



Ignatius

## E-SAGARMATHA SAMACHAR

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### REGION SUPERIOR APPOINTS

Fr. Casper J. Miller house Librarian and Spiritual Mentor, Campion House  
effective from June 1, 2021.



### IGNATIAN YEAR – A YEAR OF RENEWAL

#### “PUTTING CHRIST IN THE CENTRE”

Jesuits Launch a Special Year of Renewal

**O**n 20 May, the Ignatian Year of the Society of Jesus began. This year the Jesuits celebrate a very strange event: the wounding of their founder Ignatius of Loyola at a battle in Pamplona in 1521. That event changed the course of his life; it led to the foundation of the Society of Jesus which in turn provoked dramatic changes in the Church and in the history of Catholicism.

#### What is celebrated?

The Jesuits are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the conversion of St. Ignatius of Loyola. It was a different kind of conversion. He went from being a vain nobleman focused on worldly success and fame to being the founder of the largest Catholic religious order. God gave the world and the Church a precious gift through Ignatius: a spirituality that helps to follow the Spirit in all circumstances of life.

#### Why this celebration?

Celebrating 500 years of the conversion of St. Ignatius is not primarily about the past. It is about the present and the future. It is an opportunity for renewal and rediscovery of the Ignatian roots. It is an opportunity to stop, take stock and put Christ in the centre again. It is about continual and daily conversion.

#### Fr. General Arturo Sosa says:

*“It is good to remind ourselves that the wound Ignatius suffered in Pamplona was not so much a happy ending, but rather a happy beginning. Conversion consists sometimes of great moments of change, but it is also a never-ending process. We need to put Christ in the centre every time, again and again. This process is a pilgrimage along winding roads, up and down, sometimes having to retrace our steps, sometimes feeling lost. But meeting peo-*

*ple along the road who indicate the way and reach out their hands to us.*

This Ignatian Year is a pilgrimage of conversion. Pope Francis, in his recent book *Let Us Dream*, says a pilgrim is someone “who decentres and so can transcend. She goes out from herself, opens herself to a new horizon, and when she comes home she is no longer the same, and so her home won’t be the same. This is a time for pilgrimages.”

We want to set out on the road, letting ourselves be guided gently by the Holy Spirit, centring our lives ever more on Christ and allowing ourselves to see all things new in Christ.

#### About Ignatius, Pope Francis said to the Society of Jesus:

*All through his life he converted, [...] he put Christ in the centre. And he did so through discernment. Discernment is not about always getting it right from the start, but it’s rather about navigating, about having a compass to be able to set out on the road which has many twists and turns, but always letting oneself be guided by the Holy Spirit who leads us to an encounter with the Lord.*

#### Who is celebrating?

The initiative of this Ignatian Year comes from Fr. General Arturo Sosa of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). But he extends the invitation to everyone, and in particular to all those inspired by the Ignatian spirituality - the larger Ignatian family.

“There is a lot of collaboration with female Ignatian congregations and lay Ignatian organisations such as Christian Life Community (CLC)” says Fr Sosa. “In fact most of the initiatives and events take place on a local level, all around the globe, and are a collaboration between Jesuits and others. That is something we value tremendously.”

Source: <https://www.jesuits.global/2021/05/19/ignatian-year-a-year-of-renewal/>

# COVID RESPONSE REPORT



In spite of strict prohibitory order and limited means and resources, Nepal Region and its units are reaching out to the most needy .

■ **St. Xavier's School Deonia** has distributed dry ration kits to 339 families in Birtamode Municipality, Godamara, Mechinagar Municipality and Bhadrapur Municipality, Jhapa in East Nepal.

■ **St. Xavier's School Godavari** has prepared a database of students and parents needing different supports. The school donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Sanitizer, Face Shields, Masks and Gloves to Badegaun Police Station. The school conducted PCR test for the staff.

■ **St. Xavier's School Jawalakhel** distributed dry ration kit to 29 needy families. The school has offered its physical facilities for the accommodation of relatives and attendants of patients admitted in nearby hospitals, like Sumeru Hospital.

■ **St. Xavier's College** continues to feed the patients and their relatives at Teku Hospital, Bir Hospital, the street children and beggars around Mahakal

Temple, Bhadrakali Temple and rickshaw pullers around Bashantapur Square. Everyday college is feeding around 200 people twice a day. The food is prepared at the college canteen and the student volunteers helped in the distribution. A Tele-medicine help desk is also being set up.

■ **The Region Office** has set up a Tele-Helpline Desk. Through it, the Region Office has provided dry ration kit to 213 needy families including 60 families of visually and physically disabled persons in three districts of Kathmandu valley. It has also provided dry ration kits to 20 families of daily wage workers and victims of gender violence in Kohalpur, Nepalgunj, West Nepal. Salvation Nepal Rehabilitation Centre Bainsipati where 20 inmates are residing received dry ration kits from Nepal Region Office.

■ **Parishes:** St. Ignatius parish Baniyatar, St. Ann's parish, Pokhara, St. Xavier's parish Maheshpur and Sadakbari / Simalbari parishes stream live online Mass on Saturdays and they have online Rosary and other prayers.





# St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel



The final examination was conducted online for classes 6,7 and 9 from May 9 to 16, and the final



*Fr. George in front of main school building*

results of classes 1 to 7 and 9 were published through the school app on May 26, 2021. With this, the academic year 2020-21 got completed. In spite of ambiguity and difficulties teachers, students and parents worked hard and made the academic year successful. However, PRE-BLE (Basic Level Examination) of class 8 will have online assessment from May 28 to June 2, 2021 and PRE-SEE examination of class 10 will start from June 8, 2021.

On 20 May community members watched together the Ignatian Year inauguration program of St. Xavier's college on a bigger screen. Fr. George P.M. also delivered a message on the occasion of the Ignatian Year inaugural program. We inaugurated and opened the Ignatian year with the Holy Eucharist in the community. Due to the lock-down our school children were not around hence the students didn't have active participation in the inaugural program of Ignatian year. However, we are optimistic to have some programs for Ignatian year when school opens.

We are planning to put up some online programs also.

St. Xavier's school offered the school's physical facilities to Sumeru hospital for COVID patients. Fr. George approached some of the doctors of Sumeru hospital but the shortage of oxygen cylinders proved to be the biggest obstacle for expanding and utilizing the school's physical facilities. The school also distributes dry ration kits to needy families during lock-down. Fr. George P.M. and Br. Hermon Anthony keep track of the ration distribution of the needy people.

Fr. George, Fr. Ignatius and Br. Hermon got the second dose of vaccine whereas the first dose of vaccine was given to Fr. Tomson and Fr. Sanjay. Since Fr. Anil is in Baniyagar he couldn't come for vaccination. Fr.



*Community attending online IY-21-22 inauguration.*

Sanjay celebrated his birthday on 14 of May, thanking God for his abundant blessings with the community members.

*Fr. Sanjay Ekka*



*Br. Hermon supervising arrangement and distribution of food kits*





# St. Xavier's School, Godavari



As COVID-19 infections began to be reported around the valley, many institutions responded by shutting down places like schools, workplaces in order to contain the spread of the virus. People were not seen on Godavari road. Our school was confined with online classes and assessments.



The abandoned house "Dhobhi Ghar" was recorded in 1951. After years of gap we are trying to clean and renovate it.

"Dhobhi Ghar" (Washerman's house)

One of our teaching staff Ms Chandrawati Gurung passed away. The school is indebted for her dedication and simplicity.

We were also saddened by the demise of our former Teachers Sr. Seema George, SchSA and Sr. Ignatia Tigga, SJC who passed away in India due to Covid-19. They have left the unforgettable memories behind. SXG is grateful for their valuable contributions and generous commitment in the school.

Since our teaching and supporting staff were coming to the school we conducted PCR test for all in the school premises. By the time we got the result for the PCR Test, two supporting staff had Corona positive and rest were found negative.



Sr. Ignatia Tigga



Sr. Seema George

According to norms two doses of vaccine SXG community members have completed. Two community members (Frs. Lawrence M. and Bill Robins) have taken Indian and five (Frs. Samuel S. David E. Bros. T.B. Thapa, Ashish E. and Deepak J.) have taken Chinese vaccine. Still we are not sure of which one is better than the other.

On May 13 the community celebrated 30th anniversary of priestly ordination of Fr. Lawrence Maniyar. During the pandemic the community showed a bit of solidarity by donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Sanitizer, Face Shields, Masks and Gloves to Local and Badegaun Police Station.

For Class One, admission forms were opened on May 24, 25 and 26. The school had online final evaluation and examination in the last week of the month.

As the government decision to extend the prohibi-

tory orders in Kathmandu Valley with more restrictions and big fines was announced, our house minister T. B. Thapa, villagers and neighbors were panic buying list of essentials they needed to stock up on for a week.

On May 28 the community had thanksgiving Mass and Dinner for Fr. Bill Robins, Sch. Ashish E. and Sch. Deepak J. Best wishes for their next mission.

**SXG sources**



PCR test conducted for all staff in the school premises

# Chandrawati Maam a symbol of simplicity

Chandrawati maam is one of the best examples of a true Xavierian Teacher. She is a perfect embodiment of true spirit of St. Xavier's School Godavai's; A great example of humility and person for and with others. She is liked and admired by all the staff members and the students.

She joined SXG as an experience teacher on July 11, 2005, since then she has been tirelessly working to impart knowledge to the students. She always kept the student at the center. She was a dedicated teacher with excellent knowledge of her subject —Social Study.

She always had a positive attitude towards her work and life. She once told the student in an interview, *"Happiness and sadness are two parts of our lives. I have experienced many happy and sad moments. They are temporary feelings which come and go. I don't think we can measure it. But my goal in life is to always stay positive."* We always saw that same spirit in her daily life.

She was always happy to work in SXG. She never missed work even when she was not well she would come to the class and give her time and energy for the students. She was

aware and always ready to update and learn new things without any hesitation. She used to say, *"SXG has played a huge role in my life. The work place is very peaceful and it is located in a natural environment. I have grown so much as an individual and SXG has helped me to enhance my potentials."*



6<sup>th</sup> December, 1961 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2021

Her advice to the students was, *"To achieve success in life, only bookish knowledge is not enough. It has to be accompanied by practical skills, creativity and discipline."*

We are grateful to Chandrawati maam for her service and dedication to Education of the country. All the teachers, staff, students, parents, guardians and alumni remember her smile, her

simplicity, humility and kind nature.

We are heart broken by the demise of our beloved Chandrawati maam. SXG will always miss her. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members. May the Soul of the departed rest in peace.

Fr. Samuel Simick, S.J.  
Principal  
and SXG Family

*In loving memory of Chandrawati maam*



# FABER HOUSE, MAHESHPUR

The second wave of Covid-19 has once again restricted our academic activities to a great extent. Our last working day before the lockdown was on 28 April. In fact, we had intended to begin our final semester exams on 2 May, but due to complete lockdown it became impossible. Even after three weeks, there is no hope of having physical activity in the near future. Hence, we have changed the modality of the final semester and the questions are shared on the Facebook and WhatsApp accounts of students and to those students who do not have the access to mobile were given out hard copy of the question papers. The students would complete the task and submit the answers by this weekend. Besides this, so far we had two google meetings with the staff to know the status of our students and to plan for the school activities. Many of our teachers attended the Ignatian year inauguration ceremony at the Region

level through virtual medium. They appreciated the short and sweet program. By the grace of God all our staff, students and their family members are fine. Amidst covid restriction, one couple got rectification of marriage on May 1, of course the covid-19 norms were followed. On 20 May, we had community mass in the morning to mark the inauguration of the Ignatian year. On 22 the feast of the Pentecost was celebrated. Both these day masses were live streamed on the Facebook and google-meet. Thus, the Parishioners are provided with the opportunity to attend the online Saturday Masses and Rosary services in the evening through Facebook live stream. We send the link to our parishioners and the response is good. Many are participating and getting benefitted from this spiritual outreach.

*Fr. Nicholas Christuraj*



Fr. Norbert reads the Gospel during mass



Fr. Paul KC officiates mass on IY-21-22 inauguration day

# CAMPION HOUSE, MAITIGHAR

We continue to have online classes for most programs while some are preparing for their board examinations. We wait for the decisions of the government and the University regarding board examinations and admissions to the next academic year. All in the community continue to keep good health. While some of the community members are involved in taking care of the community and its needs others are involved in the Covid 19 Relief program of the College known as WE FEED along with the volunteers taking all the precautions possible. A brief report by the volunteers on our involvement so far is given below.

## “We Feed” Program

The COVID-19 virus has been seriously affecting the lives of people globally. The second wave of this virus has had greater impact on people’s lives, especially in Kathmandu. Covid patients have not been able to receive proper healthcare. In order to control the spreading of the virus, Kathmandu valley is under restrictions. Among the various problems the COVID-19 virus has created, the problem to manage daily meal especially for the daily wage workers and those waiting with Covid patients at government hospital caught the attention of the Outreach department of the College. Consequently, we decided to bring some relief to such needy people by providing them with packed food cooked in our canteen. We have been regularly providing packed lunch and dinner along with water to people in need at Teku hospital and Bir hospital. Likewise, the team has been regularly providing with packed food to the people living in the streets of New Road, Temple premises at Bhadrakali and Mahankal.

The food distribution program started from 18 May 2021 with a team of 3 volunteers along with college staff. A total of 3,335 packet of food and 4000 bottles of water have been distributed so far. At present, the team consists of 7 volunteers and has expanded its service by providing 49 families with relief food package consisting of 1 sack rice of 25 kg, 5 kg lentil, 2 ltrs oil, 5 kg beaten rice and 1 kg salt each. Also, the team was able to assist 3 patients with medical support and food at Bir hospital.

Similarly, the team was able to rescue an individual who was struggling to go home. During his stay in the streets of Ratnapark, he was severely beaten by groups of men and was also fighting hard to receive

a day’s meal and a good sleep. The team met him in his worst condition. In close coordination with the Nepal Police, local people at Kalanki bus park, the team was able to book him a seat, give him a good set of clothes, packed meal, some cash for the travel and sent him to Rautahat – his home.

Overall, the program has been running successfully with generous support from the sponsors, teachers, alumni and students. The team has been receiving positive response from the hospital, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. The program has been well appreciated for its careful intervention as the distribution process is conducted following proper COVID-19 guideline. Also, the food has been well acknowledged for its taste and hygiene.

One of our volunteers, Tisha Joshi who has been diligently working from the first day shares her experience so far in her own words as, *“I feel blessed that I have got this opportunity to help people in this pandemic. As we know the COVID-19 pandemic has unveiled different vulnerabilities as well as exposed our weaknesses in preventing a disaster. I would like to sincerely thank St. Xavier’s college for initiating “We Feed” program to help the helpless people. Personally, I believe that this experience will guide me to become a better person for others.”*

Our volunteer Santona Bhattarai, who joined the team later on has been dedicated towards the cause. She shares her experience as, *“This volunteering opportunity has been an enriching as well as motivating experience. Being able to do something for those in need has allowed me to be grateful and cherish my new beginning as a student in this college. Also, this involvement has allowed me to better understand about team coordination, program management and reflect upon importance and value of time. I would like to thank the team and St. Xavier’s college from the bottom of my heart for being hope to those helpless people.”*

Medhavee Upadhyaya, one of the first volunteer has been proactively working to achieve the program goals. She summarizes her involvement in the program as, *“My participation in this program is also my first experience working in such manner – providing me insights of how things work. I feel fortunate and blessed to have been a part of it. Our schedules are hectic but all the tiredness disappear when I witness people’s hope and satisfaction through our program.”*

*Campion House Jesuit source*



# ARRUPE NIWAS, DEONIA

Though the uncertainties caused by COVID 19 Pandemic and lockdown affected our normal life, the Arrupe Niwas community finds some ways to bring laughter and joy in each member of the community through conducting online classes, participating in community prayer, Adoration, cooking, reading books, physical exercises, gar-

Daniel Bara. His personal faith sharing with regard to his vocation and mission really inspired us immensely. The scholastics made a one-day monthly recollection guided by Fr. Mike Parent.

The community under the leadership of Fr. Boniface carried out relief work among the poor people by distributing dry ration for 365 families



*Fr. Daniel cuts the cake*



*Fr. Mike Parent, new local Superior blesses Fr. Daniel*



*Sch. David Minj and Fr. Daniel*

dening, taking care of the dogs, evening recreation, etc. We find great chefs in Fr Arul, Fr. Daniel and our minister Sch. David who creatively serve the community with different new food menus. As part of UAP taking care of our common home, the community planted many trees in the school campus. Sch. Wilson is busy coordinating the school office planning for the final online examination. Sch. Gorakh is busy conducting online classes and continues to serve our community by arranging the Chapel and the Altar for daily Holy Mass and Adoration.

The community joyfully celebrated birthday of Fr.

in our Municipality. We also distributed food materials for 30 families in Godamara slum.

On May 20, 2021, the day of the Inaugural Day of Ignatian Year Celebration, we had a community mass and unveiling of La Storta Portrait of St. Ignatius as a symbolic gesture to begin the Jubilee year celebration.

The school continues online classes for students and teachers are working hard to motivate students to concentrate on their studies. We sincerely appreciate our teachers for their collective efforts and commitment.

*Sch. Wilson Kandulna*



*Fr. Daniel Bara and Sch. David Minj planting tree saplings*





# GONZAGA HOUSE, SADAKBARI

Final exam was scheduled for 10 May but last week of April itself there was a notice to close down the schools due to the Covid 19 spread. Since then the school is completely closed. We hoped that we might be able to conduct physical exams because online or offline exams was not possible. Yet all the subject teachers got their questions ready. Now the Local government has asked us to make the final result based on students' previous exams and internal evaluations. Since the strict lockdown is still there, we are not able to work for the final result.

School renders its internet facility to students from villages. They are doing their online classes, we even provide laptop to few. Most of the online classes are

the strict lockdown was enforced. Fr. Peter blessed



*Fr. Peter says inaugural mass of IY-21-22*



*Ignatian Year Notice board in the school*

in the morning hours. Four of Moran Memorial School girls came to our school to write their final exams. The questions were sent by the school to us and they were given the print out to write the exams. School has a notice board dedicated for the Ignatian Year, poster, photos, stories are being posted. As lockdown was implemented, Bishop's prohibitory letter on offering Mass or administration of any other Sacrament was implemented so we suspended Mass at the Parish level in both the places-Simalbari and Sadakbari. Convent mass in Simalbari is also suspended. A few weddings took place before

at least five weddings. We have started Sunday Mass Live in Nepali at 6.30 a.m. and Rosary in the evening praying with the intentions of Pope Francis.

One of the sad news is Mariam, wife of Som, in front of the Loyola School gate, passed away due to sickness on May 24. Fr. Peter blessed the grave, Fr. Tek accompanied him for the burial on 25th. May 26 to 28 weather was windy and rainy due to Cyclone Yaas from Bay of Bengal. On May 28 it rained day and night. Now it is cool, a great relief from scorching heat we had previous week.

*Vijay Toppo*



*Santhali Cross on the grave of Mariam*



*Weather scenario on the day of cyclone Yaas*

# SHISHU BIKAS KENDRA – POKHARA

The complete lockdown has masked the entire city. The streets and roads remain deserted. The whistling noises of the police remind people constantly to stay indoors. The maximum number of Covid – 19 cases are reported in ward no 8 and 4. The pandemic has hushed the constant happening activities in the locality. SBK students, parents and staffs are well. A few supportive staff come to the center and continue to make the place pristine. They help us cultivate organic vegetables and look forward to good rains.

The Rosary - month of May has knit most of the Catholic families together. They have online rosary prayers every day in the evening. Fr. Ayar regulates the Zoom IDs and pass code to each family and catechizes them. They are happy to pray together at the

daily evening prayers and weekly Saturday Mass on online. When one door closes, another door opens. They have realized new ways of being and praying together on online. Hats off to Fr. Ayar for the great

interest he shows for giving faith formation to the parishioners despite this testing period. Frs. Ayar and Amit are keeping fit and fine in the mission. They both pay out their quality time in sharing the new insights and discoveries. They spend their time in beautifying the compound with

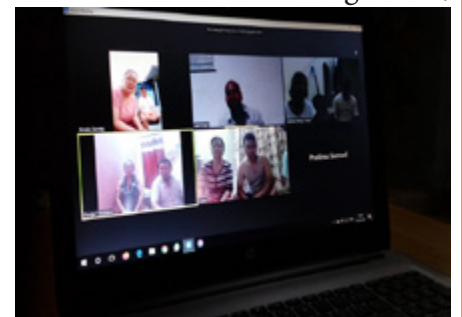
their innovative minds in the evening for few hours. Amit attends his online college classes regularly and Ayar engrosses in reading and reflecting upon many books. Presently he is in “Reading Pauline Letters in Nepal” by Sr. Gemma L. Kim, SPC. He draws inspiration and inspires others as well. He is ingenious,



*Santa Maria Church*



*Fr. Ayar saying virtual mass for his faithful*



*Faithful attend virtual mass*

end of the day. A few of the Catholic members were infected with mild fever. The online Mass has picked up from Facebook to better responding Zoom now. The Parish Priest spends his days and time being in touch with the people. The parishioners are active in

has made many beautiful rosaries out of Rudrakh as its beads, enculturating to the local culture and tradition. St. Augustine said, “Bis orat qui bene cantat” (He who sings well, prays twice).

*Amit Lakra*



*Empty street due to lockdown*



*Coworkers, a Sister & Fr. Ayar preparing field for planting vegetables*



*Fr. Ayar creates a rosary from Rudracha beads*



# ST. XAVIER'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER

The second wave of Covid -19 has ag-  
grieved us severely, shaken us extremely

busy with their online classes and some of  
them are preparing for final examination.



*A Coptic priest visits Aruna Bhavan*



*SXSSC boys attend virtual class during lockdown*

and left us in despair and confusion. Indeed, the cloud of hopelessness and despair cover all around us and we are faced with alarming situation. And right now, the situation here in Valley is out of control due to exceptional increase in number and there are not sufficient beds and oxygen in the city. All the educational institutions are closed down, shopping malls and all the public places are closed down. Nepal Government has imposed lockdown in many districts in order to stop rapid spread.

In the midst of these prevailing circumstances, we have followed prevention measures to keep ourselves healthy and Corona free. Most of the time we are inside the house doing our householdwork such as, gardening, cleaning, reading etc.

On 5 May an Egyptian Father, Fr. Augustine came along with two friends to visit us. SXSSC thanks them for providing some stationary materials. On 26 May the Principal of DAV college provided snacks to all the three homes. We are grateful to DAV college fam-



*Ms. Magret trimming the hedge*



*Aruna Bhavan girls do daily chores in vegetable garden*

St. Xavier's Social Service Center has decided to send the students to their respective places within the valley and those who are out of valley and do not have internet access are staying back in order to continue their online classes. Right now, we have twenty-five boys and twenty-three girls with us. All of them are

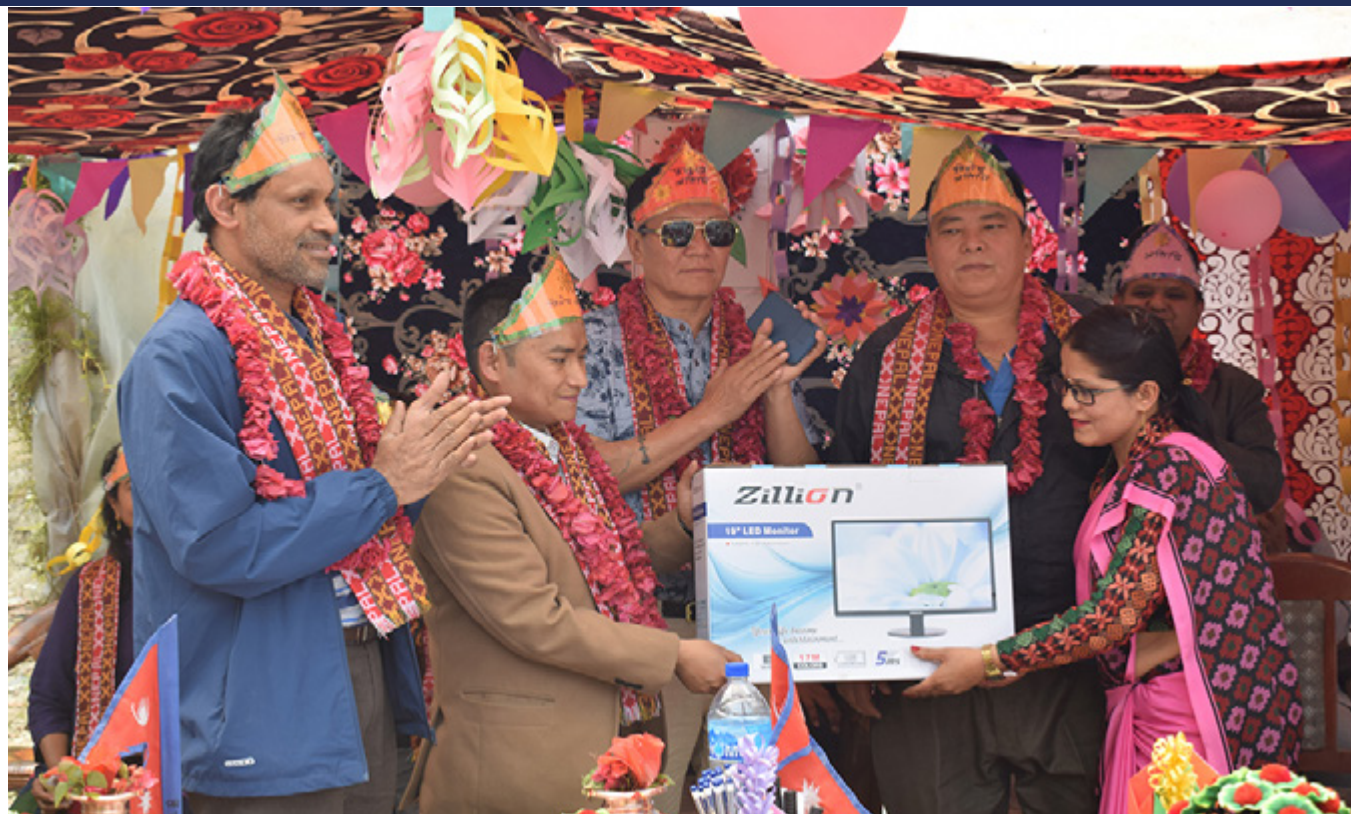


ily for their generous contribution. Silbanti Tudu, one of our staff is not been able to join us due border seal. We hope soon she will join us. Stay positive mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritual during unpredictable and alarming situation.

*Ms. Margret Bara*



# KAMAL NIWAS

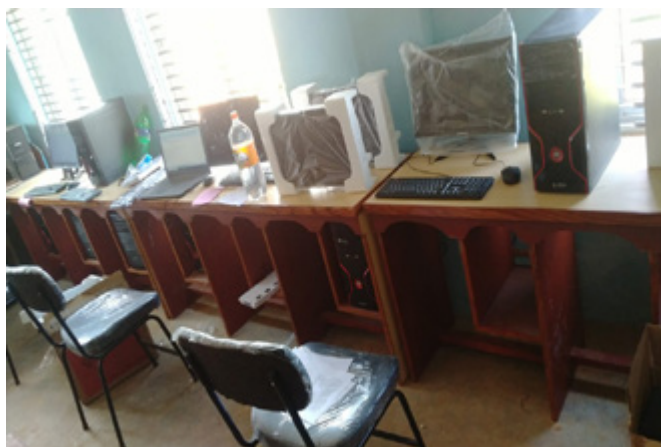


*Fr. Roy (extreme left) handing over digital devices to representatives of schools*

On 28 May we had staff meeting to discuss about Covid- 19 second wave plan. It was decided that staff can stay at home and do the daily office work. One driver should be staying in Kamal Niwas for emergency work. Fr. Arul, Kamal and Ram Hari would stay at Panchkal Centre. On the same evening Fr. Arul and Kamal went to Panchkal. The situation is bad in Panchkal also. Because of Lockdown they could not move around, but looked after the cleaning of the house and gardening in the center. Fr. Raja is very busy with accounts and Fr. Augustus is helping him. Fr. Paul finished his eight-day retreat and is fresh to go but covid-19 second wave has stopped him to move to Pune. We had zoom meeting with staff to discuss about nature and purpose and Government procedure of P.F. We will follow SSF from this month, our salary will be deducted and deposited to SSF. Part of Rural Education in Nepal, Nepal

Jesuit Social Institute (NJSI) Sent 20 computers, two cupboards, two library tables and 20 chairs to Mahindra Ratna School, Dhading. Golma Devi School received five computers as part of the programme. St, Xavier's College organizes food distribution and other helps to the hospitals, NJSI is providing vehicle for the work. Fr. Roy is looking after this mission.

*S. Arul*



*NJSI provided computers, tables, chairs to a School*



# ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH, BANIYATAR

Soon after the Easter, the parish priest began the annual house blessings and completed it just before the lockdown began. A few houses could not be blessed due to unavailability of the family members in the house as the parish priest went around unannounced to avoid de-

have some people joining us from outside of Nepal as well.

In the month of May which is also known as Marian month, we began the Holy Rosary. On a regular basis we have 15 to 20 families joining the online-live Rosary in Baniyatar Parish.



*Faithful attending virtual masses on regular day and a requiem mass for Delhi relative*

*Indulging in creativity during lockdown*

lay in blessing the house and to bypass unnecessary customary preparation to receive the parish priest.

The parish initiated a regular online-live-zoom Masses as soon as restrictions were imposed upon mass gatherings at the worship places. A good number of families, about 20 to 25 families, have been daily attending the online-live celebration of Holy Eucharist along with the Sisters in Baniyatar. The Mass readings, singing and Mass responses all is carried out online-live by the participants themselves. The only thing

After the Holy Rosary, it has become a platform of sharing and entertaining to one another as lockdown has forced people to stay indoors. On 11 May, we celebrated the Nepali Mother's Day after the online-live Holy Rosary prayer. It was a creative recreational online-live Aama's Day celebration.

Apart from online-live Rosaries in the Parish, a few couples from the parish regularly join the online workshops and Rosaries conducted by CFC Dhobighat. CFC Dhobighat has been a great source of strength, support and an inspira-



*Parish gardener showing exhibiting roses*



*Fr. Anil, Parish Priest in front of green arch*

we lack in online live Mass is receiving of the Holy Communion. On Sundays few songs are also sung with one or two verses only due to online-live time constraint. We have few families joining us from other parishes of Nepal too to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. On Sundays, we

tion to many of our families.

We get to hear that there are quite a good number of COVID 19 cases in Baniyatar, Tokha municipality with hardly any tests. There is a tendency among the people to hide it and stay home without test. Fear prompts them not to let



*Pakistani Catholic refugee family*

the concerned authorities to know. A few cases of death have been reported due to COVID 19 in Tokha municipality. Until now two of our parishioners have been found COVID 19 positive. One has recovered and has been tested negative and the other is isolated in her own house. The other family members of the isolated person are doing well and are found with no symptoms.

A man from Tipling (non-Christian) who was an ex-army, residing with family in the airport area in Kathmandu died due to COVID 19. A parishioner who has recovered now and have been tested negative had contacted the virus in his funeral.

A lady parishioner from Goldhunga died in the month of May due to both kidney failures during lockdown. She was cremated without the proper last rite but her ashes were brought and properly placed in the columbarium in the church in the presence of a minimum number of parishioners.

In the month of May, we had another sad news to hear that Sr. Jaya lost her brother-in-law in Bangalore due to covid 19. He left to heavenly abode with grieving wife who is also admitted in the hospital for COVID 19 positive and two of his college going children.

The parish priest of Baniyatar has been helping Nepal Jesuit Society (NJS) to distribute Rahat food materials around Kathmandu district by arranging the Rahat materials for those who are contacting the NJS office for the help.

On May 20, 2021, the Parish in the virtual presence of half of the parishioners inaugurated the celebration of 500th Year of Ignatius' Conversion. In the virtual holy Mass, the parish priest spoke about the need and importance of the 'Ignatian Conversion Year' and highlighted the possible upcoming events throughout the world and specially in Nepal.

On May 29, 2021, the Parish Priest celebrated the virtual live Holy Mass (Shradhanjali Mass which is usually conducted after 13 days of death) for one of the deceased persons in Delhi, India. The Holy Mass was attended virtually by a Ranchi Jesuit, Fr Mahender Tigga and about 100 people with beautifully singing hymns, a full stretched holy Mass. After the Holy Mass, paying of homage by the family members and sharing about the deceased person by 10 people were done. The event was stretched by 5 continuous re-logins for continuation on zoom adding up to 200 minutes online in total.

*Anil Beck*



*Some ways to beat boredom during lockdown*



## DESIDERI HOUSE, BOUDHA

After being locked down in America for 12 months longer than planned, it was wonderful to get back to Nepal in mid-April. The Jesuits at Campion Center, my province's "vridhashram" and health center, could not have been more welcoming or hospitable. Nonetheless it was good to get home to Kathmandu. I left the US just at the point when Covid variants were said to be spreading rapidly in the northeast. Because it was not clear whether a vaccinated person could be infected by the mutant viruses, or be a carrier, I decided to stay in quarantine for the standard two weeks. I had only a few days of relative freedom before the Kathmandu Valley lockdown began. I would barely need the fingers of both hands to count the number of friends I've been able to see since returning.

The KU Centre for Buddhist Studies has been teaching solely online since March of last year. It was recently decided that this arrangement will stay in place at least until this time next year. Given the unexpectedly severe Covid surge the country is suffering from now, it was probably a wise decision. Shortly before returning to Boudha I was asked by KU-CBS to take charge of their PhD program.

Though we have had permission to offer the doctorate for nearly two decades, the program had only attracted a small number of candidates, of whom two are now completing their degrees. This spring a surprising number of people expressed interest in applying. Three or four are likely to be admitted. One of the applicants was a research associate who worked with me a few years back. I will supervise her research as she continues her study of Newar ritual dance.

Fr. Yann Vagneux, the French MEP father who normally lives in Varanasi, has been here in Boudha since November. He came back to Nepal as soon as the government allowed tourists to return, and he hoped that India would begin to issue visitor visas soon thereafter. Like most of us, his plans were disrupted by the continuing pandemic. After six months at Desideri House, Fr Yann now has his own place in Boudha, but will visit a few times a week. He was able to obtain a student visa for Nepal and will continue his study of Sanskrit while waiting for India to open its borders.

*Greg Sharkey SJ*

## HRDRC, SANEPA

The month of May passed by staying inside the house and its compound. The community members often found working in the kitchen garden. They also regularly cleared up shrubs, grass in the compound. The Nepal Jesuit Society (NJS) office has created Pandemic Help Desk and flashed it on Facebook, WhatsApp and its website. As a result, from the same day of posting it, calls started coming. Mr. Bimal and Fr. Juel patiently receive the calls. They then arrange food kits with a local shop and dispatch the food kits to them. So far, NJS has distributed dry ration kits to the areas of Balkhu, Sanepa, Bhainsipati, Jawalakhel, Kumaripati, Satdobato, Pulchok, Purano Baneshwar in Kathmandu valley. The help desk also received calls from Kohalpur in West Nepal and Jhapa in East Nepal. Through our networks in Kohalpur and Jhapa NJS distributed food kits to the needy. In some occasions, Fr. Amrit

went out with Mr. Bimal to survey and inspect the slums and street corners to see if our food distribution is done fairly. According to their observation, there are many restaurant workers, street vendors, rag pickers and daily wage workers who need food kits as they have no job during this lockdown. NJS is trying to help them in its small way. With new NJS IDs for mobile clinics in the Valley, the Mobile clinic staff too is out there distributing medicine and looking after healthcare of nearby villages around Kathmandu. During the extension of lockdown our staff come to office as and when they find easy alleys to reach here.

Fr. Amrit made his annual retreat during first week of lockdown. Frs. Amrit, Mathew and Thomas have already received second doses of covid vaccine. Fr. Juel is waiting for his first dose.

*Juel Kispotta*

# DIASPORA

## PREMAL JYOTI, AHMEDABAD

The month of May enkindled an experience of devotion to mother Mary. It changed into additionally great due to the fact the scholastics of Premal Jyoti and Gujarat province gathered for their annual retreat.

On 13 May, a huge wide variety of forty-two scholastics began retreat in groups. Father Johnson guided a dozen of first-year scholastics in his unique approach toward the Spiritual Exercises. His talks contained significant insights and private reflections that contributed to our fruitful retreat.

A time spent with the Lord proved to be substantial in three ways. First, it was the time to rejuvenate our spiritual life, so we did thorough cherishing our relationship with Christ and thanking him for the graces received. Secondly, it changed into any other possibility to understand and enjoy the greatness of the Spiritual Exercises. As always, we moved a little further into its intensity and found ourselves consoled. Thirdly, we renewed the vows that are the signs of our commitment to Christ and his people.

*Sch. Vinay Lakra*

## PREMANJALI, MATIGARA

The month of May was crucial for all us fighting against the deadly virus and this month records highest number of Covid-19 positive cases with highest number of death toll in India, especially the Church leaders: priests, nuns and Jesuits. With this uncertainty, Lawrence Kerketta was involved with his internship program at HLDRC, Matigara since the beginning of May. The Matigara campus had accommodated covid positive patients and suspects: Fr. Novice-master and novices at senior home. All of them seem to be normal. As we celebrate the Ignatian year (May 2021- July 2022), our scholastics' program began with Ignatian Spirituality class from 10th by Fr. Jacheus Dungdung followed by Social analysis and actions by Frs. Victor, Lalit and Pascal. All their classes were filled with lots of information by which all of us were motivated. Classes were mostly apostolate based of this region that Jesuits are involved

in and what more we need to do for the "poor" especially of the Tea gardens. On 12th Sch. Niroj Minj arrived Matigara from his home visit; he was quarantined for a week.

On 19th as the whole Society of Jesus celebrated the 500th year of the conversion of our founder St. Ignatius, we joined in this Ignatian family celebration and inaugurated the Jubilee year with the solemn Eucharist abiding the covid-19 protocol. Finally the day arrived that we could quench our spiritual thirst and hunger. From 21st on, Fr. Cherman Maliekal guided us to have deep acquaintance with the Lord through the annual retreat. At present almost whole country is in locked-down, we are there where we not supposed to be yet busy with something; especially spending some quality time in reading books and knowing more about Jesuit's mission of this part of India.

*Sch. Lawrence Kerketta*



Scholastics group doing online Philosophy classes with their mentors: Fr. Jacheus & Xavier

Fr. Jacheus giving class on Ignatian Spirituality

Fr. Pascal with the scholastics



## GESÙ, ROME

Once I returned from India, life continued with my studies and online lessons. On the first of May, the scholastics of the South Asian Conference had participated in the memorial mass in the names of my mother and the father of one of the scholastics from Andhra province. The main celebrant was Fr. Vernon D’Cunha. I also had a spiritual conversation with him. Fr. Keith Abranches SJ (GUJ) officially joined the community on May 7. The Seventh of May was also a day of living group outing for the Gesù Scholastics. Our group went to Ostia Antica. We visited the church where the body of St. Monica was kept before shifting to Rome. Fr. General Arturo Sosa SJ made his annual visit to the community on 14 May. He addressed the whole community in the evening and gave an inspiring discourse on the role and responsibility of the Society of Jesus during the period of covid-19. He made us aware of the challenges of the situation of the world and our responsibilities as Jesuits to the suffering men and women in this difficult time. The session was more interactive. Fr. General also invited scholastics and staff to share their pandemic experience. Many of us shared our personal experiences and also came up with different creative and innovative ideas to extend our helping hand to the poor and suffering people. Thereafter, Fr. General celebrated the community mass and prayed for the community. On 17 May we lost our Spiritual Father, Fr. Mariano Ballester SJ (ESP) in the community of Canicio, the infirmary of General Curia where he took his final treatment. He was 86 years old. The loss of our dear Fr. Mariano was a great loss to me. He was my spiritual director and he was one of many who took first effort to console me after my mother’s death. On 18 May the community had a special thanksgiving mass in the community of Canicio for the gift of Fr. Mariano and his generous service to the community. The following day we had the funeral Mass in Gesù church with close relatives of Fr. Mariano. Meanwhile, the scholastics are busy with academic commitments and preparing themselves for the exams. The University held the thanksgiving Mass for the closing of the academic year 2020-21 in the Church of St. Ignatius on 24 May. As the Society of Jesus opened the Ignatian year, the celebration of conversion of St. Ignatius on 20 May, Gesù community had the vigil prayer of Ignatius year with the faithful from outside at 8.00 p.m. The community also joined the online prayer service “Pilgrims with Ignatius”, on the 23rd of May. The virtual prayer service was very meaningful and graceful as Fr. General and Pope joined the prayer. People from all over the world shared their fruitful experiences with Jesuits and Ignatian Spirituality.

*Sch. Devadhas Vargeese*



June 12	Fr. Michael J. Parent
June 12	Fr. Norber D’Souza
June 22	Fr. Augustine Amakkatt
June 29	Br. Irenius Guria



- \*Fr. Lawrence Maria Gabriel, SJ (MDU 81/56) died on 29 May 2021 at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul.
- \*Fr. Jeyaraj Maria, SJ (MDU 86/67) died on 29 May 2021 at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul.
- \*Fr. Rajarathinam Rathinam, SJ (CEN 62/41) died on 24 May 2021 at Apollo Hospital, Tiruchirappalli.
- \* Fr Anthony Cruze Arul SJ (GUJ 57/35) died on 19 May 2021 at U N Mehta Hospital, Ahmedabad.
- \*Br. Jeganathan Ambrose S., SJ (MDU 72/53) died on 17 May 2021 at the Government Hospital, Dindigul.
- \* Fr. Francis Kurien, SJ (HAZ 68/51) died on 13 May 2021 in the Holy family hospital, Koderma.
- \* Fr. Ambrose D’Souza, SJ (KAR 66/39) died on 12 May in Father Muller Hospital, Mangaluru.
- \*Fr. Antony Raj Perinbam, SJ (MDU 76/57) died on 10 May 2021 at Vadamalayan Hospital, Madurai.
- \* Fr. Anil Dayal Kujur SJ, (HAZ 60/35) died on 10 May 2021 in the Holy Cross hospital Ambikapur.
- \* Fr. Jerome Gonsalves, SJ (PUN 71/51) died on 7 May 2021 at Sonali Memorial Hospital, Pune.
- \* Fr. Isaac Tete, SJ (RAN 66/46) died on 6 May 2021 at St. Anne’s Hospital, Ulhatu.
- \* Fr. Ramesh Tribhuvan, SJ (PUN 49/25) died on 6 May 2021 at Booth Hospital, Ahmednagar.
- \* Fr. Cyril Rajesh Tigga, SJ (MAP 84/62) died on 05 May 2021 at in Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur.
- \*Fr. Saju Bastian, SJ (HAZ 59/37), passed away on 3 May 2021 at Samford Hospital, Ranchi.

## THOSE WHO SERVED IN NEPAL

06/06/1999	Charles Leneghan
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