



## E-SAGARMATHA SAMACHAR

**Vol. 39 No. 1**

**Nepal Jesuits**

**January 2024**

### ANNOUNCEMENT



NJS extends an invitation to all Valley Jesuits, Priests, Religious and laity to attend the first Death Anniversary Mass of Fr. Casper J. Miller, S.J. on 15 January 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in Godavari Ashram.



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**



**January 2024**

### FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church

## ARRUPE NIWAS, DEONIA

December saw the second term completed in the school, a pre-Christmas celebration for the entire student body, and a staff picnic with a 'Christmas Friend' exchange of gifts. Activities included hosting a 14-school Sports Day here on the SXD campus and a 3-day scout camp for all the scout troops of Bhatta Mor and Chandragadi



Fr. Boni addressing 14 Schools Sport Meet municipalities. The Plus 2 section staged basketball and football finals, a field trip, and a seminar on creative writing and re-staffed the computer section. Scholastic Niroj accompanied our football team to Godavari for the Moran Memorial football tournament there, where they reached the semi-finals. Scholastic Samir featured as the main drummer for the parish carollers during the time leading up to Christmas. Pastorally, the



*14 Schhols Sport Meet*



*East Jhapa Scout camp at SXD*



*SXD troop & Tanuja with a trophy*



*Scout test for cooking proficiency at SXD*



*14 Schhols Sport Meet*

community assisted at the annual Advent Day of Reconciliation for the east Jhapa priests and religious, held this year at our mother parish in Maheshpur. Fr. Sanctius was the main celebrant at the Dhulabari Mass station on Christmas Day, which had an exceptionally large turnout.

*Arrupe House Jesuit source*



# St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel



*Christmas celebrations*



*Cls 3 & 4 Parents' Day*

## School:

The month of December witnessed two Social Studies Marathons; for classes 1 – 10 on December 01 and for Classes 11 – 12 on December 08. St Francis Xavier's Feast was celebrated in the morning while for the rest of the day, we had the Xavier Day Fair. On the same day, our Volleyball and Chess teams went to NDBS to participate in the Joint School Volleyball and chess games. During December 08 – 10, Class 09 went on their Field Trip to Chitwan. Parent's Day for Classes 3 & 4 was organized on December 09. For classes 8 – 10, a Literary Contest was conducted on the 12th. From December 15 – 22, the High School Section had its Third Cycle Tests while Classes 11 & 12 had their Term II Examinations. On the first day of these tests, Class 02 had its PTM. A day after the tests, the School Mela was organized; as usual, there was a huge partic-

ipation from the parents and students. On the last working day of the year, the school celebrated Christmas on the 23rd in three groups – all in the Auditorium. The last activity of the year 2023 was the Educational Tour for Class 12 to Pokhara-Ghandruk during December 26 – 29.

## Community:

On November 30, Fr Daniel left for Matigara to attend the handing – taking over of the New Provincial at LPC, Matigara; he was back home on the eve of the feast of St Francis Xavier. From December 01, Fr Ignatius started managing himself without the help of the caregiver. As for the guests, we did not have too many of them this month; on December 02, Fr Anil, two Sisters and a lady teacher from St Xavier's School, Dhangadimai, Siraha arrived to attend a training programme for Montessori / Kindergarten teachers at one of the centres in Lalitpur. The four of them stayed with us till December 08. A day before, they were to return to Siraha, Fr Anil's niece from Gangtok arrived; she stayed with us just for a day. Then

on December 20 Sr Evenzila, SSND from Japan arrived. Her companion, Sr Miriam, SSND also from Japan could not come with her as scheduled due to some technical issues with her flight. For the Christmas Vigil Mass, all except Fr Ignatius went to the Assumption Church. After the Mass, we were in for a shock – the wheel of our vehicle was locked by the Traffic Police for a parking violation. We had to stay in the open for almost forty-five minutes before the lock was opened. The next day, i.e. December 25, Fr Daniel took the Christmas Day Mass at the Assumption Church. On December 26 he left for Kolkata while Fr Raja accompanied the Class 12 students on their educational tour to Pokhara -Ghandruk. Both of them returned home on the 29th evening. Bro. Herman left for his Home Visit on the 27th.

*Fr Danny, sj*



*Cl. 2 Parents-Teacher Meeting*



*Xavier Day celebration in lawn*



*Children dressed up for Xavier Day*



# St. Xavier's School, Godavari



The Annual Exhibition and Annual Blood Donation Program conducted on December 2, was a grand success. Students from 1 to 12 exhibited their talents through Science Experiments, Mathematical solutions, Arts, and Computer Skills. Along with the Annual Exhibition, there was a blood donation program also organized; 130 parents/staff donated blood. The Chief Guest of the Program was Mr. Achyut Raj Regmi, CDO of Lalitpur and the Special Guest was Mr. Dinanath Panthi, Chief of the Municipality Education Office.

The 26th Fr. Moran Memorial Football Tournament was in-



*Christmas celebration in open ground*



*Cls. 11 & 12 Family Evening*

augured by Fr. Samuel Simick, S.J., Principal of St. Xavier's Jawalakhel on 9 December. The tournament ended on 23 December. The APF school was the winner and Don Bosco School, Lubhu, was the runner-up. St. Xavier's School, Deonia, received the most disciplined team award and stood 4th overall. Class 11 and 12 Family Evening was another successful event held on 8 December. On December 9, students from classes 9 to 12 went for their annual hike to different hills of Kathmandu Valley. They had a wonderful experience getting closer to nature. On December 15, the Senior Girls Scout Camp was organized for the scouts on the school premises. On December 19, a climate change awareness workshop was organized for Class 7 by



*MM Tournament kick-off*



*Annual Science, Art exhibition*



*Climate Change awareness workshop*



*A hike of Cls. 9 to 12*

Prakriti Initiatives. Christmas Celebration for the students of Class 1 to 12 was on 22 December. Our Christian students and other students conveyed the Christmas message of peace and joy to all through various cultural items that they prepared and demonstrated. From December 29 to 31 the Third Municipality Level President Cup is organized at St. Xavier's School Godavari by Godavari Municipality. The tournament has been managed by SXG staff for the last three years. During Christmas week, Fr. Lawrence went to Dhading for Christmas ministry for the Catholics and sisters residing there.

**George P.M.**



# CAMPION HOUSE, MAITIGHAR



*Drama performance by BA*



*Christmas drama by IMCS*



*Fr. Bobby at mini-marathon*

This year, the Xavier's Day celebration was graced by His Excellency Park Tae-Young, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Nepal as the Chief Guest. We celebrated and honoured full-time staff who worked in the college for more than 20 years. The BSW Department organised a movie screening of "The Secrets of Radha" to raise funds for "Fr. Arulanandam, S.J. Memorial Winter Warmth Vol. 7". The funds generated will be used for the warmth to the needy. During the month all the departments have presented their strategic plans for the future. The Department of Major Arts proudly marked

its 10th Family Week alongside a warm welcome for the BA Batch of 2023 at St. Xavier's College. This year we conducted the 9th SXC Mini Marathon. Mr. Paras Khadka, former Captain of the Nepali Cricket Team kick-started this incredible journey, culminating in a triumphant finish and awards ceremony led by renowned athlete Mr. Baikuntha Manandhar.

Faculty of English staged a play entitled 'Pratikshyalay', a localised adaptation of Akira Kurosawa's movie 'Rashomon'.

IMCS has been very active this month in preparing for the Christmas program. Once they put up a small program for the PiE students followed by the major program for the college students. Marina D'Souza from IMCS

India has come to give a 3-day training program for the IMCS students from December 30 to January 1. Suman Ghale of IMCS Nepal has been selected as the Asia Pacific Coordinator for IMCS. He will reside in Manila for a tenure of 3 years. We wish him all the best! We also had a visit from the lay chaplain of IMCS Malaysia.

At the Champion House, we had the Christmas gathering of the Jesuits in the valley. This time groups from Baniyatar and Lubbhu came for carol singing.

**Deepak Jans**



*Christmas carol at Champion House*



*Teachers engrossed in strategic planning*



*Xavier Day celebration*



# FABER HOUSE, MAHESHPUR



The month of December brought great cheer to the faces of many on the Moran Memorial School (MMS) campus. The chill and pleasant weather around us; yet the warmth of love in our hearts for one another was much felt during Christmas preparations and celebrations. The second term exams were over by the 6th of December. On the 8th of December, 46 students accompanied by five teachers participated in the Purbanchal Catholic Schools Sports Meet in which our girl's throw ball team came Runner-up. In the athletic events, our students secured three 1st prizes and one 2nd prize. Sch. Danzil's birthday was celebrated in the school on the 15th. On the 19th we celebrated Christmas; Fr. Sanjay Ekka was the chief guest and he gave a beautiful Christmas message to our students and staff. Our students put up a fantastic Christmas program. The guests of the day were mesmerized by the stunning performance of the students namely dance, songs, skit, mime and carol singing,



*Winners with thier trophy*

followed by the program, the students were given snacks while the teachers and non-teaching staff along with guests were given a sumptuous meal arranged by Br. Clarence and Sch. Danzil. On the same evening, the Jesuit community had a Christmas high tea with the supporting staff. They were given Christmas gifts and were thanked for their dedicated service to the institution and our mission. Our school hosted a three-day scout camp on our campus in which nearly 360 students from 13 different schools participated. Including the Ranger troop, volunteers and the teachers accompanying the students, all together nearly 400 people were accommodated in the school. The scout camp started with the march past and some demonstrations on the inauguration day. Motivational talks by some eminent persons, training and competitions were also held on the following days. Our



*Scout oath taking ceremony*

MMS scout troop got 1st prize in the march past, 1st in discipline and cleanliness and 2nd in the overall points tally. The second-term results were distributed to students in the presence of their parents on the 21st and 22nd. As a customary practice to encourage and motivate the academic toppers in the class, some incentives were given away to them in the assembly.

**Nicholas Christuraj**



*Christmas celebration at MMS*



*Class toppers with thier awards*



*Sch. Danzil is greeted on his birthday*



*Fr. Nicholas with the winners*



# GONZAGA HOUSE, SADAKBARI



*A Jesus Youth meeting in progress*



*SCC unit based grotto*

December kept Fr. Tek busy with various activities at the parish level. A Jesus Youth volunteer from Kerala, Mr. Jomon Jojo, spent a month in the parish and assisted Fr. Tek in the faith formation of the youth. Jomon animated a couple of energetic Jesus Youth gatherings. Fr. Tek, along with a group of youth, initiated the Jesus Youth movement in Tulachand also where Fr. Ignatius Rai is the parish priest. In preparation for Christmas, advent masses and confessions were organized at every Small Christian Community (SCC) unit. A good number of parishioners participated in these preparations. Several SCC units have built grottos of Mother Mary in their locality and have begun rosary prayers in the evenings at the grottos. Christmas vigil Masses were celebrated in the newly built



multi-purpose halls in both Sadakbari and Simalbari. The masses were followed by celebrations of various kinds including dances and giving of gifts to one's Christmas friend. Christmas Day celebrations included tasty lunch for all present. In the days after Christmas, Fr. Tek along with a couple of Sisters went around inspecting the cribs in various families and awarded the most creative and attractive of them with prizes. The Christmas celebrations are still on with several groups going around singing carols and announcing the good news of the birth of Jesus.

At the school, the second-term exams were conducted and the report cards were distributed. Inter-house football for boys and throwball for girls were completed. Several of our athletes and our football team won prizes at the first-ever Purvanchal Catholic School Sports Meet and won the hearts of many. Christmas celebrations in the school included a short talk about Christmas and its meaning to each high school class by Jomon,

class-wise visits to the crib at the Jesuit residence and Br. Irenius – the Santa – delivering chocolate muffins to the entire school. The events of the month were the Parents' Days performed on the 28th by students from Nursery to Grade 5 and on the 29th by students from Grades 6 to 10. The performances were outstanding. The staff and students deserve a pat on the back.

At the community, Fr. Victor's birthday was celebrated on the 23rd with the Deonia and Maheshpur communities and our collaborators in attendance. On the following day, the community hosted a Christmas-cum Thanksgiving lunch for all the staff and School Management Committee (SMC) members and their families and several well-wishers and supporters of the school.

*Jomon Jose*



*Students visit a crib at Jesuit house*



*Parents Day at the school*





# SHISHU BIKAS KENDRA, POKHARA

The cold waves of Paush curtailed most of the students and compelled them to engage in indoor activities at the centre. Many students and staff suffered headaches and stomach aches due to sudden changes in the weather caused by the climate clash in South India. The students had lots of group games and activities managed by a few staff. Bishnu Didi served a sumptuous lunch at the SBK canteen with her experienced hands on time for two weeks. One of our senior staff, Rishi Ram Gurung married off his elder daughter Regina Gurung settled in New Zealand. All the SBK staff participated in the marriage ceremony. The advent of the Christmas season took the attention of all the students to participate in the enactment of the Nativity of Jesus Christ. Fr. Ayar narrated the Christmas



*Christmas photo session*



*Christmas dhamaka by students*

story with a beautiful message of Jesus incarnating to celebrate life with them. We invited a few guests and old staff to be the guest of honour on the occasion. The decoration gave the ambience of Christmas aura. Thanks to the staff for their joyous efforts. All the students and staff received a Christmas gift and were served with tasty cake, fruits, sweets and mutton meal and took a winter break with Christmas Balloons.

The church activities were well-planned and executed. The parish priest, Fr. Ayar Kujur had the busiest month to give a marriage class to the couples and bless their marriages. He visited all the Catholic families during the Advent season to gather them in one fold. Holy Cross Sisters and Fr. Ayar went to Nalang-Dhading to participate in the blessing of the new community of the Holy Cross Sisters. Fr. Ayar reached out to Tansen-Palpa and Pilar Church for the confession. He engineered the Christmas crib and church decoration with the help of the SBK staff and SCC



*Christmas agape at Chuny's*

Sisters. There was a carol singing before the Mass. Fr. Juel was invited to be the main celebrant for the Christmas vigil Mass. Thanks for his availability. The church was almost full with 200 participants. The local people were invited to the Christmas celebration.

The Pohara Jesuit community (PJC) shared Christmas joys with the Religious communities in Pokhara by exchanging Christmas cards, and cakes singing carol songs and gathering with other communities. PJC as a community with the Superior had an outing to Gandaki Trout Farm at Bhurjung Khola. Fr. Ayar having celebrated Christmas with parishioners went for a home visit after three and half years. "Wish You All a Happy New Year 2024." "Winter is not a season, it's a celebration." – Anamika Mishra

**Amit Lakra**



*Fr. Ayar with newly married couple*



*Fr. Ayar visits Nalan: SCC community*



*Christmas vigil mass in the church*



# ST. IGNATIUS PARISH, BANIYATAR



*Crib at Ignatius church*



*Valley Religious relishing hot dinner*

The month of December was packed with an array of activities like Church meetings, recollections, Zone-wise Carolling, carolling in Religious Houses, dancing in unison with rhythmic beatings of drums and songs, exchanging Christmas gifts, Crib making, ballooned church hall decorations and thus the fag end of the year flew by like a wink of an eye. It was a time of feasts to the eyes, tastes to the palates, music to the ears and magic to the minds of all who came to take part in the mind-boggling festivities of Baniyatar Parish. The parish priest merely danced to the tune of the parishioners. They planned and the parish priest (PP) merely executed the programs. The PP played the part of a pawn in the hands



*Youths rush for hot coffee after mass*

of the Zonal leaders. Thus we had Zone-wise carol singing and in each Zone, one particular house was chosen to display the artistically made manger of Bethlehem where all the Zone members and the parish carol singing party celebrated the day with music and dance. The Preranalaya hostellers played the major role of singing, dancing and playing Santa Claus. The whole parish is spread over six Zones under the Patronage of a particular Saint for each Zone.

Amid this sort of hurry-worry situation, the septuagenarian pp took some time out to preach a retreat to the Good Shepherd Parishioners in Tipling. It was a tough effort to reach an altitude of over 7000 feet and stay there for six days with the people and our Heroes, Anup Minj and Norbert D'Souza. Hearty 'kudos' to both of them in their heroic high altitudinal Tipling Mission. This time during Christmas we had seven Baptisms



*Carolling at Kaberstali*

of two newborn babies and five adults. When compared to last year's Christmas Baptisms, this year's is much less. Last year we had about 39 Baptisms. May His Tribe increase evermore. "Gloria in Excelsis Deo."

Fr. Paul K.C. will be out for a meeting of his Novitiate Batch mates at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. From there he will proceed to Kerala via Patna for a Home Visit. So he will be out of Kathmandu from 30 December 2023 to Jan. 10 January 2024. In his absence, Fr. Paul Chemparathy has graciously accepted the request to take care of the Masses in the Parish in Baniyatar. Thanks to Paul C. for his generosity.

***Paul K.C.***



*Sr. Margaritas, new member*



*Carolling at Kamal Niwas*



# GOOD SHEPHERD, TIPLING

We had two funerals this month. Mr. Sethi B.K.'s mother died on the 4th of December. Though she was not baptized in our church her family members asked us to conduct the last rite. We conducted a funeral and buried her in her land in Aran village. Mr. Budu's (Bernard) mother expired on the 9th of December. She dressed up to attend Saturday Holy Mass. She didn't feel well as she was getting out of home. So she remained at home but sent her Mass of-fertory. Around 9 a.m. she breathed her last at home. We conducted her funeral at noon.

Fr. Anup came back after



*Christmas vigil Mass*

attending his youngest sister's marriage. Fr. Anup also did shopping for the Church in Ranchi and brought the things to Tipling. Fr. Paul K.C. and Mrs. Kumari Gurung came to give a day retreat for the Parishioners. Fr. Anup accompanied them from Kathmandu to Tipling. Fr. Paul prepared parishioners for Christmas celebrations and also conducted healing prayers. We had five Chowar (Child's Hair cutting ceremony) on one day in Namsa village. It was celebrated with great fun and feeding to the villagers. For around two weeks' youth and Crus veer children came for carol singing practice and Christmas celebration. Youth and senior crus veer conducted carol singing at Namsa, Majet and Lupdung villages. We had a great Christmas



*Group games after the Mass*



*Funeral of Sete's mother*

lunch (prem Bhoj) prepared by parish elders to feed about 400 people after the Christmas Day Mass. We celebrated Christmas by having different games for children, youth and parents and also dances were performed by crus veer and youth to entertain everyone present.

Fr. Amrit Rai, Regional Superior came for the visitation on the 23rd of December. He offered Christmas Vigil Mass. He appreciated people's service to church during the Mass and took part in Christmas celebrations. Fr. Amrit left for Katmandu on the 25th at noon time.

**Anup Minj**



*Retreat participants with Fr. Paul*



*Healing prayer by Fr. Paul*



*Ms. Kumari & Paul with Anup & Norbert*



# ST. XAVIER'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE



*World Disability Day observed*



*Lalitpur Mayor with our children*



*Special dish from Mr Roshan Jha*

The month began with a regular staff meeting at the beginning of November. December was highlighted as the month of lights, snow, and feasts. Lalitpur municipality organized a Disabled Day event, featuring a massive rally from Pulchowk to Krishna Mandir Patan. Disabled boys and girls from SXSSC actively participated, carrying placards. The 26th death anniversary of Fr. Thomas

E. Gafney SJ, the founder of St. Xavier's Social Service Center was commemorated. Mr. Roshan Jha, a student from St. Xavier's celebrated his relatives' birthday at SXSSC by providing dinner and dessert. An old boy of St. Xavier's Jawalakhel generously provided boots for the boys at SXSSC. Volunteers from St. Xavier's College Maitighar organized a farewell program for the boys they were guiding. All three houses at SXSSC celebrated Christmas by gathering at Nakhipot Aruna Bhawan. The celebration included a program,

delicious food, and the distribution of small gifts to the children. On the 26th of December, all schools were closed, and students at SXSSC made Yomari, which was described as very tasty. Sadly, on the 27th of December, Hari Krishna Kafle, a client from Gafney Bhawan, passed away peacefully at the age of 25. May he find eternal peace and joy in the embrace of heavenly bliss.

***Ms. Ranjana Karki***



*Crib at SXSSC prepared by boys*



*Boys from SXSSC and girls of Aruna Bhawan celebrating Christmas*





# NJSI, BAKHUNDOL

The Nepal Jesuit Social Institute (NJSI) team went immediately for an assessment after a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Jajarkot and coordinated with the local Government body. As an immediate response, NJSI has constructed 25 TLCs in 19 schools at Barekot. This month, the NJSI team sent off the 4th batch of the “Animation Training Program” where 15 girls were enrolled. They stayed with us for 4 months. It was like an experimental batch. The experiment was to find out how they would learn to speak English quickly. They were also given tuition in their regular subjects for the compartment subjects. They were trained to speak and write, MS Word, Excel, Paint, and PowerPoint and the main focus was on “Animation”. By the end of their course, they began to speak in English. Side by side Mr. MC Pareira, an agriculturist took classes on sustainability. Fr. Roy has gone to India where he took a session on Critical Thinking at Marian College. Fr. Augustus has also gone to India. Fr. David has gone to Jhapa for the Christmas and New Year celebrations. Additionally, the NJSI team have installed the Education Smart Hub in 3 schools in Pythan: Mahendra Basic School, Nepal Rastriya Basic School and Sari Prakash Basic School.

**Ms. Shristi Thapa**



*Critical Thinking address by Fr. Roy to Marian Students*



*REIN installation in Pythan*



*TLC structures constructed by NJSI in Pythan*



# KAMAL NIWAS, BAKHUNDOL



*Fr. Roy in Marian College campus*

David offered Mass on Xavier Day in the community. Mathew joined SXJ for the Xavier Day celebrations and exhibition. The trainee students who were with us for a few months left for their hometowns in the morning. On December 6, Roy, Augustus and the Nepal Jesuit Social Institute (NJSI) team left for Kohalpur and Jajarkot for rehabilitation work after the earthquake. Jomon from Sadakbari was with us for a few days to meet friends and benefactors. On December 14 Augustus returned from Jajarkot, and Roy went to Kerala for meetings and to make his retreat. He returned on the 29th with an intern-

ship at a Management college.

We had a meeting with our neighbours to find a solution to the water logging problem in our compound. On the 17th we attended the CRN recollection and Christmas gathering at Thecho. We are having a series of maintenance on the roofs as there are cases of leakage. Augustus' birthday was celebrated with lunch for the NJSI staff. Mathew attended the Zone 3 Christmas Carol at St. Mary's and got sick because of sitting in the cold. On the 22nd there was a Christmas program at school and 23rd was the school mela.

On the 24th we went to Baniyatar for the Christmas Vigil Mass. On the 25th as usual, we were visited by many friends with Christmas cakes and gifts. In the evening we went to Campion House for dinner. David went to Maheshpur to offer the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Xavier's parish church. On the 26th Augustus went to Gayaganga to bless the marriage of a cousin and returned after three days. We had the company of Doctors Ashok, Anil, and Sharon for a special Christmas dinner to thank them for their services. On the 30th the newly maintained tennis court at SXJ was re-inaugurated and Mathew had good company of some old tennis friends. Today, 31st, Roy's 51st birthday is being celebrated.

*A.V. Mathew*

## HRDRC, SANEPA

To add the joy of the Christmas season to the Good Shepherd Jesuits and parishioners, Fr. Amrit left for Tipling on 22 December. Dr Preeshika Karki, a graduate of St. Xavier's Deonia also joined him to trek up to celebrate Christmas in the Rubi valley. Fr. Amrit officiated the vigil mass as the main celebrant of the Eucharist. He returned to the community on 26 December. Fr. Juel left for Pokhara on the 23rd to assist the Parish Priest on the Christmas vigil mass at St. Anne's



*Fr. Amrit officiating vigil mass in Good Shepherd*



*Frs. Ayar, Amit & Juel at trout farm*

Church, Bagaletole, Pokhara. He too was the main celebrant for the vigil mass. The next day on the 25th, he offered mass at MC convent at Kaundada. While in Pokhara, he visited various places including St. Mary's and MC Contemplatives and Clunys. The high point of all visits is the visit to Gandaki Trout Farm outskirts of Pokhara city where he savoured sumptuous trout, the cold water fish. He is grateful to the Pokhara Jesuits for introducing him to the taste of trout fish. He returned to his community on the 27th. The community enjoyed Christmas dinner with the families of our three co-workers on the 28th. Among the visitors of the month were Fr. Anup who returned from his sister's wedding and stayed here for some pre-Christmas shopping before heading to Tipling in the second week of December accompanied by Fr. Paul K.C and Ms. Kumari Gurung. Dr. Preeshika Karki stayed a night on the 21st before leaving for Tipling. Mr Uttam Das too stayed with us for a couple of nights when he came to Kathmandu for official work with NJS. Fr. Amrit has left for Jhapa Mission on the 29th to bless the foundation stone of a Chapel in Gherabari.



*Christmas dinner at Cluny's*

*Juel Kispotta*



# DIASPORA

## SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI



*Christmas celebration in Satya Nilayam*

The month opened with a reflective moment, contemplating the advent season, a period steeped in anticipation for the second coming of the Lord. Amidst this spiritual anticipation, a series of engaging events unfolded, each marking a distinct facet of intellectual, communal, and educational



*Michaung havocs Philosophate significance.*

However, the outset of the month was shadowed by the recent havoc wreaked by the Michaung cyclone, submerging Chennai under floods and disrupting the rhythm of daily life. The Satya Nilayam campus, like many parts of the city, was transformed into an

island. Yet, amidst the ongoing recovery efforts, a resilient spirit emerged, propelling the city into a different realm of engagement.

On December 11th, philosophy students convened at Loyola College in Chennai to celebrate World Philosophy Day. This gathering was not confined to the walls of our institution; colleagues from other institutions joined us. Stimulating discussions and dialogues unfolded, delving into the enduring relevance of philosophical thought in our contemporary societal landscape. This forum became a space for scholars and students alike to contemplate timeless inquiries, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and introspection.

Building upon this intellectual fervour, the 15th of December marked the inauguration of the Philosophizing Season, a dedicated exploration into the realm of Indian methodologies in philosophy. This immersive initiative sought to unravel the

depth and contemporary significance of indigenous philosophies, enriching our understanding of their contributions to modern discourse.

The advent of the Christmas season witnessed Chennai blossoming with the spirit of generosity and inclusivity. From the 18th to the 22nd, a spectrum of outreach programs unfolded, underscoring Chennai's unwavering commitment to uplifting marginalized communities and spreading joy during this festive period.

December 25 became a canvas for a heartwarming community Christmas celebration, where our collective joy transcended barriers. This jubilant gathering epitomized the city's unity in its beautiful diversity, weaving together threads of shared happiness and communal spirit.

Concluding the month on an enriching note, from the 28th to the 30th, an immersive workshop focused on the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IIP) and the National Education Policy (NEP). This comprehensive engagement sought to deepen our comprehension of these frameworks, emphasizing their pivotal roles in shaping educational landscapes and philosophical thought across the country.

**Sch. Bipin Bara**



*Philosophy students of Satya Nilayam*



## VINALAYA MUMBAI

December brought us a lot of joy and happiness in the juniorate. Amidst anticipation and preparation for Christmas, we were busy with different courses and activities. We were privileged to have Mr. Neil D'Souza who gave us a course on 'Basics in 'Graphic design, Video editing, Websites and Blogs, Online education, and Social media'' from the 30th of November to the 1st of December. We learnt a lot of computer skills by doing practicals. We kept ourselves busy preparing the declamation which was presented on the 7th and the 8th of December. These experiences helped us develop our communication skills and to overcome stage fears. We had a workshop from the 12th to the 15th of December in 'Films & Media' at Khandala conducted by the XIC team. This was a new experience for most of us. It broadened our understanding concerning films and media, and their impacts and influence in today's world. We had the chance to make small films. This made us aware of the procedures and struggles of shooting. On the 16th of December, we attended the ordination to the priesthood of four Bombay Jesuits at St. Peter's Church Bandra. This experience was very inspiring and moving. We had adoration and confession with the youth of the 'Holy Family Parish' on the 23rd. We prepared a beautiful crib. We decorated our whole house creatively. We gave our best to make all the people who came here feel happy and at peace. On the 21st we had a Christmas celebration with our co-workers. We had fun and played crazy games. Everyone took part which made us feel we belong to one family. On the 24th of December, we attended the vigil mass at Holy Family School ground. We shared the joy and love of Christ with the other faithful. We celebrated Christmas joyfully as a community. We visited different congregations, some families, to share the joy, peace and love of the newborn king. They too visited us and had fun, crazy games, carols and dances; we enjoyed Christmas. During this fun and frolic, we continued our weekly ministries.

*Sch. Sandeep Hansda SJ.*



06 January	Fr. Bobby Thadathil
06 January	Sch. Vinay Lakra
10 January	Sch. Lawrence Kerketta
12 January	Fr. Sanctius Beck
15 January	Sch. Sumit Samir Tirkey
19 January	Sch. Ashish Ekka
20 January	Fr. George P.M.



- \* Br. Xavier S. Arockiasamy, S.J. (MDU 92/68) passed away on 3 December 2023, at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli.
- \* Fr Peter Marandi, S.J. (DUM, 77/53) passed away on 05 December 2023 in Raiganj, West Bengal.
- \* Fr. Lourduraj Arokiasamy, S.J. (CEN 78/60) passed away on 12 December 2023, at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul.
- \* Fr. George Hilarion Thakur, S.J. (PAT 68/48) passed away on 16 December 2023, at Asha Deep, Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

### THOSE WHO SERVED IN NEPAL

13/01/2016	Laurier C. Harvey
15/01/2023	Casper J. Miller
28/01/2000	Robert J. Mayer