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Feast of Chair of St. Peter

February 22

LET US PRAY

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

FEBRUARY 2025



“The Holy Spirit also speaks to us through dreams, and speaks to us through the concerns young people feel in their hearts.”

Franciscus



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EDITORIAL

" What is Love ? "

REV. FR. ALLEN RITESH GOMES

In the tapestry of human connection, love remains the thread that weaves together the most enduring and ephemeral bonds. Family, with its roots in legacy and loyalty, stands as a timeless institution. Situationships—those nebulous, label-averse relationships of the modern age—represent a stark contrast, embodying the fluidity and uncertainty of contemporary life. Together, these three forces reveal a profound truth: love is both a sanctuary and a labyrinth, shaped by our yearning for stability & our hunger for freedom.

Family, in all its forms, is love's first language. It teaches us that love is not just a feeling but a verb—an ongoing act of showing up, forgiving and choosing one another, even when it's hard. Whether biological, chosen or forged through shared trials, families offer a blueprint for resilience. They are where we learn to navigate conflict, celebrate joy and grieve loss. In a world of constant change, family often serves as an anchor, grounding us in identity and unconditional acceptance. Yet families are not static. Blended households, intercultural marriages and LGBTQ+ parenting challenge traditional norms, proving that love, not structure, defines a family's strength. This evolution mirrors society's broader shifts, where rigid definitions dissolve to make space for authenticity.

Enter the situationship - a modern phenomenon where romantic connections thrive in ambiguity. These relationships reject labels, timelines and expectations, appealing to a generation wary of institutionalized commitment. Situationships prioritize flexibility, offering intimacy without obligation, passion without promises. They thrive in the digital age, where dating apps commodify connection and careers demand geographic and emotional mobility.

But the allure of the gray zone comes at a cost. Without clarity, situationships can leave individuals adrift, caught between hope and doubt.

"Are we partners, or just passing time?"

The lack of definition often masks unspoken fears: fear of vulnerability, fear of failure or fear of repeating past hurts. Love here becomes a precarious dance, where emotional safety is sacrificed for the illusion of control.

The intersection of family and situationships is where generational and cultural divides widen. Traditional families may struggle to understand a member's choice to embrace ambiguity over commitment, viewing situationships as a rejection of "real" love. Conversely, those in situationships might resent familial pressure to conform to outdated norms, arguing that love need not fit a template to be valid.

Yet families also hold the power to bridge this gap. A parent's nonjudgmental listening, a sibling's candid advice or a grandparent's hard-won wisdom can offer grounding to someone navigating the chaos of a situationship. Likewise, families that embrace open dialogue about modern relationships - acknowledging that love's forms are evolving—can foster empathy rather than judgment.

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ALL-ROUND RENEWAL: BEING SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIANS

Call of the Gospel: to be born again

Our Lord began his ministry by asking for 'repentance' which in its original meaning of metanoia stands for complete transformation or a round about turn. In the New Testament conversion of heart and entry into God's kingdom is described in terms of 'newness' which is also 're-birth' in the Holy Spirit. Ultimately it marks the entry into Christ's economy of salvation and the eternal life in him which is God's greatest gift to humanity. In his conversation with Nicodemus, our Lord clearly tells him that he has to be 'born again' of the Spirit in order to see the kingdom of God (cf. John 3: 1-8). In fact, to be born again is the essence of discipleship and the fundamental call and challenge of the Gospel. The poor and the simple people who found in Jesus their Messiah and Liberator gladly accepted the call of the Gospel and followed Jesus spontaneously, for he gave them affirmation of their human dignity as children of God and the confirmation of their hope in God's kingdom. They saw in Him the fulfilment of the messianic prophecies. On the other hand, the rich and the powerful rejected Him and opposed Him at every step of the way. They questioned His works of healing, forgiving, of giving meaning and hope to people in distress, of breaking the chains of oppression, of proclaiming the justice of God, in short His entire 'new' teaching which, in reality, was not a destruction of the Law but is fulfilment in love. They

staunchly refused to be renewed in the Spirit, to be touched by grace, to open their eyes to the truth of the Covenant, to accept God's invitation to be transformed in their minds and hearts.

But the call of the Gospel is unchangeable:

"unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mathew 5: 20)

"if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mathew 16:24) "unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mathew 18:3)

"it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God" (Mathew 19:24)

"So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14: 33)

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24)

"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:25).

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will



know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13: 34-35).

Not 'good' people but 'better' people

The Gospel therefore is not asking of us to be 'good' people or 'better' people, but NEW people. This is what St. Paul is referring to when he mentions 'renewal of the mind': "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2). In another letter he speaks of the Christian identity as the 'new creation': "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed; behold the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). In fact, our surrender to Christ is to put on the 'new self': "you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator" (Colossians 3:9-10).

In the Book of Revelation we read: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21: 1-2). And the final words that bring to a culmination the whole of salvation history: "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21: 5).

To be 'new person' means to be empowered by the Holy Spirit

In truth, to be a new person in Christ is to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit who leads us into a radical conversion of life and this happens through prayer. Prayer is primarily contemplation, a journey within whereby we are enabled to look at ourselves from the light of the Holy Spirit and be both confronted as well refreshed, comforted and healed by the Paraclete, our Advocate and our Comfort-

er. The Holy Spirit gives us the wisdom to solve all our problems and the strength to take up our cross daily and follow Jesus joyfully. What is important is to surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit and pray to him to help us to make Jesus the centre of our life.

The Holy Spirit bestows on us gifts or charisms (cf. 1 Corinthians 12: 4ff) and enables us to bear fruits of the Spirit in our daily life (cf. Galatians 5:22ff). These gifts and fruits are meant for the building up of the Body of Christ through living holy lives of communion in the Holy Trinity and proclaiming the Gospel of salvation in Christ.

Through the fruits of the Holy Spirit, we become mature Christians who live already here and now the life of the world to come. Christian maturity and holiness depend directly on the growth of the fruits, especially love or charity. In fact, without the practice of charity, the gifts of the Spirit would be no avail (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3). This is what we learn from St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Little Flower) when testifies in her autobiography: “

To be 'love' in the heart of the Church: testimony of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus

I was still being tormented by this question of unfulfilled longings for martyrdom and it was a distraction in my prayer, when I decided to consult Saint Paul's epistles in the hope of getting an answer. It was the twelfth and thirteenth chapters of First Corinthians that claimed my attention. The first of these told me that we can't all of us be apostles, all of us be prophets, all of us doctors,

and so on; the Church is composed of members which differ in their use; the eye is one thing and the hand is another. It was clear enough answer, but it didn't satisfy my aspirations, didn't set my heart at rest. Reading on to the end of the chapter, I met this comforting phrase: 'Prize the best gifts of heaven. Meanwhile, I can show you a way which is better than any other.'

What was it? The apostle goes on to explain that all the gifts of heaven, even the most perfect of them; without love, are absolutely nothing; charity is the best way of all, because it leads straight to God. Now I was at peace; when Saint Paul was talking about the different members of the mystical body I couldn't recognize myself in any of them; or rather I could recognize myself in all of them. But charity – that was the key to my vocation. If the Church was a body composed of different members, it couldn't lack the noblest of all; it must have a heart, and a heart burning with love. And I realized that this love was the true motive force which enabled the other members to act; if it ceased to function the apostles would forget to preach the gospel, the martyrs would refuse to shed their blood. Love, in fact, is the vocation which includes all others; it's a universe of its own, comprising all time and space – it's eternal. Beside myself with joy, I cried out: 'Jesus, my love! I've found my vocation, and my vocation is love.' I had discovered where it is that I belong in the Church, the niche God has appointed for me. To be nothing else than love, deep down in the heart of Mother Church; that's to be everything at once – my dream wasn't a dream after

all. [cf. Office of Readings, October 1, Feast of Teresa of the Child Jesus].

One can be advanced in age, highly charismatic, abundantly gifted, but quite immature as far as the fruits of the Spirit are concerned because one has not cultivated them and **not earnestly asked for them** from the Holy Spirit. This we notice in the charismatic movement and many other movements in the Church; also, among the clergy and those in consecrated life.

The Holy Spirit transforms our activities and relationships

The evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit has to be written all over our life. Our life is made up of activities and relationships and the Holy Spirit comes to transform both. We will grow and mature by developing the right relationships and by doing the right things under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Our relations with God have to be renewed so that we will think, feel, speak and act as true children of God (cf. Galatians 4:6), and this the Holy Spirit teaches us – but we have to ask the Holy Spirit for that gift. The two precious gifts of the Holy Spirit are: **wisdom** i.e., to have a real taste for the things of God and for eternal realities, and **discernment** which shows the way we are to follow moment by moment according to God's plan.

Attitude to self is also a gift of the Holy Spirit, i.e., to see, to accept and to love ourselves as God sees, accepts and loves us; also, to forgive ourselves when God forgives us, so as to live at peace with

ourselves and with others.

We have to pray to the Holy Spirit for the gift of **loyalty to our state in life**. Whether as a child or youth at home, as a married person, or single for the Lord, as a religious or a priest, we have to ask for the grace to be ever loyal and joyful in our family or community and a source of joy to the other members; for the grace to be understanding, patient, helpful and ever ready to cooperate towards the common good.

Another important attitude is **our role in the Church**. Spirit-filled Christians cannot rest satisfied with Sunday Mass, and remaining at the margin of parish life; they need to work like leaven (cf. Mathew 13:33), and bring new life into old structures.

Equally important is **our role in society**. When we pray for the infilling of the Holy Spirit we to ask for the special gifts we need to be more effective and useful in our present life situation: in school, college, office, place of work, neighbourhood. The Spirit will give us a new sense of responsibility to work selflessly for the society and for our country with courage and hope.

Thus, the Holy Spirit will enable us to set our **scale of values and priorities** right.

[For the above thoughts I am indebted to the book *Here Comes Jesus* by Marcelino Iragui, OCD, chapter 9, 'Seek All-Round Renewal'].

+ Archbishop Anil Couto
ARCHBISHOP OF DELHI



Rev. Fr. Jais Assariparambil
Archdiocese of Delhi

Feast of The Presentation of The Lord:

Certainty In Times Of Uncertainty

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, celebrated on February 2nd, holds profound spiritual significance, particularly in this Jubilee Year, a time of grace, renewal and reflection. This feast invites us to deepen our trust in God's promises and to recognize His enduring presence in our lives, even in times of uncertainty. It recalls the sacred moment described in the Gospel of Luke, when Mary and Joseph, in humble obedience to Jewish law, brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Their act of dedication reveals their faithfulness to God's commandments and highlights the fulfilment of God's promises to His people. Simeon, a righteous and devout man, moved by the Holy Spirit, recognizes Jesus as the Messiah. Holding the child in his arms, he exclaims with joy, "My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32). Simeon's words resonate across generations, offering reassurance that even amid the uncertainties of life, God's light shines steadfastly, guiding us on our journey of faith.

In this Jubilee Year, marked by hope and reconciliation, the Feast of the Presentation calls us to reflect on God's unwavering fidelity. Pope Francis reminds us that this feast is a celebration of encounter and hope, urging us to recognize the presence of God in our lives, especially when shadows of doubt surround us. He teaches that "faith has untold potential



to inspire and sustain our efforts to build a more just and supportive society" (Fratelli Tutti, 2020). His reflections in *Laudato Si'* also emphasize the need to trust in God's providence amidst the uncertainties of environmental and societal crises. In his Angelus Address on the Feast of the Presentation, Pope Francis proclaimed, "This moment of thanksgiving and trust reminds us that God's promises never fail." These words serve as a balm for troubled hearts, encouraging us to embrace the light of Christ with renewed zeal. Pope St. John Paul II, too, spoke of the transformative power of this feast, describing it as a "feast of light and faith" that challenges us to walk confidently in God's provi-

dence, even when the future seems uncertain. In his encyclical *Redemptor Hominis*, he writes, "Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love" (*Redemptor Hominis*, 1979). This divine love, revealed through the light of Christ, serves as an anchor in times of uncertainty, urging us to trust in God's divine plan. In *Redemptoris Mater*, John Paul II highlighted Mary's unwavering faith as a model for all believers, inspiring us to trust in God's plan even amidst trials.

This day also coincides with the World Day of Consecrated Life, instituted by Pope St.

John Paul II in 1997 to honor the unique vocation of consecrated men and women who reflect God's light through their lives of prayer, poverty and service. Their dedication serves as a beacon of hope for the Church, reminding us of the power of self-giving love in transforming the world. Pope Benedict XVI, in *Spe Salvi*, highlighted the connection between hope and certainty in God's promises. He wrote, "The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life" (*Spe Salvi*, 2007). This profound insight resonates with the essence of the Feast of the Presentation, encouraging us to place our trust in God's providence even when the future appears uncertain.

In a world increasingly marked by unpredictability, the Feast of the Presentation offers a profound lesson. Science itself, which thrives on exploration and the unknown, teaches us that uncertainty can lead to discovery and growth. Pope Francis, in *Laudato Si'*, underscores the harmony between faith and science, noting that "humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home" (*Laudato Si'*, 2015). This perspective encourages us to view uncertainty not as a barrier but as an opportunity to deepen our understanding and faith, trusting that God's providence is present even in the midst of challenges.

Physicist Werner Heisenberg's profound reflection, "The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will turn you into an atheist, but at the bottom of the glass, God is waiting for you" (*Physics and Beyond*, 1971), beautifully captures humanity's journey of grappling with doubt and finding certainty in faith. Often, the pursuit of knowledge begins with questions that seem to challenge belief, creating a sense of uncertainty. Yet, deeper exploration reveals that faith and reason are not antagonistic but complementary, both leading to the ultimate truth of God. This sacred feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a testament to finding divine certainty amid human uncertainty. Mary and Joseph, though faced with uncertainties about their future and the extraordinary mission entrusted to them, placed their unwavering trust in God's providence. In presenting Jesus at the temple according to Jewish law, they demonstrated fidelity to tradition while embracing the

profound mystery of God's plan for the Messiah. Simeon's proclamation of Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel" (Luke 2:32) further underscores this theme. While the path ahead for Mary and Joseph was fraught with unknowns, God's light illuminated their way, offering assurance in the midst of doubt. Like them, we are called to trust that God is the ultimate source of certainty, even when life's circumstances seem unclear or overwhelming. The symbolism of light, central to this feast, serves as a powerful reminder that light dispels darkness, much like faith dispels uncertainty. This universal yearning for light and clarity is echoed across religious traditions, showing how humanity seeks divine guidance in times of doubt. In Hinduism, the Gayatri Mantra prays for the illumination of the intellect, asking for divine light to guide and sustain through life's uncertainties. This mirrors the Christian understanding of light as a source of guidance and hope, as we see in Psalm 119:105: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." The mantra reminds us that even in the face of confusion, divine knowledge leads to the certainty of truth.

Similarly, in Buddhism, enlightenment represents liberation from the darkness of ignorance and suffering—a certainty that comes from awakening to the ultimate truth. (Dhammapada 182: "The wise ones, meditative and discerning, free from desire and ignorance, are liberated from the bonds of samsara.") In the Christian tradition, Christ assures us in uncertain times by declaring, "I am the light of

the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord calls us to embrace this light—this divine certainty—even when the future is unclear. The example of Mary and Joseph reminds us that God's providence is constant, and His plans for us, though mysterious, are always for our good. In a world marked by unpredictability, this feast assures us that God's light will never fail us. As the prophet Isaiah declares, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). With this assurance, we are called not only to find certainty in God's light but to share it with others, becoming beacons of hope in a world that often grapples with fear and doubt. Thus, the Feast of the Presentation is more than a celebration of Christ as the Light of the World; it is an invitation to place our faith in God's unfailing providence, especially when life's uncertainties weigh heavily on our hearts. As we consider this profound invitation to carry the light of Christ, we are reminded that it doesn't require grand gestures or extraordinary feats. It is often in the everyday moments—the quiet acts of love, patience, and understanding—that the light of Christ shines most brightly. St. Paul reminds us, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). Whether it's offering a listening ear to a friend in need, helping a neighbor, or choosing kindness in the face of frustration,

each of these small acts carries the light of God's love into the world. Jesus Himself said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16). This light does not diminish when shared; instead, it grows stronger, creating a ripple effect that touches the lives of many.

In this Jubilee Year, let us draw strength from the words of the Psalmist: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). As we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, let us renew our commitment to be bearers of Christ's light, illuminating the world with acts of faith, hope, and love. Together, as the Archdiocese of Delhi, let us become living reflections of God's light, spreading His love and truth in every corner of our community. May the light of Christ shine ever more brightly in our lives, guiding us in times of uncertainty and filling our hearts with hope and joy.



Susan Rodrigues Viswanathan

FAITH IN FLIGHT:

The Journey and Origin of the Catholic Aviation Guild

In 2018, as I was nearing the end of my 33-year flying career with an international airline, I received a phone call from Fr Jais. He had reached out to several aviation professionals to discuss our faith needs and understand how the unpredictable nature of our work affected our ability to focus on our spiritual lives as practicing Catholics.

Fr Jais was known for his warm outreach to those of us who attended his church or met him at various gatherings. He expressed concern about the lack of a specific method for providing ongoing spiritual support and counsel to those of us often constrained by rostered duties and work travel, making it difficult to attend Mass, Holy Days, and other observances. The stress from this, compounded by fatigue and the challenge of balancing personal life, often leaves aviation professionals feeling adrift and alone, affecting our spiritual, emotional, mental and physical health.

These conversations led to the formation of the Catholic Aviation Guild (CAG) on December 19, 2019. The group comprises pilots, cabin crew, and ground personnel from domestic and international airlines across multiple countries, including the UK, Poland, Panama, Spain and India. At present, we have 80 members, with representation from almost all Indian airlines. Most of our members are captains, and among them many are women along with a few senior cabin crew members and very few senior administration staff. The majority of Indian members are based out of Mumbai and Delhi,



Archbishop Anil J. T. Couto with CAG members from Poland.



Capt. Anil Serrao, Coordinator for CAG

with some from Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Cochin and Hyderabad. Our Chaplain and guide is Fr. Jais, and our mentor and Patron is His Grace Anil Couto, the Most Reverend Archbishop of Delhi. The Core Team consists of Capt. Anil Serrao (senior pilot with AI Express based out of Mumbai), Priyanka Melissa Fernandes (Cabin Manager with Vistara, now merged with AI and is from Mumbai), and myself, Susan Rodrigues Viswanathan, the Main Coordinator for the Catholic Aviation Guild.

The Catholic Aviation Guild (CAG) is a beacon of light for aviation professionals, providing a spiritual family that understands and supports our unique challenges. We gather online once a month and in person a couple of times a year when several members are available in the same city, such as Delhi. These in-person meetings are often hosted graciously by members in their homes, fostering a sense of community and belonging. His Grace also opens his residence to us for our Christmas gathering, where we celebrate

with Holy Mass, carols, and heartfelt fellowship.

Each monthly online meeting is thoughtfully scheduled in alignment with His Grace's calendar and crew rosters, ensuring everyone can participate. These meetings are a source of spiritual nourishment, featuring prayer, a Gospel reading, a reflection by His Grace, and blessings for members celebrating birthdays that month. We also share and discuss faith-related dilemmas and experiences from our profes-

sional lives, drawing strength and inspiration from one another. The meeting concludes with a prayer and a blessing for members and their families by His Grace.

This group is the first of its kind - a pioneering initiative and a true blessing for aviation professionals. In our demanding careers, CAG provides grounding, encouragement and a sense of fellowship is vital for our spiritual and emotional well-being. Together, we rise above challenges, supported by faith and the love of this extraordinary community.

Additionally, Mass is offered every Monday at 6p.m. for the special intentions of the CAG community, welcoming individual prayer requests.

Over the past year, we also established a CAG Tithing group. This voluntary initiative allows members to contribute to charitable causes, supporting various initiatives in need. All contributions and expenses are recorded, ensuring funds are used where most needed, as part of our commitment to serving others.

Members occasionally share their life experiences and spiritual practices through a video series called 'Elevate', which is recorded and shared individually.

I know that many of us in the CAG community, myself included, have felt strengthened, blessed and more prayerful thanks to the fellowship and grounding we receive. There is a deep sense of belonging and understanding of each other's lives and the professional challenges we face, with the safety and comfort of hundreds of people in our hands each day.



Ms. Priyanka Melissa Fernandes Coordinator for CAG

If you are an aviation professional, we invite you to reach out to us and join this community of faith. (You can reach out to your parish priest to join us)

Thanks to the joint prayers and those offered by His Grace, God's presence and blessings have become a constant in our lives, despite the unpredictable nature of our duty rosters. We are deeply grateful that the CAG group was formed with our specific faith needs in mind.

Mrs. Susan Rodrigues Viswanathan, a luminary in her own right, carries forward a legacy of excellence and inspiration. She is the cherished daughter of the Late General Sunith Francis Rodrigues, PVSM, VSM, the distinguished and only Catholic Chief of the Indian Army to date—a name etched in the annals of history. Her mother, the elegant Jean Rodrigues (née Jansen), broke barriers as the first Indian woman to serve as cabin crew for British Airways, paving the way for generations to follow. Mrs. Susan herself embodies a lifetime of dedication and service, having devoted an illustrious 33 years to British Airways. Her journey, marked by grace, professionalism and unwavering commitment stands as a testament to her extraordinary heritage and indomitable spirit.

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Rev. Fr. Sampath Kumar
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Blessed Rani Maria: A Pilgrim of Hope

Sr. Rani Maria, a nun who was martyred in India, is a symbol of hope, faith and courage in the face of persecution. Her story has inspired many to reflect on the power of love, forgiveness and the pursuit of justice.

Born in 1954 in the state of Kerala, India, Sr. Rani Maria entered the Franciscan Clarist Congregation at a young age. She dedicated her life to the service of the poor and the marginalized, particularly in the northern region of Madhya Pradesh. Through her commitment, Sr. Rani Maria worked to empower and uplift the lives of those suffering in the rural areas. Her work focused on advocating for the rights of tribal people, promoting education, and organizing initiatives to help improve the living conditions of the marginalized communities. She worked tirelessly to address issues of poverty, injustice and social inequality. However, her dedication to the poor and her outspoken advocacy for their rights made her a target of certain groups. On February 25, 1995, Sr. Rani Maria was tragically martyred. She was brutally attacked and stabbed by a hired assassin, and despite being severely injured, she managed to forgive her assailant before passing away.

Sr. Rani Maria's martyrdom is an example of profound faith and unyielding hope. Even in the face of death, she showed remarkable courage and love, offering a powerful message of forgiveness and compassion. Her death was not in vain; it sparked movements for justice and



peace throughout India and beyond. Sr. Rani Maria's legacy lives on as a "pilgrim of hope" who showed that true faith is not just about words, but about action in the face of adversity. Her story continues to inspire people of all faiths and backgrounds to live with greater love, kindness, and justice.

Her life and death are remembered as a testament to the power of hope and perseverance, reminding us that even in the darkest times, the light of compassion and faith can guide us toward a more

just and peaceful world. Sr. Rani Maria's life is a powerful example of selflessness, faith, and commitment to justice, particularly in the face of immense suffering and adversity. Her mission was deeply rooted in her faith and conviction that every person, regardless of their background or social status, deserved dignity, respect and the opportunity to live a life of equality and peace.

Early Life and Calling
Sr. Rani Maria was the fourth of eight children. From an early age, she felt a deep

calling to religious life. At the age of 19, she joined the Franciscan Clarist Congregation, an order that focused on a simple life of service, especially toward the poor and marginalized. Her deep spirituality was reflected in her commitment to living a life of service to the needy.

Mission in Madhya Pradesh
In the 1980s, Sr. Rani Maria was assigned to serve in the state of Madhya Pradesh, which was far from her home in Kerala. There, she worked with the marginalized tribal communities, addressing is-

sues of poverty, exploitation and social injustice. One of her key areas of focus was the education of girls from these communities, many of whom were deprived of access to schooling. Sr. Rani Maria also organized cooperatives, promoted awareness about legal rights and worked for the economic and social empowerment of the tribal people.

She became known as a passionate advocate for social justice, especially for the rights of the poor and oppressed and was unafraid to speak out against the exploitation of tribal communities by local landlords, moneylenders and corrupt officials. Her tireless work brought her into conflict with powerful interests in the area, particularly with local political and economic elites who saw her advocacy as a threat to the status quo.

Martyrdom

Sr. Rani Maria's advocacy for the rights of the poor and marginalized made her a target of violence. On February 25, 1995, she was traveling by bus in the remote region of Madhya Pradesh when a man named Samandar Singh, hired by those who opposed her work, attacked her. He stabbed her 54 times in a brutal act of violence. Despite the severity of her injuries, Sr. Rani Maria was able to forgive her attacker and expressed her desire for him to find peace. Before she died, she reportedly said, "I forgive him. I want him to be forgiven by God." Her final words were an embodiment of the profound love and forgiveness that she practiced throughout her life. Sr. Rani Maria's martyrdom shocked the nation, but it also sparked

an outpouring of support for her cause, and her death galvanized many to continue her work in the pursuit of justice for the poor and marginalized.

Legacy

Sr. Rani Maria's life and death left an indelible mark on the people she served and on India as a whole. Her martyrdom served as a powerful reminder of the price that can be paid for standing up for the rights of the voiceless. In the years following her death, there was a renewed focus on the issues she cared about—education for girls, empowerment of the poor, and social justice for marginalized communities.

In 2008, the assassin, Samandar Singh, was granted parole for the first time after serving 11 years in prison. During this time, he sought forgiveness for his crime, and Sr. Rani Maria's family, including her mother, openly forgave him. In 2017, the process of Sr. Rani Maria's beatification began, recognizing her as a martyr for the faith. Her forgiveness of her murderer became a central theme in her cause, showing that love and mercy could overcome even the most extreme violence.

A Pilgrim of Hope

Sr. Rani Maria is remembered as a "pilgrim of hope," someone who journeyed through life with faith in a better future and with an unwavering commitment to bringing justice and dignity to the marginalized. Her story continues to inspire people worldwide to live out their own faith through actions of love, forgiveness, and justice.



Her life teaches us several profound lessons:

Faith in Action: Sr. Rani Maria's faith was not passive or theoretical. It was a faith that demanded action, one that led her to serve the most vulnerable in society and fight for their rights.

The Power of Forgiveness: Even in the face of brutal violence, Sr. Rani Maria's ability to forgive was transformative, not only for her but also for those around her. It is a reminder that forgiveness can be a powerful tool for healing and reconciliation.

Standing Up for Justice: Sr. Rani Maria's life exemplifies what it means to stand up for justice, even when it comes at great personal cost. Her advocacy for the marginalized continues to be a call for others to fight against injustice, poverty, and oppression.

Hope Amid Suffering: In her life and death, Sr. Rani Maria showed that hope is not merely an abstract ideal but something that is lived through actions of love, service and faith. Her story is a beacon of hope for those who continue to struggle for a more just world.

Today, Sr. Rani Maria's memory lives on not just in India but across the world, inspiring people to continue her work and to live with hope, faith and a commitment to justice. Her legacy as a "pilgrim of hope" is an enduring reminder of how one life, lived with deep conviction, can touch the hearts of countless others and bring about lasting change.

Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord

Dominic Mascarenhas

Forty days after Christmas, on February 2, Church celebrates feast of the Presentation of our Lord. According to Law of Moses, every first born male was to be presented before the Lord in the Temple. It recalled also, the Passover story in Exodus. The last of the plagues striking Egypt was where the first born of all Egypt were struck and died that First Passover night. But the Lord spared the children of Israel whose doors and lintels were marked with the blood of the lamb. In order to remember this great mercy, the first born (and more so the sons) were consecrated unto the Lord and must be 'redeemed' (Exodus 13:2). The child was ritually brought to the Temple and a small act of redemption was performed after the mother completed requisite purification rituals after childbirth and by implication also felt strong enough to travel to the Temple. Jewish traditions suggest some 'redemption' money was paid to the priest. There was also some sacrifice based on parent's capabilities. Mary and Joseph were poor; they offered two turtle doves (the minimum amount). Richer parents might even offer a lamb.

It is interesting that Torah says the child must be presented before the Lord in the Temple. But here, the Lord Jesus is being presented by Mary and Joseph. In writing this, Luke implies Jesus took on our humanity completely and was subject to the Law of Moses. But in Jesus' case, we will also view it slightly differently. In many royal families worldwide, there was a ritual where the children of the king would be presented after birth. The forty days (or more, depending on customs) ensured the child had successfully traversed through initial challenges of life and



would probable survive going further. This became especially important for a first born son of the king; who would be heir to the throne. Jesus, the Son of God, is being presented before God our Father, the King and Ruler over all. Jesus is the First-Born not just of Mary, but also as we say in the 'I believe' that He is eternally begotten of the Father before all ages. And while gentile kings had astrologers making predictions about the child; here, Simeon and Anna came and prophesied about the child Jesus.

We view it also that God our Father had given Mary and Joseph this present, of His only begotten Son. And now, Mary and Joseph come to the Temple and present this child before the Father. Though here, the child Jesus is redeemed (as per ritual) with a pair of turtle doves, this child will later redeem us all, with His precious blood as the Lamb of God.

Nowadays many Christians too follow a small ritual on their children's baptism day; though not the same as the Jewish presentation ritual. Nevertheless, many parents come before the church altar and place the child there, to symbolize they are consecrating their children unto God. Someone else; usually godparents then go to the altar and bring the child back and hand over to the parents.

As noted, God gave this 'present' of Jesus to us all for our redemption and to make us His 'sons and daughters'. How do we view this 'present' in our present times? Do we recognize Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, where He presents us with His body and blood to be our food and drink for eternal life. Do we recognize His presence in the Church, which is His mystical body and where Jesus promises that when two or more are gathered in His name, He is there in their midst.

Do we recognize His presence in the 'word of God' (the readings from Holy Bible)?

And what shall we present to Him? We know we are too sinful to make a worthy present unto the Lord. But we find the Lord repeatedly telling His saints to bring themselves to Him and give Him their sins and burdens. He takes them upon Himself and in exchange gives us His life. He makes us pure; washing us in the blood and water that flows from His side.

Finally, when all of us die, the Church invites the angels and saints to go with us into the Lord's presence, by pronouncing the words, 'Take his / her soul and present it to God Most High'. May the Lord God in His mercy find us worthy to be in His presence in eternity.

Saint Arnold Janssen:

A Prophetic Vision of Divine Encounter in a Transformative Century

Dr. Fr. John Singarayar SVD

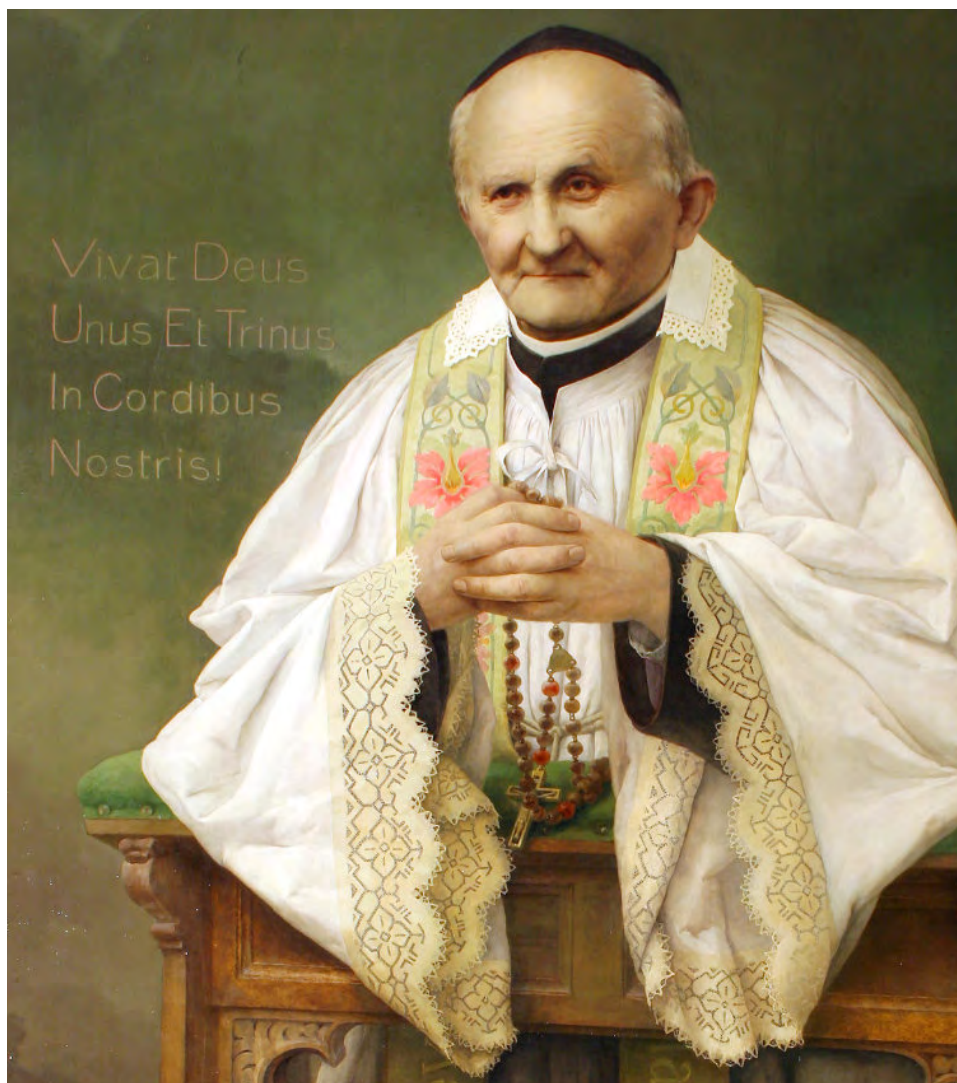
As we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), we are called to reflect deeply on the extraordinary vision of Saint Arnold Janssen, a visionary whose spiritual charism continues to resonate profoundly in our contemporary world. His life and mission represent a remarkable testament to the power of faith, intercultural dialogue and transformative missionary commitment that transcends historical and geographical boundaries.

Born in 1837 in Goch, Germany, Arnold Janssen emerged during a period of significant social, cultural and religious upheaval. The mid-19th century was marked by rapid industrialisation, scientific advancement and increasing secularisation. Yet, within this complex landscape, Janssen discerned a profound calling - to create a missionary society that would not merely spread religious doctrine but truly engage with the depth and diversity of human experience across different cultures and contexts.

Missionary Vision: Beyond Geographical Boundaries

Janssen's missionary vision was revolutionary for his time. Unlike many contemporary missionary approaches that often carried implicit colonial undertones, his perspective was fundamentally rooted in a deep respect for human dignity and cultural diversity. He understood mission not as a process of cultural replacement but as a dialogue of mutual enrichment and spiritual encounter.

The Society of the Divine Word, founded in 1875, was born from this radical under-



standing. Janssen saw missionaries not as conquerors or cultural imposers but as humble servants and learners. His directive was clear: missionaries must immerse themselves in local cultures, learn local languages and understand the intricate spiritual landscapes of the communities they served.

This approach was profoundly prophetic. Long before the Second Vatican Council's declarations on intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, Janssen was practicing a form of missiology that recognised the divine's presence

in all human cultures. He believed that every culture contained seeds of truth and that genuine missionary work was about nurturing these seeds, not replacing them.

Spirituality of Encounter and Compassion

Central to Janssen's spirituality was the concept of "divine encounter"—a transformative spiritual experience that occurs when human beings recognise the sacred in each other, transcending cultural, linguistic and religious boundaries. This was not merely a theological ab-

straction but a lived practice.

His missionaries were trained not just in theological doctrines but in the arts of listening, understanding and genuine human connection. They were taught to approach different cultures with humility, curiosity and profound respect. This approach was radical in an era often characterised by religious triumphalism and colonial expansion.

The spirituality Janssen cultivated was fundamentally incarnational—believing that the divine manifests through

genuine human relationships and compassionate service. This meant that missionary work was not about numerical conversions but about creating spaces of healing, education, social development and spiritual growth.

Prophetic Response to Global Challenges

As we reflect on Janssen's legacy in the early 22nd century, his vision appears increasingly relevant. The world continues to grapple with profound challenges: ecological crisis, social inequalities, cultural polarisation and spiritual fragmentation. Janssen's approach offers a powerful alternative to reductive and divisive worldview.

His spirituality provides a model of engagement that is simultaneously rooted and expansive. Rooted in a deep Christian faith, yet expansive in its recognition of divine mystery working beyond institutional and cultural boundaries. This represents a crucial antidote to fundamentalist tendencies that continue to plague religious and secular discourse.

1. Ecological Consciousness

Janssen's missionary vision intrinsically understood the interconnectedness of human and ecological realities—a perspective now recognised as crucial for planetary survival. His teachings emphasised human beings as stewards, not owners, of creation. This ecological spirituality, advanced decades before modern environmental movements, challenges contemporary society's extractive and commodified relationship with the natural world.

2. Social Justice and Human Dignity

The SVD's commitment to social justice, inspired by Janssen's vision, has been instrumental in numerous global development initiatives. From educational programs in marginalised communities to healthcare projects in underserved regions, the society has consistently interpreted missionary work as a holistic commitment to human dignity.

3. Intercultural and Inter-religious Dialogue

In an era of increasing global interconnectedness and potential conflict, Janssen's model of intercultural dialogue remains profoundly relevant. His missionaries were trained to see difference not as a threat but as an opportunity for mutual enrichment and deeper spiritual understanding.

Legacy in Contemporary Context

The Society of the Divine Word today represents a living embodiment of Janssen's visionary spirituality. Spread across continents, the SVD continues to adapt his foundational principles to contemporary realities while maintaining the core essence of his missionary charism.

Modern SVD missionaries work in contexts ranging from urban marginalised communities to remote rural settings, always maintaining Janssen's fundamental commitment to genuine human encounter and transformative service. They are educators, social workers, pastoral ministers and advocates, continuing the legacy of seeing missionary work as a multi-

faceted engagement with human and divine realities.

Spiritual Pedagogy for the Future

As we celebrate 150 years, Janssen's spirituality offers critical pedagogical insights for future generations. His approach suggests a spiritual practice that is:

1. Dialogical: Always open to learning and mutual transformation

2. Contextual: Deeply attentive to specific cultural and social realities

3. Compassionate: Motivated by genuine care for human and ecological well-being

4. Mystical: Recognising the divine's mysterious presence beyond institutional boundaries

Conclusion: A Continuing Invitation

Saint Arnold Janssen's legacy is not a historical artefact but a living, breathing invitation. It calls us to reimagine spirituality as a dynamic, inclusive and transformative force capable of addressing the complex challenges of our times.

His life demonstrates that genuine spiritual practice is not about maintaining rigid boundaries but about creating spaces of encounter, understanding and shared human growth. In a world often fragmented by ideological, cultural and religious divisions, Janssen's vision offers a hopeful alternative—a spirituality of connection, respect and mutual enrichment.

As the Society of the Divine Word marks this significant milestone, it does not merely commemorate a historical founding but recommits to a prophetic vision that remains as urgent and transformative now as it was 150 years ago.

The journey continues, guided by the inspirational spirit of Saint Arnold Janssen—a spirit of boundless compassion, deep listening and unwavering hope.

POEM



THE STAIN OF SILENCE – THE NEED TO SPEAK UP

Joe Anthony

Why don't you speak up, you man of reason
When actions are misguided and truth hidden?
When evil is placed on a platter to consume,
On pedestals to revere with flowers and perfume?

Assert your character and honest principles,
Proclaim your values from high pinnacles,
Counter all morbid and sleazy lessons,
Ensure an aesthetic healthy ambience.

Bark like a bloodthirsty hound on a chase
Let your voice thunder and shatter all trace
Of erudite cowards who fall under pressure
Afraid to lift up an accusing finger.

Shatter the silence through a megaphone
Through a healthy and powerful lung blown
Destroy all qualms to confront with vengeance
To clean up the blemish of unhealthy silence.



LIKE ADAM & EVE

Kaithlyn Bor (Laxmi Nagar Parish)

In the woods where lights fall dim, I fear
the Lord, like
Adam and Eve.

The body is bare in light so bright,
The scars are visible;
I cannot hide.

Bare, I walk and see the serpent crawl, The
fruit he offers forbidden, he says,
Will give sight to the hidden.

One bite is all
it takes to know how your soul tastes,
no strength I use
to fight the serpent's call.
I, too, am a fragile creation after all.

In the quiet of the woods,
where shadows dance,
A fragile creation, caught in a fleeting
trance.

The serpentine whispers
echo through the air,
As I navigate a path beyond repair.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Cajetan Peter D'souza

As Pilgrims of Hope, we venture
Let's transform ourselves
with hearts faithful and pure
To reach out to people who are needy and poor
and help those when they come knocking
at our door.

To ourselves we need to be true and sincere
to reach to people who hopelessly shed a tear
To build a world where every
human person will cope
To be true Pilgrims of Hope.

PRAYER

ST. JUDE NOVENA

O Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr,
great in virtue and rich in miracles,
near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faith-
ful intercessor of all who invoke your
special patronage in time of need, to
you I have recourse from the depth of
my heart and humbly beg to whom
God has given such great power to
come to my assistance. Help me in
my present and urgent petition. In
return, I promise to make your name
known and cause you to be invoked.

St. Jude, Pray for us and all who hon-
or thee and invoke thy aid. Amen.

Say

3 Our Father,

3 Hail Mary and

3 Glory be.

SUJITH



PARISH ROUNDUP

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

Hauz Khas

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Peter Emmanuel

Assistant Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Sampath Kumar

Advent Retreat

- Rose Mary Peter

A two day advent retreat was organized from afternoon of 13 Dec to afternoon of 15 Dec to prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ. It was both our pleasure and privilege to have Fr. Dinny VC as the main preacher, Director of Prathanayal, Chandigarh Diocese. Fr. Dinny has amazing power to preach the word of God. He was very simple,

biblical and versatile. He laid emphasis that we should spend more time in the Temple of God. We should celebrate our birthday's anniversaries in the church, be associated with church and we should ever be ready to do any type of work for church, then you, your family, your church would be blessed with everything as in Philipians Chapter 4.4 Rejoice in the Lord Always and again

I will say Rejoice, maintain the sanctity of church, be regular personal and in family prayer, sow good seeds of faith in your children. The retreat became more spiritual nourishing as Fr. Sampath had invited Satsang choir to lead us into praise and worship and we all aware of the talent of Fr. Sampath who made retreat all the more meaningful.

Altar Servers Day

- Rose Mary Peter



PARISH ROUNDUP

FEBRUARY 2025

As every year this year also we celebrated the Angel's Day on 8th December with lot of zeal and active participation of young children happily willing to serve the Sacred Altar under the guidance of their animators Ms. Roseline Daniel and Sr. Jovita. The day was dedicated to Saint John Berchman. The entire liturgy, choir and Entrance Arti etc. was organised by Altar Servers. A very nice Rangoli was made by the Altar Servers at the church entrance. Currently we have 26 Altar Servers and two new Altar Servers have just joined. After the homily the old and new children took the Oath to Serve the Holy Altar. Certificates and gifts were given to children who took part in Christ the King Feast. Best Altar Server Girl, Aditi Tirkey and Boy, Rajat Indwar were also given a token of appreciation. Full attendance certificates were also given followed by refreshments for all Altar Servers.

Carol Singing Competition

- Rose Mary Peter



On 8th Dec we had Carol Singing Competition at parish level. We have 22 BEC Unit and all the units participated with great zeal and enthusiasm. It was really superb to see the talent and hard work of our parishioners. The judges were Sr. Irene from St. Anthony's Convent, Sr. Regina from Bethany Convent and Mr. Jeris Joseph, Archdiocese of Agra, Former National Treasurer of YCS/YSM. The first prize was won by St. Michael community, they sang carol Chamka EK Tara, which was written and music composed by Mr. Rajesh Peter, our parishioner, indeed very melodious and heart touching classical Christmas Carol. The second prize was won by St. Raphael Community and the third prize was bagged by St. Jude and Peter community. It was a joyful day embarking the unity of our parish community.

Christian Unity Octave

- Rose Mary Peter

On 19th Jan Christian Unity Octave was organised by Green Park Free Church. 14 members from our parish participated including laity and religious. It was a deep experience of faith where people from other denomination participated in large numbers praying together, sharing and reflecting



and diversity to express their solidarity in the entire universe. The one hour prayer meet concluded with refreshments and intermingling of the faithful.

Christmas Tree Celebration

- Rose Mary Peter

Christmas Tree was celebrated on 12th Jan. It was a great day of joy. We had one bilingual Holy Mass, after which the whole parish community was served with cake and tea sponsored by Fr. Peter. 0-5 years of children were given gifts by the Parish Priest. The whole parish community was divided into ten groups with different ribbon colour tag for participation in totality. Our vibrant youth had organised very nice games for all age groups and also for religious sisters and Priests. The prizes were distributed immediately after each game. Tambola was also the special highlight with bumper prize of Rs. 2500/- at Rs 50/-per ticket. The Vincent De Paul Society of our parish had organised food stalls to raise funds for the poor and needy. They are doing good job in our parish reaching and supporting the sick poor and needy ones. After the games lunch was served to all parishioners with price coupon of Rs. 50/-.

Parish Calendar 2025

- Rose Mary Peter



Good Shepherd Church is blessed to have Parish Priest, Fr. Peter Emmanuel and Asst Parish Priest Fr. Sampath who are constantly doing very good job. For the first time in the history of Good Shepherd Church under their guidance we have come up with our New Parish Calendar 2025 which gives the main high lights of our church activities basically the history of main events and the team work of laity, exuberant youth, Religious Priests and Religious Sisters from time to time. Fr. Dinny VC inaugurated the Parish Calendar during Advent Retreat. Another good start up in our parish is Fr. Peter has started Monthly Parish Recollection Retreat on every First Friday of month from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm followed by fellowship meal. Fr. Peter invites learned resource spiritual preachers every month and the fruitful result is many parishioners are coming forward to participate in the journey of spiritual growth. Praise be to God.

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF HEALTH

Masihgarh, Okhla

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Deepak Soreng

Assistant Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. S. Christu Raju

Priest-in-Residence: Rev. Fr. Thomas D'Cunha

Christmas and New Year Celebrations

- Gijo George



Christmas was celebrated with much fervor and joy by the parishioners of the Archdiocesan Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Health, Masihgarh, Okhla, New Delhi. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Masses were held in Hindi, English and Malayalam with several hundreds of people in attendance.

On Christmas Eve, Services started with Carols being sung before each Mass. An important high point of the Eucharistic Celebration was the presentation of the statue of baby Jesus to the people. In his Homily, Fr Anup Minj SDB spoke about how God sends a type of person based on what is most needed by people. If people needed Technology then God would

have sent a Scientist, etc. But, Jesus came because what Mankind needs the most is Salvation.

For Christmas, the Shrine was fully lit up and had numerous decorations inside and outside the Church. The Youth Association and other parishioners had built a large Crib outdoors along with a Christmas tree decked up with lights next to it.

After the Mass, while people

exchanged greetings, cake and coffee was served to all those who had come.

New Year's Eve saw the Monthly Shrine Rosary Feast being held in the evening. Before Midnight, an hour of Adoration was held. This was followed by a Thanksgiving Mass which ushered in the New Year 2025. After the Mass, coffee and biscuits were served to all who were present.

Christmas Mela Celebrations

- Gijo George



The annual Christmas Mela celebration of our Parish was organized on Sunday 5th January this year. The festivities started at 10 am after a special combined Hindi and English Mass. The Christmas Mela was declared open by our Chief Guest Rev. Fr. Babu Joseph, Director SVD. The inauguration was done in the presence of Rev. Fr. Deepak Soreng, Mr. Marcel Ekka, President of the Catholic Association and along with other Priests and Religious. The Catholic Association members were instrumental in organizing the event by working in close coordination with the other parish associations and parishioners.

The Mela had several stalls which served delicious food from a variety of cuisines.

There were several game stalls organized by the Youth Association where children, enjoyed themselves. There was a variety of fun-filled on ground games for people of various age groups organized by Mr. Sumeet Philips and his team. During the day various events like Tambola and Hamper Draw was held for everyone. In the afternoon we had a free community lunch. After this, we had free gifts given to our young parish children who were below 5 years of age and to all our catechism children.

Towards the end, a word of thanks was given to all who had contributed towards holding this event successfully. The day concluded with the much-awaited Raffle Draw where this time 15 prizes were available to be won.

Parish Pastoral Visit by Archbishop Anil J. T. Couto

- Gijo George and Arun Derek Toppo



On Sunday 19th January, His Grace Most Rev. Anil J. T. Couto, Archbishop of Delhi, made his Pastoral Visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Health. On his arrival, Archbishop was welcomed by our Parish Fathers and Parishioners at the main gate. The Satsang group welcomed him with a short traditional ceremony. He was then led to the Parish Office by members of the Mahila Sangh who performed a welcome dance to the beat of the drummers. Parishioners lined up on both sides of the pathway to welcome him.

For the Holy Mass, the members of the Parish Pastoral Council welcomed Archbishop Anil and presented him with a bouquet of flowers. During the Homily, His Grace spoke on how Mother Mary is a strong and essential part of our life of faith. She intercedes for us while always staying behind the scenes just like at the wedding at Cana and keeping her son our Lord Jesus at the forefront of all things.

At the end of the Mass, the Vote of Thanks was given by the Catholic Association with the Archbishop being felicitated with a shawl by Fr. Deepak. After the mass, parishioners went in line to meet the Archbishop and receive his blessings.

Later in the morning, the Parish Pastoral Council and all Parish Associations, groups and committees met with the Archbishop in the Parish hall and presented their reports to him. This was followed by an open session where issues currently faced at various levels in the Parish were brought up. Archbishop Anil gave valuable and specific suggestions in order to resolve the concerns suitably. During the Pastoral Visit the Youth Association helped out with the arrangements in various ways.

The Pastoral visit concluded with a visit to the homes of the elderly and sick by visiting Mrs. M. John and Mr. A. D. Joseph.

ST. XAVIER'S PARISH

Shahbad-Daulatpur

Parish Priest: Rev. Sebastian Mukalel

Feast of St. Francis Xavier

- Angel Pius



On December 1, St. Xavier's Parish was agog with colourful celebrations as the community came together to celebrate their patron saint, St. Francis Xavier, on his Feast Day. The day was a wonderful culmination of spirituality, talent and bonding around community.

It began with a Eucharistic Celebration, which was solemnly conducted to enrich the spiritual celebrations that followed. In prayer and devotion, parishioners sought blessings and reflected on the life and mission of St. Francis Xavier.

It quickly changed to joyous celebrations with the per-

formance of children that danced on the stage gracefully to entertain the viewers. Their lively act, which was full of energy and emotions, was perfect for the start of the cultural event.

The youth of the parish added flavour to the celebrations with an awesome dance performance that was breathtakingly stunning. The audience cheered for more as their passion and creativity gave a vibrancy to the celebration.

The grand feast was concluded with people sharing food, laughter and camaraderie. Joy and unity filled the air of the parish community as they celebrated, interacted and created cherished memories.

Parish Retreat

- Aleen Johnson

On December 8, 2024, our parish gathered for a special retreat, a day set aside for reflection, prayer and spiritual renewal. The retreat was an opportunity for all of us to step away from our busy lives and reconnect with God, with ourselves and with each other.

The day was led by Fr. Maria Arockiadoss S.D.B, who shared teachings that resonated deeply with everyone present. His message focused on two main themes: looking for the good in our hearts rather than the flaws in others and understanding the greatness of God's glory without testing it.

He began by speaking about the importance of focusing on the good within ourselves, rather than judging others or dwelling on their faults. He reminded us that it is easy to see the bad in others, but true Christian love calls us to look past imperfections and recognize the goodness in everyone. This isn't about ignoring the reality of mistakes or shortcomings but about choosing to embrace a mindset of grace and compassion. Father encouraged us to examine our own hearts, to reflect on the goodness God has placed within each of us. By focusing on these positive aspects, we not only grow closer to God but also become better, more loving people in our daily interactions.

Another central point of his talk was the greatness of God's glory. He reminded us that God's glory is beyond our full comprehension—it is inspiring. However, instead of demanding signs or seeking to challenge God's will, we are called to trust in His plan for us, even when we don't fully understand it. His message was a reminder that, while we can seek God's

help and guidance, we must approach Him with humility and reverence, recognizing his infinite power and wisdom. To truly experience God's glory, we must be open to receiving it with a spirit of trust and surrender.

As we approach the Christmas season, Father also reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas - more than just gifts, decorations, or festive meals, Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, who came into the world to bring hope, peace and salvation. He called us to reflect on the deeper spiritual significance of this season, encouraging us to focus on love, joy, and giving, not just on material things.

The retreat concluded with a session of confession, providing participants with an opportunity to reconcile with God and receive His grace. After confession, the retreat continued with a Mass, where the community gathered in prayer, united in worship and thanksgiving.

The retreat ended with a fellowship meal.

Youth Outreach at the Leprosy Home

- Angel Pius



On 30th December, parish youth embarked on a heart-warming journey to a Leprosy Home as part of their annual outreach program. The day was dedicated to spread joy, build connections and to learn from the people we would visit.

As we arrived, we were greeted with warm smiles and eager faces. The residents, often isolated from the world, were visibly happy to see us. The atmosphere quickly became lively as we sang songs, danced together and engaged in conversations. Each activity was met with enthusiasm, and it was clear that both we and the residents were enjoying every moment.

Apart from the excitement, this visit enlightened us to a better understanding of Leprosy. We learned about their struggles with this disease, but more importantly, we saw strength and resilience in them. The residents shared so many stories, which made us see life in their shoes. It

was really humbling and eye-opening that made us appreciate their courage.

One of the most emotional moments of the visit was the smile and thankfulness of the residents. It made us remember that human beings are so connected to each other and that just being there for someone can do wonders. Singing, dancing or even talking can change the whole course of someone's day.

This outreach program was not just a giving program, but it also taught us on how to receive. We came out of that home with love in our hearts and lessons learned forever. It reminded us that there is worth in kindness, compassion and community.

This visit by parish youth reinstated for all of us as to why we do what we do. Experience will always call for reaching out, spreading positives and learning from the others that we will be meeting, making it all very memorable and meaningful for me and for the ones who joined.

Celebrating the Feast of Epiphany

- Ashlyn Mary Sequeira



PARISH ROUNDUP

FEBRUARY 2025

On 5th January, 2025, St. Xavier's parish celebrated three remarkable events with zeal. Firstly, the feast of epiphany, secondly, the first mass of a newly ordained priest from our parish Fr. Akhilesh Kumar SJ and thirdly, the Christmas Tree Programme, organised by the youth group of the parish.

The feast of epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas and it is the time when Christians remember the Wise Men who visited Jesus. Epiphany is about light. It's about the light of Christ coming into the world and we as Christians recognising it and worshipping it. The holy mass began with a beautiful entrance dance prepared by the tribal group.

The main celebrant was the newly ordained priest Fr. Akhilesh Kumar SJ, concelebrated by Parish Priest Fr.

Sebastian and fifteen other priests from the SJ Community. The sermon was very insightful, based on the theme

Isaiah 43:4 "Because you are precious in My sight, You are honoured and I love you."

Following the mass, we had light breakfast and the beginning of the Christmas Tree Programme in which there were a lot of games for all categories from toddlers to old people. All the parishioners participated with complete enthusiasm and won exciting prizes. There were community games like musical chairs and tambola which lit up the day for everyone with amazing music and friendly competitive spirit.

The day concluded with fellowship meal for all the parishioners. It was a memorable day ended with everyone's heart full of joy and spirit lifted to the seventh sky.

The much awaited Christmas Mela (2024- 2025) hosted by St. Thomas Church, R K Puram unfolded on 12 January, 2025.

The day began with the Eucharistic celebration offered by Rev. Fr. Mathew P.J as the presider, con-celebrated by Fr. Vijay Baretto and Fr. Agnes Lionel. In his homily, Fr. Mathew Spoke on Baptism and it's relevance in our lives.

This day is celebrated as the Family Day in the parish. Held every year with great enthusiasm, fun and frolic, it is designed to bring the community together and raise the spirits of both young and old. The mela was inaugurated by Madam Annie George Mathew: IA&AS, who is the full-time member of the sixteenth Finance commission. she gave an inspiring speech to the parents and children.

On the grounds of St. Thomas Play School, the parishioners had hosted a variety of food and game stalls. An array of mouth-watering eat-

eries beckoned the crowds. Along with food stalls, there were games for all age groups including senior citizens and clergy and religious. Tambola and matki phod were great hits with all age groups as usual.

As a part of Family Day, there was a carol singing Competition organized for the BEC Units with Sector 3, R.K. Puram, emerging as the winner followed by Munirka village & DDA Munirka. Crib competition winners were also awarded gifts of application.

The Christmas Mela hamper draw was watched by many eager eyes, who were all hoping to be among the lucky few to win the prize.

The evening ended with felicitation of the sponsors and a vote of thanks by Fr. Vijay Baretto. The day was really a memorable one and we look forward towards the next year.

ST. THOMAS PARISH

R.K. PURAM

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Vijay Baretto

Assistant Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Agnes Lionel

Tamil Ministry: Rev. Fr. A John Rosario

Christmas Mela (2024- 2025)

- Rose Mary



ST. MARY'S PARISH

Old Delhi

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Anthony William

Christmas Tree Celebration

- Asish S Fredrick



On the feast day of Epiphany (Christmas tree) the parishioners of St. Mary's with immense joy took part in the Eucharistic celebration. Half an hour adoration was kept before the holy mass the choir and liturgy were conducted by our catechism children under the leadership and guidance of the teachers. Soon after the final blessings our parish priest handed over the mic to our PPC secretary to announce and distribute the gifts from age group 0 – 5 yrs followed by the catechism coordinator for the age group of 6 to 14 yrs. We moved ahead for the

hamper draw where five consolations were there and the Mega Bumper Prize was kept the parish priest felicitated our catechism teachers and a token of love was presented to our parish priest from the PPC members. After all the prize distribution parishioners moved out of the church for games which was conducted by the PPC members itself. After all the interesting games and prize distributions we had the prayer before meal and lunch was served to the parishioners. By this the season of Christmas came to an end.

Christmas Vigil Mass

- Asish S Fredrick



After spending the days in recollection and lighting the four candles of Joy, Hope, Love and Peace it was time to time light the fifth candle representing the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Eucharistic celebration started with one hour carols to create the environment followed by the holy mass. The presider for the mass was Rev. Fr. Pawan S.J. in his homily he beautifully made the congregation realised the true meaning of birth of Jesus in our lives and in our heart. After the holy mass our parish priest gave thanks to all the sponsors and to all the ward people who helped out in decorating the church, making the crib and for the choir. Cake and coffee was served and people greeted each other and celebrated having tribal dance.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH

Janakpuri

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Domy Thomas MSFS

Parish Feast Day Celebration

- Anjali Tigga



On 26th January 2025, St. Francis de Sales 'Mahima' Church celebrated its parish feast day with great joy and enthusiasm. The day was made even more special with the presence of Most Rev. Bishop Anil JT Couto our Archbishop as the chief guest. The newly renovated sanctuary was blessed by him, marking a significant moment in the church's history. Archbishop also inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Year of the parish, a milestone filled with gratitude and grace.

The festivities began with a beautiful welcome dance performed by the Women's Cell Group, which set the tone for the day's celebration. An insightful introduction about the history of Mahima Parish was given by the parish priest, Rev. Dr. Domy Thomas, highlighting the church's legacy and milestones. This was followed by a brief presentation

by the Youth President, who shared inspiring insights into the life of the parish's patron saint, St. Francis de Sales.

The melodious Youth Choir added a divine touch to the Holy Mass, enhancing the spiritual experience for all present. Parishioners were deeply moved by the sermon shared by the Archbishop, which emphasized the importance of faith, community and service.

The Holy Mass concluded with a heartfelt felicitation of the religious members, as tokens of love and appreciation were presented to them for their unwavering dedication and service to the parish.

After the mass, parishioners gathered for a fellowship meal. Everyone, from young children to senior members, participated wholeheartedly, reflecting the harmonious and inclusive nature

PARISH ROUNDUP

FEBRUARY 2025

of the parish community. The event beautifully encapsulated the essence of the Mahima Parish - faith, love and togetherness - reminding everyone that the true strength of the community lies in its unity and shared purpose. It was a day to cherish, leaving everyone inspired and grateful for the blessings of St. Francis de Sales.



ST. MONICA'S PARISH

Burari

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Valerian Baretto

Empowering Laity within the Church

- Alice Bodra

The role of the laity within the Church is essential and fosters community and spirituality. On January 19, 2025, Dr. Daisy Panna, the secretary of the Laity Commission of the Archdiocese of Delhi, delivered an enlightening address emphasizing the importance of the laity within the Church. Her message resonated deeply, highlighting the laity's vital role in the Church's mission. She encouraged the people to be a part of any commission within the church to spread the good word and provide support and care for fellow members, keeping the church community thriving.

CHURCH OF RESURRECTION

Rohini

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. James Peter Raj

Childrens' Mass

- Daniel Lobo



Psalm 123:7 "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward for Him."

On 26th January 2025, the catechism children animated the Liturgy which was so solemn and prayerful. Our parish priest, Fr. James Peter Raj along with Fr. Sandeep Masih celebrated Holy Mass. Father Sandeep informed us that 26th January is celebrat-

ed as Bible Day, Republic day and as the Sunday for the Word of God (observed on every third ordinary Sunday). He told the children in his sermon that the good Lord always gives three blessing to children who obey their elders and parents; the grace of a happy in life, protection in life and a long life as written in Sirach 3: 1-10. To attain these graces, we have to

PARISH ROUNDUP

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come close to Jesus. Father advised the parents to keep a watchful eye on their children and inculcate the habit of reading the Bible daily.

After mass certificates and medals were given to Daniel Lobo of Class XII for securing the first position in the Inter Parish Bible Quiz completion conducted by 'Vishwas Kiran', Archdiocese of Delhi and Ambrose Monte-

rio of Class IX for securing first position in the Class 9 Category. Flag hoisting was conducted thereafter and the children prayed for peace in the world. We congratulate all the catechism students and thank the catechism teachers for their support.

May we continue to learn more about the good Lord and seek His blessings in all our endeavours.

Christmas Tree Celebration

- Belmera Lobo



The Christmas tree is considered to be a symbol of Christ. Decorating an evergreen Christmas tree is considered to be an ancient custom that reminds everyone how valuable life is.

Christmas tree celebrations can be a wonderful opportunity to highlight the Christian element of love, hope, joy and peace imbued with the feeling of sharing and caring for each other.

On 12th of December 2025, The Church of the Resurrection had their Christmas tree

celebrations. The day began with a beautiful mass, celebrating the solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Thereafter, the Christmas tree celebrations were held with much laughter and gaiety among the parishioners. The air was an amalgamation of zestfulness and gladness. Games were organized and yummy treats given to one and all present.

We thank our parish priest Fr. James Peter Raj and all the organizers for conducting this program so well. This helped to bring the laity closer to be connected in building a healthier Christian life.

Sacerdotal Ordination Anniversary

08.02.1981



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the VOICE of DELHI





SCHOOL SNIPPETS

SAHODAY SR. SEC. SCHOOL

Hauz Khas

Manager: Rev. Fr. Peter Emmanuel

Principal: Sr. Jeevan Latha

Christmas Celebration with Joy and Enthusiasm

- Anderyas

Sahoday Senior Secondary School was abuzz with festive cheer on 22nd December as all came together to celebrate Christmas. The theme of the assembly, "Maranatha" or "Come Lord Jesus", set the tone for a meaningful and joyful celebration.

The highlight of the event was a beautiful dance drama performed by the stu-

dents, which brought alive the spirit of Christmas. The energetic and talented young performers wowed the audience with their synchronized movements and expressive gestures.

The assembly was a testament to the school's commitment to fostering a sense of community and spirituality among its students. The celebration was marked by a

sense of joy, devotion and togetherness, as students, teachers, and staff came together to rejoice in the true spirit of Christmas.

The event concluded with a heartfelt message from the school principal, emphasizing the importance of kindness and compassion. This Christmas celebration was indeed a memorable and enriching experience for all.

ST. MARY'S SR. SEC. SCHOOL

Bahuakbarpur, Rohtak

Manager: Rev. Fr. Allen Gonsalves

Principal: Rev. Fr. Sabu Joseph

Republic Day Celebration

- Renu Deshwal



St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School, Bahu Akbarpur (Rohtak), celebrated the 74th Republic Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. The event, held on 24 January 2025, brought together students and teachers in a vibrant display of patriotism, unity and national integrity. The report highlights the various cultural programs that were conducted during the celebration.

The morning began with a flag-hosting ceremony. The school flag was hoisted by esteemed dignitaries: Respected Principal Rev. Fr. Dr. Sabu Joseph, Vice Principal Fr. Umesh Ekka, Headmistress Sr. Gulshan, Sr. Cicily our school counsellor and the chief guest Mr. Ritvik Arya Director of S.D. School.

The program commenced with the unfurling of the national flag followed by the singing of the national anthem. The chief guest, Mr. Ritvik Arya addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of patriotism, unity and national integrity. He lauded the students for their impressive performances and encouraged them to strive for excellence in all their endeavours.

The celebration continued with a vibrant cultural program showcasing the talents of the students. The event featured a variety of performances, including, dance performances where students showcased the rich cultural heritage of India. After that, the melodious voices of students filled the air as they sang patriotic songs, evoking a sense of national pride.

Our students are blessed with dramatic skills as well, so it was time for skit competition. Students creatively portrayed the significance of Republic Day through engaging skits, highlighting the importance of preserving cultural heritage, impact of technology and the blending of traditional values with modern lifestyles.

As the celebration drew to

close, our principal Fr. Dr. Sabu Joseph addressed the gathering with inspiring words. He began by extending a warm welcome to all present and congratulated the students for their impressive performances.

In his address, the principal highlighted the significance of Republic Day, emphasizing the importance of the Indian Constitution in shaping the nation. He spoke about the values enshrined in the Constitution, such as democracy, equality and justice, and urged the students to uphold these values in their daily lives. The principal also emphasized the importance of patriotism, national unity, and responsibility towards the nation. He encouraged the students to strive for excellence in their studies and contribute positively to society. The Principal's address was a source of inspiration for all present, leaving a lasting impact on the young minds.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Jennifer and a sense of pride and unity among the students and staff.

The Republic Day celebration was a memorable occasion that instilled a deep sense of patriotism and national pride among the students who participated enthusiastically. Entire school atmosphere was filled with patriotic fervour. The event provided a valuable opportunity for students to learn about the significance of Republic Day and develop a deeper appreciation for their country.



ST. MARY'S SR. SEC. SCHOOL

Mayur Vihar Phase-III

Manager: Rev. Fr. Stanley Kozhichira

Principal: Sr. Deepti C.J

Bid Adieu, Class of 2025: Off to Greater Heights

- Nisha K. Saji



St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School bid a fond farewell to its outgoing Class 12 students on 7th January 2025 through a memorable event filled with emotions of joy and gratitude. The event, organized by the school with the active participation of Class XI students, was graced by the presence of our manager Rev. Fr. Stanley, our principal Rev. Sr. Deepti, Rev. Fr. Richard and parents of class XII students.

The occasion was further elevated by the esteemed chief guest, Mr. Hrithik Bhatt CA, an ex-student of the school, who shared his inspiring journey, motivating the students to chase their dreams with determination and con-

fidence. Another highlight of the evening was the performance by Mr. Abhijay Negi, an accomplished rapper and former student, who left the audience enthralled with his talent and energy.

One of the most significant moments of the day was the Graduation Ceremony, where Class XII students received their citation amidst the presence of their proud parents. It was a moment of pride and nostalgia as few students reflected on their school journey. Parent of Kevin Xavier of class XII also shared his experience of association with the school for the last 13 years.

The farewell celebrations included a variety of engaging activities. Class XI students showcased a vibrant dance performance and conducted

fun-filled games, ensuring an entertaining and interactive evening for everyone present. A DJ session added to the excitement, allowing students to enjoy a musical experience.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Biju Mary Mathew, who expressed gratitude to everyone involved in making the farewell a success. She wished outgoing students the very best for their future endeavours and encouraged them to uphold the values instilled by the school.

The farewell was not just a goodbye but a celebration of memories, achievements and the bonds formed over the years, leaving everyone with a mix of joy and bittersweet emotions.

Christmas: A Season of Joy, Peace and Togetherness

- Rema R. Kumar



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and his name shall be called Wonderful, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”

The school conducted special

Christmas assemblies on 19th and 20th December, 2024. The events were attended by students, teachers and staff who all came together to spread holiday cheer. It was based on the values of kindness and forgiveness.

The students showcased their talents through a dance drama narrating the birth of Jesus, then a skit was put up on the famous play “The Bishop’s Candle sticks” by highlighting the importance of forgiveness especially during the holy seasons. Then, we reminisced about the outgoing year 2024 and decided to welcome the New Year 2025 in good spirits through a PPT.

In his Christmas message, Rev. Fr. Stanley elaborated on the meaning of the word Christmas and the importance of maintaining silence and solemnity while celebrating holy ceremonies. He ended his message with the Christmas Carol ‘Silent Night’.

Joyous Christmas Bash! The St. Mary’s Family came together in the evening to celebrate the festive spirit of

Christmas in a unique and different way. Our Manager Rev. Fr. Stanley was the master brain behind this informal gathering which was a perfect blend of merriment, camaraderie and festive cheer. The evening kicked off with short prayer followed by the addressing of our Manager Rev. Fr. Stanley Kozhichira. Then the gifts exchanged, where everyone shared the joy of giving and receiving. The ambience was electric with wine and refreshments flowing freely. The fun quotient was amped up with exciting games, foot-tapping dance, music and energetic Saadri folk carol singing. The air was filled with laughter, chatter and the spirit of celebration. A sumptuous dinner added to the delight with an array of mouth-watering dishes to savor. As the night drew to a close, the family came together to receive special gifts from the management fraternity, this time with an even deeper sense of connection and friendship. It was truly a Christmas celebration to cherish, one that would be etched in the hearts of the St. Mary’s Family.

Festive Fun Fills the Air - 'La Fiesta'

- Ritha U. Kumar

On December 15th 2024, St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School, Mayur Vihar, was transformed into a festive heaven, buzzing with laughter, music and the joyous screams of students conquering the thrill of carnival rides.

The school fete as a celebration of community spirit and holiday cheer, brought together students, teachers and families for a day of pure, unadulterated fun.

A brightly lit stage served as the heart of the carnival, where student performers dazzled with heartwarming musical numbers.

But no fete is complete without delectable treats. From piping hot pizzas and crispy fries to decadent desserts and steaming mugs of hot chocolate, the aroma of deliciousness enticed taste buds throughout the day.

Beyond the stage and food



stalls, the field hosted a mini amusement park of thrilling rides. The Columbus swung skyward, sending shrieks of laughter across the ground, while the daring roller coaster weaved its way through twists and turns, screams of excitement. The wide range

of activities ensured that people of all ages and backgrounds were engaged.

It was a joyous culmination of laughter, shared experiences and a deep sense of community spirit.

ROSARY SR. SEC. SCHOOL

Radio Colony

Manager: Rev. Fr. Vincent Crasta

Principal: Fr. Savariraj

Oral Health Check-up

- Deepak Mamgai & Dr. Sumer Prasad



Rosary Senior Secondary School, Radio Colony, recently hosted a successful oral health check-up for all students on 17 Jan and 20 Jan 2025. It was organised by Dr Merin S. George, an alumnus of the school along with Dr Rishika Anurag from Christian Medical College (CMC) Ludhiana to promote healthy oral health and hygiene. Oral health education at school level is very important as it helps students maintain good oral hygiene, which can prevent tooth decay and gum disease. Good oral health can also help prevent other infections and diseases.

During the check-up, students received assessments of their oral health, including information on any necessary treatments. Dr Merin emphasized the importance of maintaining good oral hygiene

and provided practical tips for achieving healthy teeth and gums among students.

The students were curious throughout the check-up and actively engaged themselves with the dentists and demonstrated keen interest in learning about their oral care. This valuable experience empowered students to take charge of their dental hygiene and be firm about their well-being.

Dr Merin S. George expressed her sincere gratitude to the principal Rev. Fr. Savariraj, and all the Headmistresses for providing the opportunity to conduct this oral health check-up for the students. "It was an immense pleasure to return to my alma mater, she said, and contribute to the well-being of the current student body", she said.

Martyrs' Day

- Deepak Mamgai & Dr. Sumer Prasad



Yuva Tourism club of Rosary Sr. Sec. School, Radio Colony, Delhi 9 under the leadership of Fr. Savariraj celebrated Martyrs Day on 30 Jan, 2025.

2 minute silence was observed at 11.00 am. The following message was delivered before the silence:

Every year India observes Martyrs day on January 30 to honour all those who

sacrificed their lives for the nation and the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on his way to a prayer meeting at Birla Bhawan in Delhi, in 1948.

Martyrs' Day emphasizes the value of freedom, patriotism and the nation's great appreciation for those who fought for its independence.

ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIOR SCHOOL

Prasad Nagar

Manager: Rev. Fr. Jose T.J

Principal: Sr. Agnes Joseph

Ruby Jubilee Celebration

- Rakhi Saluja



The Ruby Jubilee Annual Day of St. Michael's Junior School, Prasad Nagar was celebrated with grandeur on 7th December, marking 40 years of excellence and gratitude. The event was honoured by the presence of the Archbishop Most Rev. Anil J.T. Couto, the Archbishop of Delhi, as the Chief Guest. The big day was also graced by the presence of Most Rev. Deepak

Valerian Tauro, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Delhi, Monseigneur Vincent D'Souza the Chairman of the DCA Schools, and the managers and principals of other DCA schools. The Provincial of the Holy Cross Sisters Sr. Mary Pinto also graced the event. Parent representatives and parents attended in good number creating a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere. All the guests and Principals were warmly welcomed with

a muffler as a gesture of respect and appreciation.

The program began with the lighting of the lamp, symbolizing wisdom and enlightenment, followed by a welcome speech and a prayer dance, setting the tone for the evening. The theme of the celebration, "Aabhaar – An Ode to Gratitude," was beautifully portrayed through various performances. The students participated enthusiastically in a dramatized skit, dance performances, soulful carol singing and a mesmerizing grand finale.

Inspirational messages were delivered by His Grace, The Archbishop of Delhi, Most Rev. Anil J. T. Couto, the Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi, Most Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro and Monseigneur Vincent D'Souza adding depth and meaning to the celebration.

The Archbishop of Delhi, Most Rev. Anil J.T. Couto, Most Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Delhi, Monseigneur Vincent D'Souza the Chairman of the DCA Schools and our former Manager Rev. Fr. Robinson were felicitated with mementos and shawls

as a gesture of gratitude. Retired teachers Mrs. Varsha Saggi and Mrs. Tara Vinayak were recognized for their years of dedicated service with mementos and shawls. The school Manager, Rev. Fr. Jose T. J., was honoured by the Principal with a shawl and a memento while, Sister Principal was felicitated by teacher representative Ms. Pooja Vig and a parent representative.

The program's visual appeal was enhanced by dazzling LED displays and lighting effects, adding to the festive atmosphere. Refreshments were provided to the students and a delicious dinner was served to the distinguished guests. Parent volunteers in every class played a vital role in assisting the children and ensuring smooth coordination.

The Ruby Jubilee Annual Day was a grand success, filled with joy, gratitude and unforgettable moments, truly reflecting the spirit and vibrancy of St. Michael's Junior School.



Closing Ceremony of the Ruby Jubilee Celebration

- Mary D.



The Junior Michaelite family gathered together on 7 February to mark the Closing Ceremony of our Ruby Jubilee Year. On this very special occasion, a Thanksgiving Mass was organized to offer praise and thanks to the Almighty for 40 years of His abundant grace and blessings on the institution and every individual associated with it. The Thanksgiving Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Anil J.T. Couto, Rev. Msgr. Vincent D'Souza, Rev. Fr. Joseph Henry, the Parish Priest and Rev. Fr. Suresh Babu, the

Assistant Parish Priest of St. Michael's Church and Rev. Fr. Jose T.J, the Manager of St. Michael's Junior School. Other Priests and Sisters of the archdiocese also graced the occasion.

The mass began with an entrance dance and an introduction, praising and thanking the Almighty for His benevolence. The choir comprising the teachers, sang melodiously accompanied by the Principal Sr. Agnes Joseph, a gifted musician, who played the organ beautifully. The readings of the mass were done by the teachers and the stu-

dents prayed for the school community. The mass was attended by the students of grade 4 and 5 and the members of staff. It was beautiful and meaningful coming together of all sections of the school community.

On this great occasion, the school brought out its souvenir / magazine, 'Radiant Michaelites' which was released by Most Rev. Anil J.T. Couto, Archbishop of Delhi. The contents of the magazine included a gist of the activities, competitions and events held during the Ruby Jubilee Year Celebrations. The students,

teachers and parents shared their creativity through articles, prose, poems and art work. Many parents wrote about their invaluable experiences with the school community. The magazine is also a reflection of the belief system, camaraderie, and the ethic of hard work that we as an institution uphold. The release of the magazine was a moment of great pride for the institution.

The programme ended with a sumptuous lunch for all present.

Release of the Book

- Mary Dominica



As the Roman Catholic Church is celebrating the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has instructed the church to read and study the four constitutions of the second Vatican Coun-

cil. One of these is, 'Lumen Gentium' or 'the Constitution on the Church' which speaks about the 'People of God' in its second chapter.

Rev. Fr. Jose T.J. recently released his book, "People of God-Its Significance Today." In his book, Rev. Fr. Jose has explained the meaning and significance of the concept of the 'people of God' in context of our modern times. The book offers important insights on the term, 'people of God' and highlights its implications on the empowerment of the laity, equality in the church, clericalism, ecumenism, commu-

nity building, social justice and inter-religious dialogue.

The book was released by Most. Rev. Anil J.T. Couto, Archbishop of the Delhi Catholic Archdiocese on 7 February as a part of the culmination of the Ruby Jubilee Celebrations of St. Michael's Junior School, where Rev. Father is currently serving as the School manager. It was indeed a moment of great pride for all of us, Junior Michaelites.

ST. MICHAEL'S SR. SEC. SCHOOL

Shivpuri

Manager: Rev. Fr. Paul Roy

Principal: Sr. Liji Peter

Annual Sports Day- Samanvay

- Deepti Jasmine Xalxo



Sports and games are an integral part of human life. They serve a variety of purposes, including exercise and recreation, building character and teamwork skills and promoting competition and friendship.

St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, Shivpuri Gurugram Primary Wing organized the Annual Sport's Day- Samanvay on 13 December 2024. His Grace Most Rev. Anil J T Couto, the Archbishop of Delhi, and Rev. Msgr. Vincent D'Souza, Vicar General, Archdiocese of Delhi, Chairman of DCA schools graced the occasion. Mr. Pawan Grover, SDO Electricity Department of Gurugram, Haryana adorned the occasion as the Chief Guest. We were immensely grateful for the presence of Fathers, Sisters and parents. The festivities commenced with a warm welcome extended to all esteemed guests by

our school band. Followed by a grand opening ceremony, marked by the vibrant dance performance.

Then, the students of classes 4th and 5th displayed an impressive Inter House march past competition, showcasing discipline and unity. The oath-taking ceremony set the tone for the event, emphasizing the values of integrity, teamwork, and fair play.

The official declaration of the commencement of the Sports Meet was marked by the torch lighting, symbolizing the beginning of the festivities.

The class drills and performances were themed on our school theme – Journeying together towards an inclusive creation. Classes portrayed the journey of a small seed to a tree – The Gift of God – and how we fail to take care of them by our insensitive actions.

The track events were the highlights of the day. The scores for each track events and march - past were noted House-wise and were declared.

The winners' accomplish-

ments were acknowledged during the prize distribution event and while the winning house raised cheers and applause, the true winners were all of the students who enthusiastically and passionately participated.

12th Grade Farewell Celebration



The farewell ceremony for the outgoing batch of Class 12 (2024-25) was held with great enthusiasm and solemnity at St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, Shivpuri, Gurugram. The event, organized entirely by the students of Class 11, was a heartfelt send-off filled with love, gratitude and good wishes for the future endeavours of the senior students.

The program commenced with the welcoming of the Class 12 students, who were greeted with tilak at the entrance, symbolizing blessings and good fortune. This warm gesture set a positive tone for the day.

The formal proceedings began with the lighting of the diya, followed by a soulful

prayer song that invoked divine blessings for the graduating students. The cultural program, curated and presented by the students of Class 11, included mesmerizing dance performances by both boys and girls, which captivated the audience and added vibrancy to the event.

The esteemed dignitaries present for the occasion included Principal Sr. Liji Peter, Manager Rev. Fr. Paul Roy and Headmaster Rev. Fr. Amal Raj. Manager and Principal addressed the gathering with inspiring words, encouraging the students to excel in their exams and pursue their dreams with determination and integrity. A special blessing ceremony was held, during which all the teachers collectively blessed the students, wishing

them success and happiness in their future endeavours.

The program also included a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the farewell memorable. As a token of appreciation and remembrance, the school presented each student with a thoughtful gift, which was deeply admired. In turn, the Class 12 students expressed their gratitude by gifting carpets to the school as a gesture of their fond memories and appreciation.

Annual Exhibition - YATRA



St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, Gurugram organized YATRA - Annual school exhibition on 23rd December 2024, showcasing the exhibits created by students for various subjects. It was inaugurated by Auxiliary Bishop Deepak Valerian Tauro and Ms. Ritu Banswal, HCS and our alumnus.

The exhibition featured a wide range of projects, from science and technology to arts, literature and history. Some of the standout proj-

The event concluded with a delicious lunch, during which photographs were clicked to capture the memorable moments. The farewell was a poignant blend of emotions, with students and teachers cherishing their time together and looking forward to new beginnings.

The farewell ceremony truly reflected the strong bond shared within the school community and marked a beautiful ending to the journey of the Class of 2024-25.

ects included Science and Technology in which students demonstrated working models of solar-powered devices, water filtration systems and projects related to renewable energy, human body and its various parts. In the next section of Art and Craft colorful paintings, sculptures and handcrafted items filled the display tables.

Students presented historical timelines, cultural heritage displays and models of famous landmarks in history and culture. The attractive

feature of the exhibition was exemplary presentation of Literature and Language: Creative writing, role play, grammar tree, sentence structure Vande Bharat and various other creative exhibits showcased the literary talents of students. Models related to Factor theorem, 3D shapes, trigonometry were adjudged to be the best in the maths section.

Students from various classes actively participated in the exhibition, with each project reflecting meticulous planning and research. Students collaborated in teams and worked diligently demonstrating impressive teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The faculty members were present to guide and encourage the

students, ensuring their efforts were properly nurtured.

The annual exhibition was a great success in terms of both participation and engagement. It provided a wonderful opportunity for students to apply their learning in practical ways while fostering creativity and innovation. The event was also a testament to the dedication of the students, teachers and parents who supported them throughout the preparation process. We express our heartfelt gratitude for all the hardwork of students and support of our parents in making the exhibition a huge success. We look forward to seeing even more exciting projects in the next year's exhibition.

SOULMATE

Seeing alliance for a Roman Catholic Sunmarried boy, 5'11", born in '88 and raised in Delhi. He holds a B.Com from Delhi University (regular college), with further qualifications from CIMA-London, ACCA-London and MBA in Financial Management. Currently employed with a UK-based firm in Strategy & Advisory. We invite proposals from well-educated girls. Contact: 9811034818.



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VOICE of DELHI

FEBRUARY 2025

DIOCESAN DIGEST



Report on Unity Octave 2025 (18-25 January 2025)

- Rev. Fr. Norbert Herman SVD

Commission for Ecumenism & Inter-religious Dialogue

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was observed from 18th to 25th January 2025, in various churches across the Delhi NCR region. This annual event,

which fosters Christian unity through prayer, is promoted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) and the National Council of Churches in India.

The week of prayer was jointly prepared by the Dicastery for promoting Christian unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches. This week-long observance provides a special opportunity for Christians to reflect on and celebrate their unity in Christ, transcending denominational differences.

The 2025 observance holds particular significance, as it marks the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, which took place in 325 AD. This council played a pivotal role in shaping the doctrinal unity of the Christian Church and its anniversary serves as a reminder of the enduring importance of Christian unity.

The monastic community of Bose, located in northern Italy, was entrusted with preparing the prayers and reflections for this year's Week of Prayer. The theme for the 2025 observance was "Do You Believe in This?" based on the passage from John 11:17-27. This scripture invites Christians to reflect on the fundamental question of faith that unites them and to reconnect with their shared Christian heritage, deepening the faith that binds them together.

The following churches hosted the events of the Unity Octave during this week: Caleb Institute (Faruknagar, Gurugram), Free Church (Green Park), St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Church (Safdarjung Development Area), Jerusalem Marthoma Church (Safdarjung Enclave), Centenary Methodist Church (Lodhi Road), Salvation Army (Green Park), Church of Mother of Perpetual Succour (Mayur Vihar Phase

3), and ECI Faith Cathedral Church (Janakpuri).

His Grace Archbishop Anil JT Couto emphasized the importance of unity among Christians. He reminded participants that our faith in the Triune God should be reflected in our Christian life. The Archbishop stressed that, in Christ, Christians are called to experience a newness of life through humility and fidelity to their faith, which ultimately unites them in fellowship to heal a broken world.

In addition to Archbishop Couto, other notable preachers who participated throughout the week included Rev. Varinder Kumar from the Methodist Church, Rt. Rev. Zacharias Mar Aprem Episcopa from the Marthoma Church, HG Dr. Youhanon Mar Demetrios Metropolitan from the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, Rev. Richard Howell from Caleb Institute, Fr. Dr.

Mondeep Daniel from Cathedral Church of Redemption, Fr. Aflash from the Orthodox Church, and Rev. Edwin John Wesley from the Evangelical Church of India.

The success of the event was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the Core Team of the Unity Octave, comprising G. Jaya Kumar, Dr. Sandeep Chaudhary, Fr. Aflash T. Issac, and Fr. Norbert Herman SVD. Special thanks are due to Rev. Dr. Abraham Mathew for his support and encouragement, which ensured the event was both beautiful and successful. It was heartening to witness the large participation of believers who gathered to worship the Lord in unity.

This event was a powerful reminder of the shared faith that unites Christians across different denominations, fostering a deeper sense of fellowship and commitment to the principles of Christian unity.



Prayer Service in remembrance of Mahatma Gandhi & Archbishop Angelo Innocent Fernandez

- Rev. Fr. Norbert Herman SVD

Commission for Ecumenism & Inter-religious Dialogue

On January 30th, 2025, the Commission for Inter-faith Dialogue of the Archdiocese of Delhi hosted a prayer service at the Church of St. Teresa in Pushp Vihar to honor and remember two influential figures - Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation and the late Archbishop Angelo In-

nocent Fernandez. This event brought together a diverse group of community members and leaders to reflect on the lasting impact of their teachings, values, and contributions to society.

The prayer service featured a series of impactful reflections from notable speakers. Guru Chanran Singh, Mr. Himmat Singh and Dr. Iqbal Siddiqui shared their insights on the life and principles of Mahatma Gandhi, focusing on his commitment to non-violence, truth and social justice. In addition, Rev. Fr. Ayres Fernandes and Rev. Fr. George Manimala recounted their personal experiences with Archbishop Angelo Fernandez, highlighting his unwavering dedication to interfaith

dialogue, compassion and his lifelong service to the community. Mr. Azad Chaudhary also contributed to the service by discussing the relevance of Gandhi's values in today's world, underscoring the timeless significance of his teachings.

The event was attended by approximately 150 lay leaders and community members, all of whom participated in honoring the legacies of these two remarkable individuals.

With gratitude to Rev. Fr. Manikya Raju, Rev. Fr. Norbert Herman SVD and Mr. Anshu Anthony, the dedicated effort. A word of appreciation was extended to all the organizers and attendees.



Group Project on Airborne Diseases

- Arathy R Kurup & Priya Gill

Holy Family College of Nursing

Airborne diseases are infectious diseases that spread through the air via respiratory droplets or aerosols released when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks or breathes. A role play to explore the dynamics of airborne diseases, discussing their transmission, prevention and management strategies was organized in Pediatric OPD, Lok Nayak Hospital, New Delhi on 17/1/2025.

The exhibition and street play were attended by more than 250 parents of children and also incharges of NICU, Pediatric OPD, Medical &

Surgical wards. The skit was organized to raise awareness among the public about airborne disease and its prevention. Students took various roles such as health officials, educators and community members to illustrate the importance of awareness, vaccination and public health measures in controlling outbreaks and protecting vulnerable populations. Exhibition consisted of charts made by the students. A health talk session was done by the students post skit.

Overview of the Skit

The skit featured a series of short scenes depicting various scenarios involving

airborne diseases such as influenza and tuberculosis.

Key Highlights of the Programme

Transmission Methods:

Demonstrating how diseases like tuberculosis, measles, influenza, whooping cough etc. spread through droplets and aerosols.

Risk Factors: Identifying populations at higher risk, including the children and immunocompromised.

Preventive Measures: Emphasizing the importance of vaccination, hand washing, mask-wearing, healthy diet and proper ventilation.

Community Impact: Showcasing the societal implications of outbreaks and the role of healthcare professionals in managing public health crises.

Performance Highlights

Educational Content: The nursing students effectively communicated vital information using relatable scenarios, making the content accessible and engaging.

Audience Engagement: The skit included interactive elements, inviting audience

for quiz for their participation to reinforce learning.

Creativity: The students used costumes and props to enhance the visual impact and maintain viewer interest.

Feedback

Audience members provided positive feedback regarding the clarity of the information presented and the entertaining yet informative nature of the skit. Department of Child Health, Lok Nayak Hospital praised the students for their teamwork and dedication in raising awareness about airborne diseases.

The skit was a successful educational initiative that effectively conveyed critical information about airborne diseases. This activity not only benefited the nursing students in their learning but also increased awareness among the audience about the importance of preventing the spread of infectious diseases. The Child Health Nursing Department, Holy Family College of Nursing express our sincere gratitude to Lok Nayak Hospital staff for the support and cooperation.



Christmas Tree Celebration

- Godfrey Frank & Vincent Menezes

Kanara Catholic Association

The Christmas tree celebration was organized by KCA on 12th January, 2025, at Good Shepherd Church, Hauz Khas, with a Holy Eucharistic celebration offered by Fr. Praveen D'costa and concelebrated by Fr. Anil Almeida, Fr. Sunil Crasta, and Fr. Ravi Sagar. Fr. Sunil Crasta, the Spiritual Director, welcomed the gathering.

Fr. Anil Almeida preached a beautiful homily.

The celebration began with a keynote address by Mr. Vincent Menezes, the president of KCA. Soon after, Santa Claus entered the hall with the children and distributed gifts to them. The Jesuit brothers of Vidyajyoti organized various games for the children, youth and KCA couples. Fr. Ravi



Sagar and Fr. Anil Walder addressed the gathering with a Christmas message.

Following this, Geona Frank performed a dance. All the winners were felicitated by Sr. Regina and Sr. Severine. Mr. Vincent Menezes thanked the sponsors of the celebration and all those who attended. Kuswar, prepared and sponsored by Mrs. Jacin-

tha Crasta, was distributed to everyone. Idli (Sanna) sponsored by Celestine Jain and prepared by Sr. Severine. In the end, a Mangalorean meal was served to all attendees. Around 120 members were present for the celebration, which ended with nonstop baila dance.



Tribal Awards – 2025

- Vijay Toppo

Commission for Tribal Affairs

On 19-01-2025 at DCC Hall TRIBAL AWARDS - 2025 was held with Chief Guest and Chairman for Commission for Tribal Affairs Archdiocese of Delhi Auxiliary Bishop Deepak Valerian Tauro and Dignitaries who(Tribal) have reached to a high level like:-

1. Pilots

2. Judge
3. Ph.D./Doctorates
4. Scientists
5. IAS
6. IPS
7. IFS
8. Advocates
9. Doctors
10. Journalist
11. Professor
12. Beauty Pageant
13. Nursing Superintendent

14. Principal
15. Entrepreneurs
16. National level Sports Person
17. ICYM Youth Presidents-Priest and Nuns who have completed 25 years. Self-nomination were asked and we received 86 Nominations in various fields.

Chairman of Commission for Tribal Affairs Auxiliary Bishop Deepak Valerian Tauro and other Dignitaries followed by a Sadri Tribal Song sung by Rev Father Robinson Rodrigues, Director of NIS-CORT and former Secretary of Commission for Tribal Affairs. As the Awards were given to the eminent personalities the Live Band SAILO JUNCTION performed in between keeping the Awards Function more lively. In the end of the ceremony everybody danced to the music by the live band Sailo Junction.

Ceremony started with the lighting of the Lamp by the



LETTERS

THANK YOU FOR WRITING TO US, WE'RE SHARING IT HERE FOR ALL TO READ!

Dear Sir,

Fr. Sampath Kumar's article, "Be a Pilgrim of Hope" (VOD- October 2024) was very meaningful. We are all chosen to be Pilgrims of Hope and Agents of Peace and Justice to bring a social change in the society dealing with issues that will help people who need our care and attention, mainly the senior citizens, the handicapped and people who are affected by different situations of life.

Thanking you,
Yours in Service of Christ,

- *Cajetan Peter DSouza*

Inter-Diocesan Christmas Gathering



St. Xavier's School in Beror hosted the Jai-pur-Delhi Inter-Diocesan Christmas Gathering, organized by Fr. Anil Valder Dean of Rewari denary, Fr. Jose Kuriakose and Fr. Reenesh Joseph on December 26th, 2024 at 11:00am. The event was attended by most Rev. Archbishops Anil Couto and Joseph Kallarackal. Bishop Joseph delivered a beautiful message emphasizing the importance of practicing

patience in daily life. Archbishop Anil Couto inspired gathering to share love, joy and spread the values of the Kingdom in their daily lives.

The event was filled with joy as everyone, including the bishops, enthusiastically participated in fun games and dances. Christmas carol by the youth of Beror was delightful. The gathering was concluded with a delicious meal. All were refreshed, encouraged and strengthened.





JUBILEE YEAR 2025 SUNDAY LITURGY



S.NO.	DATE: SUNDAY	THEME	PREPARED BY
	Archbishop's Message		
I	19 th Jan: Unity Sunday	Jubilee of People of All Faith	Commission for Ecumenism and Dialogue
II	26 th Jan: Sunday of the Word of God	Jubilee of People of God	Commission for Bible
III	2 nd Feb: The Presentation of the Lord	Jubilee of Consecrated People	CRI
IV	9 th Feb: Holy Childhood Sunday	World Missionary Day for Children	Pontifical Mission Societies
V	9 th March: Women's Day	Jubilee of Women	Commission for Women
VI	6 th April: Health Sunday	Jubilee of the Sick and Health workers	Commission for Health
VII	4 th May: Domestic Workers Day	Jubilee of Domestic Workers	Domestic Worker Forum
VIII	11 th May: Vocation Sunday	Good Shepherd Sunday	Commissions for Vocation, Formation, Clergy & Welfare Board
IX	18 th May: Lawyers Day	Jubilee of Lawyers	Lawyers Guild
X	25 th May: Entrepreneurs Day	Jubilee of Entrepreneurs	Federation of Catholic Association
XI	8 th June: Pentecost Sunday	Jubilee of Environment	Commission for Ecology
XII	15 th June: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity	Jubilee of Communities	Commission for BECs
XIII	20 th July: Justice and Peace Sunday	Jubilee of Justice and Peace	Commission for Justice and Peace
XIV	27 th July: Family Day	Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandchildren and Elderly	Commission for Families
XV	10 th August: Youth Sunday	Jubilee of Youth	Commission for Youth
XVI	17 th August: Altar Servers Day	Jubilee of Altar Servers	Altar Servers Guild
XVII	31 st August: Tribals Day	Jubilee of Tribals	Commission for Tribal Affairs
XVIII	7 th Sep: Teacher's Day	Jubilee of Teachers	Commission for Education
XIX	14 th Sep: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Jubilee of Faith Formation	Commission for Catechetics
XX	28 th Sep: Migrants Day	Jubilee of Migrants	Commission for Migrants
XXI	5 th Oct: Media & Communication Day	Jubilee of Communication	Media and Communication
XXII	19 th Oct: Mission Sunday	Jubilee of Missions	Commission for Evangelization
XXIII	26 th Oct: Legion of Mary Sunday	Jubilee of Marian Spirituality	Legion of Mary-Delhi- Curia
XXIV	16 th Nov: World Day of the Poor	Jubilee of the Poor	St. Vincent de Paul Society
XXV	7 th Dec: International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Jubilee of People with Disabilities	Chetanalaya
XXVI	14 th Dec: P.P.C. Sunday	Jubilee of Parish Pastoral Council	Commission for Laity

Anniversaries 1st – 28th February

PASTORAL CLERGY

Birthday	Ordination	Death Anniversary
February 2 A. John Rosario (1975) 6 Vijay Kumar Baretto (1975) 7 Johnson Kizhakeveetil (1959) 9 Thavamani (1975) 11 Joseph Vadakumcherry (1946) 12 George Manimala (1960) 13 Frederick D' Souza (1957) 19 Elias Dung Dung (1958)	February 6 George Abraham (2002) 8 + Anil Couto (1981)	February 16 Fr. Samuel Williams (2010) 22 Rev. Fr. Lal Joseph (2017)

Calendar of Feasts

February 2025

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Saint Brigid of Ireland | 17. Blessed Luke Belludi |
| 2. Presentation of the Lord | 18. Blessed John of Fiesole |
| 3. Saint Blase | 19. Saint Conrad of Piacenza |
| 4. Saint Joan of Valois | 20. Blesseds Jacinta and Francisco Marto |
| 5. Saint Agatha | 21. Saint Peter Damian |
| 6. Saint Paul Miki and Companions | 22. Chair of Saint Peter |
| 7. Saint Colette | 23. Saint Polycarp |
| 8. Saint Jerome Emiliani | 24. Saint John Theristus |
| 9. Saint Apollonia | 25. Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio |
| 10. Saint Scholastica | 26. Saint Porphyry of Gaza |
| 11. Saint Gregory II | 27. Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows |
| 12. Saint Buonfiglio Monaldo | 28. Saint Oswald |
| 13. Saint Catherine de Ricci | |
| 14. Saints Cyril and Methodius | |
| 15. Saint Claude la Colombière | |
| 16. Saint Daniel | |



FEBRUARY 2025



ARCHBISHOP ANIL J.T. COUTO ENGAGEMENTS



1-4			CCBI Meeting, Bhubaneshwar
5			Delhi Elections
6	Thu	09.30 am	Curia Meeting
7	Fri	09.00 am	Concluding Mass of the Rubee Jubilee of St. Michael's Jr. School, Prasad Nagar
		06.00 pm	Platinum Jubilee of Delhi Bible House
8	Sat	10.30 am	Chetanalaya Day at DCC Hall
		03.00 pm	Nuptial Mass at SHC
		07.30 pm	Feast of DHM at Prabhatara
9	Sun	09.00 am	BEC Annual Day
		03.30 pm	Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph's Church, Greater Noida
10-12			Out of City
13	Thu	09.30 am	Curia Meeting
		03.00 pm	Nuptial Mass at SHC
		05.30 pm	CBCI Finance Committee Meeting
14-16			Out of City
17	Mon	04.00 pm	Vidyajyoti
18	Tue	10.00 am	Priests' Council Meeting
		06.00 pm	Blessing of the Grotto at St. Sebastian's Church, Dilshad Garden
19	Wed		Monthly Recollection
20	Thu	09.30 am	Curia Meeting
		03.00 pm	UCPI Theological Forum Meeting
		07.00 pm	CAG Meeting
21	Fri	07.00 am	Mass & Inaugural Session for Sister Doctors Forum at Don Bosco
		06.30 pm	Satsang at DCC Hall
22	Sat	10.30 am	Silver & Golden Jubilee of CFMSS at St. Michael's Church, Gurugram
		05.30 pm	Final Profession of Sr. Cicily - Missionary Sisters of Jesus the Worker at Vikaspuri
23	Sun	09.30 am	Pastoral Visit to Khrist Jyoti Church, Badarpur
24-26			Out of City
27	Thu	09.30 am	Curia Meeting
		04.00 pm	Meeting
28	Fri		CBCI Regional Secretaries' Meeting



FEBRUARY 2025



BISHOP DEEPAK VALERIAN TAURO

ENGAGEMENTS



1 - 4			CCBI, Bhubaneshwar
05	Wed		Delhi Election
06	Thu	09.30 am	Curia meeting - DCA Conference Room
		03.30 pm	Fc & Mc Meeting - St. Michael's S. S. School, Pusa Road
07	Fri	11.00 am	Ruby Jubilee - St Michel's Jr. School, Prasad Nagar
		03.30 pm	Fc & Mc Meeting - Rosary S.S. School, Radio Colony
08	Sat	10.00 am	Chetanalaya Day - Chetanalaya
		02.00 pm	LSL Animation - St Michel's Jr. School, Prasad Nagar
		03.30 pm	Visitation - Holy Family Convent, Gurugram
		05.00 pm	Communion & Confirmation - St. Michael's Gurugram
09	Sun		Pastoral Visit - Rewari & Bawal
10	Mon	10.00 am	Fc & Mc Meeting - Sonipat, Kheri Manajat & Narela
11	Tue	03.00 pm	Visitation - Pratiksha
12	Wed	03.30 pm	Fc & Mc Meeting - St. Antony's Boys' School, Paharganj
13 - 21			Out of City
23	Sun		Pastoral Visit - Bilaspur
24 - 26			Clergy Outing
27	Thu		Visitation - Vinay Gurukul
28	Wed	10.00 am	EXCO meeting - HFH, Okhla

VACANCIES IN THE DELHI CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESAN SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

S.No.	Name of the Schools	Nursery/NTT	PRT/ Asst. Teachers	TGT	PGT	Others
1	St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School, Mayur Vihar		2 -All subjects, 1-Counsellor	1-English, 1-Hindi 1-Science 1-Maths		
2	Sahoday Sr. Sec. School, Hauz Khas		1 -All subjects,	2-Hindi cum Sanskrit, 1-Science 1-English	1 -Physics , 1-Biology , 1 -History	1-UDC
3	St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, Pusa Road			1-Maths cum Science	1 -Accountancy , 1-Economics , 1 -Biology	
4	Rosary Sr Sec School, Kingsway Camp	1 -All subjects	1-Special Educator	1-Counsellor	1 -Accountancy	
5	St. Michael's Jr. School, Prasad Nagar		1-Special Educator			
6	St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, Gurgaon	1 -All subjects	1 -Art & Craft, 1-Hindi, 1-Lab Assistant	1-Computer	1 -Chemistry , 1-Accountancy , 1 -Physical Education	
7	St. Jude's Academy, Sonapat		2 -All subjects, 1-PET (Female)	1-History, 1-Art & Craft (Female)	1-English	
8	Maria Manzil , Nuh	1 -All subjects	6 -All subjects	1-Maths, 1-Computer, 1-English		
9	Saarthi Public Sr Sec School, Jhajjar		1-All Subjects	1-Physical Education	1-Computer , 1-Pol. Science	
10	Mata Mariam Jan Seva Vidyalaya, Narnaul	1-All Subjects	2-All Subjects (Evs & Eng), 1-Counsellor (Female) 1-Art & Craft	1-SST	1 -Economics , 1-Chemistry , 1 -Business Studies	
11	St. Michael's Sr. Sec. School, Vatika kunj, Nayagaon ,Gurgaon		1 -All subjects, 1- Computer	1-Social Science		
12	St. Mary's Sr. Sec. School, Rohtak	2 -All subjects	4 -All subjects	1-Social Science, 1-Computer Science		1- Supervisor cum office Assistant

- NB.:**
1. Application forms must be collected from the **concerned School Office from 24th February to 12th March 2025 (Monday to Friday)** during official school hours
 2. Duly filled Application forms must be submitted **BY HAND** to **The Education Office, Yusuf Sadan, New Delhi- 110001 from 7th to 12th March 2025 (EXCLUDING Saturday & Sunday)**.
Timings: 10.00 am to 1.00 pm & 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.
 3. Selected candidates applying for positions in Rohtak and Jhajjar School will be provided accommodation facility.
 4. Application forms for the Schools in Rohtak, Sonapat, Jhajjar, Vatika Kunj, Nuh, Narnaul must be collected from the concerned **School Office** and submit the filled application forms to the **schools** within the specified dates as mentioned above.
 5. Management reserves the right to call only the shortlisted candidates for the Interview.
 6. Candidates should have proficiency in English and possess basic computer knowledge.
 7. Catholic Candidates should be practicing their faith and should have passed catechism atleast upto 10th Std.
 8. Catholic candidates must attach a letter from their Parish Priest confirming they are practicing Catholics.
 9. **Class IV posts (auxiliary/helping staff), if any, will not be advertised and the same will be filled directly by the concerned School through the OUTSOURCE AGENCY ONLY as and when required.**

F. 21

Msgr. Vincent D'Souza
Chairman, DCA Schools



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