



"Christ is Born, Let Us Glorify Him"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we open this new edition of our newsletter, we are reminded of the profound mystery that lies at the heart of our faith: the Incarnation of the Word. Christmas is not simply a season of joy, but the living testimony that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son (John 3:16).

For us, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. This celebration is more than a commemoration. It is a renewal of our mission: to contemplate, live, and proclaim the compassionate love of Christ and His Mother. The manger in Bethlehem is a school of humility, tenderness, and trust. It teaches us that God's power is revealed in weakness, His glory in simplicity, and His love in self-giving.

In a world often marked by division and uncertainty, we are called to be bearers of hope. Just as the shepherds hurried to share the Good News, so too must we carry the message of Emmanuel — God with us — to the communities we serve. May our words and actions reflect the Sacred Hearts, bringing peace, reconciliation, and mercy wherever we are sent.

As you read through this newsletter, may you be inspired by the stories of faith, service, and fraternity that unite us. Let us journey together, strengthened by the love of Christ, and guided by the gentle heart of Mary.

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you can expect:**

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Robert Joshi SS.CC



Seminar on Religious Entrepreneurship and Human Rights Empowerment



On December 1st, Fr. Umaknat and Fr. Robert participated in a significant course on Religious Entrepreneurship and Human Rights Empowerment held at Pushpashrama, Mysore, under the guidance of the Carmelite Fathers. The seminar brought together a wide spectrum of religious leaders, including Provincials, Principals, Generals, Fathers, Sisters, and Brothers from various congregations, creating a vibrant atmosphere of shared learning and dialogue.

The sessions were rich in content and covered a wide range of pressing issues relevant to religious institutions and communities today:

- Rights of the Consumer – safeguarding fairness and justice in everyday dealings.
- Cyber Protection – ensuring safety in the digital age.
- Faith, Finance, and the Future – exploring sustainable financial practices rooted in faith values.
- Taxation, FCRA, and GST for Religious Institutions – clarifying complex legal and financial frameworks.
- Society and Trust Management – strengthening governance and accountability.
- Notary and Certification of Documents – understanding legal validation processes.
- Complaint Procedures (NCR/PCR/PIL/B-Report) – navigating legal remedies and responsibilities.
- Domestic Violence and State Assistance for Victims – promoting justice and compassion for the vulnerable.
- Judicial Remedies – equipping participants with knowledge of legal recourse.

The seminar was not only informative but also deeply engaging. Participants appreciated the opportunity to reflect on how religious institutions can responsibly respond to contemporary challenges while remaining faithful to their mission. The presence of leaders from diverse congregations fostered a spirit of unity and collaboration, reminding all that the Church's mission extends beyond spiritual care to include advocacy for justice, empowerment, and human dignity.

WE found the program enriching, as it provided practical insights into managing religious institutions in today's complex socio-economic and legal environment. The seminar emphasized that religious leadership must be proactive in addressing issues of human rights, financial transparency, and social responsibility.

This initiative at Pushpashrama stands as a testament to the Church's commitment to holistic ministry — one that integrates faith with action, spirituality with justice, and tradition with innovation.

Fr. ROBERT, ss.cc.





PRAYING WITH NEIGHBOURS



Dangadighilla community, Kolkata prayed rosary with the neighboring Christian community on 11th October in one of the families' prayer rooms. After the rosary, Fr.Sudhir preached on the virtues of Mother Mary and invited the people to continue to seek her intercession for God's blessings. The gathering ended with fraternal meal.

On 13th October the Christian community was invited to pray rosary in Dangadighilla house on the occasion of the 6th apparition of our lady of Fatima. Fr.Samuel Bilung, the parish priest of Barrackpore joined the prayer. The statue of our lady of Fatima was taken for the procession and kept in the renovated grotto. After the rosary, Fr. Tileshwar preached on our lady of Fatima. He encouraged the people to come with their children for prayer. We also wished the Fatima sisters those who are staying with us a happy feast day and the birthday celebrant Pankaj, one of our pre-novices a happy birthday. The event ended with tea and snacks.



BENEFACTORS DAY



Benefactors' gathering took place in Dangadighilla community, Kolkata on 12th October. Benefactors around the city participated in the event. The programme was planned by Fr.Uma, the development director who thanked and encouraged the benefactors for supporting the brothers in the initial formation. The Dangadighilla community organized the event. Fr. Tileshwar did MC, Fr.Subal talked about the foundation of SS.CC and the enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fr.Sudhir encouraged the people to continue the gathering to have more collaboration. Brothers in the initial formation welcomed and thanked them through their speeches, dances, and hospitality.



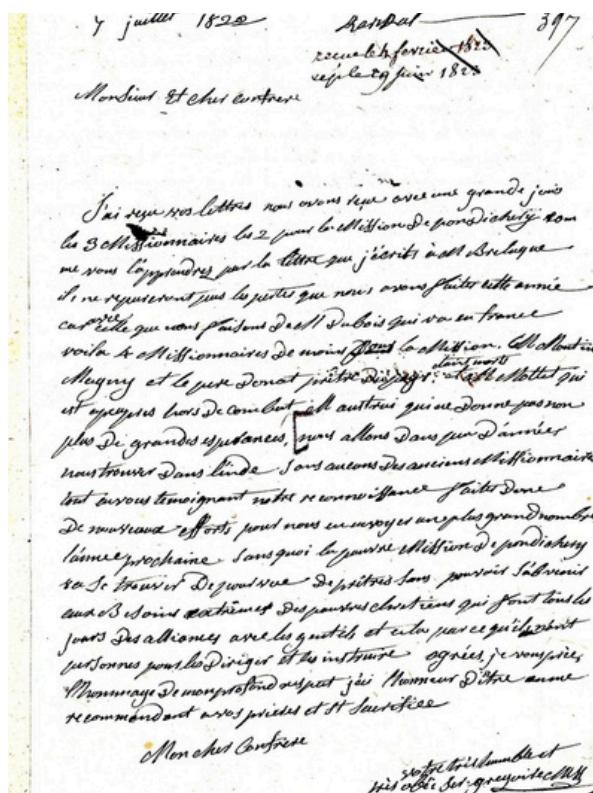
After the fraternal lunch followed by the eucharist, the videos of SS.CC formation and mission were displayed. Then the feedback was given by the supporters representing different areas. They assured us for their continuous support and thanked us for praying for them. The gathering ended with tea and snacks. we thank lay staffs for their service.

-Arockia Kulandai J, ss.cc.



Meeting Fr.Melchizedek

I met Fr. Melchizedek, the archivist of Pondicherry diocese for the second time on 21st October and explained about the data about Fr.Gregoire that I got from MEP archive in Paris, France. After listening, he corrected me that it is not in Nellatour (that which is in Andhra Pradesh) where Fr.Gregoire had built a small church. Rather it is Nallatour (that which is near Karaikal parish). He also shared a short note about Fr. Gregoire and mentioned about the accurate location of St.Joseph Seminary (where Fr.Gregoire was the superior) that is in the place 'Arikamedu' which is around seven Kilometers from the Immaculate Conception Church, Pondicherry. "The seminary was demolished and bought by some lay people forty years ago", he said. Around 1934 the seminary was moved to Bangalore and it runs as St.Peter Seminary currently.



Attached photo is the location where the French missionaries used to arrive at Pondicherry by ships. The bridge had completely collapsed and only the pillars can be seen.



-Arockia Kulandai J, ss.cc.



ROSARY DAY GATHERING



The month of October is considered the Rosary month; this specific month is dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary. Every day we do the usual Rosary following the same method, but then considering this concern, the CRI, Electronic City Zone members, namely Fr. Rijo MSFS, president of Bangalore CRI, Fr. Arockia, SS.CC president of Electronic city zone and many other sisters who are also members of the CRI group, arranged a half-day of Rosary in Maria Nivas, which is also a destitute home for the aged. The gathering was held on 11th October, Saturday, at 4:30 P.M. The theme of the Rosary was as follows: different communities and convents were given each one decade from the Joyful Mysteries, but the main concern or focus was to present each decade creatively—not following the same way of reciting, but reciting and acting were interconnected.



Maria Nivas was filled with religious fathers, brothers, and sisters; some of them acted in the Rosary while others invoked the presence of the Blessed Mother. They were all active participants that day. When the time drew near to begin the Rosary procession, we all proceeded outside the main gate and stood in two lines, marching towards the house while carrying the statue of Mother Mary, held by the candidates of Maria Nivas. There were joyful praises and songs on everybody's lips all the way to the inside of the house. From the house entrance, we were all led by the Elizabeth candidates through their dance. At last, when the procession dance was finished and the statue of Mother Mary was placed in one corner of the stage by the candidates of the Maria Nivas convent, truly their hard work and voluntary effort were admirable.





Before we began the half day of Rosary in a creative manner, we were led into a prayerful atmosphere as the students of Maria Nivas danced to the prayer song. Then, fathers, sisters, and students were officially welcomed by Fr. Arockia and Sr. Cicily OSA one of the Maria Nivas sisters who explained the flow of the Rosary. After that, each and every house came forward one after another, bringing forth their theme based on the decades of the Joyful Mysteries they acted out. It was something new—a way of praying that became more fascinating and creative in our daily Rosary. Really, it was a wonderful experience for all God's children coming together to experience God's love, listening to Him, walking in His footsteps, responding to His invitation wherever He calls us, and also reclining with Him at the dinner table. He calls us to be with Him.

Laximikanta Murmu
Second year Philosophy

INSTITUTION DAY - 2025

On October 24th, we celebrated Institution Day at Suvidya College. At 5:30 p.m., we gathered in front of the chapel for a procession. The procession was organized in two lines. At the front stood Brother Ashis, who was holding the cross. Behind him were six brothers holding candles, and following them were three brothers—Pensaila, Benjamin, and Satish—carrying incense. In the middle of the procession was the Bishop of Salem Diocese, Rev. Dr. Arulselvam Rayapan. Behind him were all the brothers, sisters, and many guests from various places. We began our procession with singing and prayer as we entered the chapel.





Afterward, Rev. Dr. Philip Thomas from MSFS the Rector of the Suvidya College welcomed everyone warmly. The Mass then began. During the homily, Bishop Arulselvam Rayapan spoke about many important things, but three key points stood out: zeal, enthusiasm, and gentleness. He explained that if you embody these three qualities, just as Saint Francis de Sales did, you will find success in life whether you are living a religious life, married life, or pursuing a personal goal. His inspiring homily uplifted everyone, filling the congregation with joy. After Mass, Rev. Fr. Philip Thomas thanked everyone for attending and invited all to proceed to the auditorium. There was a brief 10-minute break before the program began.

At 7 p.m., we gathered in the auditorium, and the program officially started with a prayer dance. The dance was beautifully performed in a creative and captivating way. Following the dance, Brother Christian invited Fr. Philip Thomas to welcome the guests. His words were powerful and heartfelt. Brother Christian then delivered a welcome speech in which he shared many thoughts. One memorable quote he mentioned was by Helen Keller: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."



Next, the SOLA community performed an energetic African dance that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Afterward, Brother Benjamin from MSFS gave a speech for the release of the college journal. On behalf of the editorial team of Suvidya College's journal, he proudly introduced the latest volume, Suvidya 2025. He then invited Rev. Arulselvam Rayapan to officially release the journal and hand the first copy to Rev. Dr. Philip, the college Rector. After this, the bishop had to leave due to other commitments. Following this, the MSFS brothers presented a creative UV show. The performance portrayed how a person can go astray from the Lord, but the Lord never abandons them. Instead, He calls repeatedly until the person understands God's love and returns to the light. The show beautifully conveyed the message that "God is love." We all enjoyed and appreciated this meaningful presentation.



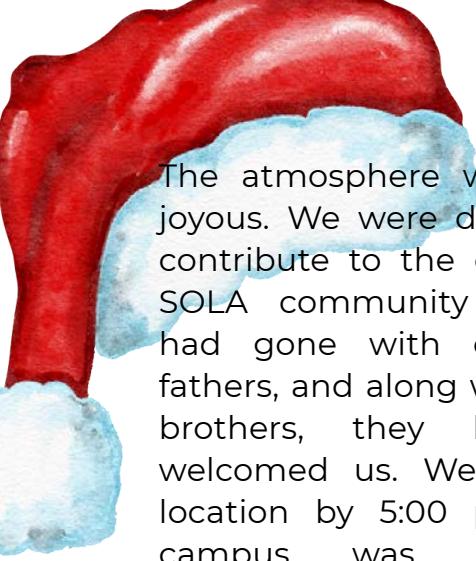
Next came a cultural dance by the Coki tribe, an Indian tribal community from Assam and Meghalaya. Their traditional bamboo dance was captivating and well-received. Every program included songs or dances that brought happiness and joy. One of the most famous songs, "Saiyara 2025," was performed, and the audience enthusiastically joined in singing, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere. The program also featured several comedy skits, including a humorous rain shop advertisement that had everyone laughing. A fusion dance was then performed by the Sacred Hearts brothers (SS.CC.) and Barnabaits brothers, which was impressive and skillfully executed. Brother Asin delivered the vote of thanks. First, he expressed gratitude to the bishop and shared a thoughtful quote by Maya Angelou: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." He also thanked Rev. Fr. Philip Thomas, sharing a quote by John Quincy Adams: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, and become more, you are a leader." Finally, he thanked everyone present and invited all to join for dinner. The dinner was delicious, marking a wonderful end to a memorable Institution Day celebration.

Bro. Kartik Minz
Second year
philosophy

AFRICA DAY

On Saturday, 25th October 2025, in the evening, we embarked on our journey from the St. Damien seminary to Sola Study House to celebrate Africa Day. It was not only the first observance of Africa Day but also closing of the bicentenary birthday of Cardinal Charles Lavigerie, the founder of the Society of Our Lady of Africa (SOLA).





The atmosphere was vibrant and joyous. We were deeply excited to contribute to the celebration with SOLA community members. We had gone with our community fathers, and along with our beloved brothers, they had graciously welcomed us. We arrived at the location by 5:00 p.m. The entire campus was adorned with impressive decorations along the house walls. Upon our arrival, Fr. Jaya, the Superior of SOLA House, extended a warm and cordial welcome.

Afterwards, we proceeded to the chapel, where a solemn prayer service was conducted by the SOLA fathers. Before the prayer service, they gave a brief introduction about the Missionaries of Africa and appreciated the founder of the SOLA.

Soon after the introduction, the prayer service commenced with an uplifting hymn in the African language — "Twende Sote Nyumbani Mwake Bwana Mungu." It was truly attractive to hear the melody for the very first time. They presented the Holy Bible in various African dialects and also shared symbolic intercessions representing unity and faith.

The prayer service concluded reverently with the melodious song "Santa Maria." Following the service, we admired the elegant decorations and appreciated the creative arrangements made by the SOLA community. A cultural program soon followed, commencing with a performance by the Nazareth Sisters. They were traditional African hymns and dances, reflecting the continent's rich cultural heritage. We also learned about the early life and mission of Cardinal Charles Lavigerie, the founder of the SOLA congregation, who says, "The Apostles — Nothing but Apostles."

After the program, we were served a delicious meal that delighted everyone. The celebration continued with joyful dances and cheerful fellowship. As the event concluded, we journeyed back to St. Damien Community, our hearts filled with gratitude, joy, and inspiration.

Tej Kumar Xalxo
First year Philosophy



THE FESTIVAL OF DEEPAVALI AND FAREWELL TO FR. PREM

On 20th October 2025, on Monday evening, we had a Diwali celebration. First of all, we had the holy Eucharist at 6:30 PM with the burning of the lamps, and we had a procession with a melodious hymn. The hymn was led by brothers, and the liturgy introduction was about the farewell of Fr. Prem. The celebration was based on Deepavali as the festival of lights. The holy mass was offered for Fr. Prem and all the Hindu religious people. In the Holy Mass, there were three Fathers: 1. Fr. Ajit, 2. Fr. Arockia, 3. Fr. Prem. Fr. Prem was the main celebrant. In the homily, Fr. Prem gave us an excellent message about Deepavali. He took the word of God and said Jesus is the Light of the world, as well as talking about the festival of lights. Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is one of the most radiant festivals of India. During Deepavali, a row of lamps is lit. Every home, street, and shop glows with the light of oil lamps and colorful lanterns. It symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil.



This festival has deep cultural and spiritual significance. It marks the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after his fourteen years of exile and his victory over the demon king Ravana. People celebrate this joyous event by lighting Diyas, decorating their homes, wearing new clothes, and sharing sweets and gifts with friends and family. It shows harmony, generosity, and gratitude among one another. Diwali carries a message of hope and inner transformation. It reminds us to remove negativity from our hearts and let the light of kindness, truth, and love shine within us. It encourages unity, compassion, and joy among all people. The festival also brings a sense of renewal as many people begin new ventures and pray to Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and prosperity, for blessings. In essence, Diwali is not only a festival of light but also a celebration of life itself. It is a time when hearts are illuminated with happiness and minds are inspired by the eternal victory of light over darkness. We had a very meaningful Eucharist celebration. On that day, we had delicious food with community members, Fathers, brothers, and our cooks, as well as guests. After having the meal, we had a dance program with melodious songs. We danced with full energy and joyful hearts. We enjoyed it a lot.

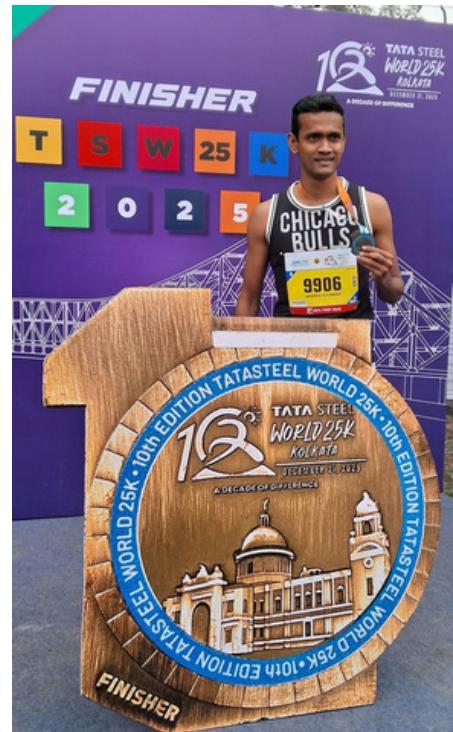
Ajay Soreng
First year Philosophy

Participating in TATA Steel World 25K Marathon

It was said, 'Run for your heart and the heart will run for you.' TATA Steel World 25K Marathon was held on 21st December in Kolkata, India. Around 23000 runners were registered across different race distances like 25K, 10K, Ananda run (4.5K), Champions with disability (2.3 Km), and Senior citizens run (2.3 km). People of different nations, ages, sex, and religions came together to run enthusiastically on the same routes. It was an international event that is aimed to promote healthy lifestyle, ecology, and sustainable development.

It is easier for the birds to fly against the wind when they flock together. Likewise running with other runners aided to complete my first official 25K in 1 hour 50 minutes 54 seconds. Wishing to see many to take up distance running to enhance ecology and unity in diversity.

-Arockia Kulandai J, ss.cc





Sharing Christmas joy with neighbors

IDangadighila formation community, Kolkata hosted around 120 children of its neighbors from the other faith (Muslims) on 28th December. Brothers in the initial formation sang Christmas songs and conducted some fun games for them. The children were excited to participate in this gathering. The prizes were distributed by Fr. Sudhir, ss.cc to the winners. At the end, all the children were given coupons along with some snacks. It was a fun filled and meaningful day on the occasion of Christmas season where we shared the universal joy and peace of baby Jesus with the people of other religion.

-Arockia Kulandai J, ss.cc



MERRY
Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



THE FEAST DAY OF OUR GOOD MOTHER HENRIETTE DE LA CHEVALERIE ON 22ND NOVEMBER 2025 AT ST. DAMIEN BHAVAN, BANGALORE.

Generally, feast day holds a special place in the heart of any religious community. In particular the celebration at our community in Damien Bhavan, was observed with undue attention and focus since our Good Mother is very special to us. This celebration proved to be a red letter day filled with ecstatic and elation at our premises.

At dawn, two of our brothers had gone to market to buy a bunch of flowers to make the feast day merrier as a true commemoration of our Good Mother Henriette De La Chevalerie. Our hearts were soaked ebullience as we partook in the ceremony followed by prayers, this observance marked the great significance of the occasion. The chapel and the surrounding were festooned with vibrant colors of origami fragrant flowers were placed and the glowing lights in and around heightened the festive mood.

The Holy Eucharist began at sunset around 6:30pm and the main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Ajith Kumar, the superior of the community. The celebrant narrated the visions of the Good Mother and how she admired at Good Father that led to the formation a congregation. Although she was born in a wealthy family, her benevolent heart desired to become a poor unlike Jesus who was born in a stable, surrounded by sheep and cattle. Henriette De La Chevalerie generously stretched out her loving hands towards the religious priests who were persecuted and were forced to neglect the Holy See in their priestly life. She emulated the work of the priest which they were doing in the midst of French Revolution. Having possessed all the treasures of the earth in the princely palace, she renounced everything. Here is she, who pronounced "ALL TO GOD ALL FOR GOD", to which she was arrested for promoting God's work and thus, she promoted the chosen priests for the ministry.

she was taken to prison at the very young age of 25 by this, we grasp that her ultimate ambition was to inherit the heaven. Some of our neighbors partook in the celebration. The homily that encapsulated the life struggle of Good Mother inspired us. Indeed, she is one of the strongest pillar in congregation and her virtuous life has no end. We, as a soldiers of Christ in the Sacred Hearts family must deserve all her virtuosity and this will be our strength throughout our lives.

After the solemn Eucharist we greeted each other with a melodies feast day song and shared the friend agape. This simple act of sharing with our neighbors created a bond of warmth of family spirit reminding everyone of the enduring strength of the community. This joyous day has made our heart grow fonder as we step forward looking for another year to come. The feast day was delightful with the music and dance. We concluded the celebration around 8:45pm and at the end of the day we had been amused with a movie featured in the hall. Thus, the day of celebration came to an end with a good night at around 10:00pm. We hereby cherished the blessing of our Good Mother.



By- Charles Tudu.





Eucharist procession

On November 23, 2025, our community came together quietly to celebrate the feast of Christ the King. We had a special Eucharistic Procession where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed in a beautiful golden monstrance. This means Jesus, really present in the consecrated bread, was carried with us. It reminded us that Jesus, the King of everything, is with us, blesses us, and gives us grace when we believe in Him.

The event started at 6:30 p.m. with the Father Ajith placing the large Host into the monstrance on the altar. We began by singing a lovely hymn that filled the air with praise and lifted our hearts to God. After some quiet prayer, we got ready for the procession. We formed two lines in the courtyard. Two brothers walked first, carrying lighted candles that showed Jesus as the Light of the World. Our guests and friends followed them. Then, some brothers scattered fresh flower petals to honor Jesus. Four brothers held a special canopy over the priest, protecting the monstrance and showing Jesus' royal dignity. Father Ajith walked in the middle, holding the monstrance high so everyone could see Jesus. We walked slowly around the area, singing hymns that praised Christ as King. The flower petals fell like a beautiful carpet before Jesus. The sight was amazing the golden monstrance shining under the canopy, surrounded by candlelight and flowers, with hundreds of people following Jesus. When we returned to the chapel, Father Ajith placed the monstrance back on the altar. We sat around the altar in a circle, praying and worshiping Jesus in the Eucharist. We started with a prayer thanking God for Jesus in the Eucharist. Several brothers shared prayers of thanks. We sang bhajans and hymns with soft music. The day's Gospel was read to touch our hearts. We had quiet moments to feel close to Jesus. We prayed for the Church, our families, the sick, and the world. Finally, a special blessing sent us out, feeling strong and renewed.

Everyone who helped worked with love and joy. They prepared the canopy, arranged flowers, led music, and did their jobs quietly and well. Their work made the celebration very special. As we left that night, we felt the peace of Christ in our hearts. The Eucharistic Procession was more than just a ceremony. It showed that Jesus is truly with us, that He is our King, and that when the Blessed Sacrament is carried, heaven touches earth. To Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament: be adored, loved, and praised always, everywhere, until the end of time. Amen.

BY CHARLES TUDU



ST. DAMIEN BHAVAN WISHES YOU

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2026



In the silence of night in Bethlehem the heart of God took flesh,
so that every human heart may find a home in His that whispers
to us " Do not be afraidLove has come"

Fr. Alith Antony ss. cc. & Community

