



# BHARAT KI JEEWAN

A news letter from the Region of India

February- 2024

Issues- 32



As we journey through this season of Lent, may we open our hearts to the possibility of renewal and transformation. Let us reflect on the areas of our lives where we need to let go of old habits, attitudes, and behaviors that hinder our relationship with God and others. May we use this time of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving to cultivate a spirit of humility, gratitude, and compassion. Let us seek forgiveness for our shortcomings and sins, and commit to making positive changes that align with God's will for our lives. As we reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and His ultimate act of love on the cross, may we be inspired to deepen our faith, grow in holiness, and live out our Christian calling with courage and conviction. May this Lenten season be a time of spiritual growth, inner healing, and renewed commitment to following Christ more closely. May we emerge from this season transformed by the grace of God, ready to share His love and light with the world.

**"Through the Desert  
God Leads us  
to Freedom"**

«I am the Lord your God,  
who brought you out  
of the land of Egypt,  
out of the house of slavery»  
(Ex. 20:2)



Let us journey together in faith, hope, and love, trusting in God's mercy and grace to guide us on the path of renewal and transformation.

## Consecrated day celebration in our dumdum church





## Annual Picnic for the disabled and slum children of Srirampur Parish, Kolkata

The annual picnic, orchestrated by DC Sisters at Serampur Church, brought together disabled individuals from Cheshire Home and Shanti Rani Bhavan, alongside children from the local slums, for a day filled with engaging games and spirited competitions that fostered a sense of community and inclusivity.

At the heart of Serampur Church, the annual picnic organized by DC Sisters united disabled individuals from Cheshire Home, residents of Shanti Rani Bhavan, and underprivileged children from the slums in a day of laughter, camaraderie, and exciting games and competitions that celebrated diversity and togetherness. Through a series of interactive games and lively competitions, the annual picnic was awesome, created lasting memories, and revel in a day of fun-filled activities. that highlighted the importance of community, com. Participants engaged in various activities such as games, music, and interactive sessions, fostering a sense of camaraderie and joy



The event was organized with a focus on accessibility and inclusivity, ensuring that all attendees could fully participate in the activities. Volunteers and staff members provided support and assistance to individuals with different types of disabilities, creating a welcoming and supportive environment. One of the highlights of the picnic was a talent show where participants showcased their skills and creativity, receiving applause and encouragement from the each other.





Several individuals shared their personal stories of resilience and determination, inspiring others to embrace their abilities and strengths. The annual picnic not only provided a day of enjoyment for disabled individuals and local slum children but also promoted awareness and acceptance within the community. Looking ahead, the Serampur Church plans to continue organizing inclusive events and programs to support and uplift individuals with disabilities.



- Bro. Vishal Khute

### **Farewell Report for the formal Parish Priest Fr. Arul , Immaculate Conception Church, Serampore Parish.**

on 29 th January, the parishener gathered in the church to bid a heartfelt farewell to our beloved Parish Priest, Fr. Arul, who has been a guiding light and a source of inspiration for all of us at Immaculate Conception Church, Serampore Parish. As Fr. Arul embarks on a new chapter in his journey of faith and service, all the parishners came together to express gratitude, love, and best wishes for him. His unwavering dedication, compassion, and leadership have touched the lives of many, leaving an indelible mark on our hearts. The immconception church parish is grateful for his tireless efforts in shepherding the parish, nurturing the faith, and fostering a sense of unity and belonging among us.



Fr. Arul's compassionate presence during times of joy and sorrow has brought comfort and solace to countless parishioners. His inspiring homilies, spiritual guidance, and pastoral care have helped us grow in our relationship with God and one another. As the parish bid farewell to Fr. Arul, the Immaculate conception church expresss its love, appreciation, and admiration for the profound impact he has had on the spiritual journey and personal growth. His kindness, humility, and genuine concern for each member of our parish have endeared him to us, creating a sense of family and belonging that will always be cherished. As Fr. Arul prepares to embark on a new chapter in his ministry, we offer our heartfelt prayers, blessings, and best wishes for his continued success, happiness, and fulfilment in all his future endeavors. May God's grace, guidance, and protection accompany him where he is, and may he always find strength, peace, and joy in serving the Lord and His people.

- Bro. Vishal Khute ss.cc.

## General Econome Visits to choudwar hostel and Ministry Places



In the month of February, Fr. Nacho, the General Econome, paid a visit to the Choudwar Hostel Ministry of Dsdi. It was a great pleasure for us and the staff to welcome him to the hostel. During his visit, Fr. Nacho graciously spent some time with us and even had a glass of refreshing coconut water. He also took the time to visit all of our leprosy colony and observe the work of the Dsdi in Bhubaneshwar. It was heartening to see his interest and dedication to the cause. After his visit, Fr. Nacho proceeded to Ludru, continuing his mission to bring hope and support to those in need.



The Prayer ceremony for the local leprosy colony people took place on February 21st, which happened to be a Tuesday, and lasted the entire day until nightfall. This festival is observed in honor of Lord Krishna and Rama, and the participants observe a strict fast throughout the day. As night falls, people keep a vigil and chant the mantra "Hare Rama, hare Krishna," a practice that continues throughout the night.

We were fortunate enough to be invited to this celebration, which was a beautiful display of community and collaboration with people of different faiths. The dinner was a vibrant affair, with the hostel boys joining for the festivities. The atmosphere was filled with joy and a deep sense of connection to something greater than ourselves. It was a truly memorable experience.

## community and collaboration



- Fr. Robert Joshi ss.cc



## HINDU FESTIVAL- ASTAPRAHARI

We were invited to join the people of Nehru Colony for the Hindu celebration called Ashtaprahari. I took ten Coudrin hostel boys with me to the celebration. As soon as we reached the place, our hostel warden, Suresh, who lives in that colony, invited us and offered us tea and snacks. We then went to see the Ashtaprahari festival, which was a devoted ritual function performed in praise of the deity. The devotees continuously chanted the name of the deity in turn without any break, while the function was performed with particular instruments. This festival is mainly celebrated in the Indian state of Odisha.

-Fr. Robert Joshi ss.cc.



## DAMIEN FREE HEALTH CARE CAMP

A free health camp was organized by the paramedic's staff of D.S.D.I. with the noble aim of raising awareness among the underprivileged residents of the colony who have no access to basic healthcare services or knowledge about the diseases they suffer from. The health camp provided free medicine and bandages to those in need and referred them for specialized treatment or surgery whenever necessary. This initiative ensured that people received healthcare in a timely manner and sought medical attention early enough to prevent minor health problems from becoming serious.



fr. Robert Joshi ss.cc.



## A NEW SACRISTY ROOM FOR ST. DAMIEN PARISH LUDRU

The Parish was installed on 11th of July of 2018 by Rt. Rev. Sarat Chandra Nayak. The parish was using the village chapel of Ludru as the main church. Beside the altar, a small space was built to store the liturgical items. This was not proper but due to the lack of funds we had to manage with what we had. In the year of 2018 the titli cyclone hit the building and it was slightly damaged. In the year of 2020 there was an initiative from the village to build the sacristy room at the back side of the church. With the local donation and the free labor of the villagers of Ludru, the construction of the room started and managed to complete up to lintel level. In the year of 2023, a request letter was given to the development office. Fr. Alexis sent the request to Fr. Manoj and he was kind enough to support financially to complete the sacristy room. Now the parish church has a spacious sacristy room to keep all the liturgical items. The sacristy room was blessed on 29th of January. On behalf of the parish and the parish council, I express a deep appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Manoj and to all those who supported the completion of the sacristy room.

Fr. Francis Subal, ss.cc,  
Parish Priest





# ASH WEDNESDAY



Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent season in the Roman Catholic Church. The forty days of lent reminds us of the forty days of rain in Noah's time the forty years the Israelites journeyed to get to the promised land and the forty days Jesus prayed and fasted in the wilderness. All these events represent a time of struggle and purification that people had to go through before they got to something better. The ashes on our foreheads remind us of that call for purification to get to something better. On this day we had the Holy mass at 12: o'clock pm. The main celebrant was Fr. Prem and the con-celebrant by Fr. Arul. In the homily, Fr. Prem beautifully explained the three pillars of Lent fasting, Praying and Almsgiving. On this day, we heard the first reading from the prophet Joel.

- Bro. Vincent Nayak  
First Year Candidate

He invited us to return to the Lord with all our hearts. In the same way in the second reading, St. Paul speaks about reconciliation with God. Reconciliation is to repair or mend what is broken or divided. To facilitate this process of purification and reconciliation, three things are traditionally suggested Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. In the Gospel, our Lord Jesus explains how these are to be practised. Prayer is about being connected to God even amidst our busy lives. Fasting is all about staying disciplined and saying no to things that take us away from the love of God. Almsgiving is all about seeing God in our fellow brethren, especially those most in need of our help and caring for them. As God says-Though mother forgets her child I will not forget you. After the homily, Father blessed the Ash and put on our foreheads saying "Repent and believe in the good news". Thereafter we proceeded to the main part of the mass. In this Holy season of Lent, we are given a chance to repent from our wrongdoings. At 7: 15 p.m., we had Stations of the Cross. I reflected on each station of the cross that my lord Jesus Christ bore only for my sins but I always go away from Him. As the Church has given us this Holy season let us reflect on it and repent ourselves, do good, and bring our hands together to others those who are in need. Always pray as OUR LORD prayed and fasted in the desert. Last but not the least Lent is not to be limited to doing something, it is rather being with the LORD.

On this Ash Wednesday, may the ashes on your forehead be a reminder of god's love and forgiveness. Wishing you a blessed and reflective day. As you begin your Lenten journey, may this Ash Wednesday be a time of renewal and spiritual growth. Have a blessed day filled with peace and grace.

## WELCOME CEREMONY OF REV. FR. JOSE IGNACIO (Nacho)

On Thursday 8th of February 2024, a groovy cultural programme was held in Damien Bhavan to show our love and respect for Fr. Nacho who had come from Rome to visit the Region of India. We were very gaily to see him, it was afternoon at 3: o'clock when he arrived along with Fr. Ajit the Regional Superior and our Community Superior Fr. Pream. We assembled near the main gate to welcome them with the traditional Adivasi dance and flower bouquet. At 6:00 pm, we started the gala programme with the prayer song and another cultural programme. The glowing and avid message of Fr. Ajit made us zealot persons about how to live in the initial formation stage, and as he would say, "Smile on your face" made us keep on moving forward with great zeal like river water.



Rev.Fr. Pream the community Superior welcomed Rev.Fr. Nacho and Rev. Fr. Arul the new members of the community. There were many events such as an Opening prayer song, welcome song by brothers, mime, skit, Karam Adivasi dance etc. and everything went on very smoothly, and among all the programmes we liked- "Adivasi Karam dance" and especially "THE MIME" because it was gorgeous to learn how to use "Mobile Phone wisely".

When Rev. Fr. Nacho the general econome of the congregation gave the message about – "Discern the will of God for oneself and when one discerns the will of God, the community grows and when the community grows, the whole congregation grows by doing the things that we do faithfully".

Though it was short and succinct but very deep and meaningful thoughts. We finished our groovy cultural programme with the seminary anthem and had a sumptuous meal together with the Fathers.

**By- Charles Tudu**  
**First Year candidate**





## *Vocation Promotion in this Digital Era*

Fr. Arockia attended A General Body Meeting Organised by the Tamil Nadu Latin Bishops' Council - Commission for Vocation, Seminaries, Clergy and Religious. This meeting was for all the Vocation Coordinators of the Religious Congregations and dioceses under the leadership of Most Rev. Dr. Arulselvam Rayappan, Bishop of Salem and the chairman of the commission for vocation promotion. On 24 and 25 February 2024. Topic: Vocation Promotion in this Digital Era, presented by Fr. George Jackson Louise from the Diocese of Dharmapuri. Place: Jeeva Jyothi Ashram, Coimbatore.



*- Fr. Arockia ss.cc.*



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## March

01 Fr. Pierre Coudrin  
26 Fr. Robert Joshi ss.cc.

**FR. RAJA SABASTIAN  
FR. AJITH KUMAR ANTHONY DAS ss.cc.**

**Best Wishes and congratulation on your  
Anniversaries. God bless you all.**

**Diaconate Ordination Anniversary**

**05.03.2005**



और अपने मन के आत्मिक स्वभाव में नये बनते जाओ।  
~ इतिहास 4:23  
And to be renewed in the spirit of your minds.  
~ Ephesians 4:23

आत्मिक शुद्धिकरण साधना Soul Renewal Retreat

- Rosary
- Praise and Worship
- Word of God
- Adoration
- Confession
- Holy Mass
- Healing and Deliverance

Preacher  
Rev. Fr. Suraj Sonwani

2ND MARCH 2PM TO 7PM  
3RD MARCH 10:30 AM TO 5 PM

HINDI AND ENGLISH

VENUE : INFANT JESUS CHURCH, BEHALA TRAM DEPOT



01.02.1768 Birthday

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