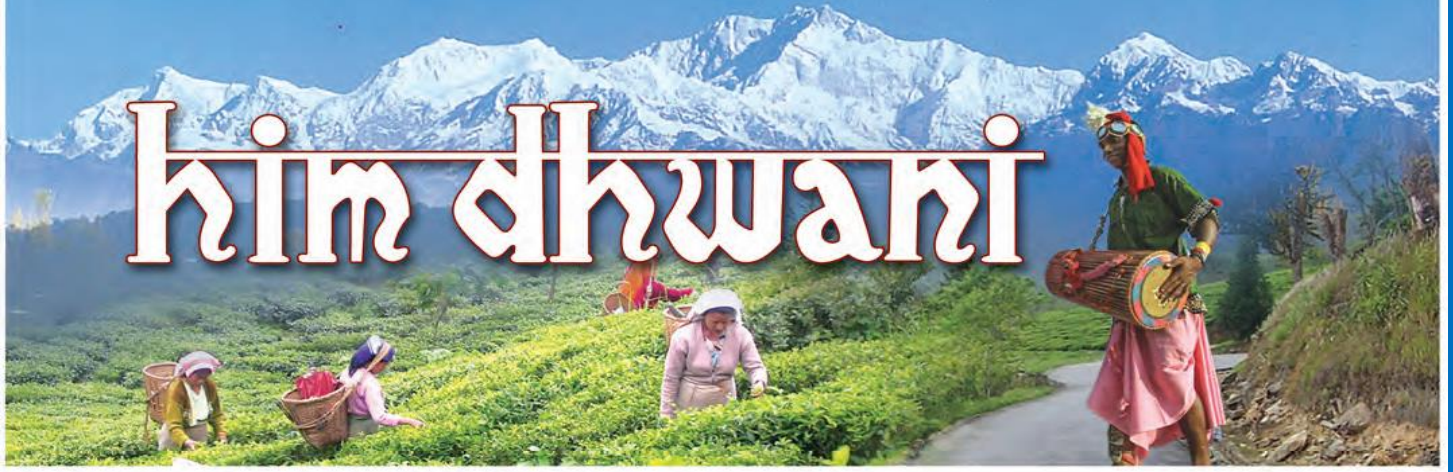


him dhvani



Prabhu Jisu Residence, Post Box 3, Matigara – 734 010, Dt Darjeeling, West Bengal

No.03

Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits

March 2024

APPOINTMENTS BY FR PROVINCIAL

- Fr Binod Kerketta – Headmaster, St Peter’s Primary, Gayaganga
- Fr Justin Bage – Minister, SJS, Darjeeling
- Fr Roshan Kiro – Vocation Promotor (DAR & NEP) (w.e.f. 10th June 2024)
- Fr Frederick Baraik – Spiritual Father, Premanjali (Residence, Inigo Bhavan)
- Fr Samuel Simick (NEP) – Prefect, St Joseph’s School, Darjeeling (w.e.f. 15th April 2024)
- Fr Irenius Guria (NEP) – Minister, Loyola College, Namchi (w.e.f. 1st April 2024)
- Fr Jose Ollukaran – Minister and Co-Pastor, Gayaganga
- Fr Ajay Lakra – Assigned to Nepal Region
- Fr Basil Toppo – Assistant to Province Treasurer (w.e.f. 1st June 2024)
- Fr John Banerjee – Coordinator for CLC
- Fr Leo Alphonse – Director, Pre-novitiate (w.e.f. 1st June 2024)
- Fr Sebastian Minj – PCF (DAR & NEP) and Co-Pastor at Hatighisa (w.e.f. 1st June 2024)

Presented to the Bishops for appointment

- Fr John Banerjee – St Joseph’s Church, 5th Mile, Kalimpong (w.e.f. 15th May 2024)
- Fr Benoy Lama – St Xavier’s Church, Sakhyong (w.e.f. 15th May 2024)
- Fr Benny Paul – St Ignatius Church, Uttar Salbari (w.e.f. 15th May 2024)

SCHOLASTICS’ STATUS

Regency

- Sch. Bipin Bara (NEP) – St Joseph’s school, Darjeeling
- Sch. Amar Xalxo – Assigned to Nepal
- Sch. Valerian Kujur – Assigned to Nepal
- Sch. Joseph Kerketta – Premanjali
- Sch. Ramhorchan Mashangva – Gayaganga
- Sch. Anup Minj – Mungpoo
- Sch. Jeyaraj Solomon – Hatighisa

Theology

- Sch. Arif Beck – Vidyajyoti, Delhi
- Sch. Prabhu Bhengra – Vidyajyoti, Delhi
- Sch. Lawrence Mudiappan – Vidyajyoti, Delhi

Philosophy

- Sch. Amit Kullu – Satyanilayam, Chennai
- Sch. John Romiyo A – De Nobili, Pune
- Sch. Markush Narzary – De Nobili, Pune

College studies

- Sch. Ashish Topno, Loyola College, Chennai

Building Committee

- Fr Joseph Victor (Convener),
- Fr Siby Joseph,
- Fr Arun Pradhan,
- Fr Lawrence Thanislaus,
- Fr Benny Paul,
- Fr Jayantilal Patel



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

MARCH

- 1- St Joseph's school – inauguration of new academic year
- 3- Consult
- 4-7 Visit to Nepal
- 8- Meeting of treasurers and ministers
- 9-17 Visit to Bhutan
- 20- Manresa, Kalimpong – Minor Orders
- 22- Loyola College, Namchi, Seminar
- 23- SXS, Alipurduar – MC meeting

APRIL

- 5-8 Nepal – Joint Consult
- 28-29 Loyola School - Jubilee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Meeting of Treasurers and Ministers: 8 March
- Vocation camp: 20-23 March
- Province Assembly (Common with Nepal): 14-16 May
- DSS Retreat: 2-10 June (Venue: Matigara)
- Faith sharing among Local Superiors: 14-16 June (Venue: Loyola College, Namchi)

LOYOLA COLLEGE, NAMCHI

Classes for B.Ed. and MA in Education started after winter break from 1st February. The Pre-semester examinations were held for 1st year B.Ed. students and MA students and class tests for 3rd semester students as preparation for Semester end Examinations which were conducted by Sikkim University from 12th February to 24th February. **Mr Hendri Yogi**, an Assistant Professor, attended “*the Training for Trainers on NEP 2020*” at Navjeevan Renewal Centre at St Xavier's School, Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi, organized by JCSA for the task forces of Northern Provinces from 1st February to 4th February. **Mr Hendri** gave an orientation programme to the teachers and parents of Albert Memorial School at Barbot, Kalimpong on 10th February. He dealt on the theme “*Multilingual and Multiple Intelligence in the classroom*” as part of the inaugural programme of the new academic year 2024.

Ms Nazma Gollay, an Assistant Professor, attended a two-day workshop on “*Aligning Assessment with Learning Objectives*” organized by NEP Committee of Sikkim University on 8th and 9th February in Gangtok. She learnt about the summative assessment techniques and setting up question papers during this workshop. **Fr Joye James SJ (KER)** conducted a half a day orientation programme for the teaching faculty of our college on the 15th February. He focused on the theme “*Emotional Intelligence and Self-awareness*”. The faculty members benefited a lot from this programme. **Dr Sandhya Rai**, an Assistant Professor and IQAC Coordinator, attended a workshop on NEP 2020 with reference to Teacher Education at Agartala

from 22nd to 23rd February organized by National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA). **Fr Francis George** attended an Orientation cum Workshop on “*Leadership Capacity Development for College Principals of North East India*” from February 26th to March 1st. The Workshop dealt with leadership challenges in the context of NEP 2020.

Fr Francis George

NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

The month of Jan-Feb was dedicated for various games and sports activities which culminated in *X-uberance* (Annual Sports Day) where **Ms Swapana Barman**, an Arjuna Awardee and triple Asian Decathlon Champion graced as the chief guest. Later in the month our Basketball team under the watchful eyes of **Fr Deven Yonzon** reached semi-Final of Tavern Basketball tournament at Salesian College, Siliguri. On 23rd Feb another big cultural event called *Xtravaganza* was celebrated with a lot of fanfare. Unfortunately, the previous day, **Sr Madhuri Tete**, a Holy Cross nun, in charge of Holy Cross Girls Hostel for our college girls after a stroke followed a heart attack had breathed her last which dampened the spirit of hostel girls.

Earlier in the month **Fr Lalit Tirkey** attended 2-day JHEASA Conference at St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata followed by NEP Taskforce workshop in NRC, Delhi while **Fr Bijay Kindo** went to XIM Bhubaneswar for meeting regarding centenary celebration preparation of AICUF. After returning **Fr Lalit** presented a paper, titled ‘*Changing Educational Landscape in North Bengal Tea Gardens and Unfulfilled Higher Educational Dreams*’ and chaired

a panel discussion at a one-day National Seminar-cum-workshop on *Education of Girl Education towards Gender-Neutral Society: Tribal and Scheduled Community of North Bengal in Perspectives*, organized by Human Resources Development Centre (HRDC), University of North Bengal in collaboration with Netali Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata. On 24th Faculty Orientation Programme titled 'Innovative and Affective Aspects



of Teaching and Learning in 21st Century, was organized for which the resource persons were **Fr John Kennedy**, **Fr Lalit Tirkey** and **Dr Pavanbir Kaur**. After hectic activities of the month, Xavier Niwas community had a community outing in a lush green abode of **Fr Sudhir Kujur**, a priest of the diocese running organic farming and tea plantations near Jor Dighi, Mohitnagar.

Fr Lalit Tirkey

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING

St Joseph's College warmly welcomed students back to college on February 19, marking the end of a lengthy winter vacation. The college also bid farewell to a beloved member of its supporting staff. On February 24, **Ms. Winny Chettri** was honoured for her remarkable dedication and service spanning an impressive 37 years and 4 months. Her contributions to the college left an indelible mark, and her departure was met with heartfelt gratitude and good wishes for the journey ahead.



Students from St Joseph's College enthusiastically took part in the *Technokrat* event organized by Salesian College, Siliguri, which featured a range of competitions encompassing coding challenges, AI design, treasure hunts, quizzes, game explosions, reel making, debates, and business planning. Thirty-eight students participated, showcasing outstanding skills and expertise in their areas of interest. They clinched the first prize in debates, reels, Mobile Legend, and BGMI, showcasing their prowess in communication, creativity, and gaming. Moreover, they secured second prize in both the reels and Chef Competition.

Fr Donatus Kujur

ST XAVIER'S SCHOOL, ALIPURDUAR

On 9 February, Classes III to IX and XI children along with the School Staff enjoyed their fun-filled Picnic in a natural lovely and picturesque setting with sumptuous food adding flavour. Our Principal, **Fr Santy Mathew** attended the JEA North Zone NEP 2020 training in Delhi from 1st to 3rd February. While he was away, **Fr Siby Joseph** took care of our mission needs. Our Pre-Primary Children (Nursery to Class II) had a Potluck on 16th, the last day of their academic year. They had a fun-filled time while having the potluck. The ISC and ICSE Examinations 2023-2024 started on February 12th and 21st respectively. Our School's Annual Examination commenced on Feb 22nd and will last till 9th March. These Examinations, the ISC, ICSE and the Final are keeping us all involved.

Our Community's conducive atmosphere welcomed many visitors. **Fr P. A. James** from Arrupe House, Darjeeling made his retreat here. Six Scholastics from North Point, Darjeeling Community made their annual retreat directed by **Fr Vincent George**. St Joseph's School, North Point Jesuit Community enjoyed a quality Community Picnic with us. On the 14th Feb., **Fr Vincent** celebrated **Ash Wednesday** Eucharist with the faithful in Thimphu, Bhutan. Later, he conducted a Recollection for the Daughters of St Anne, Coochbehar on the 24th. On the 15th **Sch Romiyo Antony John** joined our community. His presence is enhancing our community life.

Fr Vincent George

ST VINCENT'S, HATIGHISA

From February 1st to 10th, 259 students wrote their Madhyamik exams at Nanda Prasad HS School and

Hatighisa HSS School. 409 students from Nanda Prasad Girls High School and Naxalbari Hindi School wrote their Madhyamik exams at St Vincent's, Hatighisa. The exams went off in a very tranquil and organised manner. At the moment, 225 St Vincent's Class XII students are writing their HS Exams in the same places.

On February 24th, BSF personnel from Ranidanga conducted a trafficking training for high school students, and on the same day, the staff were trained to utilise the Vawsum software designed to keep the students' records. From February 1st to 10th, all the primary staff attended ten days of rigorous English coaching lessons. Thanks to **Fr Fredrick Baraik**, **Sch. Amar Xalxo**, and **Sch. Lawrence Mudiyyappan** for giving their precious time to train the Teachers. Smart boards were first introduced in primary school pre-kindergarten classes, and children thoroughly enjoy the entertaining technique of learning. Teachers who educate these little children are properly trained. **Fr Lawrence Thanislaus** participated in a NEP TOT training programme at Navjeevan Renewal Centre, Delhi. On February 19th, the Hatighisa community



warmly welcomed **Sch Aatish Prabhu**. His ministry will be at the hostel and the primary school, besides supporting the pastoral work as needed. **Fr Xavier Allangaram**, the PCF, came to visit **Sch Lawrence** on the 9th of February and spent quality time that was valuable with the community members.

Three Australian chirotherapists and five chiropractitioners conducted a healthcare program at St Vincent Parish Church from February 18 to 29. Many sick and impoverished people were able to find relief from various health issues. About 200 people benefited from this initiative. **Fr Philomon Tirkey** conducted the parish youth election on February 9. Our parish's young people excitedly gathered in numbers of about 180 to elect a leader.

Their dedication to and voluntarism in church activities encourage the faithful to participate more actively in the church. Fifty of our parishioners travelled to Ranchi and other sacred sites between February 25 and March 3. **Fr Philomon** accompanied the pilgrims to ensure they received the appropriate spiritual leadership and support while they were at the churches.

Sch. Lawrence Mudiyyappan

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING

The community welcomed **Fr Justine Bage** as the new Administrator of our institute. The month of February commenced with the conclusion of the annual retreats for both scholastics and **Bro. P. D. Vincent**, guided by the insightful leadership of **Fr Vincent George** and **Fr Paulose Ezhakunnel** respectively. An overnight outing to Alipurdwar and Phutensoling on February 11th brought the community closer together, fostering camaraderie and shared experiences outside the school environment. Additionally, **Fr K. Joseph** led students of the History Department on a captivating heritage tour of South India, enriching their understanding of the nation's cultural tapestry. Throughout February, St Joseph's School played host to esteemed guests, including **Fr Francis George**, **Fr Joy James (KER)**, **Fr Xavier Allangaram**, PCF, and **Fr Ashok Sandil**, the PCF of Ranchi province. The Winter Camp "*Bal Kunj*," which ran from January 2nd to February 2nd, was a resounding success, under the able leadership of **Fr John Banerjee** with over 596 attendees benefiting from a diverse array of activities, including spoken English classes, value education sessions, and sports activities. The camp culminated in a memorable closing ceremony, where students showcased their talents in a beautiful cultural program.

The timely arrival of ISC and ICSE boys for their exams underscored the commitment to academic excellence. Additionally, a comprehensive Induction Program conducted by Fr Rector, the Vice Principal, and the Senior Master, provided new teachers with essential insights and resources to thrive in their roles. A highlight of the month was the orientation program led by **Fr Joy James SJ**, which focused on self-awareness garnered praise from the teaching staff. The introduction of new faculty members during the school assembly added fresh perspectives and expertise to the academic community. As February drew to a close, the school

witnessed the election of new Beadles and Prefects, showcasing the democratic ethos and student involvement at St Joseph's School. With the arrival of Primary Division students, the school celebrated a full complement of administrators, staff, students, and co-workers, poised for a successful year ahead.

Fr John Banerjee

GANDHI ASHRAM, KALIMPONG

Over the winter break we completed the painting of the Student Washrooms, construction of the Science Laboratory and technological upgradation of the campus through the kind support of our project funders. We began the month with a Winter Foundation Course for the weakest students of Class 3 to 8. They received help to improve their English and Nepali Literacy and basic Math concepts. The evaluation session of the Staff Capacity Building with Naveen Jhajharia was also held along with a refresher in Child Protection and Positive reinforcement Techniques as well as the strategy sharing for implementation of the School Year Theme - Culture of Human Excellence.



We reopened school with a spirit of renewal and clarity. The Year of Prayer was introduced along with the School Year theme and a special assembly was held to learn about Ash Wednesday and Saraswati Puja. We admitted 21 students this year, the total enrolment is 280. We would like to foster more independent learning by blurring the lines between classwork, homework and evaluations. We conducted elections for the Student Reps and appointed the House Reps with an investiture ceremony. We held Village Zonal Meetings to explain our year theme and our strategy for this year. A group of 6 students and two teachers went on a week-long exposure visit to the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai with the Symphony Orchestra of India (SOI). It was very generous of our alumni who work at the SOI as well

as Furtados' Music to spend time with the team. Our children's drawings featured on the livestream on One Earth Choir Day organised by The Consciousness Institute, Switzerland. The Assistant Director attended the Meeting of the Education Team of the Province at Matigara. We had a small farewell for our Music Facilitator, Shubam Biswakarma who has moved on after 7 years in service of his alma mater.

Mr Virgil Vihaan Sequeira

JESU ASHRAM, MATIGARA

Jesu Ashram is blessed with 20 new young nursing students. They arrived at Jesu Ashram on 2nd January. All of them are from the tea garden area and come from Catholic families. **Fr Sebastian Minj** conducted an orientation program for them on 3rd and 4th January. Additionally, **Fr Joseph Victor, Fr Sebastian**, and **Mr Livnus Kujur** have been conducting classes on spoken English, English grammar, and other subjects for these new students. A truss is currently being constructed on the terrace of the General Ward's building, so regular classes are being held on the terrace of our new building. Furthermore, to better serve our leprosy patients, on 1st February, **Fr Julius Kujur** added a new staff member. Moreover, Jesu Ashram is fortunate to have an active volunteer, **Dr. Lieu**, who recently joined Jesu Ashram to offer her services for free. On 2nd and 3rd February, all the nursing students and staff went for a picnic in Kutum. Subsequently, a medical camp was conducted on 11th February at Titli Dangi church. More than a hundred people attended the camp for checkup. Among them, 50% lined up for eye checkups. **Dr Rupanjali Tirkey** conducted the ophthalmic tests with great patience. Ultimately, all the people were very pleased with the charitable services provided by Jesu Ashram. On 19th February, **Fr Julius Kujur** celebrated his birthday. To make the celebration more beautiful, along with some guests, **Bishop Vincent Aind** also joined for the dinner. On 21st February, **Fr Alvin Minj** gave a PowerPoint presentation on the theme "The Vulnerable Adults and Children" for all the staff and students of Jesu Ashram at Inigo Bhavan. After the presentation, everyone signed a legal document.

Sch. Markus Narzary

JESU NIKETAN SCHOOL, MATIGARA

The new academic year of Jesu Niketan School commenced on 8th January. This year, all the

students were provided with new uniforms and house dresses. In January, the school staff had a family picnic on the school campus. Again, on 3rd February, all the teachers, along with **Fr Alvin Minj**, went to Kanyam, Nepal, for the annual picnic. **Ms Usha Barman**, a kitchen staff member of Jesu Niketan School, hosted a midday meal on 7th February for our students and teaching staff in honour of her son, who recently got married. A meeting of the guardians was held on 17th February at the school. **Mr Subratra Sarkar**, a mathematics teacher, read out all the rules and regulations of the school to the guardians, which are outlined in the school diary. Overall, the regular classes are progressing well, and the school campus is maintained very neatly.

Sch. Markys Narzary

ST PAUL'S PARISH, KURSEONG

On the 3rd, the Adult CLC (Christian Life Community) had a one-day recollection. During this event, **Fr Peter Jong Lepcha** delivered a talk on the 'tearing of the veil in the temple,' while **Fr Devadhas** conducted other sessions throughout the day. On the 11th, fifty parishioners went for a picnic. On the 12th, the Wery Niwas Fathers and parishioners participated in the centenary celebration of St Mary's grotto. Ash Wednesday was observed on the



14th with Holy Mass held in the main parish and in sub-stations. From 23rd to 25th Feb., **Fr Peter** conducted a recollection at Don Bosco, Mirik, for the faithful of three sub-stations. On the 23rd, **Fr Devadhas** was admitted to Navjeevan Hospital due to a severe cold and cough. On 25th, **Fr Alphonse Lepcha** led the faithful of Mahanadi on a pilgrimage to Sonada Grotto."

Fr Peter Jong Lepcha

SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

From February 5 to 10 CIA exam infused the week with a notable sense of dedication and

concentration in our studies. After the completion of the exam, we enjoyed living group dinner together, creating a relaxed atmosphere filled with shared affection. On February 14, we solemnly observed Ash Wednesday. All our neighbours joined in this celebration. On February 17, the Department of Philosophy at Loyola College, Chennai, displayed exceptional sportsmanship and teamwork, emerging as the overall champions and proudly securing the coveted title on sports day. On February 26, we were honoured to have **Fr Brian, SJ** from the USA, President of JCCU, who graciously shared insightful perspectives on the mission and life in the United States and Canada, fostering a meaningful exchange of experiences.

Sch. Ashish Soy

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

On 25 January **Mr PI Jose**, Supreme Court Advocate gave an extension lecture on understanding Indian culture through and for Christ. On 30 January, we had an opportunity to listen to **Most Rev Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia**- President for Pontifical Academy for life and **Rev Fr Andrea Ciucci** – Coordinator, Pontifical Academy for life on the topic 'Ethnics of Artificial Intelligence'. In the month of February, the third-year theology students had their exams on Ad Audiendas confessions. It was a learning experience for other theology students who attended the exam. On 16 February there was a Book Presentation and Discussion on the book 'Holy Spirit our Divine mother' written by **Dr Fr George Mlakuzhyil SJ**, professor Emeritus of Vidyajyoti. **Dr John Chattanatt SJ**, Professor Emeritus of Vidyajyoti presented the Christianity volume of the 'Encyclopedia of Indian Religions' on 23 Feb, of which he is the editor. We had a one-day seminar for women on 18 February. The theme of the seminar was 'Women Health Care and Awareness' **Mrs Sandhya Singh** was the chief guest and she inspired and encouraged the women by her talk. There was a free medical check-up after the session. **Fr Jagdish Parmar, SJ** came to give a talk on Apostleship of prayer on 26 February.

Sch. Sujit Minj

VINAYALAYA, MUMBAI

On 23rd January on the vocation Sunday, the juniors got an opportunity to share their vocation stories in different parishes. It was indeed a valuable experience for us. From 9th to 12th Feb we went for the pastoral exposure at the Infant Jesus shrine in

Nashik. There we were involved in different works, such as guiding the people in the Darshan line, distributing communion at mass, helping out in the religious stall, and counting money. It was a fulfilling opportunity to assist different people and the youth. Indeed, we had a memorable and graceful experience there. After two days of tireless work, we went to see Prabodhan centre of Research (PCR), where we came to know about soil and different bacteria of the plants. On the same day we visited 'Maharashtra Prabodhan Seva Mandal' (MPSM). There **Fr Joel Mendonca, Sr Joyenna** and other staff members interacted with us and gave us sessions on different works of the MPSM. On 13th February **Fr Jagdish Parmar**, the Regional Director of the South Asia Assistency for the Pope's World-Wide Prayer Network and Eucharistic Youth Movement, conducted a session. He shared some contextual information about PWPN an EYM. His ideas and insights inspired us and filled us with energy and enthusiasm. On 17th February, we had an interaction with **Fr Vernard Antony, SJ**, Coordinator of the JCSA Communication. He particularly highlighted two points (1) Communication as a mission in the Church, and (2) Communication as an apostolate. His session fascinated us with hopes and aspirations taking up this responsibility to improve our skills and experiences to make relevant contributions in the field of communication. We have begun our

practices for our annual drama: called 'An enemy of the People'.

Sch. Ashish Topno

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

The month commenced with the solemn Diaconate Mass, which was presided over by Pune **Bishop John Rodrigues** and had as its theme "Burning Heart, Moving Feet." It was a time of grace for us to witness the deacons' generosity and readiness to serve despite their unworthiness, relying instead on God's providence and seeking his direction and strength. An intercollegiate symposium on "Peacebuilding in Times of Conflict" was arranged by the JD College. Presenters from several colleges covered a range of topics in their presentations. It inspired us to consider how we can create bridges in the current situation of fragmentation that is attempting to rip humanity apart. The community gathered together for the West Zone Cultural Evening towards the end of the month. It was a colorful celebration of the various cultures found in the western zone of the country. It was a moment to appreciate diversity and come together as a community. The third-year philosophy students are currently busy preparing for the comprehensive exam.

Sch. Ramhorchan Mashangva

POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH 2024

For the New Martyrs: Pope Francis invites prayer "for those around the world who risk their lives for the Gospel, to inspire the Church with their courage and missionary zeal."



REST IN PEACE

Fr P.C. Mathew (CCU)	84/ 66	on 11 February
Fr Emmanuel Horo (RAN)	82/62	on 12 February
Fr Francis Lopes (HAZ)	81/59	on 15 February
Fr Peter Savarimuthu (DUM)	77/55	on 21 February
Br Anthony Crasta (KAR)	77/60	on 02 March