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No.4 Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits- April-2021

### From the Provincial's Desk

The Holy Week reminds us of the need to use three important tools in life: (i) Consciousness Examen, (ii) Discernment of Spirits and (iii) Ignatian Contemplation. When we are dealing with crisis, suffering, fear, anxiety, worry, death and injustice, God asks us to look for Him amid the events that occur. The prayer called "Consciousness Examen" that we do at the end of every day helps us to see where God is. Often in difficult times, we focus only on the difficulties and not where God might be. We are so caught up in the day-to-day events, and we miss where God is speaking to us. The Consciousness Examen gives one time to notice where God is active during the day, to be able to look back and see where God has been beneficial to overcome the difficulties and challenges.



The Holy Week also invites us to make good decisions every day. This requires filtering of our thoughts or instances that give good or bad feelings in the light of the passion and death of Jesus. Anything that gives someone more hope, confidence, courage, and a sense of upliftment comes from God. Anything that says that nothing can change will lead us to despair. That is not coming from God. Finally, the Holy Week also invites us to use our imagination to place ourselves within a scripture scene or to imagine speaking with God. The invitation is to trust that Jesus will calm the waves in our lives by seeing how He has conquered difficulties. The fruit of such contemplation is our own resurrection and a new beginning.

#### PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM: April 2021

01-04	Holy Week Celebrations	15	Meeting - planning of Province Assembly
11	Ordination of Dn. Oshish Turkey – Hasimara	17	Voting - Darjeeling
12	First Mass of Fr Oshish Turkey - Hasimara	26-30	Visit to Fr Amid Kujur - Chhattisgarh

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Ordination:** Dn Oshish Turkey will be ordained on 11 April 2021, 10.30 am in Hasimara

**Province Assembly:** Starts at 9 a.m. on 19 May 2021 at St. Joseph's school, Darjeeling.

**Jubilee Celebrations:** On 19 May 2021, we will have the Jubilee Celebrations of:  
 Fr Paulose Ezhakunnel – 60 Years in the Society of Jesus  
 Fr Cherian Padiyara – 50 Years in the Society of Jesus  
 Fr Francis D'Souza – 50 Years in the Society of Jesus  
 At St Joseph's School, Darjeeling

**Inauguration of the Ignatian Year:** On 20 May 2021 at St. Joseph's School, Darjeeling

#### Appointment by Fr General

On 4 March 2021, Father General appointed Fr. Zbigniew Leczkowski SJ as the new Superior of the Province of Greater Poland and Mazovia of the Society of Jesus.

#### JCSA Appointments as On 25 March 2021

1. Fr Antonysamy Stephenraj, SJ (PAT) – Regional Director, JRS

2. Fr Francis Pudhicherry (GUJ) – Rector of De Nobili College, Pune
3. Fr Nirmal Raj (DUM) – Rector of Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi
4. Fr Sunny Jacob (JAM) – Asst for Mission and Identity for the Secretariat for Education and Jesuit Education Specialist for 'Educate Magis'

## APPROVAL BY FR GENERAL

Fr Xavier Alangaram – Superior of PJR, Matigara

## APPOINTMENTS BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Ajay Raj Lakra – Tertiaship at Shembaganur

Fr Henrick Immanuel – Tertiaship at Sitagarha

## Roots and Wings (April 06 – May 08) Shembaganur

Fr David Ekka

Fr Donatus Kujur

Fr Sundeep Beck

## Left the Society

Fr Tej Kumar Linda – (Incardinated in Khunti Diocese)

## ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTH POINT, DARJEELING

In-person classes for the day-scholars of classes IX, X and XII are held regularly. The live telecast of the rest of the classes is on as well for the students at home. The boarders of classes IX, X and XII are reporting to the school on different weeks with the consent letters of their parents, along with negative COVID test reports. Each batch is kept in quarantine for a week. The ICSE and ISC examinees arrived on 13 March. The remedial classes and mock tests are arranged for the ICSE and ISC examinees to supplement their exam preparations. On 13 March an orientation was held for



class XII students by the school staff, which was well appreciated by the students.

The school celebrated the feast of the school patron **Saint Joseph** on

18 March with a Mass for the students and staff of the school, followed by lunch. **Fr Rector** was the main celebrant. We have resumed the first Friday Masses for the students and the staff at the school. On 20 March, a highly acclaimed orientation was given to the teaching staff of the school by **Fr Rector** on 'POCSO' and 'Legal Advisory'. A meeting with the day-scholar parents of class VIII, IX, X & XII was held on the 27<sup>th</sup>. On the same day an entrance test was conducted for the new class XI.

The dispersed community members had a recollection by **Fr K.J. Joseph** on 18 March followed by a combined birthday celebrations of **Fr Leo**, **Schs. Pankaj** and **Amit**. **Fr Sunny Jacob** spent two days at the community prior to his NEP seminars to the staff of different schools in Darjeeling. The scholastics from the community are going to Kainjalia and Singla for Easter ministry for a week. **Fr K.J. Joseph** has gone home to visit his elder sister who is suffering from cancer. At Lepcha Busty, there was a day-long retreat for the Parishioners, preached by **Fr Abraham**. On 26 the Parishioners of Lepcha Busty went on a walking pilgrimage to Singla Church.

**Fr Anuranjan Ekka**

## WERY NIWAS, KURSEONG

St Paul's Parish organized a Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier from 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March. Priests and Nuns of different congregations and Diocese were invited to give talks. Around three hundred people from our parish and St. Mary's attended the novena daily. On 7<sup>th</sup> the Family Cell of our parish organized an awareness program to 34 Christeen members on hygiene, physical and psychological change, friendship, love, etc. On 14<sup>th</sup> **Fr. Laban**

conducted a one-day seminar for young couples. 24 couples participated. On 20<sup>th</sup> a day-long Charismatic retreat was held in the parish organized by the Charismatic group of the parish. **Br. Kenneth** and **Sr. Nille**, were the resource persons. About 250 people took part. From 21<sup>st</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> **Fr. Peter Jong** heard confessions and gave communion to the sick and aged who are unable to come to the parish for Mass. From 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> *recollection for Crusvir and Christeen was organized in Woodcot.* **Sr. Barbara Rudum**, *IBVM and team conducted the program.*

St. Alphonsus School is holding normal classes for classes 9, 10, 11 & 12. About 75% of students are attending regularly, although it's not compulsory for them. On 8<sup>th</sup> March, the school prefects had a meeting to assess the ongoing classes and discipline of students. On 12<sup>th</sup> a staff meeting was held. In order to improve the teaching-learning process, the staff agreed unanimously to introduce FLIP learning method and skill based work-education class. **Mr. Nirmal** who retired in December 2019 was given farewell on 31<sup>st</sup> of this month. **Fr. Kevin** attended a webinar for headmasters from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March conducted by the West Bengal Board of Education.

**Fr Peter Jong Lepcha**

## JESU ASHRAM, MATIGARA

On 28<sup>th</sup> February morning, **Fr Julius Kujur**, two nurses and **Sch. David Ekka** rushed to New Jalpaiguri taxi-stand to attend to a man lying motionless, in a critical condition. He was brought to Jesu Ashram and given medical care. Unfortunately, he died the same night. The ordeal didn't end there, though. When we informed the local police, they asked us to take his body to the North Bengal Medical College & Hospital (NBMCH) for further action.



In NBMCH we were asked by the Medical officers to get the papers done from the police station! Shocking bureaucracy! An NBMCH doctor examined the body and asked us to go to the morgue for the post-mortem. The stench at the morgue threw us off our feet. Soon we regained our composure and completed the formalities for the man about whom we knew nothing. Except that he made us good Samaritans!

The number of new patients is increasing in Jesu Ashram as we resumed admitting new patients after the lockdown. Recently, a girl child (**Sanam Lohar**) was brought here with severe burns. Intense care and treatment is given to her. Another child **Pravi Munda**, suffering from omental hernia, was brought here and was later admitted to Navjeevan Hospital, Gayaganga, for the operation. 43 staff and students of Jesu Ashram, including the Sisters and Jesuits, have been vaccinated in Navjeevan Hospital. The rest will take the jab in April.





Transport support is very important in the healing mission. **SOS India** promptly responded to our request for an ambulance, over a year ago. Alas, three months after booking the vehicle, the order was cancelled by the company because it stopped producing ambulances! Another company was approached. This time due to COVID-19, the company was under lockdown! At last we got the new ambulance, after a year! Thanks to **SOS India** for the continuous support to Jesu Ashram in every way.

**Sch. David Ekka**

### ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

**Deacon Oshish Tirkey**, joined the community on March 01, and he has been kept busy in the parish and community. Please pray for him as he is making his retreat before his ordination on April 11, 2021 at St Francis Church, Hasimara.

In the School, classes are going on quite normally and our teachers are putting their best effort to complete the syllabus of Madhyamik and H.S. students. Most of our teachers, including Jesuits, went for a two-day election-training.

The nurses of Navajeevan hospital, youth and women of the parish celebrated the international women's day at the parish with Mass and a short program. On 14<sup>th</sup>, 468 women of the parish went for a pilgrimage to Kelabari. They had a very good spiritual experience attending the way of the cross and Mass there. Over 400 men from our parish attended the Baba rally on 21<sup>st</sup> of this month. **Fr Ranjan** from Adhikari parish said the Mass and gave a talk. The rally ended with lunch at the parish hall. On the same day 'Amoris Laetitia' ("The joy of Love") Family Year' was inaugurated at the parish level. Also the first-ever Gayaganga Church bulletin was released. Thanks to Deacon Oshish for his great work. The parish priest organized Lenten retreats and confessions in the villages. 16 couples went through a week-long marriage preparation classes. They will be getting married after Easter.

**Sch. Sujit Minj**

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

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> semester students had online exams in the form of assignments. On March 18, for the first time, in-person sessions were organised for the 1<sup>st</sup> years. The new entrants were truly excited on the first day of their *college life*. In Siliguri Campus, offline classes for Accountancy under the old system began from March 1<sup>st</sup> week on alternative days. The NAAC core team and the heads of departments have been relentlessly working on Data Validation & Verification (DVV) process. On 24<sup>th</sup> March late into the night the DVV was submitted to the NAAC hours before the deadline. We are now waiting for the next stage.

**Fr Bijay Kindo**, our new Vice-Principal, has taken up the task of getting many physical features prepared, one of them being the bridge linking the two buildings. **Fr Deven's** energetic work behind bursar's office can be seen by all but not many have noticed his skills in turning the dense shrubs and bushes behind the hostel into an organic vegetable garden. He has generously donated some vegetables to Jesu Ashram.

Our new residence construction is on full swing. The ground floor pillars have come up. **Fr Gabriel**, the superior, is clearing the garbage around the old house when not attending the too many province level meetings. **Fr. Joseph Kulandai**, the Vice-Principal of St Xavier's College, Kolkata, spent two days at the college collecting data for his doctoral studies. On 21<sup>st</sup> March, the community gave farewell to **Br Broney** as he prepares to take up

new assignment across the border. We wish him all the very best! **Fr Lalit** took time out of his busy schedule to go to Bainthguri tea garden under Malbazar parish to hear confessions followed by Sunday Mass.

**Fr Lalit Tirkey**

### ST. VINCENT'S, HATIGHISA

St Vincent's school, parish and community are very grateful to **Fr Klaus Vathroder and the Province of Germany** for supporting the road construction and pavement around the church. Thanks to his generosity, we have a strong road and a well-designed concrete space on all sides of the church and in front of the community building. **Danke, Klaus!**

All the priests in the community are availing themselves for the sacrament of reconciliation arranged at different lines / villages. **Fr. Alex**, resumed baptism classes in the parish from 7<sup>th</sup> March. There was a gathering of over 600 women for the "International Women's Day". **Fr. Bijay Kindo** celebrated the Eucharist and gave some valuable input on "Women in leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a post-Covid World". The day's awareness and advocacy drive ended with a common pledge undertaken by all. An acknowledgement certificate was awarded by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to the participants.

On 17<sup>th</sup> **Frs Alvin** and **Alex** attended a meeting at the Bishop's House on "some cultural concerns". **Fr. Alvin** has regularized youth meetings and he continues to draw youngsters for football matches every Sunday.

A two-day seminar on Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Adults was organized at Loyola Pastoral Centre by **Fr. Lawrence** for the Bagdogra Catholic Diocese Education Forum. **Mr Tej Kumar Thapa**, Child protection officer at ADSSS was the resource person. **Fr. Stanley** took a session on legal compliance of the POCSO Act 2012 and the Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2013.

**Fr. Peter Pappu** stirred up a flurry of pleasant memories at the requiem for **Fr. Marcel** Benedict on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021; we remember him fondly as our simple "bajey", ever ailing but never failing in his priestly purpose. **Sch. Prabhu Bhengra**, while unwinding here during the holidays, is also doing a survey on the impact of Covid-19 on individuals and their families.

**Sch. Reuell Paul**

### MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

On 27<sup>th</sup> February, **Fr Roshan Kiro**, Socius, returned from Sadhana Institute, Lonavla, after two months of training. On 28<sup>th</sup> February, the community celebrated the birthday of Br Gabriel Gurung, although the actual birthday is on 29<sup>th</sup> February. **Fr John Banerjee, Fr Benny Paul, Fr Binod Kerketta** and **Br Gilbert Lepcha** joined the celebration.

Soon after his return, **Fr Roshan** was busy preparing the first year novices for the ministries of Lector and Acolyte. On 11<sup>th</sup> March, **Fr John Wilfred Lobo**, Provincial, presided over the Eucharistic celebration and conferred the ministries of Lector and Acolyte on 9 first year novices. **Fr Shaji Joseph**, concelebrated the mass. Our joy was doubled by the birthday celebration of novice **Praful Lakra** on the same day. The 3 second year novices started delivering their homilies from 15<sup>th</sup> March. They are quite edifying and challenging for all of us. In today's world we need to be a voice for the voiceless. On 19<sup>th</sup> March we celebrated the feast of St Joseph, the Patron Saint of the Society of Jesus, with filial affection. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, **Sanchilit Dungdung**, the second year novice, presented a brief history of the feast of St Joseph in the class. On 25<sup>th</sup> March, **Fr Shaji** and all the novices attended the Chrism Mass at St Teresa's

Church, Kalimpong. **Fr Roshan** and **Br Gabriel Gurung** stayed back to guard the house.

**Novice Sanchilit Dungdung**

### Loyola College of Education, Namchi

The Jesuit community had its recollection on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021. **Fr Cherian Padiyara, SJ**, shared his reflections on Lent and stressed the need of union between the person of Jesus and each member of the community. **Fr Francis George** participated in the Syllabus Revision Process for M.A in Education at the Department of Education, Sikkim University, on 13.03.2021. **Fr Justin Thiraveyam** conducted a day of recollection for the youth of St Peter's Parish, Namchi, on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The students, of B.Ed. and M.A in Education, have started their 'Take Home' Semester-End Examinations on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

**Fr Francis George**

### ST. XAVIER'S, DEONIA

The Covid-19 lockdown has not affected Jhapa much. Different activities both in the school and Mass centres keep all our community members busy. We even reach close to the border (Dhulabari) for Masses and visits. Our Catholic Community in Jhapa is growing day by day and much more pastoral care is needed. We were blessed to have our pre-novices from Matigara, from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March. **Sch. Evan Basnet** had accompanied them. They were in awe to learn about Jhapa Jesuit mission. Thanks be to **Fr. Arul**, superior, for meticulously planning their stay here.

**Fr. Daniel Bara** has completely recovered from his minor injury sustained in the bike accident. He is busy coordinating the plus two students in their different activities. With his much experience, he is also busy in the development work of the Institution. I am at the fag end of my regency here in Deonia. By the second week of May, this session will end.

**Sch. Gorak Rudum**

### ASHA KIRAN, MANGALORE

These days the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years are having usually online classes and the 3<sup>rd</sup> years are having offline classes. All are also preparing for their first internal exams. In the month of January, **Fr. Paul D'souza** visited us and also invited us to his house. We finished our semester exams and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years went to different mission stations of Karnataka province. The 1<sup>st</sup> years attended the ITI course. All of us returned with a lot of enriching experiences. We have begun our new academic year. Now we are spiritually preparing ourselves to celebrate the Easter.

**Sch. Joseph Kerketta**

### VINAYALYA, MUMBAI

A course on "Communication Skill" was conducted by **Mr. Edwin Fernandez** on 9<sup>th</sup> February. The annual drama, the five-act play "Christmas Carol" was performed on 28<sup>th</sup> February. We had a week-long **Documentary Film Making Workshop** conducted by **Dr. Shaison P Ouseph**. It was altogether a new and inspiring course which began on 1<sup>st</sup> March and lasted till 7<sup>th</sup> March. It enriched us with many insights and knowledge on the subject. **Sch. Samson** won the **second price** (Rs. 2500) at **JIVAN CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST (essay)-2020**. The title of the essay was **More Attention is Required for "Women Empowerment" to Create a Better Tomorrow**. Congrats Samson! We had our ASET exam on 15<sup>th</sup> March. A preliminary exam preceded the ASET on 9<sup>th</sup> March. On 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March we made a trip to Vasai. It was exhilarating to see the Jesuit heritage there. The Jesuit communities welcomed us graciously.

**Schs. Samson and Binod**

### JESUIT NIVAS, BANGALORE

After conducting a full semester of online classes, St. Joseph's college, Bangalore, resumed classes in the campus only for the first year PG students on March 8<sup>th</sup> onwards. The students visited the college with the mixed feeling of excitement and nervousness. Covid cases in Bangalore is on constant rise. On 23 March, the municipal healthcare team once again conducted covid test for all the students attending classes on campus. **Sch. Roshan** still waits for the report. The community life in Jesuit Niwas is very lively. It's a very happy place to be in. On 11 March, the community went to Anikal, a mission station, to meet the brick factory workers as part of the community's outreach program. We distributed some sweets and gifts to all the families. On 19 March, St. Joseph's Institute of Management (SJIM) achieved yet another milestone. It celebrated silver jubilee of the commencement of PGDM course. Jesuit Niwas community joined in sharing their happiness. The community members eagerly wait for the announcement of the new appointments due in the next month.

**Sch. Roshan GyanTopno**

### INIGO SADAN, BANGALORE

On 12<sup>th</sup> March, **Fr. Arjen Tete**, the CDF (Conference Delegate for Formation) visited the Scholastics at Inigo Sadan. His address left a huge impact on everyone. He exhorted us to be free in the hands of God, to be loving and creative in God's mission. On 19<sup>th</sup> March, the feast of St Joseph was celebrated in a grand way. Currently, **Sch. Arbind** and **Ramhorchan** are writing their examinations.

**Sch. Romiyo**

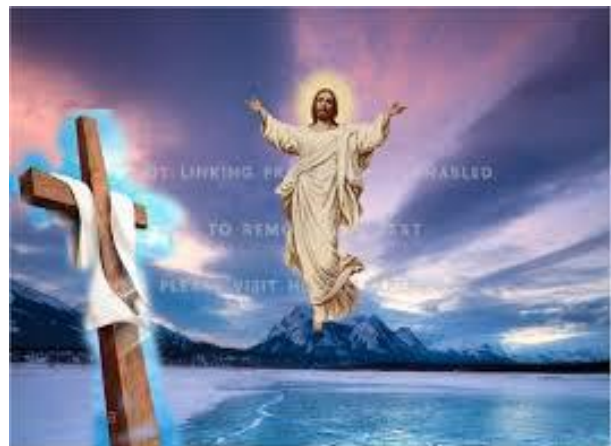
### Let's Pray for the Sick

Fr Cherian Nampeli

Fr Amid Kujur

### Rest in Peace

Fr Savarimuthu Xavier (CEN)	83/59	3 March
Fr Edward Kerketta (RAN)	69/46	8 March
Bro Victor Campos (GOA)	87/20	10 March
Fr Arul Jeevan (MDU)	73/50	22 March
Fr Anil Kishor Tirkey (RAN)	67/47	27 March



**Wish You All the Blessings of the Holy Week!  
Happy Easter!**