



## E-SAGARMATHA SAMACHAR

**Vol. 35 No. 5**

**Nepal Jesuits**

**May 2020**

### *FR. GENERAL APPOINTS*

**Fr. Jerome Stanislaus D'Souza SJ (KAR)** New President of South Asia (POSA).

**Fr. Sebastian Jeerakassery SJ (DEL)** a new Assistant to the General Treasurer.

**Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess SJ (RAN)** new Provincial of Ranchi Province

### *REGION SUPERIOR APPOINTS*

Fr. Victor Beck

Administrator,  
St. Xavier's College,  
Maitighar  
(w.e.f. 14 May, 2020)

### *REGION SUPERIOR'S PROGRAMME*

May 5, 2020  
4:00 p.m.

Skype Meet with Commission  
Heads, Superiors and Directors  
of Work

## ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, JAWALAKHEL

**S**anjay's dear mother passed away on 27th March after a few days in hospital. He could not go but watched the funeral on video. R.I.P. The Holy Week services were mostly in the community and some of us helped out in the nearby convents. Fr. Bobby came for his annual retreat from 4th April. Mathew could not move to HRD as planned so making use of the quiet atmosphere he also made his annual retreat directed by Fr. Etienne.

Anil was in Baniyatar all these days and helped out with distribution of food for the

needy. George also distributed many packets to the needy locals with the help of a VDC member. Now he is busy coordinating on-line classes for high school students with the help of our high school staff. George was consistent with tennis coaching classes for a month from Mathew and now has become a good player. At the school side everything was quiet this whole month and we are eagerly waiting for the reopening and to have the children back.

A.V. Mathew

# ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, GODAVARI



Nature is sending us another wake-up call with the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside Australian bushfires, broken heat records and the worst locust invasion in Kenya for 70 years. Our destruction of nature is hurting humanity. While our immediate priority must be to protect people from COVID-19 and prevent its spread. Our long-term response through education must tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. To prevent further zoonotic disease outbreaks, the destruction of nature for farming, mining and housing must end and given more importance. Pope Francis' Laudato si and Care for our common home (UAP).

Lockdown has brought Godavari green, clean and



calm. Sound of little creatures, animals and chirping of birds could be heard. Little faunas and butterfly moved around freely in the campus and in the Ash-

ram.

Tridum retreat based on COVID-19, was conducted by Fr. Samuel for the community. All community members were in physical and in spiritual quarantine. After tridum Fr. Bill also made his own eight days retreat.

The community members Sch. Ashish, Frs. David, Samuel, Bill & Lawrence M. were occupied with their own flavor of chores and hobbies like, readings, gardening, sweeping indoors & outdoors, , repairing works, weeding and cutting the grass, praying, being with the nature and updating the news of Covid-19



and its impacts. Easter was a unique experience and we missed the Easter gathering.

Online ZOOM meetings were held for the teaching staff to have better planning and helping the students. Lockdown has brought new ways of thinking and doing in the field of education. Concern remains with deprived students, but the school management is working on with the haves and the have nots.

In the crisis the school provided masks and dry ration kits to 10 families of Godavari Municipality. Due to lockdown in the valley Sch. Pankaj is locked up in Tipling. For Pankaj to visit Tipling was a





dream which came true. He says, "I had often heard about Tipling and Jesuit mission over there. The talk about this mission always arose in me a kind of curi-



osity and desire to go and see the place. It is indeed a unique Jesuit mission in high altitude situated at the

foot of the hill of Ganesh Himal. At dusk and at dawn the view of the snow-capped mountain all around is so beautiful and charming. It simply triggers heart and mind to praise God for beautiful creation. I was very fortunate to have the experience of being in snow".

The notice of Corona virus, its fatal impact and its preventive measures were announced every day from the view point of Jesuit Residence through the help of big speaker. This was done for the entire village to bring awareness of pandemic disease.



SXG Correspondent



## ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAITIGHAR

Online classes have begun for all the bachelors and masters students who have not completed their academic year. It has become a learning opportunity for the staff and students as they now have to move away from traditional face-to-face teaching-learning to online teaching-learning. The Principal has regular online meetings and discussions with the Heads of Departments and others in the administration to facilitate the online teaching-learning as well as planning for the new academic year. May-June series of the Cambridge

A Levels examination has been cancelled. As a result, the A Level department is busy preparing the internal grades following the criteria given by Cambridge. Plus Two department is working on various permutations and combinations to implement the proposed changes in the class 11 syllabus while the uncertainty of starting classes still looms.

The community keeps itself busy during the lockdown with reading, preparing for classes, cooking and cleaning and other constructive activities.

*Campion House Jesuits*

## MORAN MEMORIAL, MAHESHPUR

Palm Sunday, Holy week service and Easter Vigil Mass celebration took place at community level. Fr. Sanctius presided over the liturgy. Catechists and local leaders conducted the prayers and the liturgical services during the Holy and Easter Sunday.

During the lockdown period, we tried to show our solidarity in our neighborhood and some parts of our service areas in small ways. We distributed provisions to about 90 families. We also contributed 400 Kgs of rice and 125 Kgs of Lentils, 100 liters of

Cooking Oil to both the ward numbers 6 and 7.

Sr. Maria Vianney, FC, passed away on April 22nd. She had high blood sugar and high pressure. We had funeral ceremony. Her grave is in the Sister's community compound.

Deepk Jans is still held up in Gayaganga. Every community member attended the online retreat organized by JCSA and everyone was enriched by the retreat.

*Boniface Tigga*

## HRDRC, SANDEPA

The community members are all keeping fine in the midst of pandemic lockdown. During the morning hours all three Curia Fathers – Regional Superior, Treasurer and Socius are seen working in their respective offices. Every afternoon the community members are involved in some sort of physical activities – cleaning up the bamboo grooves, trimming the branches of avocado tree, preparing kitchen garden for new plantation and for sowing seeds, preparing new dishes for evening tea. Beside all these works Fr. Bobby is seen painting and coating the main gate, cemented railing at the entrance and wire fence with enamel. Fr. Dilip has been staying in St. Xavier's Social Service Centre during lockdown but joins the community for Friday suppers. We had meaningful but low key Easter vigil mass in the community. We celebrated Fr. Tek Bahadur Paudel's birthday on 18 April only with community members.

*Juel Kispotta*



# ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, DEONIA



garden, Buttabari, Telgani and Dulabari. We are also in touch with the local government and the Municipality of Birthamode to find ways to help the poor and afflicted people in the locality at this time of lockdown. SXD brought some happiness and cheers on the face of our parents and students by publishing the annual results through SMS for the first time. We also began online classes for the students and were able to reach many of our students in order to keep them engaged in studies through Google Classroom. The technology has really helped us to reach to maximum number of

**W**e were fortunate enough to conduct the Annual exams before the lockdown was announced including the BLE. Due to lockdown, all other activities of the school got postponed. So much so, the class 12 farewell also got cancelled for time being. The community and the FC sisters had eight-day retreat guided by Fr. Daniel Bara during the Holy week. It was a moment of grace to pray for the entire people of God in this time of Covid-19. It got over on Saturday, with the Easter Vigil Mass. This time we had Easter Sunday Mass among ourselves. Being a mass center, all the community members were able to reach



students and brought some rays of hope to many parents who were panicked and worried at this time of pandemic. In a simple and meaningful way, we celebrated birthdays of Fr. Dennis and Sch. Wilson respectively in this month. Besides our spiritual activities, and preparation for online classes, we are engaged in organic farming and gardening.

*Wilson Kandulna*



out to many of our faithful by phone calls and asking them to pray together during this time of pandemic by being at home with their family members. The grace of daily Eucharistic Adoration continues in the community and praying for the suffering humanity and accompanying them spiritually. We distributed some ration to our Catholics of tea





# ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, SADAKBARI

**A**pril month is a lockdown month for the entire nation. Due to the lockdown entire academic year will be affected. SXS could not

Holy week and Easter was very peaceful. We along with Sisters celebrated the holy week very meaningfully. Fr. Peter guided three Sisters into an eight day

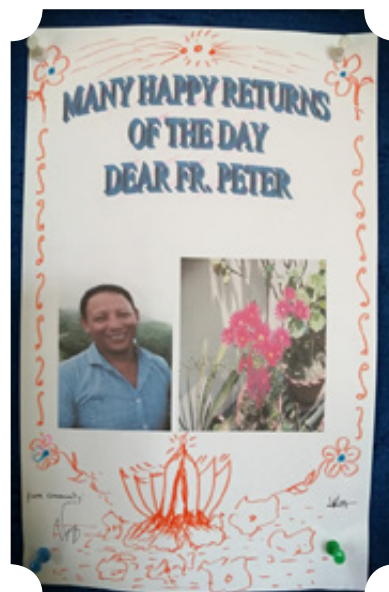


complete 2 days of exams for classes 1-4 one subject and class 6 two subjects. Whatever exams were held papers were corrected before the lockdown was implemented. Results are ready but we have not published yet. Many of our parents do not use internet or smart phones. We do plan to publish the result online on school website [www.sxs.edu.np](http://www.sxs.edu.np) and school facebook page. Posting at the school notice board is an issue because it will invite a crowd, unless one of us in duty and tell people to maintain social distance. We are caught up now as lockdown is extended, how do we proceed? We could go online but everybody does not have access to online system. We are working upon a methodology, by which all students and

spiritual journey and we joined JCSA's online retreat. Fr. Peter managed to sneak in to say mass for the Simalbari sisters during Holy week and on Easter day. On 26th Frs. Peter and Vijay went to Rural Municipality Office to handover the relief food package to the President for hundred families. This food package was for a week. Meanwhile Frs. were also busy getting ready with a project that will be carried out after the lockdown is lifted. We had lockdown birthday celebration of Fr. Peter on 16th.

During this lockdown period we lost two of our lady parishioners, one from Fulgachhi, who was sick for pretty long time and the other, is a Parent of class 6 boy Mangali Hembrom and also mother of our coworker. May God reward them eternal rest and consolation to the bereaved family members.

*Vijay Toppo*



parents can be reached out and teaching learning can continue even remaining at home.

# ST. XAVIER'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE



All the children of St. Xavier's Social Service Center were handed over to local guardians after the completion of final examinations due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 around the world. Currently two students are staying at boy's home, five members at Aruna Bhawan and all the members at Gafney Bhawan. There are 20 members including Fr. Dilip K. Toppo who is also residing at St. Xavier's Social Service Center. All of the members are strictly prohibited to go out unless

pose of supplying vegetables. The remaining members of Aruna Bhawan and Gafney Bhawan are busy in sowing seeds and planting. St. Xavier's Social Service Center has solemn Easter celebration at Aruna Bhawan. We had organized lunch for all the members and staff present. Two fattened local chickens from boys' home were killed and devoured by our two dogs when we had gone to Aruna Bhawan. It looks as if they were looking for the chance to eat the chickens in our absence.



there is an emergency. Fr. Dilip's scooter was under police custody for one day after being caught while going for purchasing daily commodities. Now he is permitted by district office to use the scooter only for the pur-

Any-way, after all they are doing good guarding the house during lockdown and perhaps they deserve it.

this

*Dilip K. Toppo*



# SHISHU BIKASH KENDRA, POKHARA

**S**hishu Bikas Kendra (SBK) remains locked-down due to ongoing Covid- 19. Occasionally SBK phone rings and some kind of inquiry sounds of our students could be heard at the other end of the phone. Covid- 19 has completely para-

cancelled his visit to his university and other plans due to lockdown. Fr. Amit got a pass for a day amid Covid -19 to visit sick family and dared to visit all the Sisters' houses in the city even in the rain and had Mass for them.



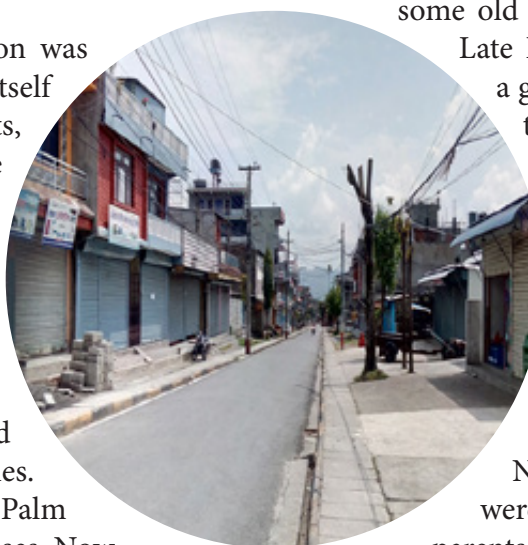
lyzed the entire tourist city, Pokhara. Police are on duty whole day and night to save the lives of people. The frontliners- army, police and health workers who are in the thick of the battle with covid -19 are only seen in the deserted streets. There has been much cooperation from the people's side and all are safe.

This year the Easter celebration was contained within the families itself but certainly a lot of supports, prayers and Mass services were attended online by the faithful. They remained untied with the Lord's passion, death and resurrection. Since the church remained closed people could not come to celebrate Easter as a group of believers but had meaningful celebration at homes. Few people did come for the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Masses. Now some of them attend the online Masses on Saturdays as well as on weekdays. Fr. Paul made Paschal Triduum at M.C. contemplative and later after Easter he made his retreat at St. Mary's convent attending to their spiritual needs. Fr. Jomon has

Our St. Ann's Catholic Church remains closed yet drew the attention of the police. Police visited our church three times and had an inquiry with Fr. Amit and told him strictly to have no gatherings until the lockdown is lifted up or becomes normal. Fr. Amit went through the records of SBK and came across some old and gold photos of its founder

Late Fr. Akijiro Ooki which become a great source for web documentation. During the lockdown SBK entrance yard has been kept clean and beautified and has a mesmerizing bird eye view. SCC sisters made the best use of the time by clearing and planting vegetables and Tapi-yokas in the garden, thanks for their selfless service. The Nepali New Year 2077 B.S. celebrations were observed on the house tops, parents and children singing and dancing. All the people are optimistic and eagerly waiting for the lockdown to be lifted. "Stay home & stay safe" believing in "Jaan Hai to Jahaan Hai".

*Amit Lakra*





## GOOD SHEPHERD, TIPLING

Our pastoral lives have been more or less monastic, thanks to the lockdown. Our Palm Sunday procession had three people: Fr. Mike, Fr. Ayar and Sch. Pankaj, only, as did all our Easter celebrations. The Tipling church bell calling to worship remains silent. We are reminded of the silent bell of Lhasa. Our Jesuits community

crops and caused flooding. Our solar system was damaged but has since been repaired. The good news is flooding forced the Rural Municipality to hire a dozer to create drainage along our new road. We expect an influx of Tipling migrants from Kathmandu returning to their refuge in Tipling for the duration of the lockdown. The local municipality



here did celebrate Divine Marcy Sunday with the diocese, in spirit and in the newly renovated Jesuit community chapel. (As a result of renovation we now have two extra guest rooms). Our head pastor is busy updating our parish registers and taking parishioner requests for prayers. These requests are met daily in our Jesuit community mass. Fr. Mike is busy with his little project making a mini Tipling Tamang dictionary. He was happy to hear his visa application date has been extended. Pankaj, besides voluminous reading is busy learning the art of Tipling kitchen cuisine. Our cook is on lockdown in the village with pay.

Heavy winds, rain and hail have damaged some

has arranged transport to Dundre the end of the road. Both chairmen Ruby valley 1 and Ruby valley 2 use our location above the village and our loud-speaker to update the village on the virus and lockdown.

The highlight of the lockdown has been Fr. Ayar's Birthday and a continuous follow of Birthday presents in the form of Saag and potatoes from villagers. Nature also contributed this flower which bloomed outside Ayar's window.

*Tipling Jesuits Sources*



# DIASPORA

## ASHA KIRAN, MANGALORE

On 3rd - 11th of April we had our annual retreat. We were privileged to have Fr. Melwin Pinto, the Superior of Kerala Juniorate. He gave us retreat which helped us to deepen our relationships with God. At the same time, we celebrated Easter in our Community. These days on each Sunday we have begun benediction, praying specially for covid - 19 patients. Due to lockdown we are engaged in various activities such as skill development in Computer, Music as well as Novel readings. Now we have also started appointment of Beadle, Sub-Beadle and new offices for the new academic year.

*Ruben and Niroj*

## PREMAL JYOTI, AHMEDABAD

Covid -19 pandemic has shaken the entire world with quick spread. All human development and rapid change of technology have failed to find any solution except self-isolation. Everywhere people are affected with this poisonous virus; mostly daily bread earners and people who have migrated to cities in order to earn money. Also, it has shaken the world economy because all educational institutions, industries and other service sectors are shutdown.

As the situation is becoming worse day after day in Ahmedabad keeping that in mind St. Xavier's College has declared summer vacation till 16th of

May. But we are busy with online tests, assignments and module exams. Besides these we are helping in the kitchen and learning something for life because teaching does not take only in classrooms. This year's Easter celebration was a unique experience due to social distance. Most of us attended Easter vigil though online.

On 18th of April onwards we, the collegians began our annual retreat. It was the time to lockdown ourselves with the Lord and pray for world because he is healer of all sickness. On 29th of April onwards we had workshop on Ignatian Spirituality.

*Bipin Bara*

## ST. PETER'S GAYAGANGA

Being quarantined everyone has got the opportunity to better their relationships with self, each other and with God. Fr. Peter Bhujel and Sch. Deepak (NEP) are staying with the community due to lockdown. Four members (Frs. Cherian Maliekal, Peter Pappu, Simon, Nabor) of the community made their retreat in these quiet days. Daily Eucharist and adoration is helping us assimilate the repercussions of the ongoing pandemic.

The holy week celebration was held in the parish sans the parishioners. Homilies and reflections were painstakingly prepared and sent to families via social media. Parish has been providing food materials to impoverished families as notified by the village leaders. So far about 60 families received the assistance. At the High School, the mid-day meal items (5 kg of rice and 5 Kg of potatoes each) were distributed in two phases to 860 students as per the official directions.

As a precautionary measure, some of the house-workers were sent on leave. During that time, the community members helped the minister to keep the house and surroundings neat and clean. Br. Robert is making use of the time to do farming. Augustus and Deepak are assisting Fr. Peter to digitalize the Parish registers. Frs. Gabriel Tirkey and Arul Das(DUM) have been admitted in Navjeevan Hospital. The community is constantly assisting them materially and spiritually.

Fr Nicholas and Fr Nabor participated in leadership training programme in Delhi. We are blessed to have a new member in the community in the person of Fr Roshan Minj

*David Donald*



## ATENEO, PHILIPPINES

The COVID 19 pandemic has brought the big community of Ateneo Jesuit Residence to relieve the formation days in many levels. With more than



15 working staff absent, each member in the community sees daily cleaning and running of the community. This include even the Jesuits who are in their 80s. This week, we also spent an afternoon sharing about our experience of consolations and desolations during this time of Pandemic. The after-dinner adoration hour was another opportunity for us to come together to pray for the world which was live streamed in the Facebook for anyone to join the prayer, virtually. Some of us initiated a vegetable garden in the backyard, and I with my acquired farming skills at home, contributing to this endeavour greatly

and enjoy it. I also join the marketing team to purchase the essentials for the community meanwhile Augustine takes his turn to cook Indian dish for the community. On the apostolic side, some of us volunteer in packing food packages for the people in the villages. Jesuits here using all their networks and existing social service organisations of the Society managed to reach out with food packages to more than 50,000 families by now. The lockdown in Manila is extended till 15 May. The university hopes to resume the academic courses in September.



Augustine is waiting for a conducive day for him to return to Nepal for good meanwhile, I am waiting to know the fate of my course.

*Tej Kalyan*

## DHYAN ASHRAM, KOLKATA

We, the Juniors, sat out last semester examinations from 1st to 4th of April with full enthusiasm. On 5th, the day of Palm Sunday, we as one community partook in the celebration and prayed for the people when the whole world had been facing the dangerous pandemic covid-19. Moreover, we were privileged to have a few Sisters who had come for their retreat, joined us in the celebration. Six scholastics of Calcutta province - 3 theologians and 3 philosophers - joined us in the celebration to make it more meaningful and memorable. Together with the Mother Church, we offered every Christian, the nation and the victims of Coronavirus to the King of Jews. This celebration brought in us a unique experience of the Palm Sunday than that of the past. On the same day the juniors, as the part of our public speaking began to deliver Ted talks to the community with great alacrity. On 9th, we meaningfully participated in the Maundy Thursday celebration and praying for the priests. We began the Easter Triduum followed by the holy hour till the next day. This intense



preparation made us one with the suffering Lord. On Good Friday we began the Way of the Cross at 2.00 pm followed by the services. On the eve of the Easter, we began the Easter observances at 9.30 pm

with solemn procession. Fr. Sunny, the Rector, celebrated the Holy Eucharist. On Easter Sunday, together as one community shared the joy of the risen Lord, with the Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Pierre.



On 18th and the following day, we presented debates on "Religious are more service minded than the laity" and "Religion is outdated". This exercise taught us many new things as; note taking, presence of mind sets and in addition to making us one of the fluent future speakers. We also began the intense preparation for Academic program of 2020 to make our ten months stay in this Juniorate evergreen. Together with many programs, we enacted the one and a half hour an abridged tragedy play 'Hamlet' by Shakespeare on the long awaiting day of the academic year, April 27th. On 28th we had the evaluation of the academy year of the Juniorate. The next day we began our annual retreat under the guidance of Fr. Sunny George SJ.

Let us not lose our hope and faith in the Risen Lord and keep praying for the victims of Corona virus as well as for each other. Kindly keep us in your prayers as we begin our retreat.

*Lawrence Kerketta*

## GESÙ, ROME

**A**s we still continue to live through the pandemic, we make up our classes through Zoom. Life in the community



proceeds with the great hope that everything will eventually fall in place. Amidst many faithful who longed to have daily Eucharist to nourish themselves spiritually, but not able to have it, we are fortunate enough to have our daily Eucharistic celebration by following the social distance. We were one of those priv-

ileged communities to have the Holy Week and Easter celebration at the Church of Gesù.

At the same time we had our monthly recollection and the third year theologians made their eight days retreat as part of their Diaconate preparation. We also had South Asian Cultural mass. During the Mass some of the scholastics presented themselves in their cultural dress. The hymns and prayers were in different languages. We continue to pray for the sick and the suffering that they might be touched by the healing power of God in the days to come.

*Devadhas*



May 05	Sch. Bipin Bara
May 10	Fr. Dilip Kumar Toppo
May 14	Fr. Sanjay Boniface Ekka
May 26	Sch. Moris Anthony Martin



\*FR. MICHAEL HAWKINS SJ (DAR), 83/63 died on 30 April at Pickering, Toronto, Canada.

\*Fr. Adam B. Gudalefsky, Maryknoll 91 and 60 yrs. a priest passed away on 24 April, 2020 in New York, USA. He was one of first Maryknoll missionaries in Nepal and a collaborator of Jesuits in Nepal.

\* FR. JOSE JAVIER AIZPUN SJ (GUJ)/Trans ARG), 90/72 passed away on 10th April, 2020 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

\*FR. VALENTINE DE SOUZA SJ (GUJ) 92/74, passed away on 6th April, 2020 in Vadodara, Gujarat

### THOSE WHO SERVED IN NEPAL

07/05/2017	Mark Robson
16/05/1999	Michael P. Quinn
24/05/1982	Bertrand Soubolle



### REGION DAY

Scheduled Region Day, May 16-17, 2020 is suspended until further notice.