



Darjeeling-Nepal Jesuits



NO. 02

PRABHU JISU RESIDENCE, POST BOX 3, MATIGARA – 734 010, DT DARJEELING.

FEBRUARY 2026

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY

- 02: Shared Vision Meeting
- 03-04: Treasurers' training
- 06: Manresa, Kalimpong
- 07-08: Meeting of those waiting for Tertianship
- 12-13: Siraha
- 14-15: Meeting of those waiting for Final Vows
- 16-19: Kathmandu
- 17: Consult
- 21-28: JCSA, Kolkata

MARCH

- 07-09: Mangalore
- 19-22: Meeting of those in their 40s and early 50s

APRIL

- 01: Kathmandu
- 02-05: Tipling
- 06-07: Godavari

INFORMATION

Schols. Christ Rajan Minj and Reuell Paul have formally requested to be admitted to the Sacred Orders. If you have any valuable information that you think would help Fr Provincial decide about their suitability, kindly communicate it to the Provincial by 15 February, 2026.

APPOINTMENT BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Amrit Rai: Superior of Campion House, St Xavier's College, Kathmandu (with the approval of Fr General), w.e.f. May 2026.

Fr Boby Joseph: Superior of Jesuit community at St Xavier's, Jawalakhel (with the approval of Fr General), w.e.f. 17 February 2026.

Fr Xavier Alangaram: Superior of Manresa Jesuit Community, Kalimpong (with the approval of Fr General), w.e.f. 10 February 2026.

Fr Pankaj Kerketta: Vocation Promotor, w.e.f. February 2026.

Br Gilbert Lepcha: Minister at Infant Jesus School, Sittong, w.e.f. February 2026.

Fr Binod Kerketta: Asst Teacher at St Alphonsus School, Kurseong, w.e.f. 10 February 2026.

Fr Paul K.C.: Assigned to Nepal Vicariate (Asst Parish Priest at Assumption Church, Kathmandu, appointed by the Administrator of the Vicariate).

Fr Jayantilal Patel: Treasurer of St Joseph's School, North Point, Darjeeling, w.e.f. May 2026.

Fr Thomas NP: Socius to the Novice Master, Kalimpong, w.e.f. May 2026.

COMMON PROGRAMS OF THE YEAR 2026

- 03 - 04 February: Workshop for Treasurers by Fr Paul Carlose (CCU) & Mr Mishra (Auditor)
- 07 - 08 February: Meeting of those waiting for Tertianship
- 14 - 15 February: Meeting of those waiting for Final Vows
- 20 - 22 March: Meeting of those who are in their 40s and early 50s (Fr Joye James)
- 11 - 13 May: Province Assembly
- 17 - 20 May: Retreat for youth
- 01 - 02 June: Training for Local Superiors
- 03 - 04 June: Meeting of Former Jesuits
- 12 - 13 December: Superiors' Meeting/Extended Consult

PROVINCE RETREAT

(Theme: Constitutions and the Autobiography)

- 10-17 June 2026 at Godavari, Nepal by Fr Donald Miranda.
- 16-24 October 2026 at Woodcot, Kurseong by Fr R.C. Chacko.
- 04-12 December 2026 at Matigara by Fr R.C. Chacko.

PRABHU JISU RESIDENCE, MATIGARA

BASIL TOPPO SJ

Fr. Samuel Simick was installed as the new Parish Priest of Prabhu Jisu Girja by Bishop Paul Simick (Fr. Samuel's elder brother) during Eucharistic celebration on 25th January. The Parish community welcomed the new Parish Priest and gave a moving farewell to Fr. John Tigga, the outgoing Parish Priest. Simultaneously, Fr. Tomy the outgoing Director of Loyola Pastoral Centre was thanked for his services, and Fr. K J Jose the new Director of LPC and Bro. Herman Anthony the new minister of Jisu Ashram were welcomed. The community came together at dinner to welcome the new members and to thank the outgoing members. Vocation promoters' meeting was held at Inigo Bhavan on the 27th of January.



BANIYATAR

PAUL K.C SJ

The midnight Mass on the 31st December 2025 was attended by a good number of our parishioners. We started with Eucharistic Adoration followed by Benediction and Holy Eucharist. One of the Nepal Vicariate priestly candidates, Deacon Benjamin Rai came to Baniyatar to make a retreat under my guidance as a preparation for his priestly ordination which took place in the Immaculate Conception Parish, Damak. Nuncio to India and Nepal, His Excellency Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli ordained Fr. Benjamin Rai on the 5th of January 2026. From Baniyatar four parishioners along with their parish priest were present at the function. On the following day I went to Matigara for a thorough general medical checkup in Thalamus Hospital. Bro. Clarence Joseph made the entire process easier and faster. The final results were consoling; no serious medical issues were found. I thank Fr. Provincial for this venture from which I was running away for fear of detecting many old age medical anomalies.



The members of one of the newly baptized families took a decision to feed some poor and homeless in order to attain peace of soul for their departed beloved mother, instead of feeding the parishioners as the usual custom here is. This mother refused to receive baptism even when her children were all baptized. But ten days before her last breath, she requested for baptism and I baptized her, administered the sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Communion, all in one go, in her sick bed. She was 70 years old and breathed her last very peacefully. Of late, two committees were formed to help out in the parish affairs as and when it is need. They are a 7-member Emergency Advisory Committee for dealing with any unexpected events as they crop up and a 12 member Parish Zonal Leaders who will look after the spiritual matters of their respective Zones. From each Zone an Elder and a Youth are elected to form this Zonal group.

The parish celebrated the Christmas season with a series of spiritual, social and community oriented activities, bringing together parishioners from various villages and aged groups. Carol singing was organized in Linjo, Machet, Lapdung and Thulo Gaon, spreading the message of Joy and peace of Christmas to the wider community. This was followed by a grand Christmas Celebration, during which the parish Youth actively participated in decorating the church and its surroundings, contributing greatly to the festive atmosphere.

Fr. Boniface Tigga, accompanied by three scholastics - Ashish, Ranjit and Anup - visited the parish using the NJSI vehicle, bringing with them a generous supply of eatables for the community. Their presence added joy and encouragement to the celebrations.

The Christmas Vigil Mass was solemnly celebrated, with Fr. Boniface Tigga as the main celebrant. After the mass, Christmas gifts were distributed to the faithful. The parishioners generously contributed funds for the Christmas Prem Bhoj. The Babu Samaj prepared one buffalo, two goats and chicken for the feast. During Christmas morning mass, eight new catechumens received Baptism. After the Christmas Mass, around 500 people joyfully shared two meals, fostering unity and fellowship within the parish community.



Various games were conducted by the Youth, and winners were awarded prizes. The celebration was further enlivened when Fr. Boniface entertained everyone with magic tricks, bringing laughter and joy especially among children and youth. During their stay, Fr. Boniface and scholastics also visited local school and village, strengthening bonds with the wider community.

After Christmas, we invited 11 local pastors for a dinner gathering. It was a meaningful time of fellowship where they shared their spiritual struggles and pastoral challenges. Christmas gifts were presented to them as a gesture of goodwill and appreciation.

On New Year eve, Mass was celebrated at 6:30 pm. Following the Mass, the traditional burning of the old man effigy took place, symbolizing the farewell to the old year. Tea and biscuits were distributed to all present.

Fr. Peter travelled to Kathmandu to settle accounts. After the Second Terminal Examination, the school remained closed for four days. Fr. Norbert visited Durbang to offer mass for three families. Additionally, Fr. Peter accompanied the youth studying in Kathmandu, who had come home for holidays, to Pantesia. He also visited Neber village and distributed Holy Communion to families staying far away in cowsheds.



January 2026 opened with revision classes followed by the Third Term Examinations, which concluded in the first week of January. Alongside their academic efforts, students participated in the 8th Presidential Cup Municipality-Level Competitions, securing third position, a commendable achievement for the school.



Fr. Arun Pradhan, while painting a mural at the Sadakbari church, had a fall, fracturing his left arm. He underwent a successful surgery at Sai Pathibhara Hospital, Chandragadi, and is presently recuperating at the Jesuit residence. Fr. Chrysostom Hembrom (DUM) arrived in January, to assist in the pastoral ministry. He was accompanied by his Jesuit companions from Majileshpur Jesuit community. The community further welcomed two volunteers from Australia, Mark Bradshaw and Andrew Fletcher, who joined under the Cardoner Volunteer Project (Australia) for a three-month volunteer service.



Hatighisa Jesuits in Sadakbari



Majlispur Jesuits in Sadakbari



Farewell to Fr Victor and Welcome to Fr Christotom

Classes resumed after winter holidays on 20 January with a felicitation of Presidential Cup winners during school assembly, and Fr. Victor was given farewell and a token of appreciation. He moved on to his new mission in Siraha on 21st January. Bro. Sawan went on a tour of Gorkha and Pokhara along with a few of the school's staff on 14-17 January. A visit by the Hatighisa Jesuit community from across the border, accompanied by Fr. Sanjay, from Deonia added joy to our life and mission here.

FABER HOUSE, MAHESHPUR

DILIP TOPPO SJ

MORAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL:

The month of January is a season of picnics in Nepal. Our lower primary students had their picnic on the school campus itself. While the class 3 and 4 students were taken to Nichajhoda Simsar near Charali for the picnic. The other classes are also getting ready for the picnics in the coming week ends. Our school Annual Sports Day was held on 10th January. The preparation for the sports day began a week ago. The interhouse football, volleyball, Table Tennis matches and some field events were also conducted earlier. On the sports day only track events and some games for the junior classes and the parents were held. Fr. Shajumon, the Provincial presided over the event and gave away the medals and certificates to the winners. Mrs. Pavitra Dhakal, the Bhadrapur Nagarpalika Education officer was the Guest of Honour of the day. This year many parents witnessed their children's participation in the sports events and encouraged them. The Red house lifted the trophy as the overall winner and the yellow house was the runner-up and the green and blue houses got the same points and settled for the 3rd place.



ST. XAVIER'S PARISH:

On the last day of the year 2025, the parish community came together for Eucharistic Adoration conducted by Fr. Dilip, and for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In a deeply symbolic gesture, the faithful were invited to write down the negative habits, weaknesses, and burdens they wished to leave behind. These were then burned, signifying the dying of the old self and a conscious decision to begin a new life in Christ. Then in a spirit of gratitude they celebrated the thanksgiving Mass presided over by Fr. Bonie. This powerful act became an expression of inner renewal, reminding everyone that through Jesus we are continually called to conversion, to new beginnings, and to a future filled with hope, faith, and renewed zeal.

Inspired by this spirit of renewal, the youth of the parish also gathered for a meeting of prayerful discernment under the leadership of the Vice President of the Youth, Miss Sumitra, and the Youth Animator, Miss Manita Murmu. Together, they reflected on the spiritual needs of young people and discerned meaningful ways to deepen their faith and commitment. Listening attentively to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, the youth recognized the need for moments of silence, reflection, and spiritual renewal. As an immediate outcome of this discernment, they resolved to organize a one-day recollection for the youth, with the hope of fostering a deeper relationship with Christ and rekindling their spiritual zeal.

The Christmas season and the first weeks of the New Year brought travel, new responsibilities, and renewed energy to the Siraha mission. Life at the mission and the school returned with a lively rhythm, as staff, students, and members settled into the year with enthusiasm.

Fr. Arul left for Delhi in December, to conduct a retreat for the Delhi Jesuits. After the retreat, he visited home and went for his back treatment in Kannur, Kerala. He is expected to return to Zeromile, Siraha, in the first week of February to hand over his duties to Fr. Victor before assuming his new assignment at Baniyatar Church, Kathmandu.

During Christmas week, Fr. Anil travelled to Matigara where he underwent a medical check-up at Thalamus Hospital. Thereafter he left for Maheshpur, with Fr. Amit. He was then driven to Zeromile, Siraha, by Fr. Anup and Fr. Sanjay, accompanied by two regents. The journey was particularly memorable as it marked Fr. Anup's first long-distance drive. In mid-January, Fr. Anil travelled to Kathmandu by the Mobile Clinic vehicle for its major repairs. During his stay, he bought essential supplies for the school with the help of Shyam Sir from St. Xavier's Jawalakhel. He returned to Siraha with the vehicle, fully loaded with supplies and teaching materials.



Journey of Learning



Sunny Bites!



Mini Projects, Mega Joy!

St. Xavier's School, Siraha, reopened on 5th January, bringing back the familiar energy of academic life. Soon the second terminal progress report day was held. Parents reviewed their children's progress and examined their answer sheets.

Fr. Victor arrived on 21st January. The following evening, he was warmly welcomed by Fr. Anil and two sisters. He is familiarising himself with the school and the neighbourhood while overseeing the Class 1 registration process, carefully preparing all necessary documentation to ensure a smooth start for the primary level. Preparations for the Parents' Day cum Annual Day programme are in full swing. Although scheduled a week later than usual, the dedication of the staff and students promise a memorable and joyful celebration for all involved.

ARRUPE HOUSE, DEONIA

ARRUPE NIWAS CORRESPONDENT

After the school reopened in January, the 8th edition of the SXD Scout camp and the sports day were conducted in early January. Sports was the last of the major activities of the academic year. The primary classes have been going on their field trips. A group of Godavari Alumni Association members visited the school and interacted with our class 10 and Plus 2 students. They also met with the Jesuits to discuss possible collaboration and the strengthening of SXD alumni. The staff are looking forward to the annual picnic scheduled for the 30th. Our class four student Omalisha Mache bagged the 1st Runner Up award in a Solo Dance Competition organised by JAM 78 Nepal, competing with even Plus Two students.

Both Fr. Bosco and Bro. Broney were welcomed to our community and at the school assembly. On Magh Sankranti day, Fr. Tomson handed over the responsibilities to Fr. Bosco. Fr. Tomson was given a farewell at the school and the same evening, all the Jhapa Jesuits gathered in Arrupe Niwas for his farewell and to welcome Bro. Broney and Fr. Bosco. Thereafter Fr. Tomson left for North Point. We were delighted to have the company of the Hatighisa community with us for a day. They visited Maheshpur and Sadakbari before heading back. Fr. Bosco went to Kathmandu to get registered at the Indian Embassy. Bro. Broney's mother has been unwell, and he went to be with her for a few days.



January 2026 began with a thanksgiving Mass. In early January, the Second Year Jesuit Novices from Manresa arrived at Gayaganga for an enriching work experiment. Regular classes for students in Grades 6 to 12 resumed on January 5th. That same day marked a joyful milestone as we welcomed new admissions into Class 5. St. Peter's Primary School began classes on 7th January with a motivating staff orientation led by Mr. Rajib Kumar Lakra, leading them through insightful sessions on innovative teaching strategies and child-centred approach. SPS hosted an Inaugural Mass of the Holy Spirit, followed by the blessing of the school premises.

The AICUF students organised a delightful Food Feast, inviting our neighbouring school to join in shared meals, fun and fellowship. Meanwhile, Gayaganga Parish launched Sunday classes for Catholic students, offering structured sessions on faith formation, scripture, and prayer. Later in the month Fr. Cherian Maliekal attended the Episcopal Ordination in Kalimpong. Fr. Simon Kerketta and Binod Kerketta went on home visit.



The New Year began with a vibrant Winter Camp, alongside important community events and infrastructural developments.

The Winter Camp was filled with learning, service, creativity, and celebration. It commenced on 2nd January 2026 under the able supervision of Fr. Samuel Simick, assisted by Scholastics Valerian and Joseph. After the registration of students, the camp was formally inaugurated on 5 January. Students participated in a wide range of educational and recreational programmes throughout the month. Students of Classes 6 and 7 enjoyed an adventurous rock-climbing session at HMI. Another rock-climbing session for girls of Classes 6 and 7 was held separately. Classes 3 to 5 took part in a drawing activity.

Creative expressions through Sit and Draw competitions were conducted for Classes 6 to 8. Cleanliness and hygiene awareness sessions for girls of Classes 6 to 10 were conducted by DLR Prerna, and the same was repeated for both boys and girls of Classes 6 to 10 by DLR Prerna. Educational outings such as visits to the zoo, added excitement to the camp. Social awareness programmes on human trafficking were conducted for students of Classes 8 to 10.

Health and well-being were given special attention. A free eye check-up camp was held for students and the local public, followed by a general medical check-up camp, organized by the school alumni and led by Dr. Deva Gurung. The school celebrated the Republic Day, with Fr. Tomson Thomas Amakkatt as the Chief Guest. 28th January was observed as mini-sports day. Cultural entertainment continued with a musical orchestra performance by the children of Gandhi Ashram School, Kalimpong.

The closing ceremony of the Winter Camp was held on 30 January, featuring cultural programmes by the students. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Mr. Richard Lepcha, SDO. The camp concluded on 31 January with a joyful picnic for regular volunteers, at Singla.

Fr. Tomson Amakat joined the community on 21st January. A short farewell was organized for Fr. Samuel Simick and he left for Prabhu Jisu Girja, Matigara, on 23 January. On the same day, Estate and Group D employees resumed their regular duties. Significant progress has been made in infrastructure development. The new roof sheet on the school building is being installed. The turf court on the P.D. Ground and the new basketball court are nearing completion.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, GODAVARI

GEORGE P.M SJ

Fifteen students from SXG participated in the International Student Exchange Program in Netherland from 7 to 18 January. The students were accompanied by Ms. Anjali Gurung, Class 5-8 Coordinator. The program provided a valuable learning experience, offering students meaningful exposure to new cultures, environments, and educational practices. It was a particularly important opportunity for students who may not otherwise have had the chance to gain such international exposure due to their diverse backgrounds.

The school closed for a short winter holidays on 9th January till 19th January. During the holidays the school successfully organized Scout Camps for students of grades 6 to 10. In addition, Rover Rangers actively supported the entire camp from 9th to 12th January as part of their service and promotional camp. The camp focused on discipline, leadership, teamwork, outdoor skills, and service learning, providing students with valuable practical experiences beyond the classroom.

Students from the Students' Quality Circles (SQC) participated in the 19th National Convention on Students' Quality Circles (19th NCSQC'26) held at St. Mary's Secondary School, Pokhara from 14th to 16th January. During the convention, students took part in various collaborative and competitive events and workshops and in SQC case study presentations. The presentations were highly appreciated by the Chief Guest and Special Guests, reflecting their strong analytical skills, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities. Fr. Vijay the Principal accompanied the students to Pokhara along with other teachers. Fr. George returned to Godavari on 19th January after his home visit.

From 22nd January, the school commenced the SEE (Class 10) Preparation Practice Examination to help students strengthen their readiness for the Secondary Education Examination (SEE). Simultaneously, the Fifth Cycle Test was conducted for Classes 1 to 9, ensuring continuous academic assessment and reinforcing learning outcomes across all levels.

On 22nd January, a friendly Boys' Cricket Match and Volleyball Matches (Boys and Girls) were held between St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel and St. Xavier's School, Godavari at Jawalakhel. The matches were conducted to provide practice opportunities for students while fostering a friendly, sporting spirit and healthy inter-school relationships. On 30th January, the Players' Screening for the 12th Fr. Starr Memorial Girls' Football Tournament was conducted.



Classes 7-10: Scouts Camp



Rover Ranger Service



Students Exchange Program

In mid-January, six students of the school, accompanied by the Godavari Hub Coordinator, Mr. Kundan Rijal, and National Council Member of Students' Quality Circle, (SQC) Mr. Ramesh Maharjan, participated in the 19th National Convention on Students' Quality Circle held at St. Mary's School, Pokhara. The convention provided a valuable platform for students to share ideas, develop leadership skills, and learn quality circle practices through case study presentations, interactions, and collaborative activities. Fr. Boniface Tigga, the Principal also was present in the convention and he was given the SQC flag to be hosted at the 27th International Convention on Students' Quality Circle at St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel, scheduled for January, 2027.

In mid-January, as part of experiential learning, Class 6 students visited Balaju Industrial Estate, while Class 7 students went on an educational visit to Sikali Chaur. These visits helped the students gain practical exposure and enhanced their understanding beyond classroom learning. The school also organized an English Literary Contest, which included Story Writing for Classes 6 and 7 and an Essay Writing Contest for Classes 8 and 9. The event encouraged students to express their creativity, improve language skills, and develop confidence in written communication.

By the end of January, a Canva Competition was organized for Classes 6 through 9, promoting digital creativity. As part of collaboration and networking with the sister institution, students of Classes 11 and 12 from St. Xavier's School, Godavari played friendly cricket and volleyball matches with students of Classes 11 and 12 at St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel, fostering sportsmanship. On the same day, Class 4 students visited Tiger Lily Petting Farm and Hands-on Museum, while Class 5 students went on a Social Studies field trip to Balaju Park.

The Interact Club of SXJ organized Kayakalpa, with around 300 participants from various Interact Clubs. The program focused on fundraising and entertainment, encouraging youth engagement and social responsibility.

On the same day, the Outreach Club donated books to Bal Sewa Secondary School, Jhochhen, Kathmandu, contributing to the establishment of a school library.

We had quite a few guests with us during the month. Fr. Amit Lakra joined the community on 5th January. Mr. Samuel, a volunteer in Sadakbari stayed here for his Visa purpose. Fr. Lawrence Maniyar was here before he went to Pokhara to attend the SQC seminar. Fr. Raja came to take his belongings to Darjeeling. Bro. Herman's sister Mrs. Mona and his nephew Mr. Sandeep came to see Herman before he left for Matigara. Fr. Anil stayed with us and did shopping for his school. Frs. Bosco and Chrisostom came to register themselves with Indian Embassy. Fr. Ajay went to Siliguri for his S.I.R. hearing. Fr. Ignatius experienced health issues and was rushed to Sumeru Hospital. Different tests were conducted and he is stable. He was discharged on the same day.



Book donation Program



Students' Quality Circle (SQC)



Class 5: Visit to Balaju Park

Winter vacation provided essential time for rejuvenation and maintenance. A key focus was infrastructure upkeep, ensuring our campus buildings remain safe, functional, and aesthetically vibrant. Fr. Pascal, with tireless dedication, spearheaded the painting of Campion Building while other fathers took turns visiting their homes.

Arrupe Community bid farewell to Fr. James Anthony on January 9 after two years of his service to the college. His tenure enriched our academic landscape through innovative teaching, research initiatives, and mentorship of young minds in the Department of Microbiology. He pioneered hands-on lab programs, fostering a culture of inquiry and excellence in microbiology. His guidance elevated the department's reputation, contributing to publications, students' projects, and interdisciplinary collaborations. As Fr. Anthony embarks on his new assignment at North Bengal St. Xavier's College, St. Joseph's extends best wishes for continued success, fruitful ministry, and God's abundant blessings.

Dr. Samir Sharma, IQAC Member, and Dr. Sailesh Chettri from the Chemistry Department attended the Jesuit Higher Education Association of South Asia (JHEASA) North Zone's transformative two-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP). Titled "Artificial Intelligence and Academics: Methods, Applications, and Good Practices," the event was held at XLRI's Delhi-NCR campus. Guided by XLRI's Prof. P. Mohanty, the programme opened with an inspiring address from Fr. Donald D'Silva SJ, Director. He highlighted AI's power to enhance Jesuit traditions of reflective pedagogy and service-oriented education.



Spanning five dynamic modules, the FDP seamlessly merged theoretical insights with practical workshops and peer discussions: "AI in Course Design, Teaching Materials, and Evaluation" explored generative AI for crafting adaptable syllabi, tailored learning resources, and fair assessments while prioritizing ethical use; "Case Development" focused on prompt engineering to build compelling, discipline-spanning case studies; "Advancing Research and Scholarly Output" demonstrated AI tools for swift literature synthesis, idea generation, and ethical manuscript preparation; and "Data Analysis Techniques" delivered hands-on sessions with machine learning to tackle complex datasets in fields like chemistry and pedagogy.

CAMPION HOUSE, MAITIGHAR

CAMPION HOUSE SOURCES

Cheers to Xavierians! A few Xavierians emerged head and shoulders above the rest. Agrani Poudel secured the top rank in B.Sc. Microbiology from Tribhuvan University and receiving the prestigious Tika Ballav Dilkumari Ghimire Memorial Award. Ms. Bhawana Adhikari, an alumna of St. Xavier's College, was conferred the esteemed Lok Raj Gyawali Gold Medal in the B.A.LL.B. program at Tribhuvan University's 51st Convocation Ceremony. Likewise, another alumnus, Mr. Sujan Lamichhane, received the prestigious Dr. Dubasu Chhetri Gold Medal in M.A. International Relations and Diplomacy at the same convocation.

On a happy note, The First Frames – Volume 2.0, a photobook created by our BA Journalism and Mass Communication students—believed to be the first of its kind published by a higher education institution in Nepal—was released on Christmas Day. On a sad note, the final batch of the BSW programme bid farewell to the College at the end of December, marking the permanent closure of the programme.

In the academic sphere, four faculty members from St. Xavier's College, Maitighar participated in a two-day workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Academicians, organized by XLRI, Delhi, proving once again that even teachers must go back to school from time to time.



Family Week Inauguration



BSW Graduation



AI Training for Staff



Counselling Method Training for Staff



Final glimpse of Micro Biology

Not to be left behind, sixteen students and two faculty members from various departments visited St. Claret College, Bengaluru for a cultural exchange programme, where learning took place over shared meals and the universal language of selfies. Adding to the academic whirlwind, Fr. Augustine conducted a full-day workshop on Educational Leadership Development for the staff of St. Xavier's College, Dumka. He later joined the team at St. Claret College to deliver another session titled "Leader Beyond Leadership" because apparently, leadership itself was not ambitious enough.

Meanwhile, Fr. Bobby made a brief home visit and returned to welcome international guests from Slovakia and Rome, who will be conducting various workshops at the College. In a plot twist no one saw coming, Fr. Paul KC surrendered himself for a complete medical check-up. He now stands officially certified as a healthy man, with the comforting reassurance of "potential health risks in older age," proving that prevention is better than cure, even if it comes with a friendly warning label.

ST. XAVIER'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER, JAWALAKHEL

MS. PRATIKSHYA DHAKAL

Children at both centres welcomed the new year 2026 with joy and enthusiasm as they bade farewell to 2025. The celebration was filled with dancing, singing, and a delicious feast around the warmth of a fire. A meeting was held to discuss the upcoming picnic. Thereafter, the Centre organized an annual picnic in Switzerland Park. This picnic saw the participation of all students, staff, and Father Director. All enjoyed the day of bonding and joy, leaving behind their daily worries. The staff played an active role in ensuring the students had a delightful experience. The schools have resumed classes after their winter vacation. However, soon there was a holiday on the occasion of Sonam Lhosar, a New Year's day celebrated by the Tamang and Yolmo people of Nepal.

Gyan Bigyan School started the sports week. Rojina Ghale stood first in the food competition. In mid-January in Aruna Bhawan, girl's football competition saw four groups competing for the trophy.



It's fun to exercise!



Counselling Day!!



What and How shall we do?



Children remained at home on the day when the Goddess of knowledge, Saraswati, is honoured. A couple, who are also professors in Tranva University, Slovakia spent a day with our girls, counselling them through creative activities and fun games. The language was not a barrier. On the boys' side, one of the young students of St. Xavier's School celebrated her birthday with the boys in the Centre, providing them with a delicious meal and cake. Fascinatingly, she celebrates her birthday at the Centre every year. The Centre thanks her for making the boys part of her birthday celebration.

Any chemical or substance, including alcohol, makes one feel like it gives everything such as confidence, control, euphoria, escape, glow, health, money, peace, sleep, etc. However, it quietly takes away more than it gives. It gives you nothing but anxiety, brain and body damages, bloating, emotional spirals and mood swings, hangovers, lost time, lost youth, an intoxicated vision of self. You think it makes you live life. But all it does is to make you lose life. That's why, the Big Book, the Bible of Alcoholic Anonymous, says it succinctly, "Remember that we deal with alcohol - cunning, baffling and powerful." Since alcoholism or addiction is basically a soul-sickness, the Big Book also says that only if and when you straighten out spiritually, only then you straighten out physically and mentally. An addict tries to solve spiritual problems with physical solutions. While alcohol or any substance abuse may provide temporary relief from spiritual problems such as alienation, trauma, anxiety, etc, it, however, ultimately worsen and escalate these issues. Alcoholic Anonymous is a business whose currency is experience, dream and hope.

As a part of the Substance Abuse Awareness Campaign, in order to give right information and knowledge that there are never physical solutions to spiritual problems, Fr. Peter Bhujel conducted a productive one-hour session for more than 80 Catholics who had come to Loyola Pastoral Centre, Matigara for a 3-day retreat with Fr Kinley Tshering. They come to know and realize that any addiction is fundamentally a spiritual sickness that has no physical solution. This understanding and awareness help individuals from directly destroying themselves, and indirectly their loved ones.



MANRESA NOVITIATE

NOVICE SHEETAL KIRO

After the Christmas Eucharist we the Novices went to our respective ministry parishes for the Christmas celebrations. In the evening, we gathered as a community for a celebration filled with fun games, carols, the presence of Santa, cake, and a sumptuous supper. In the days following Christmas, we went out spreading the joy, love, and peace of the season at various places. On the 26th, we visited Cluny Senior Home, Cluny Novitiate, and the Cluny Provincialate. On the 27th, we visited the MC Convent, Rally Road. It was a great and memorable experience sharing the message of Christmas and praying together, especially with the inmates of the MC Convent.

On 29th December, we had a Christmas gathering with the Cluny novices. It was a day of joy and delight, filled with amusing games that helped us get to know one another better and build a fraternal bond. On the same day, we received a new clap box, which was a much-needed addition to the community. The month culminated in being with the Lord. On the last day of the year, we spent time recollecting and reviewing the past year. We had an hour of Adoration followed by a thanksgiving Mass. After Mass, we had a small celebration and a bonfire.



Christmas with Cluny Novices



Work Experience in Gayaganga

The New Year began with the intercession of our dear Mother Mary. We celebrated a solemn Mass on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. On 3rd January, the first-year novices went for their month-long village experiment. They were assigned to different villages in Lolay, Sakhyong, Kurseong, and Kankebond. On 4th January, the second-year novices left for their work experiment at Gayaganga and returned on the 15th. The ten days of labour proved to be an enriching experience. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Gayaganga community for giving us this wonderful opportunity and for taking such good care of us.

PREMANJALI JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE

VINAY LAKRA SJ

The Pre-Novices began the new year by sharing their village experiences among themselves. It was a joyful time of listening and learning from one another. Later they resumed their classes after the break. The Pre-Novices performed short biblical dramas in groups. They also continued their weekend ministries, parish choir, studies, and daily routine. They enjoyed a football match against the college boys, followed by a group-wise quiz competitions in the evening. Fr. Fredrick took three-day introductory classes on the vows. The sessions were helpful and gave the Pre-Novices a better understanding of religious commitment. We thank Fr. Freddy for being ever available. Simultaneously Fr. Leo met the Pre-Novices individually to help and guide them.

Later Fr. Tomy conducted the four-sheet exam for one of the groups. Later Bros. Clarence and Hermon spoke about vocation to Brotherhood in the Society. We are thankful to them for guiding and encouraging the Pre-Novices. We also had a community dinner in the Curia to thank the outgoing members and to welcome the new members into our dispersed PJR community. It was a joyful and meaningful time for everyone. We celebrated Republic Day by unfurling the flag in the morning. And later, the Pre-Novices went to the ground to watch the Republic Day programme conducted by the Jisu Niketan School. By late January, Prof. Pavanbir conducted classes for the Pre-Novices. We thank Fr. Alex for giving the Pre-Novices the recollection talk for the month of January.

The year began in quietude as the third-year theologians entered their Diaconate retreat at Jeevan Jyoti Ashram Burari under the guidance of Frs. George Beck, James Dabhi, and Leo Anand.



The community was reinvigorated by the Provincial's visit, a blessed interval of dialogue and discernment. His presence brought a welcome touch of the Province to Delhi. We were also pleased to host Frs. Paul Chemparathy, Roy Sebastian, and Joe Victor, who joined us during Fr. Shajumon's visit, further enriching our fraternal bond. This period was also marked by an in-house transfer of leadership as Sch. Ashish Ekka passed the baton of province coordinator (for theologians) to Sch. Arif Carlus Beck. We thank them for their services.

Vidyajyoti hosted a landmark seminar celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. With Sch. Reuell Paul leading an evocative ecumenical prayer, leaders from Catholic, CNI, and Orthodox traditions gathered to navigate the contemporary weight of our shared faith. Archbishop Anil J. T. Couto and Bishop Paul Swarup (CNI) delivered the inaugural and keynote addresses, respectively. Earlier, the first community meeting of the year focused on the POSA's Memoriale, allowing us to revisit the essence of Jesuit formation and our specific identity as students of theology.

The latter half of the month translated prayer into movement. On January 25th, the parish ministry team with Sch. Rajan as a core member organized the "Hope has Hands" youth seminar. This was a transformative, hands-on Ignatian immersion, with local youth engaging in cleanliness drives along the Yamuna bank and Kamla Nehru Ridge, followed by a visit to the Missionaries of Charity.

Republic Day was marked by reflections on constitutional values during the post-Mass flag hoisting and the participation of many in the national celebrations at Kartavya Path. Meanwhile, the Nepali ministry team, led by Prabhu Bhengra, organized their annual picnic at Nehru Park. The presence of Fr. Patrick Lepcha, SDB, added a special joy to the gathering, strengthening ties between the veteran and newer members of the congregation. The ministry has grown consistently since Fr. Roshan began his chaplaincy, with well attended monthly Masses at Hauz Khas and regular house visits. Momentarily, he has had to return to the province to attend his SIR hearing.



REST IN PEACE

- *Br Arockiam Peter SJ (MDU 93/69), died on 05.01.2026 at St Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul.*
- *Fr Ovid Pereira SJ (PUN 65/44), died on 11.01.2026 at St Xavier's, Kolhapur.*
- *Fr Ignatius Sebastian SJ (MDU 90/68), died on 17.01.2026 at St Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul.*
- *Fr Leo D'Souza SJ (KAR 93/75), died on 20.01.2026 at Mangaluru.*
- *Fr Thomas Kunnunkal SJ (DEL 99/80), died on 28.01.2026 at Jivodaya Hospital, Delhi.*
- *Ms Arockia Mary (65), sister of Fr Lawrence Thanislaus SJ, died on 18.01.2026, in Dindigul.*

"Peace is a breath of the eternal: while to evil we cry out 'Enough,' to peace we whisper 'Forever.' Into this horizon the Risen One has led us."

POPE LEO XIV





FEBRUARY

Happy Birthday

01 Edward Arokiaraj
02 Thomas Nedumparambil
05 Peter Jong Lepcha
14 Roshan Topno
14 Peter Bhujel
14 Ashish Topno

19 Ramhorchan M.
19 Julius Kujur
23 Leo Thomas
27 Pascal Ekka
29 Gabriel Gurung



In Memoriam: February.



Fr. Richard C. Curry SJ
05/02/1972



Bro. Stanislaus Dukpa SJ
07/02/2000



NS. Irudayaraj Paulraj
06/02/2008



Fr. John H. Lane SJ
21/02/2000



Bro. Sylvester Kaziman Rai SJ
06/02/2006



Fr. Eugene L. Watrin SJ
29/02/2004

POPE'S INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2026



FOR CHILDREN WITH INCURABLE DISEASES

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.