visited patients, offered encouragement and prayed with them. Buns and bananas were distributed to 100 children undergoing treatment. The visit encouraged young people to become ambassadors of care and solidarity.

- **Smart Card Registration Drive for Informal Workers at Our Lady of Good Health Church, Jalsangi (23 August 2026):**

The Commission for Labour and Carmel Jyothi Public Charitable Trust organized a Smart Card registration drive for informal workers, helping them access the benefits of the Ambedkar Sahaya Hasta Yojane. Awareness was given to mechanics, drivers and electricians, with priests, Sisters and volunteers assisting in registration. 50 informal workers successfully registered for Smart Cards.

- **Training for Liturgy Animators and Altar Servers at Queen of Heaven Church, Chittapur (16 August 2026):**
Fr. Gerald Sagar celebrated Holy Mass and conducted a liturgy training programme for parishioners, liturgy animators and altar servers at Queen of Heaven Church, Chittapur. The training helped participants deepen their understanding and service in the liturgical ministry.
- **Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe Celebrated at Carmel Jamgi Colony (16 August 2026):**
The Carmel Jamgi Colony community and St. Joseph Church celebrated the Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe with a meaningful liturgy. MCA children presented the life and heroic witness of the saint, while Fr. Jayanth reflected on his charity and self-sacrifice.
- **Justice Sunday at Holy Redeemer Church, Bhalki (23 August 2026):**
Holy Redeemer Church, Bhalki, celebrated Justice Sunday with a programme promoting justice, peace, equality and human dignity. Lawyers were honoured for their service and commitment to justice and human rights. They also addressed the community on becoming promoters of justice, peace and equality.
- **Youth Visit to an Old Age Home (15 August 2026):**
On Independence Day, ICYM members of Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral visited a local old age home. The programme included prayer, songs, mime, a patriotic message, games and fellowship. The youth also shared a festive lunch with the elderly, spending the day in a spirit of service, respect and compassion.
- **21st Episcopal Ordination Anniversary of Bishop Robert Miranda and 21st Anniversary of Gulbarga Diocese (18 August 2026):**
The 21st Episcopal Ordination Anniversary of Most Rev. Dr. Robert Michael Miranda and the 21st Anniversary of the Diocese of Gulbarga were joyfully celebrated with the Holy Eucharist. The clergy, religious and laity joined in thanksgiving and prayer for the Bishop's faithful shepherding and the continued growth and mission of the Diocese. We thank God for 21 years of grace, service and mission and pray for continued strength, wisdom and blessings upon our Bishop and Diocese.
- **Cyber Crime Awareness Programme at Bidar St. Joseph Kannada Medium High School, Bidar (19 August 2026):**
Carmel Seva Trust organized a Cyber Crime Awareness Programme at St. Joseph Kannada Medium High School, Bidar. Officers from the Bidar Cyber Crime Police Department educated around 350 students about online safety, cyber threats and responsible use of digital devices. We thank all who contributed to this important awareness programme.
- **IGNITE 2026 – All Karnataka Don Bosco School Leaders Meet at Don Bosco School, Bidar (23 August 2026):**
Don Bosco School, Bidar, hosted the All Karnataka Don Bosco School Leaders Meet – IGNITE 2026, under the theme “Inspire, Lead, Transform.” Principals, teachers and student leaders from Don Bosco schools across Karnataka participated. The programme focused on leadership, confidence, responsibility and service among young people. Shri Sagar E. Kandre, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bidar, inaugurated the programme and encouraged students to become future leaders of the nation.
- **Formation of St. Mary's School Alumni Association – 2026 (29 August 2026):**
The St. Mary's School Alumni Association was formally constituted on 29 August 2026, bringing together alumni from the batches of 2004–2020. The gathering, graced by Bishop Robert Michael Miranda and other dignitaries, encouraged the alumni to remain united and connected with their alma mater in service and fellowship.
