



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

No 9

Newsletter of Darjeeling Jesuits

December ~ 2019

Provincial's Message

We celebrate the birth of Christ because it is the reality of God taking up our human nature. It is always the same, century after century that love prompts one to suffer and die for the good of others. God sends rays of light and powers of redemption in the midst of human sinfulness. He only asks that we respond, however feebly. Pope Francis says, "Where God is born, hope is born; and where hope is born, persons regain their dignity." Today great numbers of men and women, especially numerous migrants and refugees are deprived of their human dignity and, like the child Jesus, suffer cold, poverty, and rejection. A world order that is founded on consumerism, greed and outright injustice denies dignity to the poor and powerless. Christmas invites us to fight against every force that denies dignity of human beings. It invites us to be close to those who are most vulnerable and help them to build a dignified future for themselves and for their dear ones. Real Christmas is when the Divine begins to express itself in the heart of each person and light begins to shine where darkness was before. Christmas marks a whole new way of looking at love, life and death.



Kindly pray for the repose of the soul of Fr William Bourke, SJ (DAR) 94/74, who breathed his last at 1 pm on 30 November

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

Kindly Mark the Following Days

December 2019:

27 December 2019

- 03 Mass/Community meeting at Manresa
- 04 Visit to Darjeeling/Kurseong
- 05 Meeting in Gayaganga
Leave for Calcutta
- 06-07 Visitation: Dhyana Ashram
- 09 Formation Commission Meeting
- 10-12 Visitation: Ahmadabad
- 13-14 Visitation: Delhi
- 15 HLDRC Day
- 16 NBSXC Governing Body Meeting
Zonal level meeting - Vocation Promotion
- 20 Province Consult in the afternoon
- 27 Golden Jubilee Celebration

Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Fr Peter Pappu, SJ (Mass at 10.30 am followed by felicitation and lunch, Maitri Hall, Matigara)

2-4 March 2020

Fr General's Visit to the Province (2 March: Darjeeling; 3 March: Kalimpong; 4 March: Gayaganga and at 4.30 – Holy Mass and interaction with the Jesuits of the Province, Matigara)

APPOINTMENT BY THE POPE

Fr Juan Antonio Guerrero Alves, S.J., (ESP), Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy of the Holy See

APPOINTMENT BY FR GENERAL

Fr Johan Verschueren, S.J., (ELC), General Counsellor and Delegate for the Interprovincial Houses and Works of the Society of Jesus in Rome (DIR)

Fr Koppala Abraham Stanislaus, SJ, Provincial of Andhra

Fr L Jebamalai Irudayaraj, SJ, Provincial of Chennai.

APPOINTMENT BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Peter Jong Lepcha – Acting Superior of Wery Niwas, Kurseong. w.e.f. 1 January 2020

Br Broney Chettri – North Bengal St Xavier's College, Rajganj. w.e.f. 1 January 2020

Fr Alvin Minj – Co-pastor, St Vincent's, Hatighisa. w.e.f. 1 February 2020

Fr Frank Subba - Director of Pre-Novices, Matigara. w.e.f. 1 April 2020

Br Gabriel Gurung – Minister, Manresa Jesuit Novitiate. w.e.f. 1 April 2020

Br Francis Basumatari – Minister, Senior home, Matigara. w.e.f. 1 January 2020

Fr Amid Kujur – Administrator, LPC, Matigara. w.e.f. 1 April 2020

Fr Roshan Minj – Co-Pastor, St Peter's, Gayaganga. w.e.f. 1 April 2020

Fr Ajay Lakra – Co-Pastor, Kajjalia-Rimbick Mission. w.e.f. 1 December 2019

Fr Pramod Dhabhi – Director, SASAC, Kurseong. w.e.f. 1 February 2020

Fr John Kennedy – Vocation Promotor and Coordinator of Youth Apostolate (Residence at St Joseph's College, Darjeeling). w.e.f. 1 May 2020

Dn. Antony Xalxo – Diaconate Ministry, St Paul's, Kurseong. w.e.f. 1 June 2020

Dn. Oshish Tirkey – Diaconate Ministry, Sacred Heart, Singamari. w.e.f. 1 June 2020

Fr Sanjiv Lakra – North Bengal St Xavier's College, Rajganj. w.e.f. 1 June 2020

Fr Divyanandam Irudayaraj – Tertianship, Shembaganur. 1 June 2020

Fr Chiranjit Bara – Tertianship, Shembaganur. 1 June 2020

Fr Bosco Michael – Tertianship, Hazaribag. 14 June 2020

Fr Pascal Ekka – Tertianship, Hazaribag. 14 June 2020

Fr Deven Yonzon – Bursar (Additional responsibility), NBSXC, Rajganj, w.e.f. 1 January 2020

HLDRC-LPC-PJG

A seminar for youth on career guidance was organized by HLDRC at Matigara on 26 October. Eighty youth from Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts participated in it. **Mr Birendra Kujur**, a Customs Officer, along with HLDRC staff **Miss Smriti Ekka** and **Mr Basil Ekka** were the resource persons. The 16th Batch of TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICE (TCS) Training & Placement program began at HLDRC, Matigara. Twenty graduates from the locality are attending the program.

Birsa Jayanti was celebrated at Ghoshpukur school ground for the people of Khoribari and Phansidewa blocks on 15 November.

Fr Tommy represented the Social ministry of Darjeeling Province in the golden jubilee celebrations of the SJES in Rome from 4-8 November 2019. He said it was indeed a grace filled moment. The Holy Father, **Pope Francis** granted them a personal audience and **Fr Tommy** was blessed to have personal photos with the Pope.

LPC Matigara

In the months of October and November, LPC conducted a number of marriage preparation courses. **Fr Nabor Dungdung**, **Fr Peter Chettri** (NEP) and **Br Robert Lakra** made their Annual retreat. The Jesuit Pre-novices had a three-day seminar on the origin and charism of the Society of Jesus at LPC. **Fr Zach** gave a five-day retreat to twenty-seven regents of the seven dioceses of West Bengal and another five-day retreat to eight Patrician Brothers.

Fr Pascal Xalxo

NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

The Women's Cell of the College in collaboration with Lion's Netralaya, Siliguri and Maharaja Argasen Hospital, Fulbari with five doctors and ten nurses organized a free health check-up on 8 November for two hundred people of the neighboring villages. The Women's Cell also launched 'Youth against Trafficking Cell' (YATC) on 11 November, in collaboration with MARG, an NGO from Darjeeling. The College also organized an inter-school debate competition with the theme 'Social Media is doing more harm than good' wherein top schools from Siliguri and Jalpaiguri were invited.

The department of Computer Science/BCA organized a one-day workshop on "Cyber Security and Ethical Hacking".

Fr Gabu visited various communities of the Province during the holidays. **Fr Deven** went to his second home in Kathmandu after twelve years. Later he attended a national training workshop on Legal Compliance for Educational Institutions, organized at ISI, Delhi. **Sch. Roshan Castilino** went to his Province Dumka while **Sch. Barnabas** went for home visit in Tezpur Assam. **Fr Xavier** gave workshops for students at Loreto Convent School, Darjeeling, Mailanijote parish and at the CMI School, Ambari. **Fr Lalit** was invited as the Chief Guest at St Xavier's School, Uttar Panialguri on the occasion of their Annual Concert.

Fr Lalit SJ

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTH POINT, DARJEELING

'All's Well that Ends Well'. By the Grace of God the academic year 2019 has gone well and the final few days of the academic year 2019 is around the corner. Students of classes 9 and 11 began their examinations on 4 November. Their question papers came from the Council. Rest of our boys are glued to their desks and busy writing their exams from 23 November. The School fete was organized on 14 in the PD field and everyone took part enthusiastically. To help the teaching staff to relax from their frantic schedule, the school arranged a picnic to Singla for the staff on 16 November. On 21 Nov, the PD students enchanted the whole school with their Christmas program. The School celebrated Children's day 22 November, and it was highly appreciated by the students. **Br P D Vincent** went to ISI, Delhi to attend the National Training Workshop on Legal Compliances for NGOs/Educational Institutions on 23 Nov. All the boys will be leaving on 4 December for the winter vacation and they will return to the school on 22 February 2020 for the new academic session. The classes resume on 24 February 2020.

Fr Leo

ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

St Peter's Church, Gayaganga celebrated 'Christ-teen Diwas' on 3 November. The program was conducted by 'Magis Group' of the parish. On 10 November, the 'Youth Diwas' was celebrated in the parish, in which more than three hundred and fifty youth participated. On this occasion, **Fr John Kennedy, SJ** gave a talk on 'Jesus is Alive'. The feast of Christ the King was celebrated in a grand manner with a

devotional procession around the nearby villages ending with the solemn celebration of the Eucharist.

St Peter's Primary school celebrated Children's Day on 14 November. The teachers organized a cultural program for the students. The High School also celebrated Children's Day meaningfully. The Science Exhibition Team of St Peter's High School went to Kolkata representing Darjeeling district on 17 November. November 26th was a red-letter day in the history of the High School. A few ex-students (presently teachers in the school) came together in the Headmaster's office to officially form the Alumni Association of the High School. Please remember to pray for **Fr William Bourke** who continues to be in the ICU of Navjeevan Hospital.

Sch. David Donald Minj

ST VINCENT'S, HATIGHISA

Fr Alex made his annual retreat from 12-19 November at Prabhu Jisu Residence, Matigara. In his absence the community took care of the parish activities. **Fr Xavier**, the PCF visited us on 24 November. The renovation work of the community building is in progress, thanks to Fr Provincial and the communities who are supporting the venture. Two hundred and fifty women of the parish took part in a *mahila* rally which was held at Bhimbahar. Seven youth from the parish attended MAGIS at Chopra and the skit put up by our group was well appreciated by all. The feast of Christ the King was celebrated on 24 November. The parishioners enacted the miracles of Jesus during the procession. The main celebrant for the day was **Fr Binod Kerketta** from Gandhi Ashram. The School celebrated the Children's Day on 16 November. The main celebrant for the Holy Eucharist was **Fr Yacob Kindo**, the Parish Priest of Gharidura. Thereafter the teachers entertained the students by putting up a fabulous program. Selection exams for Class X & XII began on 20 November followed by annual exams for all on 27 November. The admission process is on for the academic session 2020.

Sch. Rajasekar Pilandran

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING

Five teachers of St Joseph's College attended a five-day workshop on 'Ethics in Social Science and Mental Health Research' jointly organized by St Joseph's and DLR Prerna, Darjeeling from 9-13 November at Little Tibet, Darjeeling.

The Department of Mass Communication in collaboration with Darjeeling Police organized a film festival **Sachetna** –

2019 on 11 November. Twelve short films on different topics related to social issues were screened. The program was attended by **Shri Suman Bala Sahoo**, the Director General of the Police, Welfare, WB, along with Darjeeling SP **Shri Amarnath K.** St Joseph's College Geographical Society visited an old age home at Rohini and distributed warm clothes and food to the inmates. The English Hons students had a two-day workshop on creative writing from 14-15 November. The resource person was **Ms R. Lakshmi Priya**, Director of **Kahaniya**, Infomedia, Hyderabad.



The Inter-College Quiz Competition instituted in memory of late **Prof Philip Gurung** was organized by the Department of History on 16 Nov. Loyola College of Education, Namchi was the winner while St Joseph's College and Bijanbari Degree College were first and second runners-up respectively. The quiz was conducted by **Fr K.J. Joseph**, assisted by the faculty members and students. The Department of English and Women's Cell of St Joseph's College in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal and ITC Centre, Kolkata organized a workshop on Gender Awareness on the theme "ab samjhauta nahin" on 19 November.

Fr Donatus Kujur

JESU ASHRAM

Among a large number of visitors to Jesu Ashram, there were two groups of people who celebrated the birthday of Prophet Mohamed! They also gave fruits and snacks to the patients.

Five new cases of leprosy were detected by Jesu Ashram in the month of November. A total of one hundred and fifty-six patients came for medical check-up at our outdoor facilities.

Twenty-seven students of Jesu Niketan went for a Bengal safari on 12 November accompanied by **Fr Cherian** and **Fr Vincent** and six teachers. Another batch of ninety-five students went to Science City, Matigara for the screening of a science fiction movie on 20 November.

Fr Stanley SJ conducted a seminar on 'safeguarding children and vulnerable adults from sexual abuse' on 21 November at Jesu Ashram. All the staff and nursing students attended the seminar.

Fr Julius

MANRESA JESUIT NOVIATE

The first-year novices came out from their long retreat on 11 November, saying to one another, "Were not our hearts burning as He spoke to us!" The second-year novices came back from their Mission Experiment energized with enriching experiences on 12 November. The feast of St Stanislaus Kostka, the patron of novices, was celebrated enthusiastically on 13 November. All the Jesuits of Kalimpong joined us for a sumptuous dinner.

After directing the long retreat, **Fr Shaji Joseph**, the Director of novices, took a few days off from 14-17 November. He is back, renewed with much spirit and energy. **Br Francis** attended a Province Vocation Promoters' meet at Matigara on 19 November.

Fr Roshan Kiro, the Socius, guided an eight-day retreat for three Cluny novices in preparation for their first profession. **Fr Amar Bage, SJ (RAN)** made his annual retreat here. Currently two sisters from Bhubaneswar, Odisha are making their annual retreat.

The novices are busy with their regular classes. They are also working an extra hour taking care of the cows since **Joseph daju**, our co-worker, left Manresa.

Novice Justin Kashung

COURSES:

Roots & Wings 2020: Colloquium on Ignatian Spirituality. Venue: Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal. Dates: From April 2 to May 7 (both days inclusive) 2020. Last date to register your names will be February 15, 2020.

REST IN PEACE

Br Benedict Kichingia, SJ, (JAM)

47/82 8 November 2019

Fr Noel Francis D'Souza, SJ, (CCU)

87/65 10 November 2019

Shri Lallan Rahman brother-in-law of **Fr Peter Bhujel**

65 19 November 2019

Fr John Chrysostom, S.J (PAT)

81/57 28 November 2019

Wishing you all a merry Christmas!