

## E- SAGARMATHA SAMACHAR

Vol. 40 No. 2

Nepal Jesuits

February 2025

### TERTIANSHIP

Fr. Amit Lakra Sitagara, Hazaribagh  
Fr. B. Rajasekaran Sitagara, Hazaribagh

### REGION SUPERIOR'S PROGRAMME

February 2025

2-4 DAR-NEP Superiors' Meeting, Matigara  
05 DAR-NEP Joint Consult, Matigara  
(Pray for the success of the aforesaid meetings)  
14-25 JCSA, Chennai



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

February 2025



For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



## OURS IN PUBLICATION

1. Thadathil, B. J. (2024). Importance of Quality Education and its Challenges in Nepal. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 9(9). <https://doi.org/10.38124/ijisrt/IJISRT24SEP1004>
2. Thadathil, B. J. (2024). Role of Christianity in Shaping Modern Nepal: Catholic Perception on education, Health, Art and Culture. *International Journal Multidisciplinary Educational Research*, 13(12). [www.ijmer.in](http://www.ijmer.in)
3. Thadathil, B. J. (2024). Servant Leadership in Catholic Schools: A Study Conducted in the Nepalese Context. *International Journal Multidisciplinary Educational Research*, 13(8). [www.ijmer.in](http://www.ijmer.in)
4. Thadathil, B. J. (2024). Transformative leadership: Exploring the role and responsibilities of teachers and student leaders practicing leadership in higher secondary education in Nepal. *International Journal Novel Research and Development*, 9(12). [www.ijnrd.org](http://www.ijnrd.org)
5. Shreya Singh, S. & Thadathil, B.J. (2024). Exploring the Role of Educational Institutions in Fostering Self-esteem and Motivation among Students through the Lens of Looking-Glass Self Theory. *International Journal for Innovative Research in Multidisciplinary Field*, 10(6). DOIs:10.2015/IJIRMF/202406033



*MUN group at SXJ*



*MUN discussion at SXJ*



*Fr. Ajay greets a MUN member*

The winter break was filled with exciting adventures and achievements for St. Xavier's Jawalakhel (SXJ) students and community members. Some class 12 students embarked on a thrilling tour of Darjeeling and Sikkim, enjoying the serene beauty of the hills and soaking in unforgettable experiences. Back at school, the SXJ Model United Nations (January 10–12) was a massive success, with class 12 students organizing the event for the first time. With 280 participants, it showcased exceptional leadership and teamwork. Meanwhile, a few class 11 students went to the Netherlands from January

12–22 for the Global Exploration Program, where they stayed with host families and explored Dutch culture, bringing back fresh perspectives and unique experiences. The junior classes also had their share of adventures. On January 24, class 4 students visited the Narayanhiti Museum, delving into Nepal's royal history. January 25 brought the much-anticipated Fr. Niesen 6-A-Side Girls' Football Tournament, where our girls clinched second place, demonstrating their outstanding talent and determination. The school community welcomed several guests this month, including Fr. Peter Bhujel, who visited Nepal with his family, and Mr. Alex, who wishes to contribute scholarships to St. Xavier's School, Deonia. Fr. Boniface returned after

his jubilee celebration, and Fr. Raja came back just in time for the new term. Fr. James also spent a few days with us during his winter break.

As the school gears up for the next academic year, the community is actively engaged in meticulous planning. With such a vibrant start to 2025, the stage is set for more remarkable achievements and memorable moments. Stay tuned for more updates from SXJ, where every moment is an opportunity to grow, learn, and celebrate!

***Rajasekaran***



*Cl. 12 tour to Darjeeling*



*Fr. Niesen Girls Inter school football tournament at SXJ*

# St. Xavier's School, Godavari



Students of Class 8 visited Bauddha and Pashupatinath, engaging in a rich cultural and spiritual experience on 2 December. This exposure tour provided valuable lessons in history, heritage, and spirituality.

On the 3rd of December, Xavier's Day was celebrated with an assembly for all the students. The 27th Fr. Moran Memorial Football Tournament for junior school children commenced on the 5th, with 14 schools participating. As one of the first grassroots-level football tournaments, it fosters young talent and sportsmanship among participants, attracting significant attention. The event, which concluded on the 20th, was a grand success, bringing students together and showcasing their football skills. Little Angels' School, Hatiban, emerged as the winner, while Don Bosco School, Lubhu, was the runner-up for the second consecutive year.

Class 9 students explored the Panauti Silk Farm on 6 December, gaining hands-on insights into



*Hiking to surrounding hills*



*Scout camping in the school premises*



*Class 11 & 12 Family Evening*



*SXG students visit Pashupati Temple*

silk production and sustainable practices as part of their educational tour.

Students from Classes 9 to 12 went on a hike on the 7th of December, promoting fitness, teamwork, and a connection with nature.

On 14 December, the Annual Science, Maths, and Arts Exhibition, along with a Blood Donation Camp, was organized. The exhibition showcased how modern minds can think outside the box, presenting creative and innovative ideas. The Blood Donation Camp reflected and reiterated the commitment of St. Xavier's Godavari (SXG) to social responsibility.

Class 11 and 12 students celebrated their Family Evenings on 19 and 20 December, respectively. The young students thrilled their parents with spectacular performances, celebrating talent, unity, and family spirit.

Under the "Prakriti Initiative," SXG students and staff cleaned the Phulchoki mountainous region on the 21st of December, emphasizing environ-

# St. Xavier's School, Godavari



mental awareness and community action. On the same day, Fr. Vijay, the principal, left for India for his home visit.

SXG students gave excellent performances at the Godavari-3 Inter-School Talent Festival and Science Exhibition, coordinated by the Ward 3 Office at the Botanical Garden, on the 23rd. The following day, the school held a joyous Christmas celebration for the students and staff, after which it closed for winter vacation. The staff had their Christmas dinner in the afternoon and exchanged gifts.

Fr. Lawrence provided spiritual services to the people of Pokhara from 23 to 26 December. From the 28th to the 31st of December, the school organized Scout Camps for Classes 6 to 12.



*LA champion of MM tournament*

The focus of the event was on leadership, discipline, and developing survival skills in the outdoors. During the winter holidays, Fr. Sanctius worked with the maintenance staff to ensure that classrooms were cleaned, broken taps in the children's and staff toilets were replaced, and the school premises were tidied up to provide a better teaching-learning environment when the school reopened. Classes for 11 and 12 resumed on 12 January 2025,



*A glimpse of Science Exhibition*

while classes for 1 to 10 resumed on 16 January.

From 11 to 16 January, a BTC/PTC Basic Scout Training Camp was organized at SXG, initiated by the Godavari Municipality Scout Office. Fr. Vijay returned to Godavari on the 11th of January.

Fr. Sanctius' birthday was celebrated on the 12th. The religious from the Godavari area were invited for lunch, while Jesuits from the valley were invited for dinner.



*Xavier Day celebration*

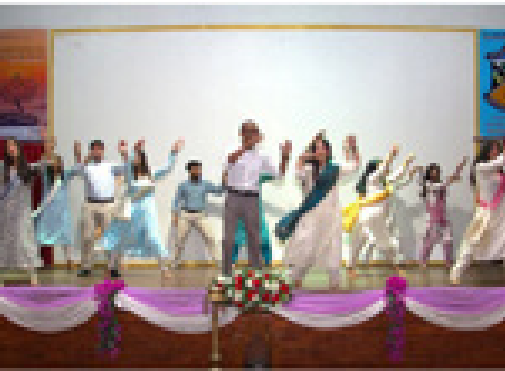
Subarna Sir participated in the Darjeeling-Nepal Jesuit Collaborators Planning Meeting at Matigara on the 18th of January.

The school organized a one-day hike for students from Classes 5 to 8 on the 29th. The students marched to various mountain peaks in and around the Godavari area. On the same day, a Joint School Futsal Tournament for Classes 11 and 12 was organized at Rosebud School. Fr. James P.A. made his annual retreat under the guidance of Fr. Lawrence Maniyar during the first week of January. Fr. Lawrence left for Tamil Nadu, India, for his home visit on 15 January.

***George P.M.***



# CAMPION HOUSE, MAITIGHAR



*UDAAN display of dance & music*

Despite the winter holidays, the campus generated plenty of energy and warmth. The Microbiology Department celebrated Family Week. Scientists though they are, they revealed their artistic side too in a creative exhibition of micro-culture art. Not to be outdone, UDAAN countered with their display of art and culture, music and dance. Off the stage and out of the lab, St. Xavier's College hit the road, literally. Boys and girls ran in the college's 10th mini-marathon. Further afield, a group of our staff and students toured Europe during the winter holidays. Europe will never be the same again. On the community side, Augustine sought and found inner peace in Pokhara. The



*Microbiology department*

MC Sisters were happy to offer him refuge during his retreat there. He earned his daily bread by offering Mass for them throughout. Fr. Boby took advantage of the winter holidays to attend his niece's wedding back home in Kerala. Visitors to Champion House included the Nuncio and Fr. James, MEP. The Nuncio was interested in hearing about Tibet. Mike was happy to oblige him. Fr. James, an American priest, works in Tamilnadu. India visa rules require him to leave the country periodically



*Mini-marathon by SXC*

and Champion House is his refuge here in Nepal at those times.

## *Jesuit Sources*



*A Mini-marathon winner*



*Mini-marathon by SXC*



*Mini-marathon inaugural program*



*Mini-marathon participants*



*Mini-marathon inaugural program*

# ARRUPE NIWAS, DEONIA

The annual science, art, and craft exhibition was held on the 13th. The science exhibition was for classes 6 to 12, whereas the art and craft exhibition was for the junior classes. Students from Moran Memorial and Greenland School visited the exhibition. We also had plenty of parents visiting the exhibition. On the 17th, we held the finals of the senior debate competition. On the same day, we had a staff meeting in which Jiju reminded them about the school's safeguarding policies and what was expected of them. After that, Sanjay addressed the staff, bringing to their

notice a number of concerns. The annual staff picnic was on the 25th in Kalika Simsar, bringing together most of the staff for a day of relaxation and fun. On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee, we organized a sports meet on the 29th. Different schools from the nearby municipalities, including SXS and MMS, participated in the competitions. We had basket-



*SXD staff picnic*



*Science Exhibition at SXD*

ball, football, and volleyball competitions for different categories of students. The school canteen is under new management, and the feedback so far has been very good. The community had a recollection on the 14th, making use of the Makar Sankranti holiday. Frs. Silas, Ignatius Rai, and George PM stopped by our

community on their way to attend the installation of the Bp. Paul Simick as the Bagdogra bishop. Sch. Niroj also spent a few days of his semester break with us, rekindling his connection with the students and staff here. We welcomed Arun Pradhan to Nepal on the 20th, accompanied by 36 of his beloved parishioners and his successor Justine and assistant Pankaj. Mr. Alex Gavrus from France spent a few days with us to explore the possibility of sponsoring a couple of students.

*Arrupe Niwas correspondent*



*Art & Craft exhibition*

## HRDRC, SANEPA

Many community members felt that last January was not as cold as previous years. The seasons seemed to be drastically moving forward way too fast. Fr. Ayar and Fr. Amit came from Pokhara and stayed with us. Fr. Amit renewed his driving license when Ayar spent two days learning QuickBooks accounting software under the guidance of Mr Kiran Maharjan. They returned to Pokhara as soon as their purpose of coming here was over. The next batch of guests from our extended community from Pokhara and Tipling were Deva and Peter who stayed for a few days. Fr. Thomas's birthday celebration was anticipated for 29 January. All valley Jesuits were invited. His actual birthday is on 2 February. The work on replacing the roof began on 30 January. You will not see old tiles anymore, instead red tin roof will catch your eyes.

*Juel Kispotta*

# FABER HOUSE, MAHESHPUR



*Winners of President Cup*



*Participants of President Cup*

Krish Murmu left the school. However, they are replaced now by Mrs. Nirmala Katuwada and Miss. Srijana Katuwal as our teaching faculty. Mr. Abi Puri is appointed as a part-time dance teacher. Our students are getting ready to participate in the dance and science exhibitions to be conducted at the Nagarpalika level.

*Nicholas Christuraj*



*Picnic for junior students*

In the 7th President Cup organized by the Bhadrapur Nagarpalika, this year our students won 23 medals: 1 gold, 3 silver, and 19 bronze. It is encouraging to see every year our school name is going up in the medal tally. On the 13th some selected students from our school were taken to St. Xavier's School, Deonia to see

the science exhibition. On the 18th the students received their 3rd term Exam results. Our Class 3,4 & 5 students were taken to a nearby picnic spot on the 24th. The day was colder than the other days. The children enjoyed the picnic, despite the hard weather. The smiling faces, bubbling energy, charming dance, caring friendship, and enjoying a delicious meal defeated the hard weather of the day. Two of our teachers Mrs. Bina Poudel and Mr.



*Picnic for junior students*



*Senior students picnic*

## KAMAL NIWAS, BAKHUNDOL



*Building committee visit SXS*

January was busy and occupied with many activities here at Kamal Niwas. On January 3, Mr. Giovanni

Antocin, who came from Caritas, Italy, visited Nepal to monitor the work of Caritas Nepal. He stayed at Kamal Niwas for a couple of days. That same evening, we organized a community dinner, and Good Shepherd Provincial Pushpa along with three sisters from Kathmandu joined us. Niroj's first semester exams began on the 5th. From January 6 to January 8, Father Augustus and his team went to a place called Khaniyabs for three days to collect data. On January 9, Father Mathew traveled to Palpa where he stayed for a week to meet and support the sisters working in that area. On the same day, Father Augustus's brother came

to Kathmandu for medical treatment and stayed with us at Kamal Niwas for a couple of days. On



*With mobile clinic team*

the 12th, Father David returned after a month-long home visit. Upon his return, he joined his team for data collection work. Around the same time, Father Augustus also went for three days of data collection. After finishing his exams, Niroj left for Jhapa on the 21st to spend a week on his winter vacation. Father Mathew traveled to Siraha on the 28th to attend a meeting.

*Niroj Minj*

## NEPAL JESUIT SOCIAL INSTITUTE



*Community visits*



*Students group discussions*



*Interviewing Education officer*

January has been a very productive and busy month for the NJSI staff primarily focused on field-work. As we are heading towards the Fe y Algeria movement, we are in an early stage of planning to improve the quality of education in the schools we've previously collaborated with. We have carefully chosen eight schools for this initiative based on factors like proximity, large student populations, strong coordination, solid relationships with staff, a focus on secondary education,

and previous involvement with the REIN project. These schools are located in various districts: two in Dhadhing, two in Kavre, and one each in Ramechhapp, Gorkha, Sindhupalchowk, and Dolakha. Our staff were scattered in different locations to collect in-depth data from these schools. We collected information from a various stakeholder, including school principals, teachers, students, members of the School Management Committee (SMC), Parents Teachers Association (PTA) members, parents, ward chairpersons, and Education Officers from the Rural Municipality. We had a sort of questionnaire for each individ-

ual. We used the method of one-to-one interviews, group discussions, observations, and secondary data analysis. We are almost at the end of the completion of collecting the data. From the next month, we will be engrossed in setting the data in a structure and more in the analytical part. Additionally, NJSI staff have been holding regular online meetings with Xavier, our consultant, to strategize the next steps. Xavier has been a great guide in our efforts to improve the quality of education in rural Nepal.

*Ms. Shristi Thapa*



*Interaction with students*



*Interviewing a Ward member*



*Teachers' group discussion*



# SHISHU BIKAS KENDRA, POKHARA

The students of Shishu Bikas Kendra (SBK) in the cold January had regular drills, exercises, singing, and dancing. It also had sports day practice outdoors which kept them warm. Most of the students enjoy the outdoor activities. The staff had a meeting for the annual sports day planning and shared the responsibilities. Miss Bibiyana's coming to SBK changed the Maya café's activities. She with the help of the students prepares good and tasty cakes, cookies, and relish at lunchtime. Few new students are admitted at the center and they are doing well. Our supporting staff made radish pickles grown locally. Fr. Mathew visited SBK and met a few students and teachers. The Thanksgiving Mass and New Year 2025 Mass at the church was celebrated. Fr. Amit took up Hemja Mass in the winter months. A new Jesuit priest,



*Students' outdoor activity*



*Preparation of local delicacies*

Fr. Devadhas Vargeese is welcomed at the church. Fr. Amit took Fr. Devadhas around Pokhara introducing him to different convents and communities for Mass. Thanks to Fr. Mathew for celebrating Mass at the Church and sharing the experience of the Holy Land with the parishioners. Sr. Rosalia Rai, SJC celebrated Golden Jubilee, her 50 years of Religious life in the congregation with the Pokhara religious group. The SPC Sisters from Kathmandu spent a week introducing and familiarizing a new member at Pokhara. The new 50 cushions are purchased for the church to accommodate more children sitting on the floor. Fr. Ayar Kujur celebrated his 8th priestly ordination anniversary. The parishioners congratulated him on the occasion. The nearby convent Sisters were invited for the fellowship meal.

The Pokhara Jesuits managed a few weeks of cooking and cleaning during the winter break. The support staff, Bishnu Didi occasionally came on duty and helped in cleaning the compound.



*SBK Indoor Assembly*

Fr. Devadhas, a new community member is received warmly at Pokhara. He was escorted by the previous community members from Khurseong. They stayed a few days and enjoyed the green and clean tourist city. Fr. Devadhas has joined the Masters in English program at PNC, Bagar, Pokhara. Fr. Augustine, SJ descended to PJC from the hills after making a good retreat at MC Sisters' place. Fr. Mathew with his mobile clinic team from Gorbanda, Tansen went around visiting the city sites. Fr. Ayar and Amit went to Sanepa Kathmandu. Fr. Amit completed his work and returned to Pokhara. Fr. Ayar remained for a few days to get familiar with accounting and QuickBooks software. Thanks to Kiran Dai for helping him with it.

“The purpose of our lives is to be happy.” – Dalai Lama

*Amit Lakra*



*Fr. Deva in Hemja with GS Sisters*



*SPCs at Church with other sisters*



*Sr. Rosalia celebrates Golden Jubilee*

# SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS

Aruna Bhawan girls welcomed the New Year 2025 and also bade farewell to 2024 with joy and enthusiasm. The celebrations were filled with dancing, singing, and a delicious feast around the warmth of a fire. The students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all well-wishers for their generous support throughout the past year, making 2024 a memorable one. On January 2, 2025, Gayan Bigyan School commenced its examination. Meanwhile, other schools had already completed their exams. Sampurna School and Shree Mahalaxmi School began their winter vacations on January 10, 2025. During this time, both centers orga-



*Fr. Juel with winner of a group game*

nized a range of activities to keep students engaged and entertained. A meeting was held on January 19, 2024, at 12:30 pm, where the staff discussed the annual picnic and their roles in the picnic. The Center organized an annual picnic in Nagarkot. This picnic saw the participation of all students, staff, and Fathers, who enjoyed a day of bonding and joy, leaving behind their daily struggles. The staff played an active role in ensuring the students had a delightful experience. Moreover, Mahalaxmi School initiated computer classes in their newly established computer lab, while Gayan Bigyan School hosted a sports week including both indoor and outdoor games. Mahalaxmi School announced the examination results, with student Nisha Sunar receiving good marks. Gayan Bigyan



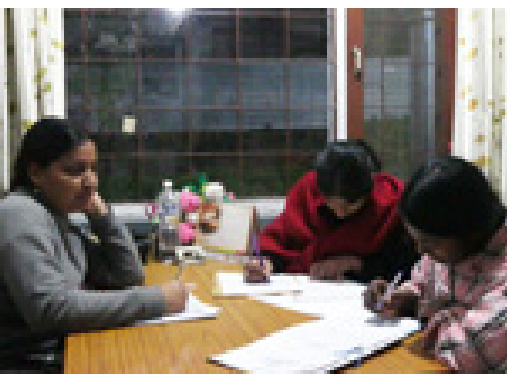
*Annual Picnic in Nagarkot*



*Aruna Bhawan girls at a stadium*

School and Sampurna School also published their results with overall good performance from the students. Pre-board examinations began on January 16th for both Gayan Bigyan School and Sampurna School, marking an important step in the academic calendar. On January 14, the community celebrated Magesakaranti by providing ghee, Chaku, and sweet potatoes. Lastly, the Nepal Veterinary Association organized a “Right-to-Protein” run in Kathmandu on January 25. Fifteen girls from Aruna Bhawan participated in the event. Each participant was awarded a medal for their efforts.

***Ms. Pratikshya Dhakal***



*Ms. Pratikshya tutors girls*



*Aruna Bhawan girls group dynamics*



*Girls study outdoors in winter*

# ST. IGNATIUS PARISH, BANIYATAR

In a blink of an eye, 2024 has faded fast into oblivion giving birth to a new era of peace and prosperity. Quite a few parishioners came to the church on the 31st of December in the evening to give thanks to the Lord for all the blessings received throughout the year 2024 and also to say goodbye to the yesteryear 2024 and at the same time to welcome the New Year 2025 with plenty of hopes and aspirations knocking at the door of the Roman God Janus which is the root word of January. This God Janus has two eyes in front and two behind simultaneously looking at the past and gazing into the future. So let us learn from the past and confidently forge ahead into the future.

Interestingly the New Year shook us up on the 5th of January, 2025 at 6.40 a.m. with a quake. Its epicenter was in Tibet with a magnitude of 7.1 degrees on the Richer Scale. Still, those in Kathmandu felt the move-

ment of the Seismic Plate with an intensity of 6.8 degrees which was enough to shake even the unmoved mover. I was about to run out, leaving the unfinished Eucharistic Meal that was being offered in Preranalaya Chapel. The sisters and children remained seated waiting for a 'run out' command from the high priest and the high priest was shivering in his pants not knowing what to do. Thank God, everything came to a standstill in a few seconds.

Various activities took place in the parish at the beginning of the Jubilee Year of the Roman Catholic Church.



*Bidding adieu to year 2024*

On a fine morning an old Hindu lady, Lakshmi Gurung called the parish priest requesting an emergency baptism. I reached her home and found her seriously ill and was unable to move out of her bed, even finding it very difficult to talk. I gave her an emergency Baptism, Confirmation, Communion, and Extreme Unction, all in one go. Her Baptismal name is Nina Gurung. She was 75 years old and was suffering from some unknown disease. She was taken to Harisiddhi Cancer Hospital only to impoverish the family. She was a widow and she died in a few days after receiving baptism, leaving her



*Newly blessed married couple*

five daughters in great pain and sorrow.

A few more events worth noting here are the CFC (Couples for Christ) Seminar conducted by the animators of the Church of the Assumption, Dhobighat. Yet another scenic event was a mixed marriage between Sushma Gurung, a Catholic from Baniyatar, and Suman Limbu Tumbapo, a Hindu from Jhapa. On Saturday, the 25th of this month SDB Father Stephen from Techo officiated the Mass in Baniyatar while the PP went to Lubhu to deliver a talk to SDBs and FMAs as a preparation for the fast approaching Feast of St. Don Bosco. Now the latest news is that I have recruited a new watchman for the Parish since we don't have a night watchman. His name is Kaalae. On a few occasions, I caught him red-handed sleeping at night. Please bang the gate before you enter the church premises, especially at night.

**Paul K.C.**



*Seminar for CFC members*



# GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH, TIPLING



*Installation of bust of late Fr. Cap*



*Ice-breaking with volunteers and locals*



*A funeral ceremony*

The New Year began with the Youth and Crus Vir Meeting. We had mass with parishioners on 1 January at 7:30 a.m.; there were about 100 people gathered for mass. Two of our youths have gone to technical training at Thecho. Late Selku Rani Ghales' family offered a memorial mass for the departed soul at 8 a.m. on the 5th and fed all the people. The third term school exam began on the 6th. On the 7th Fr. Peter and some senior youths went to Lingjo and offered mass and baptized three persons there. Sch. Valerian from St. Xavier's Godavari and Br. William from Assumption Church came to Tipling and spent

six days with us. Fifteen Australian students with Fr. Ramesh, S.J., (Australian Jesuit) came and stayed in our compound for a week. On Magay Sankrati (Jan. 14), we had a picnic for Youths and Crus Vir children in our compound. They had a mass, a good meal, and games. About 70 of them enjoyed the day. Parmen Lama from Durbang expired at night. Fr. Peter conducted his funeral service in Durbhang on the 16th. He had to walk for about two hours to reach the place. A large number of people were gathered for the funeral. The next day Fr. Norbert went to Durbang to bless the salt testing ceremony. Two boys: Ashim and Surya had Chevar their first hair-cutting ceremony on the 22nd. The entire village was busy with celebrations and dances. Late Fr. Cap Miller's bust was blessed on

the 16th evening by Fr. Peter. He addressed the gathering about Fr. Miller's simple and caring life. Fr. Miller was always a man for others and a community builder. There was an eight-member team from Tipling village who did the work of building the platform, and pillar and getting the land at the entrance of the village. Many Villagers were present for the events and appreciated it very much.

*Peter Chettri*



*Fr. Peter with newly baptized*



*After baptism gift sharing*



*Baptism ceremony in a house*



# DIASPORA

## PREMAL JYOTI, AHMEDABAD

January unfolded as a month of gratitude, reflection, and togetherness at Premal Jyoti, marking the dawn of the new year with meaningful activities and heartfelt celebrations. The community began the new year with a heartfelt gesture of gratitude and camaraderie towards our collaborators. On January 1, we dedicated the day to honouring and expressing our appreciation for their invaluable efforts in ensuring the smooth functioning of our community. Through engaging and fun-filled games, we expressed our deep appreciation, creating moments of shared happiness. The day reached its spiritual zenith with a special thanksgiving Mass, presided over by our Rector, Fr. James Savarimuthu SJ, in which we prayed for their well-being. The celebrations culminated in a fellowship meal, fostering a deeper sense of community and mutual respect.

Two CMI (Carmelites of Mary Immaculate) brothers from the Rajkot province are currently residing with us while pursuing their bachelor's studies. On January 3, we celebrated the feast of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and the CMI congregation in our community. We joined the CMI brothers in their celebration, wishing them a joyous feast day. The mass on this occasion was celebrated by their Vicar Provincial, Fr. Jose Mangalamkunnel CMI. In his homily, he shared the inspiring charism and history of the CMI congregation, enriching our understanding of

their mission.

On the 9th, we attended a meeting titled "Speak Up," organized by Fr. Cedrick Prakash SJ at Loyola School Hall. The event, presided over by Archbishop Thomas Macwan of Gandhinagar diocese, featured Mr. Derek O'Brien, Member of Parliament from West Bengal, as the keynote speaker. Over 200 attendees, both religious and lay, participated in this important gathering. The discussion focused on the persecution and challenges faced by Christians in India, highlighting the struggles they endure in practicing their faith. Mr. O'Brien encouraged everyone to speak out and stand up for our rights. It was an enriching and thought-provoking experience.

Later in the month, on January 25 and 26, we had our monthly recollection, led by Fr. Durai Fernand SJ, the Provincial of the Gujarat Province. He preached on the themes of "Religious Life" and "Religious Vows," offering practical and inspiring reflections on living our call faithfully and making Christ our sole model. On the same day, Fr. Durai conferred the ministries of acolyte and lector on three first-year brothers, marking a significant milestone in their spiritual journey.

Currently, we are deeply engaged in the preparations for the upcoming CIA-I exams, scheduled from February 4 to 8.

*Sch. Anthony Hembrom*

## ASHA KIRAN, MANGALURU

Christmas celebration was filled with joy and love. We shared our joy with the neighbors by singing carols from house to house. Just after the Christmas celebration, we begin our tridum from 26 to 29 December 2024. The tridum was based on DSS which was facilitated by Fr. Pradeep SJ. This recollection helped us strengthen our bond with God and with ourselves. On

29 December, we set out for Goa. We visited the Basilica of Bom Jesus on the 30th. We got to see the relics of Saint Francis Xavier. During our visit, we also renewed our vows in the Chapel of St. Francis Xavier.

The transition into the new year was marked by a vigil Mass to welcome 2025. In early January, we began preparing for our Annual Day celebra-

tion, which took place on January 12, 2025. The theme for the event was “Pilgrims of Hope.” The annual day was dedicated to Saint John Berchmans. The Annual Day was an occasion for the entire community to come together and celebrate our feast with guests. This began with the liturgical order and ended with the cultural program. Everyone made the event even more memorable, and the presence of our guests enhanced the joy of the celebration. It was a day filled with laughter, gratitude, and shared joy. On January 14, we participated in a CRI (Christian Religious Institute) gathering. This gathering brought together members from different congregations to share joy and fellowship. Fr. Ronald Pius SJ facilitated the event and led us

in a session that explored the connection between psychology and spirituality. His guidance helped us better understand ourselves and our relationships with God and others, offering valuable insights into personal growth and spiritual well-being. After the celebrations, we focused on preparing for our internal exams, which took place from January 20 to 25, 2025. Finally, on the 26th, we celebrated the 76th Republic Day in our Asha Kiran Community. This occasion became a moment to reflect on our country’s journey and honor the values of freedom, unity, and justice. Overall the month was filled with celebrations, spiritual growth, and community building.

*Sch. Sandeep Hansda*

## MANRESA, KALIMPONG



*Group game-Cluny & Jesuit novices*

On the 27th of December, to share our Christmas joy, we went caroling at the MC Convent on Relli Road. The novices, through their singing, dancing, and creativity, brought joy and happiness to the inmates. On the 28th, we had a Christmas gathering along with the Cluny novices. It was a day filled with fun and relaxation. Fr. Patel celebrated the Thanksgiving Mass, which was preceded by a time of adoration on the 31st. The novices created a “Memory Tree” capturing the highlights and memories of

2024. We welcomed the New Year by staying vigilant with a bonfire and dancing.

On the 2nd of January, we held a “Charity Encounter” among ourselves. It was a day dedicated to fraternal correction and love. On the 4th, all the first-year novices departed for their Village Experiment



in the parishes of Lolay, Sakyong, and Kurseong. Meanwhile, the second-year novices began their Work Experiment, spending four days at Gandhi Ashram School and the remaining ten days at the novitiate itself. During this period, the novices experienced the reality of labor and empathized with the

struggles of daily wage earners. The PCF of the Chennai Province, Fr. Philip, visited the novices from the CEN and MDU provinces on the 14th. Starting 21 January, the second-year novices began their “Book Reading and Review” session—a focused period of reading, reflection, and reviewing. During this time, Fr. Xavier Alangaram traveled to Alipurduar to undertake his Annual Retreat.

*N.S. Chris Derrick Mariyo*



*Cluny novice receives her prize from Fr. Xavier, S.J.*

# VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI



*Community picnic at park of Humayun Tomb*

As the new year arrived, temperatures in Delhi dropped further. Many of us attended the late-night Eucharist at our parish to welcome the new year in prayer. After the Christmas holidays, classes resumed on January 6. During the break, we participated in a two-day session on Jesuit spirituality. Before returning to academics, household responsibilities were handed over to the new team. January was a month of celebrations. We marked the birthdays of Ashish and Lawrence and, on January 14, joined our Tamil brothers at the college to celebrate Pongal. On the 20th, Fr. Roberto Jaramillo, Director of the Secretariat for Social Justice and Ecology of the Society, delivered an insightful talk to the scholastics. The following day, January 21, we enjoyed a community picnic at a park near Humayun's Tomb—a perfect setting to relax, unwind, and recharge. Republic Day brought more opportunities for engagement. On January 26, some of us managed to secure tickets to witness the Republic Day parade, while Ashish and Lawrence joined the Nepali Catholic community in Delhi for a picnic. From January 27 to 30, we welcomed Fr. Shajumon, the Darjeeling Provincial, for his visitation. During this time, Fr. Paul Chemparathy also visited and joined us for dinner with the Provincial. The visitation concluded on January 30 with a Eucharistic celebration.

*Sch. Deepak Jans*

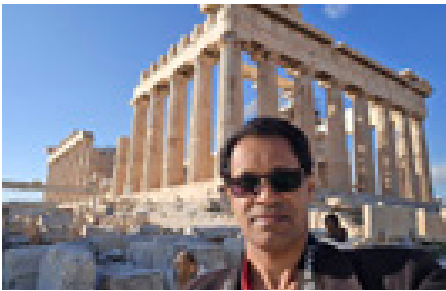


*Fr. Sajumon & Fr. Paul with DARNEP scholastics*



*Ashish & Lawrence at Nepali Catholic picnic*

# ENRECURTURAS, MADRID



*Acropolis Athens*



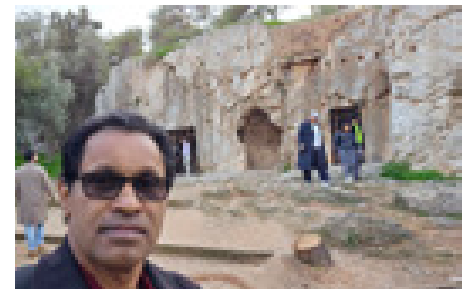
*Museo Prado*



*Athens theater*

The new year 2025 began with my chance to visit friends in Rome and North Italy. I was happy to meet some of my old friends in Rome and in North Italy. I had the chance to meet the volunteers who had worked with NJSI earlier. The highlight of the New Year tour was the visit to Athens in Greece. This was a place I always wanted to visit ever since I studied Philosophy and got introduced to Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. My visit mostly centered around the area of Acropolis, the center of the citadel and temple dedicated to Athena the goddess of Athens. The place unfolds the visible historical remnants right from 1700 BCE from the time

of the ancient Mycenaeans, even though it can be traced to the Neolithic period of 3000 BCE. At the foot of Acropolis lies the Agora of Athens where the first public gathering of Socrates and Plato took place which later moved to the Pnyx hills at a higher level where the first democracy was established in the world. Adjacent to the Phnyx hill is the Filopappou slopes, a forest where the prison of Socrates is carved into the bedrock. This was the place where Socrates was given Hemlock the poison as was the method of execution for his accused activities of misleading the youth with critical thinking and not showing respect to the Greek gods and goddesses. Returning to Madrid on the 8th of January, I spent some time continuing my work with Entreculturas and meeting people. I also took the chance to visit the Museum of Prado, the most famous one in Madrid where many original paintings of



*Socrates prison*



*With Beppe & Maria*

Ruben, Titian, Van Dyck, Goya, etc. On the 13th, Monday, the community of Colegio Nuestra Senora gathered to give me a farewell and to attend a presentation about the development of Fe y Alegria in Nepal. On 15 January, I returned to Kerala, and spent a couple of days with Mr. M. C. Pereira, at his 95-acre coffee estate with two beautiful ponds listening to his agricultural expertise. Now, relaxing at home in Idukki and preparing for the upcoming workshops for the Social work students at Marian College, Kuttikkanam.

**Roy Sebastian**



*Visit to coffee processing factory*



*With MC Sir touring coffee state*



*At MC Sir's banglow*



# SATYANILAYAM



*Pongol Celebration*

January was full of events, celebrations, and reflections. We started the year with a Triduum from the 2nd to the 4th of January, a time for deep reflection, prayer, and renewal. On the 6th, I celebrated my birthday with joy and warmth. The next day, 7 January, we took time to evaluate the recent events in our living groups. It was a moment to pause, reflect, and learn from our experiences so that we can move forward with greater awareness. On the 13th of January, we had a double celebration. We celebrated the birthday of Sch. Ashish Soy (Darjeeling). On the same day, the Second-year students went on an educational tour to Pondicherry, where we visited Sri Aurobindo Ghosh's samadhi. It was an inspiring journey filled with spiritual and intellectual enrichment. The festival of Pongal brought us a much-needed holiday on the 14th, and the celebrations continued on the 18th when we gathered as a community to mark this traditional festival with joy and gratitude. Finally, we wrapped up the month with an enriching International Seminar on the 23rd and the 24th. The theme, "Philosophical Reflection on Social and Ecological Justice," sparked deep discussions and insights. It was a privilege to engage in such meaningful academic activity.

*Sch. Vinay Lakra*



02 February	Fr. Thomas Nedumparambil
14 February	Fr. Peter Damien Bhujel



- + **Fr. Walter Saldanha, SJ** (PUN, 97/69) passed away on 28 January 2025 in Pune.
- + **Fr. Thomas Karthanam, SJ** (PAT, 86/65) passed away on 27 January 2025 at Xavier Bhawan, Patna.
- + **Fr. Cosmas Kurikkattil, SJ** (GUJ, 68/50) passed away on 11 January 2025 in Ahmedabad.
- + **Fr. Richard Sequeira, SJ** (KAR, 90/70) passed away on 10 January at St. Philomena's Hospital in Bengaluru.
- + **Sch. Anand Minj, SJ** (RAN 28/06) passed away on 02 January 2025 at Samford Hospital, Ranchi

## THOSE WHO SERVED IN NEPAL

05/02/1972	Richard C. Curry
21/02/2000	John H. Lane
29/02/2004	Eugene L. Watrin