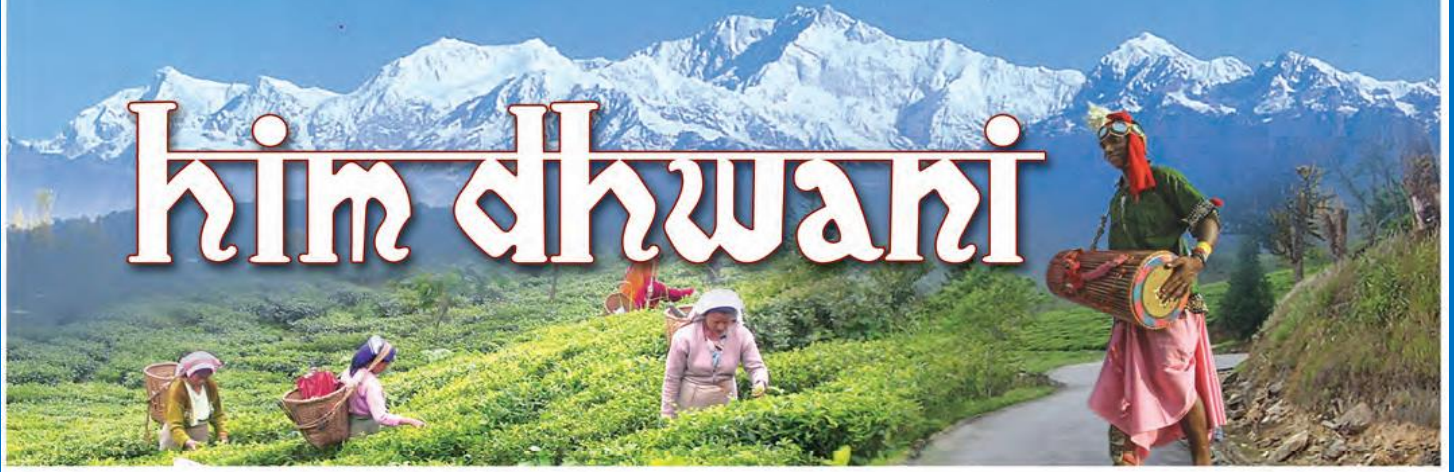


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No. 01

Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits

January 2024

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

### JANUARY - 2024

- 03- North Bengal St Xavier's College, Rajganj
- 04- Loyola Niwas, Uttar Salbari
- 05- St Xavier's School, Alipurduar
- 09- St Peter's Community, Gayaganga
- 10- St Vincent's Community, Hatighisa
- 13- Jisu Ashram, Matigara
- 15- Inigo Bhavan, Matigara
- 16- Premanjali, Matigara
- 17- LPC and PJG, Matigara
- 18- PJR, Matigara
- 25- Formation Commission Meeting
- 26- St Peter's School, Gayaganga
- 27- Vocation Promotion Meeting
- 29- Secondary Education Commission Meeting

### FEBRUARY 2024

- 01- Consult
- 09- Loyola College, Namchi
- 10- Superiors' Meet at Matigara
- 17-28 JCSA

## POPE'S INTENTION - 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

25<sup>th</sup> January – Formation Commission Meeting

27<sup>th</sup> January – Vocation Promotion Meeting

29<sup>th</sup> January – Secondary Education Commission Meeting

## ST XAVIER'S SCHOOL, ALIPURDUAR

The auditions for Zee Bangla Dadagiri were conducted for our LKG to Class 4 children. On 16 December, the Spectacular Sports' Day won all hearts. The prevailing enthusiasm in the campus was admirable. An ex-North Pointer, **Mr Nima Tshering Sherpa**, the BDO of Alipurduar II, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries and Parents' presence encouraged all. Gonzaga House topped the tally pushing De Nobili and Kostka Houses to latter positions. **Fr Siby Joseph's**

impeccable role ably guided by the Principal, **Fr Santy Mathew** won accolades. The Class 9, 10 and 11 Students had Career Guidance on 20 December. The ICSE Timetable display enabled Class 10 students to be more focused. ISC 2024 Board Practical Examinations & Viva were successfully conducted from 18 to 21 December. On 22 December, the Christmas Get-Together Celebrations enlivened all present. The students, parents, along with the staff enjoyed themselves to the full. Some parents' unique Prayer Dance won all hearts. **Fr**

**Vincent George** represented the Community on the 8<sup>th</sup> at Nirmala Sisters' Foundation Day and on the 16<sup>th</sup> at the Christmas Get-Together at Bishop's House, Jalpaiguri.

*Fr Vincent George*

## GANDHI ASHRAM, KALIMPONG

Our School Chorus performed 'The Mountains Are Calling, Are We Really Listening' composed by our Assistant Director **Virgil Vihaan Sequeira** and Music Facilitator **Shubam Biswakarma**, commissioned by the Himalayan Institute of Goodwill and Living Ethics at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling to commemorate 100 years of Russian painter & philosopher Nicholas Roerich in Darjeeling Hills as well as the 70<sup>th</sup> year of reaching the summit of Mount Everest. The Chief Guest, Member of Parliament for Darjeeling, **Mr. Raju Bista** appreciated the performance and the strong message. Hayden Hall Institute very warmly welcomed the chorus for lunch. 141 students received School Level Awards at Appreciation Day. This time, new monetary awards were instituted and thanks to the kindness of **Mr Ignatius D'Souza** and the Himalayan Institute of Goodwill & Living Ethics. There were also special prizes for the Cleanest Classroom, Class with the Most Exciting Learning Environment, Most Responsible Class, Class with the Best House Assemblies as well as the Overall Best House. We took class photographs and celebrated Namsong and Christmas through gift exchanges among classmates and among the staff.



The Class 10 Orchestra played 'Be Still My Soul' at a memorial service for the deceased and missing of the recent GLOF disaster at the International Mountain Day organised by Anugyalaya and other organisations at Kalimpong Town Hall. They also played their last concert together performing popular carols in English and Nepali as well as a carol composed by **Arnold Lepcha**, a student of Class 10 at the school for the students and parents.

We bid farewell to our Assistant Health & Community Coordinator **Sylvia Molomoo** who supported the efforts of strengthening the Health & Community mission at the school. The Management and staff spent an afternoon reviewing the year, the strategies, themes, impact over the years, and finally contributing to defining our 2024 strategy. The school year theme for 2024 has been decided - 'Culture of Human Excellence'.

*Mr Virgil Vihaan Sequeira*

## ST VINENT'S, HATIGHISA

Final exams for classes 5 to 9 for the academic session 2023 and 2<sup>nd</sup> term exams for class Eleven were held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December, and on 21<sup>st</sup> the results were announced. The results were announced and interviews were conducted for the new admission during the first week of December. There is always a growing need for our school. It is hard to accommodate every admission request. Admissions for the upcoming term are set for January 27, 28, and 29. The school is scheduled to resume on 4 January 2024. The primary and high schools had a combined splendid Christmas event that ended with a delectable Christmas meal. After attending the conference on apostolic planning, renewal, and transformation, **Fr Lawrence Thanislaus** returned from Rome on 16 December.

Four couples had their "Maramathi Sathi" in our Parish on 12 December. Christmas Mass was celebrated by **Fr Sebastian Tirkey** of the Ranchi archdiocese, while morning mass was led by **Fr Philomen Tirkey**. The faithful generously contributed for the pandal, decorations, and additional decorations to have a colourful Christmas celebration. **Sch. Aatish Prabhu** and **Sch. Rasal Xess (RAN)** came from North Point School community to Hatighisa for Christmas ministry. **Fr Fredrick Baraik** and **Fr Alex Beck** made their annual retreat recently at different times at Inigo Bhavan.

*Sch. Lawrence Mudiyaappan*

## ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING

In the first week of December, the second semester exams of Classes 6-12 concluded. The school had received 2 prestigious awards for the year – The Star Education Award 2023 for the best school infrastructure in India and The School of the Year Award 2023 awarded by the Telegraph Newspaper. In the second week, we had the inauguration of the new over-bridge at North Point. This occasion was

graced by the presence of our donor and benefactor of the bridge, Hon. Chief Minister of Sikkim, **Shri P.S Golay**. The bridge was blessed by our new Provincial, **Rev. Fr Shajumon C. K.** and was later followed by a felicitation program at the school auditorium. We then had the Christmas Carol singing by the students of Classes 6, 7, 8 and 11. A Christmas program was also organized for the parents. The Report Cards were distributed to the students. In the third week, the winter vacation began for the students. A Pre-Christmas celebration program and a picnic was also organized for all the staff of the school.



At the community, the Regents, **Sch. Prabhu Bengra** and **Sch. Aatish Prabhu** attended a 2-day recollection at Matigara from December 16-17. The talk was given by **Fr Zacchaeus Dungdung**, on the theme 'Religion vs Relationship'. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, another recollection talk was given by our Rector, **Fr Stanley Verghese** to all the members of the community. We thereafter had a short Pre-Christmas dinner. On 25 December, **Sch. Prabhu Bengra** celebrated his birthday. **Fr Vincent George** celebrated Christmas Mass at Lepcha Busty Church and **Fr John Banerjee** went to Bhutan for Christmas ministry in the absence of **Fr Kinley Tshering**.

*Sch. Aatish Prabhu*

### JESU ASHRAM, MATIGARA

Manresa Jesuit novices came to Jesu Ashram on 12 October and made their one-month hospital experiment with great dedication. Apart from hospital work, they also helped us in different ways. In a similar way, the Cluny novices from Kalimpong came to Jesu Ashram on 30 October for 15 days of hospital experiments and made our patients happy during their stay. We thank both Jesuit and Cluny novices for being with us and for their valuable contributions. A medical camp was held on 18 November in Kalabari. Along with our nursing

students and the staff **Dr Louis Tirkey** and **Dr Rupanjali Tirkey** made themselves available and gave their valuable service to different patients over there. We thank them for their free service. We thank **Mr Renato** with our sincere hearts for his loyal service, boundless love, and heartfelt concern to Jesu Ashram.

Our third-year nursing students began their final exam on 16 November. After they had finished their exam on 1 December, they went for a short home visit. Moreover, the ultimate day has come for them to depart from Jesu Ashram after they finished 3 years of their nursing course. We bid them farewell on 27<sup>th</sup> evening with a short program. On this occasion they were given their certificates. On this same day we also bid farewell to **Mr Michael Tirkey**, a staff from Jesu Ashram. We express our heartfelt gratitude to him for serving our patients for 33 years. We had a Christmas gathering on 23 December in Jesu Ashram. **Rev. Bishop Vincent Aind** was the chief guest of the day. Along with him there were many more guests who made our program a colorful one through their active participation. As one family, all the patients from different wards gathered in front of T.B. ward on 25<sup>th</sup> December for a delicious Christmas lunch.

*Sch. Markush Narzary*

### JESU NIKETAN SCHOOL, MATIGARA

The 14 November being the Puja holiday, we anticipated the Children's Day celebration on 11 November in Jesu Niketan School. Our students began their annual exam on 28 November and finished on 7 December. Thereafter, all the teachers engaged themselves fully to prepare our students for drama and dances for the Christmas gathering which was held on 19 December. On this special day our teachers exchanged their Christmas gifts with each other. Furthermore, the very next day we bid farewell to our class 4 students and gave them their Transfer Certificates. On 21 December we distributed admission forms for LKG for the year 2024. A good number of parents came from our neighboring villages to school to receive the forms. **Mr Gabriel** and **Mr Antonio**, from Madrid Spain Manos Unidas Organization (MUO) visited our school on 23 November and studied the family background of the students. They were happy to see our students and the school campus.

*Sch. Markush Narzary*

## ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING

St Joseph's College bid a tearful farewell to **Mr Navin Raya**, who dedicated an impressive 42 years of service to the institution, making a significant contribution to the Department of Physics. **Mr Raya** started his journey on 11 January 1980, as a Laboratory Instructor. Over the years he progressed in his role, achieving the position of Graduate Lab Instructor in 2002 and further advancing to the role of Graduate Lab Instructor (Associate) in 2006. The Management and faculty gratefully acknowledge the conclusion of an era, an illustrious chapter, filled with wisdom, inspiration, and a steadfast commitment to shaping the minds of countless students. We sincerely appreciate his unwavering commitment to enhancing and building the academic legacy of our institute.



Improving the campus infrastructure to ensure a steady electrical power supply is essential for the seamless operation of diverse activities on campus. In response to the persistent challenge of unpredictable electricity supply, the college has installed a 190 kilovolt (KV) transformer in the campus. Furthermore, the college has embarked on a campus-wide Wi-Fi initiative to facilitate online teaching and learning, thereby enhancing the overall quality of education. This significant step aims to provide uninterrupted internet connectivity across the entire campus, creating an environment conducive to innovative and effective online as well as offline teaching experiences. **Fr Binay Xavier**, Vice Principal led a National Service Scheme camp from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December in Bijanbari Block, involving forty-seven students. The goal is to cultivate a spirit of community service and nurture leadership qualities. Throughout the week, participants underwent socio-economic survey techniques, trekking and engaged in activities including cleaning of the surroundings. Additionally, they worked towards raising social awareness about health and hygiene within the local village

community. On 22<sup>nd</sup> the staff of Self-Financed Courses enjoyed a picnic at Jamuni, an event that not only revitalized their spirits but also cultivated a sense of unity among the staff. This outing ensured that they returned to work with renewed energy and a heightened understanding of each other. The University odd semester examination concluded successfully on 23 December. The College will remain closed for Winter vacation for about one and half months.

*Fr Donatus Kujur*

## LOYOLA COLLEGE, NAMCHI

The formative internal assessment of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester B.Ed. and MA in Education took place during the first week of December. The Professors assessed the practical aspects of the courses and awarded marks. The faculty members under the guidance of **Dr Sandhya Rai**, IQAC Coordinator submitted all pending AQAR data collection, for the years 2016-2017 to 2022-2023 before winter vacation. Pre-Christmas was celebrated with much joy and excitement on 16 December. The Chief Guest for the Occasion **Shri Satish Chandra Rai**, Hon'ble Advisor, Skill Development Department, Government of Sikkim, stressed the need of skilled teachers in Sikkim. The students made Pre-Christmas Celebration enjoyable with Christmas Carols. The staff and students relished festive Loyola family lunch. **Fr Justin Thiraveyam** joined Sakyong faithful for Christmas celebration and engaged in Pastoral Ministry there for about one month during winter holidays of the College. **Fr Francis George** and **Fr Ajay Lakra** joined the catholic faithful of Namchi for Christmas Celebrations. **Fr Francis George** gave a course on 'Liturgy' to the tertian sisters of the Congregation of Jesus at St Mary's Convent Namchi from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December.

*Fr Francis George*

## NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

Before the curtain for the year 2023 came down, the college at both campuses successfully conducted the University written Exams for all three Semesters while some Practical Exams were conducted before 21 December. On the penultimate day of the Exams, Siliguri Campus organised Pre-Christmas while Rajganj Campus celebrated Pre-Christmas on 22 December with the teaching and non-teaching staff including a small number of first year students who had stayed behind. With five Asst professors leaving for greener pastures after passing

CSCEs (College Service Commission Exams), recruitment interviews were conducted during exam periods for subjects such as, BBA, B. Com, Computer Science, Economics and Political Science. Earlier in the month, **Fr John Kennedy** attended local CRI meeting wherein he was elected president of the local unit. On 9 December he also gave a recollection for the youth of Lalmati, Kurseong and a one-day seminar to the Sisters of MSMHS on 'Consecrated Life' and use of social media. **Fr Lalit Tirkey** had a five-day visit to Gumla, Jharkhand in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebration of his aunt who is an Ursuline nun. Scholastics who now take special English classes for Kheripara children also went with some fathers for Pre-Christmas celebration at our Tuition centre in Kheripara. For Christmas, **Fr Kennedy** went to Kainjalua while the remaining Jesuits and scholastics went for Vigil Mass at Mongradangi Parish where **Fr Deven Yonzon** preached homily in Hindi. The following day, **Fr Bijay Kindo** took up morning Mass at the local parish while **Fr Lalit** said Mass for orphan and physically challenged children at Bakuabari, South Point House.

*Fr Lalit Tirkey*

### XAVIER SANGEETANJALI, MATIGARA

In order to preserve and promote local and tribal cultural music and dance, we had initiated a program of training for the youth of four villages namely Gungaram, Merryview, Kelabari and Sakyong. From the month of January, 2023 we have started regular training sessions in Tribal music and dance using traditional music instruments namely, Sarangi, Mandar, Nagada, Sehnaï etc. The training sessions in these four villages are going on very well. The students who are members of these cultural groups are becoming aware of the importance of preserving their cultural heritage. The training sessions are usually conducted in the week-end evenings.

On 3 December, on the Feast of St Francis Xavier, we had an Annual Concert, known as Sangeetanjali Day-2023. The staff and students of Sangeetanjali performed a variety of classical and semi-classical dances and music. The hall was packed to the full. The chief-guest of our annual concert was **Fr Shajumon C.K.**, the new Provincial of Darjeeling Province. He gave an inspiring and encouraging message to the staff and students of Sangeetanjali. He spoke of the importance and influence of music

and dance in the lives of young people. The highlight of the program was our parents, who themselves are enrolled as students and performed a dance item.



In order to preserve some of the rare instruments and cultural articles, we prepared glass cupboards in one of our class rooms. The aim is to preserve some old instruments and gadgets which are not in use any more. This will help our students to know and appreciate those instruments and articles which were used by their ancestors. On 10 December, we had the much awaited 'Exhibition of musical instruments and variety of old instruments of technology of communication'. **Fr Joseph Victor**, our Province Development Director and **Fr Xavier Alangaram**, the Socius to the Provincial were the honorable guests to inaugurate the exhibition. We have displayed folk instruments of percussion, strings, leather, brass, bow etc. Our parents and children and guests were overjoyed to see them displayed beautifully. **Fr Kalyan Tirkey** has composed and choreographed a Christmas carol and some of our dance students performed a dance to the song. It is available on YouTube for viewing.

*Fr Edward Arokianaraj*

### ST PAUL'S PARISH, KURSEONG

On 9 December a one-day recollection was conducted in our church by the Charismatic Team of the diocese. From 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December **Fr Peter Jong Lepcha**, **Mr Anupam Sundas** and **Reha Sundas** went to St Xavier's Church, Sakyong to prepare the choir for their silver Jubilee of the Parish Church which was held on 16 December. On the same day Catholic Samaj of our Parish felicitated the Senior citizens in the church. On the 17 and 18 December Catholic Samaj members visited the elderly and sick, who cannot come to the church, with Christmas greetings and gifts. They also visited the local authorities with the same purpose. On those days, The Parish youth had a separate recollection in

Lalmati given by **Fr John Kennedy**. On 17<sup>th</sup> a day of recollection and confession was held in Ambootia, Mahanadi and Lalmati. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, Crib Competition which included card making,



singing, mono act, storytelling and drawing, was conducted by St Helen's convent for the Crusvir children. On the 21<sup>st</sup> Parishioners led by the Catholic Samaj members visited Missionary of Charity Sisters at Tindharey to for carol singing and shared the Christmas gifts with the inmates.

*Fr Peter Jong Lepcha*

### INFANT JESUS, SITTONG

The season of Christmas is the season of Joy. This month was filled with graces and blessings in the school as well as in the parish. We ended our School academic year for this year on 12 December with the result distribution and Christmas celebration. Our staff organized the program for students and parents. We prepared the students for Christmas Carol which was led by **Fr Patrick Bhutia**. The carol was melodious, energetic and all participated in the carol joyfully. The students were engaged in both carol song and dance. We announced the results and distributed the prizes. It was well organized by the teachers and parents were glad to see their children receiving prizes for their hard work. In the parish we had a joyous celebration. We had gone for Christmas carols to all the parishioners. The vigil Mass was celebrated by **Fr Patrick**. The parishioners had a fellowship meal after the mass.

*Sch. Arif Beek*

### VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

Vidyajyoti staff and students attended a workshop on Election Awareness at Navjeevan Renewal Center with the Religious and Priests on 1 December. On 2 December, we had our monthly recollection on the theme FORMS OF GOVERNANCE and EN TODO AMAR Y SERVIR from De Statu Societatis Iesu 2023. On 3 December, a one-day Bal

Mela was organized at Vidyajyoti under the coordination of **Sch. Reuell Paul and Ms Netta D'souza** for the children of Vidyajyoti fieldwork units to recognize and encourage their talents. The president of All India Mahila Congress was the chief guest for the event. We went to different Mother Teresa Houses to spread love, hope and good news by carol singing. **Fr Frank Subba** left Vidyajyoti on 9 December, after having completed the course on the Gospel of St Mark for first-year theologians. The community day was organised on 9 December beginning with marchpast of each living group and a series of activities. The college celebrated the Pre-Christmas Program on 21 December with a special musical act with the theme on Wisdom in Selection, Birth of Hope. The auspicious event was graced by **Dr John Varghese**, the principal of St Stephen's College Delhi. The community celebrated Christmas on Christmas evening with carol singing from each zone. Darjeeling scholastics put up an instrumental on Nepali folk music. **Fr Peter Bhujel** visited us on 26 December. The year 2023 ended meaningfully with Triduum from 27<sup>th</sup> for the first and second years, whereas the third years went for their Diaconate retreat on 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Sch. Rajan Minj*

### DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

On 6 December during our weekly recreation, we were pleasantly surprised by the sudden appearance of three Darjeeling Jesuits **Fr Leo Thomas, Fr Binod Kerketta**, and **Fr Justin Bage**, and two Nepal Jesuits **Fr Peter Chettri and Fr Matthew**. They are participating in their one-month Ignatian Spirituality course at DNC. On 7 December, the DNC community engaged in a discussion on DE STATU SOCIETIS IESU (Collaborating in Reconciling all Things in Christ), followed by intimate faith-sharing sessions within our living groups. Through the faith-sharing session, we felt a strong sense of communal support, fostering an atmosphere that promotes both personal spiritual development and a shared understanding among us. From 14 to 19 December, we immersed ourselves in the rigors of our second semester's initial mid-term examinations. Following these exams, we wholeheartedly plunged into the joyful preparations for Christmas. Amidst this bustling activity, our community experienced the North East cultural celebration on the 21<sup>st</sup>, an event that deeply enriched our understanding of the Kohima Region's mission and the vibrant cultural tapestry woven into the lives of its people. On the

radiant day of December 25th, we joyously celebrated Christmas with a splendid Noon Mass, followed by a festive lunch. As the evening adorned itself in festivity, our voices united in province-wise carol singing, harmonizing with the delightful game of housie. Then, on the tranquil eve of December 27<sup>th</sup>, we commenced our triduum, marking the path for the renewal of our vows.

*Sch. Jeyaraj Solomon*

### SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

On 5 December, Cyclone 'Michaung' struck, bringing heavy rainfall that submerged the entire city in water. Due to severe flooding, two blocks of Satya Nilayam were submerged in water and there were no instructional classes for a couple of days. We ventured into various places during Christmas to spread festive cheer through carol songs. On 23 December, a heart-warming Christmas gathering unfolded as the Campus Ministry joined hands with the Slum Ministry to organize a delightful event that brought joy to all participants. We participated in the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and served in

various Parishes. We designed a poignant nativity scene themed around Gaza and the Palestinian war, depicting the destruction of an entire city, an evocative display that remained both attractive and elegantly adorned, conveying a powerful message through its poignant beauty. On the evening of 25 December, the community came together for a joyous Christmas celebration, expressing love by cutting the Christmas cake, exchanging gifts, and harmonising in zonal-wise carol singing. On 26 December, a spirited and friendly football match unfolded between the first and second-year philosophy students, culminating in a thrilling draw. On 27 December, our community radiated the essence of Christmas by extending warmth, joy, and peace to our neighbours, fostering a shared celebration of the season's spirit. From December 28 to 30, we participated in a workshop on the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP) and National Education Policy (NEP).

*Sch. Ashish Soy*



### Pope's New Year Message – 2024

It is my prayer at the start of the New Year that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today's world, but will help put an end to wars and conflicts, and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family. May Christian believers, followers of various religions and men and women of good will work together in harmony to embrace the opportunities and confront the challenges posed by the digital revolution and thus hand on to future generations a world of greater solidarity, justice and peace.

### REST IN PEACE

<b>Br Xavier S. Arockiasamy (MDU)</b>	92/68	on 3 December
<b>Fr Peter Marandi (DUM)</b>	77/53	on 05 December
<b>Fr Lourduraj Arokiasamy (CEN)</b>	78/60	on 12 December
<b>Fr George Hilarion Thakur (PAT)</b>	68/48	on 16 December
<b>Mr Albinus Tigga (98), Father of Fr John Tigga</b>	on 11 <sup>th</sup> December	