



THE BRIDGE

a newsletter from archbishop's house
32, Mother Teresa Sarani (Park Street), Kolkata - 700016

JULY 2024



Editorial

The sixteenth century was remarkable for its colourful parade of extraordinary personalities who were destined to influence, all succeeding generations for good or evil. In that long, brilliant line of statesmen, scholars, reformers and revolutionaries, there was a short, bald-headed Spaniard. He had a small book tucked under his arm and a spirituality buried deep in his heart. The man was Ignatius Loyola, the book was the Spiritual Exercises and the spirituality was "contemplative in action" by "finding God in all things."

God does not work in a vacuum. God works in the real world. He deals with us as human beings. God sanctifies us through our daily actions, our fears, failures and yes, even our sins. He is the potter, we are the clay. We have to allow God to transform us and conquer us. Once St Ignatius remarked to some young religious, 'He who goes about to reform the world must begin with himself.' St. Ignatius wanted the Jesuits to be strong in Spirituality against the devil and explained how the rest of us needed to begin by surrendering completely to Christ our King. 'If our Church is not marked by caring for the poor, the oppressed and the hungry, we are guilty of heresy'. We need to allow Jesus to help us to be caring to the underprivileged, sympathetic to the sick, attentive to the youth and considerate and kind-hearted to all those around us. Let us pray to St Ignatius whose feast is on 31 July, to grant us these spiritual gifts so that we can live a true Christian life.



- Fr. Rudolf D'Souza

BIBLE SUMMER CAMP AT FATIMA SHRINE, 2024



Fatima Shrine Youth group organized the summer camp from 22nd to 26th May for a hundred and fifty children of 8 to 22 years under the guidance of the Parish Priest, Assistant parish Priest, and the Youth Animator, and the financial contribution of the parishioners helped to meet daily expenses for food and other requirements.

Day one comprised Holy Mass, division of the camp participants in four teams St. Alphonsus, St. Clement, St. Gerard, and St. Peter, post breakfast orientation by Fr. Anto, Treasure Hunt for juniors, Scavenger Hunt for seniors to encourage team work, and Bible Quiz.

Day two featured rosary prayer, Holy Mass, Spiritual talk, post breakfast showcasing of talent through the event two minutes to fame, obstacle race, followed by a round of Brain Teasers and another Bible Quiz.

Day three saw career guidance session conducted by experts for the seniors who find themselves at cross roads, unable to decide the course of study to be pursued, T shirt painting for seniors, games for juniors. Special attraction was a skit competition based on the parables of Jesus to bring out the creative and acting talent of the participants.

Day four consisted of queries of campers answered by youth organizers to fulfill the inquisitiveness of youngsters. The events entitled Star Glitz, and Creative Ads brought into play fashionable trend, acting ability, improvisation of costumes and props.

The Final day had competition like Non-fire cooking to display the camper's cooking ability in presenting low budget innovative dishes. Singing and dancing competition saw the campers taken to new height of zeal and enthusiasm. The curtains were brought down with Prize distribution where St. Gerard team bagged the Winner's Trophy. The campers went home with food packets and a smile of satiation and enriched experience.



NEW PRESBYTERY BLESSED IN KANCHRAPARA



Mary Immaculate Mass Center and then a quasi parish was looked after by visiting Jesuit Fathers from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, St. Joseph's Church, Barrackpore and from Morning Star College, Barrackpore. Thus the dream of many priests and parishioners for a presbytery came true with the initiative of our Archbishop Thomas D'Souza who blessed the new presbytery on 15th June, 2024.

The Catholic Community at Kanchrapara is a railway airforce and army job based community. Before Independence, this community was well taken care of by St. Joseph's parish, Barrackpore. After 1947 the responsibility was given to St. John's Church, Sealdah. With 150 families it was once again detached.....and given to St. Joseph's Church, Barrackpore. For a short time the TOR Fathers extended pastoral care from Kawgachi. The Late Fr. Cyril Fernandes, the first resident priest persisted with the dream and made necessary grassroot implementations residing at the Cluny Sisters' campus. During covid-19 period 18th March 2020 foundation stone was laid and on the 15th June, 2024 the presbytery was finally completed. In the presence of few religious and priests of the deanery and the parishioners the presbytery was blessed by His Grace Archbishop Thomas D'Souza.

Blessing ceremony began with a Rabindra Sangeet, introduction, welcome to the Archbishop, invited guests and friends. Lighting the lamp, Gospel reading, reflection, intercessions cutting the ribbon and blessing of the entire presbytery were the major parts of the ceremony. The late Fr. Cyril Fernandes was fondly remembered with gratitude.

After the final blessing and hymn all were seated in their respective places to begin the felicitation and vote of thanks. From the part of the parish and the Archdiocese gratitude was expressed by words and gifts. Fr. Michael Adesar thanked the Archbishop Thomas D'Souza for his initiative in fulfilling the long awaited dream of a presbytery. Finally delicious fellowship meal was served to all.

By: Fr. Michael Adesar

PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF LORETO SISTERS

The Feast of the Visitation on May 31st marked a special occasion for three Sisters, Anu Anet Lepcha, Lily Grace Soreng and Vimla Jenifer, who made their perpetual profession in the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) family in Kolkata. This significant event, reflecting their deep commitment and faith, was celebrated with heartfelt prayer and community support by our Archbishop Thomas D'Souza.

Each sister's personal motto 'Save by Grace', 'My God, I trust in You', and 'I am chosen' underscored their enduring trust in God's unconditional love as they embarked on this new chapter in their spiritual journey. The preparations for this milestone moment were thoughtfully carried out by the Sisters in Kolkata, ensuring a meaningful and memorable ceremony.

The celebration began with an entrance dance by young Loreto Sisters, setting a reverent tone for the solemn liturgy. The procession included the three Sisters to be professed, alongside Sr. Sabrina Edwards (Province Leader), Sr. Sudha Arul (Director of the TPs), and other members of the Province Leadership Team. Commentaries were made in regional languages to honor the diverse backgrounds of the Sisters.

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of the Calcutta Archdiocese, was the main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist, joined by many concelebrants, including Sr. Anet's brother, Fr. Roger Ethen Lepcha, recently ordained for the Darjeeling diocese. In his homily, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza emphasized the theme of life as a journey, drawing parallels with Mary's visitation. During the profession, the Sisters affirmed their vows, prostrating before the altar as the congregation sang the Litany of Saints, led by Sr. Priyanka Topno. The vows were professed in English, Hindi and Tamil, allowing family members to fully engage with the ceremony. The joyful greeting of the newly professed Sisters by the Loreto community mirrored the biblical meeting of Mary and Elizabeth.

The liturgy featured hymns in Nepali, Sadri, Tamil, and English, creating a personalized and inclusive experience. Sr. Molly Francis IBVM and choir master Derek Fernandes led the choir, filling the Loreto House Chapel with harmonious music.

Following the Eucharist, a felicitation ceremony was held in the hall. The Sisters were garlanded according to their cultural traditions, and the Loreto candidates performed a delightful dance. The celebration continued with the cutting of a specially ordered cake and a festive agape, where everyone shared in the joy and love of the occasion.

By: Sr. Matilda IBVM



Congratulation

SR. CATHERINE K. FC
NEW PROVINCIAL OF THE DAUGHTERS OF
THE CROSS (F.C)

JUBILEE CELEBRATION AT MANSATALA, KIDDERPORE



Jubilee Mass of our four MC Brothers was held on 3rd of June 2024 at Mansatala, Generalate of the Missionaries of Charity Brothers founded by St. Teresa of Calcutta in 1963. Br. Yesudas MC and Br. Sunil Singh MC were the Golden Jubilarians. Br. Ajit Tirkey MC and Br. Vincent Champia MC celebrated their Silver Jubilee. Archbishop Thomas D'Souza was the main celebrant for the Eucharistic celebration along with 3 concelebrants. A good number of Religious sisters, family members and friends also attended the Holy Mass. Archbishop in his homily highlighted how these four brothers have committed their lives for the past 50 and 25 years in the Religious life. Their commitment to their work and faithfulness to Christ is remarkable. He wished them many years in their religious life and especially in serving the poorest of the poor.

By: Br. Bipin MC

FIRST PROFESSION OF THE SISTERS OF DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS (F.C)

Lord I offer my life to you...

The Daughters of the Cross, Calcutta Province witnessed the joyful event of the First Vows of six novices on 15th June 2024. The novices pronounced their first vows during the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Joseph Pauria SDB, Provincial Kolkata Province in St. Vincent's Home, Kidderpore. The chapel was packed with parents, relatives, sisters and other invited guests to be part of this auspicious day. The liturgy of the day was meaningfully prepared keeping in mind the sacredness of the occasion. During the homily, Father highlighted the significance of the three evangelical counsels through the call of Abraham. Abraham on surrendering himself to Yahweh's plans became a blessing for generations to come. So are we by our life of consecration called to become a blessing for all. The newly professed sisters: Nikita Lakra, Anjali Kujur, Reeta Kujur, Fransisca Lepcha, Kusmita Tigga and Priya Ekka were felicitated after the Mass by the sisters and parents.



By: Sr. Juliet FC

SUMMER CAMP AT INFANT JESUS CHURCH, BEHALA

The summer camp organised by Infant Jesus Church in collaboration with the youth of the parish held in Meghmala Roy Education Centre aimed to provide children with holistic learning experience while fostering a sense of religious beliefs. Held on 8th and 9th June 2024, the camp brought together enthusiastic children of age groups from kindergarten to class 12.

The camp commenced with prayer service by the youth of IJC followed by breakfast and interesting games and competitions, the children were divided into 4 groups. The various games for the different age groups included spoon and marble, dodge ball, musical chairs and many more. Football and badminton tournaments were also organised which the children enjoyed the most.

Chart making competition was held for the students as a group activity which provided them the opportunity to collaborate, express their creativity and showcase their teamwork skills.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the youth of the Infant Jesus Church who worked day and night tirelessly to make the program a success. We also thank Parish Council Members, the Sunday School teachers and BEC animators who helped in managing the children. Special thanks to Fr. Shyam Charan Mandi PP who instrumental in organizing this mega summer camp 2024 and also Fr. Raja (youth animator) for inspiring and motivating us all.

We also thank the children and their families for their enthusiasm and participation. Together we laid the foundation for future adventures and discoveries.

- Rohan Nath



INSTALLATION OF FR. JOHN P. CHALIL SDB AT BANDEL BASILICA



Fr. John P. Chalil SDB was installed as the Parish Priest of the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Bandel, Hooghly (Bandel Basilica) on Sunday, June 16, 2024. The installation ceremony was graced by His Grace Archbishop Thomas D'Souza. Fr. Joseph Pauria SDB (Salesian Provincial) and other Salesians of the campus joined as concelebrants. The Holy Mass began at 9.00am with an entrance dance and traditional welcome to the Archbishop and the concelebrants.

Immediately after the homily, the Archbishop introduced the Rite of Installation and exhorted all to kneel while the hymn to the Holy Spirit is sung. The Appointment letter of Fr. John was read out by the Salesian Provincial Fr. Joseph Pauria. Fr. John Chalil along with the congregation made the profession of faith. Then Archbishop officially declared Fr. John as the new Parish Priest and entrusted the keys of the Basilica and the Tabernacle. The certificate of installation was signed by the Archbishop and two witnesses from the Parish Council. Archbishop exhorted the people to collaborate with the Parish Priest to make the parish a vibrant community. Fr. John was felicitated by Archbishop, concelebrants, superiors of religious communities and members of the Parish Council. Then the Holy Mass continued with the prayer of the faithful.

By: **Parishioner**

RECOLLECTION OF PRIESTS IN JUNE 2024

Fr. Kurian Emphrayil SJ preached the recollection on Thursday, 20th June 2024. Some 40 priests attended, besides the priests from Midnapore and North 24 Parganas deaneries. "Lumen Gentium in Vatican II teachings, has revolutionized our understanding of Ecclesiology," said Fr. Kurian, "giving us all a clarion call for a collaborative ministry, involving lay people, religious and pastors." Our common mission is founded on our baptismal priesthood, the universal call to holiness and the eschatological nature of the pilgrim Church on earth.

To a certain extent, we have failed to realize the dreams of the Vatican II teachings, due to the non-understanding of the nature of the Church. Sharing the power with the laity, has been a constant conflict in the organizational structure of the Church. The 4 E's we need to do for the laity are: 1. Ennoble (them), 2. Enable, 3. Empower, 4. Encourage.

He suggested 8 qualities to be a servant leader. They are: 1. Listening, 2. Showing Empathy, 3. Healing through the Word and Sacraments, 4. Self-awareness, 5. Persuading, 6. Conceptualization, 7. Foresight, and 8. Stewardship.

A Priest needs to tell the people that they are important to the Church. He must show compassion irrespective of their faith or financial background. He should build up a good interpersonal relationship with the close associates. As a Church, we need to review our pastoral involvement with the people and try to live the vision of the Vatican II.

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza made special intercessory prayers and encouraged the priests to give a lead in prayer during the Year of Prayer, and study the Word of God and the four documents of the Vatican II in all the parishes. The Jubilee celebration which will begin in 24th December 2024 will end on 6th January 2026 with the Feast of the Epiphany.

By: Fr. Gnana Peppin



"This is the day that the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps.118; 24)



This is the *Magnificat*, we sing today, along with our sisters who pronounced their final yes in the presence of their beloved parents, and loved ones. 10th June was yet another remarkable day for SdP family as we commemorate the 23rd sainthood day of St. Luigi Scrosoppi, founder of Sisters of Providence. Today **Sisters: Gloria Pohplet, Liliosa Khonglah, Nibedita Sarkar, Presitha Ch. Marak, and Shoshan Lakra** young, vibrant and zealous missionaries were added to our province. It was truly a day of thanksgiving, joy, jubilation, celebration and above all a day of consecration in the lives of these brave soldiers for Christ, as **Sanjo Sadan Provincialate** witnessed their **PERPETUAL 'YES'** to the Lord, to the congregation and to the Church at large.

The solemn Eucharist was presided over by **Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose**, Bishop of Baruipur Diocese, and was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. George Pantahnmackal, Rector of Morning Star Regional Seminary, Rev. Fr. Vicky Gayang, CSC, and by Reverend Fathers from neighboring communities.

The Bishop in his address encouraged and challenged the Perpetually Professed to be faithful and daring missionaries to the Lord, the Church and His people. This solemn and spiritual event was blessed with the presence and prayers of the beloved

parents, religious sisters and friends and well-wishers of SdP family.

After the Holy Eucharistic Celebration all the perpetually professed and the dignitaries and special invitees were felicitated solemnly, followed by Agape.

I would like to end few lines of mine with words of our beloved Founder: "The heart of every consecrated woman is like an altar consecrated to God: on it there must always burn the fire of holy love and from that fire must emerge the flames of Charity." (St. Luigi Scrosoppi)

- Sr. Shanthi Cheruthanickal SdP



JULY

06	Fr. George Anthony
10	Fr. Peter Moras
10	Fr. Samuel Bilung
12	Fr. Jesu Retchahar
20	Fr. Peter Anthony



18 Fr. Jesu Retchahar

ARCHBISHOP'S PROGRAMME: JULY 2024

01 Mon	06:30 a.m. Morning Star Seminary, Barrackpore	Mass of the Holy Spirit
	08:30 a.m. - do -	Inaugural Function
	11:00 a.m. - do -	Meeting with seminarians
	04:00 p.m. Return to Kolkata/ABH	
	06:00 p.m. ABH	Jubilee 2025 Workshop Meeting
02 Tue	09:30 a.m.-03:30 p.m. Seva Kendra Calcutta	Jubilee 2025 Workshop: Kolkata City Deanery
03 Wed	05:00 p.m. ICCR, Kolkata	Reach out Star Foundation Programme
04 Thu	10:30 a.m. JV Minor Seminary, Barasat	Holy Mass: Inauguration of Academic Year
	04:00 p.m. ABH	Education Board Meeting
05 Fri	09:30 am – 03:30 pm Bandel	Jubilee 2025 Workshop: Howrah-Hooghly Deanery
06 Sat	10:00 a.m. ABH	Meeting with MSFS Provincial
07 SUN	08:30 a.m. St. Thomas' Church, Middleton Row	Feast day Holy Mass
08 Mon	ABH	
09 Tue	06:00 p.m. Seva Kendra Calcutta	Governing Board Meeting
10 Wed	09:30 – 03:30 p.m. Proggaloy, Barasat	Jubilee 2025 Workshop: North 24 Pgs Deanery
11 Thu	09:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ABH	Ongoing Formation of Priests: Group I
	06:00 p.m. AC Provincialate: Tollygunge	Holy Mass for AC Community
12 Fri	ABH	
13 Sat	09:30 a.m. – 03:30 p.m. Seva Kendra, Jholi,	Jubilee 2025 Workshop: Midnapore Deanery
	03:00 p.m. ABH	Inauguration of 'Theology for Laity'
14 SUN	08:00 a.m. St. Francis X. Church, Guma	Holy Mass; Installation of new Parish Priest
15 Mon	09:30 a.m. Mary Immaculate School, Bashirhat	Holy Mass; Blessing of new School building
16 Tue	06:30 a.m. Carmel Convent, Outram Street	Feast day Holy Mass
	10:00 a.m. ABH	Formation Committee Meeting
	04:00 p.m. ABH	THE HERALD Board Meeting
17 Wed	09:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ABH	Meeting of Council of Priests
18 Thu	06:00 p.m. Seva Kendra Calcutta	AGBM
19 Fri	06:00 p.m. Science City Auditorium, Kolkata	Attend Concert : 'Beyond Eternity'
20 Sat	10:00 a.m. St. John's Parish, Sealdah	Pastoral Visit
21 Sun	08:00 a.m. Holy Mass for the People: St. John's, Sealdah	Parish Pastoral visit
22 Mon	10:30 a.m. Sisters of Charity Provincial House, Kolkata	Holy Mass for Jubilarians
23 Tue	ABH	
24 Wed	ABH	
25 Thu	09:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ABH/Deaneries	Recollection for Priests
26 Fri	ABH	
27 Sat	10:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Church, Bowbazar	Pastoral Visit
28 SUN	08:00 a.m. Holy Mass for the People: Bowbazar	Pastoral Visit
29 Mon	ABH	
30 Tue	04:00 p.m. ABH	Pastoral Council Meeting
31 Wed	ABH	

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN) for July 2024:

For the Pastoral Care of the Sick:

"We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all"

Kindly send in news of programmes within the Archdiocese and in special regard to Archbishop's visits to different parishes, to Fr. Rudolf D'Souza

The Bridge is published monthly from Archbishop's House Kolkata.

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