



PROVINCE FLASH DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CALCUTTA PROVINCE

PF/2025/3 December News Bulletin For Private Circulation

My dear Sisters, Associates, Friends and Well-wishers,

As we approach Christmas there is joy, fun and frolic around us. The saviour is coming. What does Christmas mean to us? We seem to be living in a society that is more interested in having fun than it is in encouraging faith, a society that wants to enjoy Christmas but wants to have nothing to do with Christ, a society that seems more interested in its symbols but cares little, if anything, for its significance. When it comes to Christmas, will we really be accused of caring more for its celebration than we do for its significance? We can simply forget to place the Child Jesus at the centre of all our preparations. We can become so busy making sure that all that needs to get done is done and simply forget what exactly Christmas is all about.

Christmas is about God's great love for the world. The fundamental message of Christmas is that in Christ Jesus, God has come into the world no longer aloof and apart from our affairs. Through Christ He became one of us and can be touched with our weaknesses. We must become concerned when we no longer care about being truly Christian. "By taking flesh, God did not lessen his majesty; and in consequence did not lessen the reason for reverencing him, which is increased by the increase of knowledge of him. But, on the contrary, in as much as he wished to draw nigh to us by taking flesh, he greatly drew us to know him." writes Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the author of 'The Cost of Discipleship'. The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity—hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory—because at the Father's will Jesus became poor, and was born in a stable. Let us lay down our power, honour, reputation, vanity, arrogance and individualism beside the manger and remain lowly and look at the child in the manger and see the glory of God in the lowliness. Can we see Jesus in the poor around us, the migrants, the trafficked, the depressed, the voiceless, the forgotten, the least and the last?

As the Jubilee year 2025 comes to a close let's take stock of the year, count our blessings- our life and ministries, our successes, our endeavours, our challenges, threats and hurts and all that has made us grow. The Lord has guided us, at times to unfamiliar grounds, at other times to unpleasant realities. We have endured them all knowing that our destiny is with the Lord. So we look to the future with hope entrusting our tomorrows to Him who has plans and programmes for our benefit (Jer 29:11).

I wish you a grace filled Christmas in the words of Thomas Aquinas, "God grant you the light of Christmas which is faith; the warmth of Christmas which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas which is justice; the belief in Christmas which is truth."

Lovingly,

**Sr. Catherine FC
Provincial**

**Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**





Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Sister Pushpa E. Purathur – Superior General

Kolkata Province was greatly privileged to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Pushpa E. Purathure, our Superior General, on 14th December. On this joyful occasion, a solemn Eucharistic celebration at St. Vincent's Home community, brought together the sisters of the entire province in a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving.



Sr. Pushpa's consecrated life stands as a profound inspiration to all. Through her unwavering faith, selfless service, and generous dedication, she has borne witness to God's abiding love and faithfulness. Her personal journey reflects a life transformed by grace, marked by courage in the face of challenges and a deep commitment to the mission of the Congregation.



Inauguration and Blessing of Marie Therese Home

On 15th December 2025 was a memorable day for us – the long awaited Inauguration and Blessing of the Marie Therese Home. Rt. Rev. Arch Bishop Dr. Elias Frank presided over the Holy Eucharist and blessed the building. Day began with the solemn welcome of the Arch Bishop as the Band of St. Joseph's School, Kurseong escorted him from the main gate to the entrance of St. Vincent's Home, thereafter to the entrance of the new building for Mass. After the Mass Sr. Pushpa our Superior General inaugurated the Marie Therese Home by cutting the ribbon. Sr. Catherine our Provincial unveiled the Plaque. Then along with the Bishop Sisters Pushpa, Valerie, Catherine, Sini and the Provincial Councillors lit the lamp and then paid a floral tribute to our Blessed Foundress. The priests then blessed the Home. Following the blessing, a short program was put up by the students of St. Paul's school, St. Teresa's school, St. Agnes school along with the felicitation programme. Thereafter, delicious meal was shared by all at St. Paul's School.

Marie Therese Home is the fruition of a collective dream. We thank our visionaries whose bold ambition and foresight gave birth to Marie Therese Home. Sincere thanks Sr. Regina Kottackal our previous Provincial and her team, Sr. Regi Mathew, Assistant General and Previous Provincial and her team, Sr. Catherine and her team and Sr. Sini Kurian previous Provincial Bursar whose clarity of purpose guided us to this milestone. Thank you sisters for having turned a vision into a reality that will serve the community for generations to come.

Sr. Sampa Dhara



ST. VINCENT'S HOME, KIDDERPORE

St. Paul's Boarding and Day School



Paullight Inter-School Fiesta 2025: St. Paul's Boarding and Day School hosted the Paullight Inter-School Fiesta 2025 on 24th and 25th October, celebrating creativity, collaboration, and talent. Participants from sixteen reputed schools filled the campus with colour and enthusiasm. The fest was inaugurated by Chief Guest Mr. Biswanath Dasgupta, with Guests of Honour Mr. Terence John and Mr. Arnab Chandra. Students showcased their talents through various competitions, and vibrant stalls added to the festive spirit. The event concluded with prize distribution and an electrifying performance by the band "Yellow Taxi." The fiesta was a grand success, strengthening unity, teamwork, and Paullight pride.

School Sports: St. Paul's Boarding and Day School celebrated its Sports Day on 28th November with great enthusiasm and sportsmanlike spirit. The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Col. Amitabh Srivastava, whose presence inspired the students. A variety of track and field events and team games were conducted, with active participation from all houses. The celebration highlighted discipline, teamwork, and the importance of physical fitness among students.

School FETE : A school fete is a fun, community-focused fundraising event organized by the school with stalls, games, food stalls and entertainment, bringing students, parents and teachers together for noble cause. Our school fete was held on 5th December and was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Neethi Das - Principal of Loyola School. Students, parents, teachers, and participants from neighbouring schools joined in good number, making the event vibrant and successful.

Silver Jubilee: On 19th December, St. Paul's Boarding and Day School celebrated the Silver Jubilee of five teachers and two supportive staff members of their dedicated service in educating and nurturing generations of students. The occasion was marked with gratitude and appreciation for their 25 years of commitment, devotion, and invaluable contribution to the growth and mission of the institution.

Sr. Rosli Kerketta

Educational Excursion to Shantiniketan

An educational excursion to Shantiniketan was organized for the classes X and XII students on 14th November to provide cultural exposure and experiential learning. Prior to the trip, a preparatory workshop on reel making was conducted by Professor Dr. Mrityunjay Chatterjee.

Accompanied by our teachers and the team from Techwala K3 Solutions, they visited Sonajhuri Haat, where they explored local handicrafts and worked on creative reel making. A special Children's Day celebration and a Wander Class session added joy to the experience.

On the second day, they visited Visva-Bharati University and the historic Surul Jomidar Bari. A bonfire evening was organized during which the winners of the reel-making competition were announced. The excursion was educational, enjoyable, and enriching.

Mrs. Joyita Chowdhury



Fiesta



Sports



Excursion



Jubilee



FETE

St. Teresa's Secondary School at a glance



On 16th October, the Interactors of St. Teresa's Secondary School, visited Tata Medical Centre, Newtown, sharing warmth and hope with cancer patients during Diwali.



St. Teresa's Secondary School celebrated its Biennial Concert on 29th and 30th November under the theme "Hope Unplugged," inspired by the Jubilee Year theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Through music, dance, drama, and narration, students conveyed messages of hope, faith, and unity.

The first day's Chief Guest, Ms. Asha Parijat Choudhury, appreciated the students' creativity and confidence. On the second day, Mrs. Rupkatha Sarkar, Principal of La Martiniere for Girls, Kolkata, commended the school's holistic education and the meaningful presentation.



The 30th Gojukai Karate-Do Tournament was held on 20th and 21st November, with participation from 25 schools and colleges of Kolkata and Howrah. Students displayed excellent skill, discipline, and sportsmanship, making the event enthusiastic and inspiring.

A Christmas celebration was organized for the Evening Rainbow children to share the true spirit of Christmas. The programme included a short message on love, sharing, and hope, followed by carol singing. Sr. Jasmin and Sr. Sampa distributed snacks and small gifts, bringing joy to the children.

Sr. Mary Jasmine



SACRED HEART CONVENT, BAIDYAPUR



It was an excitement time for our little students to have different types of competitions on 22nd November - reading, yoga, dancing and singing; they were delighted to wear colourful dresses. Winners were awarded with prizes. We also celebrated Children's Day on 14th November.

MARIE THERESE CONVENT, GOSABA

ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION: There was an Exhibition of Models and Craft work made by the students and teachers at St. Joseph's Primary School, on 10th November. The Exhibition was opened for Parents and Managing Committee Members as we had dual meetings on the same day.

Students' creativity was shown in all the classrooms and every corner of the school. They showed the creative skills in the forms of small crafts and models with great understanding the holistic demand of the nature. Parents were extremely happy and proud to see their children growing and were appreciative towards the school.

Sr. Basanti Lakra

LITTLE FLOWER CONVENT, BASANTI

"NURTURING HEARTS, SHAPING MINDS"

The sisters of Little Flower Convent continue their mission of service by visiting families twice a week, offering special care to the sick and bedridden, and remaining actively involved in various parish activities.

St. Teresa's Girls' High School (HS) conducted a Science Exhibition on 17th October,

Our students were delighted to be part of Christ the King's procession as flower boys and girls. We went to the nook and corner of the village praying and singing along with the priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament.

The joy of faith filled the community of Rakhsh Khali substation, as 21 young parishioners received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 5th November. The solemn Eucharist was presided over and the sacrament was conferred by most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur. A large number of faithful attended this important event of the Parish. We were happy to be part of it.

Sisters Anne Joseph & Manisha



inaugurated by Mr. Sundeep Chakraborty, SI of Basanti, while the English Medium Section organized a quiz competition on 27th October on Indian philosophers, educationists, and current affairs. Values of sharing were highlighted through the Food Sharing Day on 17th November, and creativity was celebrated through the Art and Craft Exhibition on 21st November.

Children's Day on 14th November was celebrated with great enthusiasm, reminding everyone of the preciousness of each child. Teachers and sisters worked wholeheartedly to make the day a memorable one.

Sports and physical well-being were also given importance through regular football coaching held thrice a week for HS students and a friendly match was conducted on 13th November. Students also excelled in a Talent Hunt Competition organized by a local NGO. Academic milestones included the Class X Selection Examination from 3rd November while the final examinations for English Medium sections and HS began on 27th November and 28th November respectively. Class IX students received bicycles from the West Bengal Government to ensure timely travel to school.

An enriching LTS orientation programme for Classes VI to XII was conducted by Rev. Fr. Rakesh Mondal on 22nd November, inspiring students to grow as responsible and service-oriented leaders. Classes XI and XII enriched their learning through an educational trip to the Alipore Jail Museum and other historical sites in Kolkata on 10th December.

Sr. Deepshika Rai

NOVITIATE, BARASAT

EXPERIENCE OF HOPE: As pilgrims of hope, filled with joy and gratitude, the celebration of the Jubilee came alive not only within the walls of our churches but also far beyond them. By reaching out to villages and families and more beautifully, by staying and sharing life with them, our second-year novices were deeply enriched. This one-and-a-half-month community and village exposure programme which was in the month of September and October became a profound and joyful journey, broadening their horizons and leaving them with a truly memorable experience of faith, companionship and mission.





We too with the first-year novices on 1st November, went for a pilgrimage to Bandel. It was a prayerful and reflective day for all us, to be able to attend the Holy Mass at Bandel on ALL SAINTS Day.



Another significant and grace-filled moment was the visit of Sr. Pushpa, our Superior General, along with Sr. Valerie, the General Councilor, to our Novitiate community. Their presence made the day one of profound blessing and joyful celebration, as we commemorated the Diamond Jubilee of Sr. Pushpa. The celebration began with a meaningful Eucharistic celebration and concluded with an evening programme centered on consecrated life, beautifully complemented by carol singing and the message of the Christmas.

Sr. Pratima Hembram

ST. AGNES' CONVENT, HOWRAH

As the Jubilee year 2025 enfolded with an invitation to be the pilgrims of hope, we enjoyed the year of grace, mercy and forgiveness. In order to mark the sacred year, we had different programs arranged in the school. The Bible quiz competition for Catholic students, pilgrimage to Bandel for all Catholic teachers, students and sisters. It was the day of prayer and moment of grace as we participated all together in the Eucharistic Celebration.

We had the Annul Sports Day of our school. We involved maximum students to participate in the event with the theme "Women Empowerment". Students portrayed the women cricket team of India in their performance. It was well appreciated by the parents. We also gave a tribute to our national song 'Vande Mataram' as it completed its 150th anniversary as the National song of our country.

In order to boost the leadership quality of our students we inaugurated one more club 'The Interact Club' which is associated with Rotary Club of Calcutta. The prominent Rotarians were present for the inaugural ceremony.

In order to highlight the Advent Season and give a feeling of Christmas we organized carol singing competition for classes three to eleven, Santa walk for the classes

Nursery to class two, Christmas Exhibition and secret Santa for the entire Primary Section. The catholic teachers and students had their spiritual preparation for Christmas through Confession, recollection and the Holy Mass.

Various clubs of the school had taken different activities of service in order to reach out to the poor and the needy. The Nature club invited 50 students from Baptist School and had Christmas celebration with them. The Interact Club invited 30 slum children of our locality and shared the joy of Christmas.

Sr. Namita Kerketta

ST. CATHERINE'S HOME, KIDDERPORE

"Navami", a significant day in the festive season, is traditionally celebrated with joy, devotion and togetherness. This year, our residents had the privilege of celebrating the occasion in a memorable and unique way. Mr. Derek O'Brien, M.P, along with his team, graciously invited our ladies to his residence to celebrate Navami on 1st October. Sixteen residents accompanied by two of our staff, Sisters. Lalitha Maria, and Dibya Bara participated in the celebration. The gathering was filled with cheer, games and delicious food that everyone enjoyed. Each participant received a gift at the end of the programme, making the day even more special.



The festival of light was also celebrated in grand style. Prayer service was held, with lamps glowing in and around the home, created a peaceful and spiritual ambience. The formees and staff delighted everyone with a graceful dance performance.

An Eight-day retreat was organized for our seniors Sisters, offering them a time of silence, reflection and spiritual renewal. Sisters Sheela Kullu and Martina Beng joined the group. Fr. Sam VC and Fr. James VC, preached the retreat for the sisters. Nourished by prayer and the Word of God, the sisters experienced a profound peace that revitalized their body and spirit.

As the month drew to a close, we gathered in heartfelt thanks giving to Mary, our Mother, for the blessings we received throughout October. The month ended with a special gathering during which we prayerfully recited the Rosary, uniting our hearts in devotion and gratitude.

On the 18th December, we had an exciting Christmas Programme organized by Mrs. Indira Dhar ex- student of St. Paul' Boarding and day School. She brought His highness deputy High Commissioner of UK Dr. Andrew Flemjng as our chief guest for the programme. He was extremely happy to see the joy on the faces of our elderly , he also encouraged them to be hopefull especially during this time of Christmas.



Sr. Veronica A

DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CONVENT, GOROMTOLI

We were very happy to have two Novices in our community for community experience for one month.

On 4th October our junior sisters visited us. They were very happy to see the place. After the lunch they went back to Jordighi Community for their programme.

On 8th October youth gathering was conducted. Many resource persons and volunteers had come from outside, who gave them on different subjects such as – judiciary activities, how to answer and behave and who supports them.

This programme went for whole day till the evening. All the youth were very happy who participated, they are profited by this programme.

Sr. Bridget Kerketta

BLISSFUL EVENTS OF JORDIGHI

One of the great events of our province is the juniorate program during the puja holidays. This year we were happy to welcome our sisters to Jordighi. We enjoyed the preparation and the days with them. It was nice having houseful of FCs, even the parishioners were excited to see many FCs in the parish. As it was also during that time we had the pastoral visit of our Bishop.

On 26th of October we took all our children for a picnic to Balurghat by train. It was also an exposure for them as many of them had never travelled by train or seen a big park. They enjoyed the day. Since we were very close to Bangladesh boarder, they also had a chance to see Bangladesh boarder. Smaller ones enjoyed their day out in Buniadpur Park.

To conclude the month of October – month of Rosary we had rosary procession in the compound and a play by the children on the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. We are also having regular competitions for children on class wise on Rhymes, recitation of poem, reading, speeches, drawing etc.



There was great excitement as we prepared for the feast of the Christ of King. Besides being the flower girls, our children also put up a tableau on Wedding at Cana and got first price.

At the moment our compound is a delight to watch the growth of winter vegetables and flowers. Children are also involved in it so they learn and feel happy to see the growth of plants and its usefulness.

Sr. Jyotshna Lakra

UPDATES FROM KARUNA - BUNIADPUR

Highlights of the major activities and accomplishments of our institution:

- St. Claret's class VIII students visited our hospital accompanied by their Principal Fr. Michael and the teachers as part of their exposure programme.
- A day of Programme was organized for the Junior sisters at Karuna. Sr. Marina gave them a session on the theme "Mental Health & Young Religious Sisters".
- We were happy to welcome Mrs. Agnes Franken and the team from Germany.
- We celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Fr. Sunny on 13th November.
- On the occasion of World Poor Day, the hospital organized a mega health camp in a village. Around 450 patients benefited by this camp.
- The Opthal unit was blessed and inaugurated on 30th November. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of Buniadpur Municipality were present for the occasion. To mark the occasion, a free mega eye camp was held, during which about 210 patients were examined and several registered for surgery.
- Karuna hospital has initiated treatment for tuberculosis with collaboration with the government.
- In order to reduce the medical burden of people, hospital has been trying to upgrade government health scheme to a grade and we are waiting for the response from the government and we positively hope more patients will be benefited by this scheme.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to strengthening our services, supporting our staff, and responding to the evolving needs of the community.

Sr. Marina Thapa

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CONVENT, GAYAGANGA

- Three vocation classes were conducted for Classes IX–XII by Sr. Pratima Dung Dung and Sr. Rajni Prisca, and interested students are being personally accompanied by the Sisters.
- An Art and Craft Exhibition was held on 29th and 30th October, inaugurated by Sr. Rosalia and Sr. Mariam, with good participation from students and parents.
- The hostel children celebrated Karam with traditional rituals and a dance competition.
- Three Deacons were ordained on 9th November at St. Peter's Church. Sisters assisted in the preparations.
- On 14th November, the Daughters of the Cross Associates marked their feast day with prayer and the Holy Eucharist.

Sr. Beena Varghese



NAVJEEVAN CONVENT, GAYAGANGA

A two-day recollection was organized for the hospital staff, and the talk was given by Fr. Lizo. A session on mindfulness was also arranged for the hospital staff, with Dr. Stephen as the resource person.

On 15th October, Navjeevan School and the College of Nursing celebrated the Diwali festival, organized by the 5th semester BSc Nursing and 2nd year GNM students. They showcased the Ramayana in the form of a play.

Our students participated in the Karam dance competition under the leadership of Fr. Nabor, Sr. Annete, and Sr. Mousumi held at St. Mary's School ground on 19th October and won the 2nd prize.

A session on career development was conducted by Mr. Joseph (IAF) and was attended by all the students. All the doctors, staff, and students contributed groceries and clothing for the people affected by natural calamities in Nagrakata.

On 2nd November, All Souls' Day, Holy Mass was celebrated in the parish church and in various substations. The Sisters were divided among ourselves and went to different places for the Mass.

Navjeevan Hospital began a new unit, namely the Dialysis Unit, and received its first dialysis patient on 20th November. Sr. Angelina Tirkey is actively involved in parish activities and faith formation in the families.

A seminar on the prevention of sexual harassment of women at the workplace was held by Dr. Gangotri Chakraborty for all students and staff.

A health camp was organized at Geermit Line, where health education was given by the students, and free health check-ups and medications were provided to the patients.



Sr. Alka Lakra

SHANTI BHAWAN CONVENT, PRADHAN NAGAR

World Mission Sunday is a day when the Church invites us to gratefully look into the vast missionary work done by the Church, the faithful, and encourages us to contribute to the work of mission with what we have.

We, the sisters of the Shanti Bhawan Convent, had a wonderful opportunity to join the faithful of our parish to take part in Mission Sunday celebration on October 26th. More than the amount we contributed, the joy of being with the faithful was unspeakable. We experienced immense joy and togetherness.



World Mission Sunday is a day when the Church invites us to gratefully look into the vast missionary work done by the Church, the faithful, and encourages us to contribute to the work of mission with what we have.

We, the sisters of the Shanti Bhawan Convent, had a wonderful opportunity to join the faithful of our parish to take part in Mission Sunday celebration on October 26th. More than the amount we contributed, the joy of being with the faithful was unspeakable. We experienced immense joy and togetherness.

Sr. Priya and Sr. Rose Mary also took part in the election of the Parish Executive Committee (PEXCO) on November 22nd, encouraging the youth to be courageous and committed to taking up humble leadership roles in the parish.

Sr. Rose Mary also took part in the Jubilee Year Celebration in Tadong, Holy Cross School. It was a significant event with lay faithful of Sikkim and religious and priests from Darjeeling Sikkim diocese in the presence of the Honourable Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang. It was also an opportunity to witness the Catholic faith and tradition and encourage youngsters towards religious and priestly life.

Sr. Veronica Chunghat

JESU ASHRAM, MATIGARA

'Service brings gratitude & gratitude brings grace'

We are grateful to the Almighty for bringing us to the Jesu Ashram community to serve the poor and the destitute. We celebrated Mass and offered prayers at the graveyard of Jesu Ashram on All Souls' Day. It was a heart-touching moment for us as all our patients, sisters, and brothers cleaned the tombs of many unknown persons who had died in Jesu Ashram.

Along with these celebrations, we also faced many challenges and sorrows. As we all know, there was a flood in Bamaondangi, Jalpaiguri. As soon as we received the message, some of our students and a Father visited the affected area. Seeing the needs of the people, we immediately began collecting food materials, clothing, and household items, and served the people of Bamaondangi for two to three days. We also conducted health camps and helped them meet their basic needs.

We thank the Lord for making us His instrument of Love and Service.

Sr. Sanjita Barwa

ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT, MATIGARA

Sr. Shila and Sr. Rajni attended a two-day seminar organized by The Catholic Diocese of Bagdogra Education Society on 7th and 8th October at the Loyal Pastoral Centre, Matigara. The seminar was led by Fr. Sunny Jacob SJ, a renowned educationist, and focused on the theme "Future Challenges for Educators."

A two-day retreat was organized for Catholic students of Classes VIII to XII on 18th and 19th October at the Divine Voice Retreat Centre, Chopra, run by the Vincentian Fathers.





School Concert: The biennial school concert, held on 29th and 30th November, was a vibrant celebration of talent and creativity on the theme "Save Mother Earth." Rev. Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakkal SJ and Rev. Fr. Dr. Tomy Augustine SDB graced the occasion as chief guests. The programme featured delightful performances by students from LKG to high school, including dance, drama, and choir. Highlights included the English play "The Return of Earth's Gentle Song" and a dance drama depicting environmental challenges and technological progress. The concert successfully conveyed a strong message of environmental responsibility and concluded with the School Anthem.

Sr. Lucy Thaikkattil

DAUGHTERS OF THE CROSS CONVENT, HATIGHISA

Our Palliative center has become the center of attraction for many visitors. At present we have five sick and senior sisters, namely Sisters Flora, Alphonsa, Anita and Celestina. Life is full of sweet and sour fruits. We are very happy to have our sisters from other communities, visiting our sick sisters regularly and praying for them 'Pray without ceasing' 1Thess 5:17. Let us all extend our love, care concern and prayers for our sick and elderly sisters.



Our hostel children had an exposure programme. They also had an opportunity to take part in Karma dance competition at GAYAGANGA. It was organized by Sr. Annette and Fr. Nabor sj. Our children got 1st prize.

Sr. Francis Ann

ST. JOSEPH'S COVENT, KURSEONG



On 21st November, students of Class XI and XII Science had gone for educational tour to Darjeeling Padmaja Himalayan Zoological Park and had a realistic ideas about the different faunas, birds, reptiles and mammals of the Darjeeling Hills. They also visited the Mountaineering Institute and some of them had a joyful experience of Mountain climbing as the well. They visited the Darjeeling Chowrasta and the glimpse of Raj Bhawan.

Our Students of Classes X, XI and XII participated in various competition organized by Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Department, such as; Singing, Essay Writing, Painting, Drawing and poetry writing. Most of the prizes and certificates were received by St. Joseph's students which made us all feel proud .

Students of Class XII Science and Arts were given farewell on 12th December. Students of class XI with the class teacher had organized a beautiful programme and they were given a school memento as a token of Love.

On 14th November, on the occasion of Children's Day Educational department Darjeeling (G.T.A.) had organized district level quiz completion in Sukhna High School. There also our student did well and received the trophy and ₹ 5000/- in cash.

v On 13th November School had organized a day of outing. All students, teaching staff and cooks had accompanied them. Our students were very much excited to go for outing with own class met, they enjoyed the day a lot, it was a great and enjoyable day for the children.

Sr. Sujata Kujur



ST. HELEN'S CONVENT, KURSEONG

As we bid farewell to the year 2025 and stand at the threshold of 2026, we look back and reflect on the ground realities that have shaped our lives. The year has been filled with varied experiences, graces, and surprises that fill our hearts with deep gratitude to God, to one another, and to all the people who have touched our lives.

The health and well-being of the sisters were generally good, enabling them to give their best in their respective workplaces. The vibrancy of the community is sustained by the laughter of our young sisters, the persistent prayers of our senior sisters, and the gentle, sensitive presence of others. There is no generation gap among us. Our meals and recreations are moments of joyful togetherness and shared delight.

Both institutions - St. Helen's and St. Joseph's Girls' H.S. School - are highly esteemed by the people, which is clearly reflected on the Admission Day.

Our achievements, successes, pains, and struggles have enriched our journey and made it more meaningful.

Two students of St. Joseph's Girls' H.S. School untimely death, one was hit by Toy Train, the heritage to the British India, one of the Child was buried alive with her parents by devastating Landslide. RIP

Our parish involvements during the year 2025 were deeply appreciated. The Eucharistic ministry continued with the message of Hope and healings, guiding the Fatima youth group, and active participation in the parish choir. We also took part in parish activities such as family visits and active involvement in the Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) Units - which sustain our faith, strength, and hope.

Our Associates' programme were held monthly - adoration, sharing and sessions to encourage and motivate them. Their monthly adoration at St. Helen's Chapel, where they shared their joys and sorrows, was truly commendable.

All of us attended the sessions by Sr. Regi that invited us to reflect on our lives, live with courage and responsibility, and renew our commitment to God's mission.

We are privileged to have daily Eucharist daily with some of our Associates, teachers and candidates. As we begin the New Year let us take the message of our Pope Leo XIV - "Delexi Te" - to steer our inner Journey.

MAMRING - SIKKIM

Ivana Memorial Convent School Mamring put up a beautiful concert on 16th November. The chief guest of the occasion was the President of Sikkim Mamring Panchayat Mr. Arun Kumar Gurung, beside that there were other dignitaries, guests of honour, parents, guardians and friends who graced the programme. Our young children, boys and girls took this opportunities to display their Talents, enthusiasm and courage through singing, dancing, acting and playing the musical instrument. The Opera on 'Snow White', one Act play in Hindi the "Deepdan", Nepali Comedy and various Indian Folk dances coloured the stage. The action songs and dances of nursery and KG won the hearts of their parents and guardians. The school was very grateful to all the "Naari Samaj" of our Parish who extended their helping hands towards this programme.

Sisters of the Community also participated in various programmes of the Parish. Sr. Agnes, Fr. Walter Crasta our Priest Priest along with some Parishioners had gone to Bandel Church for Pilgrimage. Visiting and BEC prayers also are regularly attended by the sisters.

The community had gone to Tarkhola to visit the flood affected families. Some were given blankets by the community. They were assured that they will be visited again during Christmas season. Priests from Makha Parish asked sisters to help them to Catechising their newly convert Parish people. So this is one of our outreach programme of the community.

Sisters also helped our ladies of the Parish to practice Football in our school ground who participated in Deanery level Football match in Renock, they returned with the roaring success.

Sr. Maxima Bara

Sr. Josephine Lepcha

KARUNA NILAYA CONVENT ,GORUBATHAN

"Every is a blessing, Every moment is a gift. "

We had a short awareness program for our students by the "Child Welfare Committee "of Anuglaya ,Darjeeling. It was a great help for all our students.

This time students' fancy dress competitions were grandeur! Students and parents were very happy.

Our Christ the King procession was heart touching. It was began from one of our parishioners house. Who is sick for a long time. Indeed she was glad. All the six BEC groups had made placards and different captions were written on it. This was a proclamation of our Lord to the people and world.

ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT, TULACHAN (NEPAL)

Sr. Jyostna Barla

Flood Relief efforts made by sisters, Teachers, parents and students: On 6th October, heavy rainfall in parts of Nepal caused flooding as the Mai Khola River overflowed, damaging nearby villages. The flood struck early in the morning while people were still asleep, causing great hardship to many families, including those of our students. Moved by the situation, the Sisters, teachers, and students of St. Joseph's School conducted a quick survey and reached out to the most affected families. With contributions from the school community, food items were distributed to about 80 families, and around 100 students received stationery. Some students also donated new clothes and study materials. The students' willing and joyful service was deeply appreciated by the local community.

Associates of the Daughters of the Cross: On 15th November, Associates of both the communities of Nepal gathered together for a common recollection and confession in Mahespur. Sr. Sheela Louis the Co-ordinator met the Associates and expressed her gratitude to them for their willingness to serve Christ as an associate of the Daughters of the Cross. She also encouraged them for family prays, read Bible and live the Charism of the Daughters of the Cross. It was a blessed day for all.

Feast of Christ the King Celebration: This year we had the opportunity to have Christ the King feast celebration in our parish church. With the help of sisters parishioners took the initiative to make a joyful proclamation as Christ our Eternal King. We had the procession with Blessed Sacrament. It was an enriching experience of being in the presence of God for everyone.

Sr. Sanjucta Kujur

RANGJULI – COMMUNITY AND PARISH ACTIVITIES

- On 31st October evening, we had a grand candle procession in honour of Mother Mary, which concluded with a solemn Eucharistic celebration.
- We had the joy of having our two novices with us for two weeks. They brought a lot of joy and blessings to the community and left on 1st November.
- On 2nd November, we had the cemetery blessing. Along with the parish priest, we visited different villages to bless the graveyards.
- On 5th November, we had a gathering with the Hatigopa Sisters and bid farewell to Sr. Angelina Tirkey after 20 years of dedicated service in Assam.

- The school Annual Day was celebrated on 16th November. It was a very successful programme, and the parents actively participated.
- On 29th November, we celebrated the Parish Day along with the Silver Jubilee of our Parish Priest, Fr. Jacob. A cultural programme was organised in the evening. On the same day, the school also had the blessing of the newly erected hall, and we had the joy of the visit of Sr. Anjali Rita and Sr. Josephine Lepcha.
- Holy Mass was celebrated almost every evening in different villages. Sr. Julita, the youth animator of the parish, is doing commendable work. The youth participated in a carol singing competition and secured second place at the zonal level.



- The prison ministry in the Golpara zone was restarted, and a Christmas programme was organised for the prisoners on 13th December. Sr. Sumita represented the community. Around 320 prisoners participated, and they were deeply touched by the visit, even offering money for travel expenses. It was truly a heart-touching experience.



Sr. Saly Joseph

ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT, HATIGOPA



- On Children's Day, the teachers at St Joseph's Convent School Hatigopa surprised the students with a special performance. They showcased their talents through dance, music, and skits, entertaining and delighting the students. It was a unique and memorable experience for the students to see their teachers in a different light. The event brought the students and teachers closer, creating a sense of love and joy.
- St Joseph's Convent School Hatigopa hosted its first concert day on 6th December. The event was a successful one, with students showcasing their talents in dance, skits, and music. Parents were thrilled to see their children shine on stage. The event marked a significant milestone for the school, demonstrating its commitment to fostering creativity and talent. The students' performances were well-rehearsed and entertaining, making it a memorable experience for all.
- We recently had a Science and Art Exhibition, showcasing the students' creativity and innovation. The event featured live exhibits, models, and artwork, demonstrating scientific concepts and artistic talent. Parents attended the exhibition, admiring their children's work and interacting with the students. The exhibition provided a platform for students to exhibit their skills and knowledge, making it a successful and engaging experience for all.
- We organized a special Mass, confession and recollection for the Catholic students. This provided a platform for the students to deepen their faith and spiritual growth.



Sr. Ani Kindo

HELENA CONVENT, DIPHU

Initiation to Vocation Promotion: As part of vocation promotion, Sr. Manju, Sr. Helen, and Sr. Rashmilata visited families and met a few girls from Satgaon, Manja, and Hapjan Parishes. The visits helped us to know the families and encouraging young girls to reflect on their vocation.

In honour of Mother Mary, a Rosary procession was conducted in the hostel compound along with other hostels. The procession concluded in the college premises with an inspiring message, encouraging devotion to Mother Mary.

Diwali, the festival of lights, was joyfully celebrated in the hostel. The celebration brought a spirit of joy, unity, and gratitude among the students.

A Praise and Worship session was conducted in the hostel. Sir Francis and his team highlighted the importance of praising and worshipping God, reminding the students that we are secure because of His great mercy and love. Bible reflection was given by Sr. Jessy, who emphasized the need to have faith and trust in God, no matter which way we worship, to face the difficulties of life.



The students and staff went for an annual picnic to Dikrupti, a tourist spot at Dokmoka. It was a day of enjoyment and relaxation. Everyone admired God's beautiful creation, especially the green mountains and the scenic waterfall. After spending a joyful day together, all returned home safely.

Sr. Manju Dung Dung

WALKING WITH FAMILIES: A SOCIO-PASTORAL EXPERIENCE

After twenty years of ministry in North East Assam, I have now come to Terai. Following the completion of my Catechetical Training, I am presently engaged in the Socio-Pastoral Apostolate at St. Peter's Church, Gayaganga. I belong to the Navjeevan Convent community, Gayaganga.

I had the privilege of accompanying the CMC Sisters for the family visits. The families were very simple, faith-filled, and extended a warm welcome to us in their homes.

As a preparation for the family visits, we spent three hours in adoration, participated in the Stations of the Cross, engaged in counseling sessions, and prayed together. During the visits, we met each family personally, listening attentively to their joys, sorrows, and struggles. Through our presence and prayerful support, we encouraged them and helped them to experience hope and joy.

On the final day of the family visits, a prayer service was conducted with all the family members in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The response from the families was very encouraging and prayerful.

Sr. Angelina Tirkey



With profound gratitude, I thank Sr. Catherine our provincial for giving me an opportunity for Catechetical training in Novjyoti Niketan in Patna. I also thank our sisters for their prayerful support during my training. I completed the course and on 31 October 2025 there was graduation Ceremony by Rev. Bishop James from diocese of Buxar.

Sr. Mariam Tete

MY EXPERIENCE IN BAIDYAPUR

'Good, God's protection and Visiting families.'

Being with Sr. Meera and Sr. Manisha was good. They were very caring and loving. on 6th November, during breakfast Sr. Meera spoke about all the sisters and helpers who had experience of falling in the pond at different times. All of them know swimming and thus they escaped quite easily. After breakfast I washed my habit and hung on the Neem tree. Later at about 10 am I went to check it. Accidentally my scapular fell down. I picked it up and went to dip in the pond and hardly I had reached the water and I found myself inside the pond - I had slipped and fallen in it. When I raised my eyes I realized I was moving away from the steps and I thought I was going to drown. I was trying my best to move towards the bank, praying "Lord, You have to take me to the steps", and the Lord heard my prayer. I found myself miraculously near the steps. When I realized it I held on to the steps and tried to call out to sisters. They heard me and came to my assistance. When I came up I had my slippers on my feet, spectacles on my face, scapular in my hand and Rosary in the pocket. I had drunk little water and there were minor scratches on my knee and elbow.

When I reflected later I realized, He wanted to manifest His Love and Protection for me. I am grateful to God and Our Lady for saving me. I enjoyed visiting families. I attended prayer service in two houses. God has His own ways of showing His care and protection. May His name be glorified always!

Sr. Teresa Ann

HONOURING THE FAITHFUL: SIKKIM CELEBRATES ITS PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS



The Roman Catholic Church in Sikkim, under the Diocese of Darjeeling, organized a grand felicitation programme on 6 December 2025 at Holy Cross School, Tadong, as part of Traya Jayanti Samaroha – Anugraha ko Yatra. The celebration commemorated three milestones: the Universal Jubilee 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope", the Silver Jubilee of St. Paul the Apostle Church, Tadong, and the Golden Jubilee of Sikkim's Statehood.

The event was graced by Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Bishop Stephen Lepcha of Darjeeling, and Bishop-elect Rev. Fr. Edward Barretto, along with priests, religious, and faithful from across the Diocese of Darjeeling.

The Chief Minister felicitated eight priests and twenty-seven religious from Sikkim serving in various dioceses and congregations nationwide. A special moment was the honouring of four Daughters of the Cross—Sr. Marie Therese, Sr. Winifred Rai, Sr. Deepshika Rai, and Sr. Rose Mary Rai—particularly significant as Sr. Marie Therese is the first religious sister from Sikkim.

The celebration began with a Jubilee Mass at 9:00 a.m., followed by a vibrant cultural programme at noon, making the event a joyful and inspiring affirmation of priestly and religious vocations.

Sr. Deepshika Rai

Gone to Eternal Rest



Sr. Shalini Kullu

11/03/1938 - 09/12/2025

07/12/2025

26/12/2025

23/12/2025

Sr. Mary Jasmine's aunt

Sr. Rashmi Lata's father

Sr. Sumita Beck's brother

Merry Christmas

