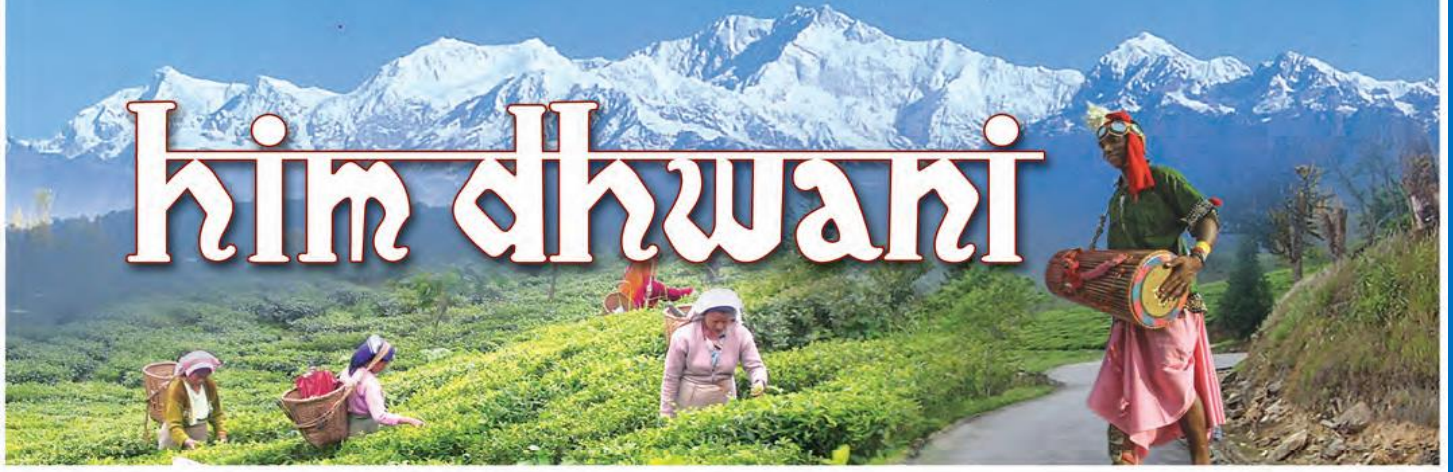


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Prabhu Jisu Residence, Post Box 3, Matigara – 734 010, Dt Darjeeling, West Bengal

No.05

Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits

May 2024

## APPOINTMENTS BY FR GENERAL

- Fr Jeffrey Burwell - Provincial of Canada
- Fr Pedro Rodrigues - Provincial of Goa
- Fr Learoy Rodrigues - Socius, Bombay province
- Fr Sunny George K - Socius, Calcutta province
- Fr Jerome L Xystus - Socius, Madurai Province
- Fr Arun Kumar - Socius, Karnataka Province

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

### MAY 2024

- 1- Navjeevan Hospital
- 4- Silver Jubilee: 5<sup>th</sup> Mile Church
- 5- Silver Jubilee: Loyola School, Uttar Salbari
- 6-10 Visitation: Namchi
- 10- Province Consult
- 14-16 Common Assembly
- 23-25 Visitation: St Joseph's College, Darjeeling (Hayden Hall & Sacred Heart Church)
- 28- Scholastics' program at Singla
- 29-31 Visitation: St Joseph's School, Darjeeling

### JUNE 2024

- 2- Visitation: Kankebong
- 3- Visitation: Mungpoo-Sittong
- 8-10 Kerala
- 14-16 Faith sharing among Superiors of DAR-NEP at Namchi
- 22 Consult
- 26-30 Visitation: St Alphonsus, Kurseong

## ST XAVIER'S SCHOOL, ALIPURDUAR

Our Community participated in Damanpur Parish's Holy Week Services. On 2 and 3 April, Fr Sunny Jacob SJ enhanced our staff performance with his impressive and thought-provoking Teacher Empowerment Seminar on the theme "Learning by Refraction". The new academic year began on 4

April for classes 1 to 10 and 12. Our Kamakhyaguri branch also welcomed little ones. On 8 April, we started UKG, LKG, and Nursery classes and conducted a Parent-Teacher meeting. On the 13th, the little ones enjoyed their Teddy Bear Day. We had election holidays from 17 to 20 April. On the 22nd, we welcomed new Class 11 students. Our

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Province Assembly (DAR & NEP) – 14 to 16 May
- Scholastics Retreat at Matigara – 17 to 25 May
- Scholastics Get Together at Singla – 26 to 28 May
- DSS Retreat at Matigara – 2 to 10 June
- Faith Sharing among Superiors at Namchi – 14 to 16 June

## Committee for DAR-NEP Common Assembly

- Fr Jomon Jose (NEP) – Coordinator
- Fr Lawrence Thanislaus (DAR)
- Fr Xavier Alangaram – DAR Socius
- Fr Juel Kispotta – NEP Socius

### Announcement:

**The Assembly will begin on 14<sup>th</sup> May.**

**Arrival at 4 PM**

**Inaugural Session at 5. 30 PM and Mass at 6 PM**

little ones had fun on Orange Colour Day! On the 23rd, we bid farewell to our ISC 2024 batch.

On 25 April, Fr Santy Mathew's beloved mother, **Mrs Mariakutty Mathew**, passed away. **Fr Santy Mathew** left for his home to be with his bereaved family. During his absence, **Fr Siby Joseph** ensured the smooth functioning of the school. On the 26th, class 10, 11, and 12 students received good Public Speaking Training. **Miss Bina Roy**, a TEDx Speaker and Public Speaking Expert, trained them. On the 27th, the Investiture and Academic Awards Ceremony impressed everyone. The would-be leaders took an oath to be loyal to the legacy left behind. **Fr Santy's** systematic planning and **Fr Siby's** meticulous organizing caliber bore fruit. **Fr Vincent George's** active presence also helped. On 6 April, **Sch. Kuldeep Topno** joined our community. He and **Sch. Romiyo** help in the school and community. We appreciated **Fr Simon Kerketta's** visit. In the second week of April, **Fr Vincent George** attended a CRI meeting in Demdima, completed a Spoken English Course, and offered a Sunday Eucharist for Totapara faithful.

*Fr Vincent George*

### GANDHI ASHRAM, KALIMPONG

We began March with a Eucharistic Celebration and the Blessing of the School by **Fr Francis Xavier Subba**. We started with the first round of Class-House Assemblies this month interpreting the school year theme - Culture of Human Excellence. A French artist, **Anne Guilhbaud** gave a workshop to our promising artists from Class 6 through our partners, the Himalayan Institute of Goodwill and Living Ethics. We also began our Musical Mornings with a cello duet presented by our senior cello students under the guidance of our Cello Facilitator, **Devraj Rai**. Our Music Volunteer, **Philipp Engel** presented German children's songs with our Kindergarteners. Our Music Team organised 'Rendition 2024', the school's talent festival, this time focusing on unique performances. Our Senior Orchestra performed at the International Women's Day event organised at the Kalimpong Town Hall by the Anandadhara unit of the District Administration and Hayden Hall Institute.

A treasure hunt was organised by **Jerome Tamang** in his History Class. Our Math & Science Team organised SciPi 2024, our math & science fair with a focus on 'Organic Farming'. We were extremely glad

to have alumnus **Sushil Chettri**, a farmer by profession as a guide and our cook, **Jerad Lepcha**, a senior staff and also a farmer as our chief guest. We also had a healthy canteen on that day with millet based meals and ingredients sourced from the villages around. Our Health & Community Team organised a Deworming program in collaboration with the Chhibo Sub Health Centre. Our senior girls received free 'Saafkins', cloth sanitary napkins in collaboration with Mumbai based NGO Srujna and Hayden Hall Institute. The Human Resource Head of Furtados' School of Music Mumbai visited and conducted a short interaction with the students of Class 9 & 10 about what matters at the workplace. We have been observing positive outcomes from linking our House system across all areas, always keeping the focus on learning and behaviour regulation through healthy competition. Our Discipline Prefects **Rosa Kumai**, **Jerome Tamang** and Health Coordinator **Christina Lepcha** attended the Trauma Informed Care Approach workshop organised by Bal Suraksha Abhiyan Trust with resource persons from International Justice Mission.

*Mr Virgil Vihaan Sequeira*

### ST PETER'S COMMUNITY, GAYAGANGA

The entire community (Priests, Brothers, and Scholastics) went out to the villages several days to bless the houses after Easter. After many days of instruction, 88 children received First Holy Communion on 21 April. Now about 80 children are



being instructed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on 1 May by **Rt Rev. Archbishop Vincent Aind**. Marriages of 18 couples were rectified after due instructions. The feast of patron saint of Gayaganga mission, St Peter Canisius, was celebrated on 21 April. As part of preparation a triduum was organized from 18-20 April and the preachers were **Fr Nabor Dungdung**, **Fr Roshan Minj** and **Fr Binod Kerketta**. On 1 April, the

community bade farewell to **Fr Timothy Tirkey**, who assisted the Parish priest for the past ten months.

On 4 April, **Fr Cherian Maliekal**, joined other consultants to go to Kathmandu for a joint consult. **Sch. Bipin Tirkey** arrived from DNC, Pune for his summer holidays. He was here for two weeks. He generously offered his services in the parish and community. On 22 April, **Sch. Ramhorchan Angelus** joined the community as new regent. **Fr Nabor**, **Fr Simon Kerketta** and **Br Robert Lakra** were assigned to conduct the first and second phases of Lok Sabha elections. It was a humbling experience, they said, as they had to attend training workshops, manage the polling procedure with colleagues who were strangers, spend night with minimum facilities, etc. The Primary and High school schools in the campus have been shut indefinitely due to the ongoing heat wave and parliamentary elections. During the shut-down period about 50 under-14 boys of the school are undergoing intense football-training, supervised by special coaches. The school-office remains open during the day with the HM and the office staff in attendance.

St Peter's primary school lost **Liyan Kujur**, a pre-KG student from Gungaram Tea Estate. He was pillion riding on a bicycle with his elder brother. A tractor ferrying sand illegally mowed down the boys. Liyan died on the spot and his brother lost one leg. There was a big protest by the locals. A community Faith sharing session was arranged on 10 April in Loyola Niwas Community, Uttar Salbari. Each member was invited to share about his vocation, God experiences and personal challenges encountered during his family days, pre-novitiate and other years of formation, post ordination days and life as a Jesuit in the missions. **Fr Cherian Maliekal**, moderated the exercise using the technique of Spiritual Conversation. All felt that it was an intense sharing. Some of them were moved to tears as they narrated their faith journey. They returned to community with feelings of joy, gratitude, contentment and hopefulness.

*Fr Gabriel Tirkey*

#### ST VINCENT'S COMMUNITY, HATIGHISA

On 9 April, **Sch. Aatish Prabhu's** birthday was celebrated in a grand manner in the school. On 20 April, **Sch. Jeyaraj Solomon** joined the school and



the community to do his 1st year regency. On 5 April, In order to recruit cadre, NSS held interviews and written exams in the high school. On 7 April, we held a meeting of parents of both the high school and primary school, which drew an impressive number of parents. **Sr Antonia, FC** addressed regarding the detrimental consequences of substance abuse and how they affect family members, including children. The parents found the discussion that followed to be extremely valuable.

As part of their internship, six psychology students from Don Bosco College, Siliguri visited the high school students on Fridays to provide motivational sessions. Results for class XI were announced on April 2, and on April 12 and 13, the students who had been selected were admitted to class XII. Elections triggered the First Semester exams, which had originally been tentatively scheduled for April 16th, to get postponed to until last week in May. Due to election, the school was closed for a week from the 22nd to the 28th. At the block administration's request, 130 BSF soldiers were housed on the premises to ensure a seamless election process. **Fr Lawrence Thanislaus** traveled to Patna on 24 April to attend the preparatory meeting for the forthcoming education commission triennial meeting. **Fr Alexius Beck**, **Fr Philomen Tirkey**, **Fr Sebastian Minj**, and **two Scholastics** had gone for the Easter house blessings. They completed the house blessings after a week. The youth of St Vincent De Paul Parish took first place in the Diocese-level short video competition about the holy week services. **Fr Philomen** accompanies the youth to different villages on the weekend to visit families which was appreciated by the people of faith.

*Sch. Lawrence Mudiappan*

## WERY NIWAS, KURSEONG

**Fr Peter Jong Lepcha** had left for Shenbaganur, Tamil Nadu, on 2 April for a month seminar on Roots and Wings. In the absence of **Fr Peter**, **Fr Alphonse Lepcha** is the acting Superior of the Community and **Fr Devadhas (NEP)** is the acting parish priest. **Fr Devadhas** offered the thanksgiving mass for St Joseph H. S. School students on 5 April. All the fathers were occupied with the family blessing after the Easter. It began on 8 April which went up to 21 April. **Sch. Bipin Tirkey**, who was with us in our community for a fortnight, left for



Matigara on 9 April. On 10 April Fr Devadhas had gone to the bishop's house for the seminar on Parish Management. As a community, we celebrated **Fr Pramod's** birthday. On 11 April, there was a thanksgiving mass and school blessing of St Joseph primary school. **Sch. Sawan Rai** arrived in our community on 20 April to stay with us for about three weeks. We had the mixed marriage ceremony in our parish. A day of recollection was organised for the Crusvir animators in Divyavani. **Sr Gloria, Sr Sangeeta** and **Priyatama** participated in it. On 20 April, Lalmati youth and **Fr Devadhas** organized a half-day prayer and confession in Lalmati. St Paul youth organized a day-long seminar for Christeen in the church on 21 April.

*Fr Devadhas Vargeese*

## ST JOSPH'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING

The winter gradually gave way to warmer days as we celebrated mid-Easter. Continuing our tradition, the community once again journeyed to Okhray, Sikkim for Easter celebrations. Following the community's decision, construction began on April 4 for a small kitchen and a cowshed at Singla. **Sch. Valerian** and three friends visited the community and spent two days here. From 7 to 9 April, a medical check-up for our students was conducted, along with an NCC exam. On 9 April, amidst twinkling candle lights, **Fr John Banerjee** cut his

birthday cake, with the college community cordially invited to witness the celebration. **Fr Boniface Joseph** was our community's guest from 10 to 23 April. **Fr Samuel Simick (NEP)** arrived on 12 April and officially assumed the role of Prefect on 16 April. This ceremony coincided with the farewell of **Fr John**, the outgoing prefect, and **Fr Jayantilal Patel**, the outgoing Headmaster of St Joseph's School, Mungpoo. Neighbouring diocesan communities were invited to mark the events.

On the evening of April 21, **Fr Stanley's** father, sister, brother-in-law, and niece visited the community and spent two days with us before heading to Sikkim. **Bro P.D Vincent's** birthday was celebrated on 22 April, with the college community invited to share the birthday meal. On the eve of 26 April, **Fr Shajumon (Provincial), Fr Peter Pappu, Fr Joseph Victor, Fr Deven Yonzon, and Fr Kevin** spent the night to cast their votes the next day. On 27 April, North Point School hosted the Fr Van's Memorial volleyball carnival for students under class VIII, with Don Bosco's School, Malbasey emerging as the champions.

*Fr Justin Bage*

## ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING

St Joseph's College organised a two-day extravaganza titled 'Vibes de Vista' Inter-College Fest and Fete on 12 and 13 April. Participating colleges included Sonada Degree College, Darjeeling Government College, Inspiria Knowledge Campus Siliguri, North Bengal St Xavier's College, Loyola College of Education, SRM University Gangtok, Cluny Women's College, Salesian College Siliguri, and South Field College Darjeeling. The array of events showcased a blend of tradition and technology, seamlessly merging classical and contemporary elements. The two day's lineup featured Pitch Prodigy, Painting and Doodling, Photography, Short Films and Reels, E-Sports and online gaming, Treasure Hunt, and Quiz Competition, themed and non-themed dance. The host College of the event itself bagged the overall Best College award, winning events like the Quiz Competition, Doodling, Short Film and Photography, themed and non-themed dance.

Both men and women volleyball college team participated in the Varghese Memorial Inter-College Volleyball Tournament, hosted by Salesian College Sonada on 20 April 20. The men's team secured the

runners-up position in the competition. Their remarkable skill and determination were evident as



they emerged as formidable competitors throughout the tournament. In view of the upcoming 18<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary General Election 2024, and the occupation of the college campus by the police force, the college was closed from 22 to 28 April. During this period, access to the college premises was restricted, and all academic and administrative activities remained suspended.

*Fr Donatus Kujur*

#### NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

Normal classes are going on with some disruption due to many staff and students leaving to cast their votes in the ongoing Parliamentary Elections 2024. The efforts to kick start the construction of a new girls' hostel is underway, thanks to the push given by the provincial and the province treasurer. Some building materials are being stock piled even as we await the conversion of the construction site from the block and district level land revenue dept.

In the community we are one down after **Fr Bijay Kindo** left soon after Easter for Roots and Wings program at Shembag. In the meanwhile, **Fr John Kennedy** the house superior has been quite active mobilizing the local Rajbanshi boys and girls for Spoken English program and have also coaxed our college students to volunteer in teaching. **Sch. Ashish Basumatary** too while chipping in as Asst coordinator for Spoken English has also been busy, weekly visiting Kheripara village and taking basic reading-writing for adult women of the village. On 21 April, **Fr John Kennedy** also gave 2-day workshop to the teachers of Loyola School in Kolkata. At the time of writing this piece, all the Jesuits are out in their respective voting place to exercise their franchise.

*Fr Lalit Tirkey*

#### LOYOLA COLLEGE, NAMCHI

**Bro Irenius Guria** joined the community on 3 April as Minister of the community and College. **Fr Ajay Raj Lakra** introduced to him all the works of his new responsibilities. **Fr Ajay** left for St Xavier's School, Jawalakhel, Kathmandu to take his new ministry as Minister & Treasurer of the community and School and Teacher in the School. The community bid him farewell on 6 April with a special Eucharist in the evening. The same day **Bro Irenius** was formally welcomed by the members. The community members reached **Fr Ajay** up to Maheshpur, Jhapa on 7 April. **Fr Biju Jacob MCBS**, a research scholar in Organic Chemistry from Assam Don Bosco University shared his research experience with the students of LCE and interacted with them on 10 April. He was accompanied by **Fr Boni Sebastian MCBS**, a MSW student in the same University.

Our college students participated in the inter college fest '**Vibes D'Vista**' at St Joseph's College, North Point Darjeeling on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April. The students obtained 1<sup>st</sup> position in Rangoli and Face-painting competitions and secured second position in Group dance, solo song, Treasure Hunt and Rap competitions. **Dr N S Dharmadhkari**, an educationist from Pune, guided the staff for the preparation of SSR of NAAC accreditation works on 15 April. The Co-Curricular Committee organized the Inter House competitions in Basketball and Table Tennis on 27 April. **Fr Manoj Abraham TOR**, Provincial of Ranchi TOR Province, made a short visit to LCE and to meet **Fr Anand Barla TOR**, a B Ed student in our college. **Fr Ambrose Ekka TOR** accompanied him. The other guests who visited Loyola House in the month of April were: **Br Gabriel Gurung**, **Fr Oshish Tirkey** and the **Novices** from Manresa, Kalimpong; **Fr Julius Kujur** came with his younger sister's family and spent a day with us. **Fr Stanley Joseph**, Rector of SJS, Darjeeling, his father and elder sister's family spent two days with us.

*Fr Francis George*

#### MANRESA NOVITIATE, KALIMPOG

On 27 March, we began our Paschal Triduum with adoration, during which we had the opportunity to reconcile with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The novices, accompanied by **Fr Shaji Joseph**, participated in the Good Friday service at St Joseph's Church, 5th mile. The Easter Vigil Mass was celebrated by **Fr Oshish Tirkey**. On 3 April, we went on an overnight picnic to Namchi, Sikkim, which was

a first-time experience for all of us. We were impressed by the cleanliness of the area and the temples. We extend our gratitude to the Loyola College community for their gracious hospitality.

On 5 April, we assumed our new roles. The following day, **Fr Alphonse Lepcha** and **Sch. Bipin Tirkey** visited our community. From 9 to 12 April, the second-year novices delivered sermons during Mass, providing them with new experience and helping them overcome their fear of public speaking. On 10 April, **Fr Oshish** spent half of the day visiting places in Kalimpong with his relatives, who had come to Manresa. On 12 April, we conducted an evaluation of our lives in the novitiate, enabling us to reflect on our experiences and gain insight into leading healthy lives. **Fr Julius Kujur** visited Manresa on 13 April after concluding his outing in Gangtok with his sister's family. On 1 April, **Fr Oshish** and **Novice Nikhil** exercised their right to vote. The novices also attended the installation ceremony of the new parish priest at St Joseph's Church, 5th mile, presided over by **Fr Victor**, Dean of Kalimpong Deanery.

*Novice Arun Kumar thangaraj*

#### ASHA KIRAN, MANGALORE

In early March, we participated in the thanksgiving Mass organized by the college to celebrate the declaration of St Aloysius Autonomous College as a deemed University. The main celebrant was **Rev.**

**Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha**, joined by **Bishop Francis Serrao SJ**, **Bishop Gerald Isaac Lobo**, **Bishop Robert Miranda**, and **Bishop Emeritus Aloysius Paul D'Souza**. Notably, local MLA Nalin Kumar Kateel graced the occasion with his presence. We also enjoyed a grand six-day event called 'Rangotsva' organized by Indian actor Prakash Raj. Meanwhile, we were engaged in Ignatian assignments within the community. Our second internal test took place from 1 to 5 April.

on 9 April, we had the wonderful privilege of attending the annual community picnic. We visited places including Karkala (John's Water Park) and Sasihitlu Beach. It was a long-awaited gathering with our companions, and we had a fantastic time. On 12 April, we joyously celebrated college day and took part in a play depicting the early Jesuits who arrived in Mangalore in 1878. April 20th marked Ethnic Day, during which students showcased the rich tapestry of cultural diversity through traditional attire and dances from various ethnic backgrounds. It was a vibrant event that fosters inclusivity and appreciation for different cultures within the college campus. Additionally, on the same day, many of our brothers were honoured with merit certificates. Finally, we have reached the end of our second semester. Please keep us all in your prayers so that we may excel in our exams.

*Sch. Sunit Minj*

#### POPE'S INTENTION FOR APRIL 2024

**For the formation of men and women religious, and seminarians:**

Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

#### REST IN PEACE

**Fr Boniface Tigga (MAP) 86/64 on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**Fr Ladislaus Chinnadurai (MDU) 100/61 on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**Mr Alangaram Irudhayam (80), the father of Fr Xavier Alangaram on 24<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Mrs Mariakutty Mathew (94), the mother of Fr Santy Mathew on 25<sup>th</sup> April**