



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

JANUARY

- 2: Consult
- 8: Siraha
- 14-17: Delhi
- 18-19: Ahmedabad
- 21: Bishop's Ordination, Kalimpong
- 23-24: Chennai
- 25-27: Kochi
- 28-29: Mumbai
- 29-30: Lonavala
- 30-31: Pune

FEBRUARY

- 7-8: Meeting of those waiting for Tertianship
- 9-12: Mangalore
- 14-15: Meeting of those waiting for Final Vows
- 16-19: Kathmandu
- 17: Consult
- 21-28: JCSA, Kolkata

MARCH

- 3-4: Meeting of those who are in their 40s and early 50s

COMMON PROGRAMS

7-8 February 2026:

Meeting of those waiting for Tertianship

14-15 February 2026:

Meeting of those waiting for Final Vows

3-4 March 2026:

Meeting of those who are in their 40s and early 50s

11-13 May 2026:

Province Assembly

1-2 June 2026:

Training for Local Superiors

12-13 December 2026:

Superiors' Meeting/Extended Consult

PROVINCE RETREAT

THEME:

CONSTITUTIONS AND THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

- 10-18 June 2026 at Godavari, Nepal
- 16-24 October 2026 at Woodcot, Kurseong
- 4-12 December 2026 at Matigara



*Christmas greetings and blessings
with prayers for a New Year
filled with God's peace, hope, and guidance.*

APPOINTMENT BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Julius Kujur:	Superior, NBSXC, Rajganj (with the approval of Fr General), w.e.f 1 st February 2026.
Fr Samuel Simick:	Parish Priest, PJG, Matigara (presented to the Bishop of Bagdogra), w.e.f. 25 th January 2026.
Fr John Tigga:	Parish Priest, Gangaram (presented to the Bishop of Bagdogra), w.e.f. 1 st February 2026.
Fr Arul Selvam:	St Ignatius, Baniyatar (presented to the Administrator of the Vicariate of Nepal), w.e.f. 10 th Feb 2026.
Fr Peter Jong Lepcha:	Priest in-Charge, Sittong-Mungpoo Mission (presented to the Bishop of Darjeeling), w.e.f. 2 nd February 2026.
Fr Anthony Kollakkompil:	Parish Priest, St Paul's, Kurseong (presented to the Bishop of Darjeeling), w.e.f. 1 st February 2026.
Fr Rajashekaran Bilavandran:	Hayden Hall, w.e.f. 15 th January 2026.
Fr Devon Yonzon:	Vice-Principal, Administration and Academics, and Teacher, St Xavier's school, Jawalakhel, w.e.f. April 2026.
Br P. D. Vincent:	Treasurer and Minister, St Xavier's Jesuit Residence, Jawalakhel, w.e.f. April 2026.
Fr Ajay Lakra:	Treasurer and Minister, St Xavier's College, Maitighar, w.e.f April 2026.
Fr Amit Lakra:	Teacher, St Xavier's school, Jawalakhel, w.e.f. 15 th January 2026.
Fr Shiju Mathew:	Director, Jesu Ashram, w.e.f. 1 st February 2026.
Br Anthony Hermon:	Minister, Jesu Ashram, w.e.f. 15 th January 2026.
Fr David Ekka:	Hostel Warden and In-Charge of Canteen, NBSXC, Rajganj, w.e.f. 15 th January 2026.
Fr James Anthony:	Asst Prof., NBSXC, Rajganj, w.e.f. 15 th January 2026.
Fr K. J. Jose:	Loyola Pastoral Centre, w.e.f. 15 th January 2026.
Fr Chrysostom Hembrom (DUM):	Pastoral Ministry, Sadakbari-Simalbari, w.e.f. 5 th January 2026.

APPOINTMENT BY FR GENERAL



Fr. Pudota R. John Susai Raj, SJ, (AND),
as the new Provincial
of Andhra Jesuit Province

- **Fr Arjen Tete (CCU):** as Consultor to the President of JCSA
- **Fr Vincent Hansdak (HAZ):** as Consultor to the President of JCSA

The month of December at Siraha Mission was filled with celebrations. On the night of 26th November, after celebrating the birthday of Fr. Anil, Fr. Arul left for Siliguri to meet Fr. Shajumon. The evening was warm and joyful, and the house owners' family joined for dinner and fellowship. On 27th Nov. a short staff meeting was held to plan for the feast of St Francis Xavier. The feast day was lively, with children performing dances, playing games, and enjoying the day with great happiness. On 2nd Dec. Fr Anil left to attend the final vows of Fr Divyananad on 3rd and joined the province retreat on 4th, at Matigara.

On 4th December, Fr Arul attended the golden jubilee celebration of Fr Michael (CST) at Navodaya School, Tandi, Chitwan. After the celebration, Fr. Arul conducted an advent recollection for the faithful of Birgunj, and Narayangadh. On his way back, he visited the Catholic community at Hariwan and celebrate Holy Mass for them.

As Christmas drew closer, Fr. Arul planned to leave for Delhi on Christmas morning, traveling via Sakri, Darbhanga, with an overnight stay at the Jesuit house. The next day, he would fly to Delhi to lead a retreat for the Jesuits. After completing this, he has planned a home visit and later travel to Kannur, Kerala, for Ayurvedic treatment for his back.

Christmas was celebrated at SXS, Siraha on 22nd Dec. This was the first time the children sang Christmas carols and performed a small skit on the birth of Jesus. It touched the hearts of everyone present. The celebration ended with the distribution of khaja (snacks) to the students and a shared Christmas meal among the staff, making the day joyful and memorable.

ARRUPE NIWAS AND ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, DEONIA

ARRUPE NIWAS CORRESPONDENT

The school buzzed with many activities this month. We celebrated Xavier Day on the 3rd to honour the patron of the school.

On the 6th, we had the Junior School Parents' Day, which attracted a record number of parents. After the Parents' Day, it was time to prepare for the Annual Science, Art and Craft Exhibition. The exhibition held on the 19th was clearly a demonstration of the hard work of the students and the expert guidance of the teachers. On the same day, the management students of Plus Two had a taste of business through their business stalls with tremendous success. We had the Christmas celebration on 23rd before closing for winter vacation, Teachers had their next edition of the Teachers Professional Development Program on the 14th, conducted by Mr Laxman Luitel from Kathmandu University.



In the community, we were all kept busy with the various activities of the school. Jiju attended the Superiors' meeting in Matigara. On the 16th we welcomed our new member, Broney, to the community. Ranjit joined Boni and Ashish in visiting Tipling during Christmas. Sanjay was the chief guest for the annual day of Loyola School, Simulbari. Tomson awaits the arrival of Bosco in the first week of January to hand over and take up his new mission in North Point. Among the guests this month, Mr Alex Gavrus, a French sponsor of scholarships, stayed with us for 10 days. Boni spent a day meeting with the staff of the school as the PCSE. Herman and Anil also stayed with us on their way back from the retreat.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTH POINT

JUSTIN BAGE SJ

Pre-Christmas celebration was organized on Dec. 1st for the Primary Division day scholars in the morning and for the Boarders in the evening, with their parents. Thanks to Ms Gulappi Sahu for the excellent arrangement. The Senior Division day scholars had their Pre-Christmas celebration with their parents on 8th morning and the boarders had their celebration with their parents in the evening. The school closed on 9th Dec. for the winter vacation.

The Jesuit community hosted the pre Christmas dinner for the teaching and office staff on 10th Dec. followed by a common picnic on the next day. The Group D and estate staff had their year-end picnic in Singla on 19th Dec.

The Scholastics, Anthres Tuti and Ujwal Kerketta pitched their tent at Mungpoo from December 17th to 29th helping Fr. Oshish. Fr. Samuel Simick and Sch. Valerian Kujur went home to be with their families during the Christmas.

The North Point school community hosted the festive dinner on 25th for all the neighbourhood Jesuits and the Diocesan Clergy.



INFANT JESUS SCHOOL, SITTONG

IRENIUS GURIA SJ

On 5th Dec. Fr Provincial made his annual visitation to Infant Jesus School, Sittong. He shared his vision for the mission, especially his plan for the future of the school. People appreciated it very much. He focused on the up-gradation of the school.

Three students were chosen for their best academic performance, good personality and creative mind. Fr Provincial distributed their report cards and some prizes to those who stood first in their classes.

Pre – Christmas was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The skit on the Birth of Jesus, few Carol songs and dances were excellently performed by the children. Thanks to the staff for preparing the children for this celebration.

TIPLING

PETER CHETTRI SJ

The late Rek lamas' family offered memorial mass on the first of December and fed their relatives. He died in Kathmandu two months ago, during the medical treatment. On Dec.4, Fr. Norbert and ten youths went to Lingjo to celebrate mass for the Catholics.

There was a grand Birthday celebration in the village, two year old Catholic Baby Boy. The family fed the whole village.

Christmas carols began on Dec. 15th. The first day Fr Peter and youths went to Lingjo to sing carols in the evening and stayed overnight.

On the second day we had carols at Majeth and on the third day at Luptung. In our own Village, Namsha, we had carols for two evenings.

Dong Den Devi schools' senior students went on an educational tour to Mustang in the second week of December. Two sisters from Pokhara, came with their driver on 6th Dec. to visit their hostel children and meet our youths. December 21, Mr Chandra came along with two Australian volunteers, who will stay in the village for the next three months.

KAMAL NIWAS, LALITPUR

NIROJ MINJ SJ

On 15 November, we were blessed to welcome Sr. Sarita from Siraha and Sr. Bindu from Maheshpur to Kamal Niwas. They stayed with us for two days while attending the mobile clinic meeting at Caritas Nepal. Their presence brought joy and warmth to our house, and we shared meaningful conversations and fellowship. On 16 November, Fr. Augustus and David, along with their team, left for a week-long field visit to Bhumesthan and Tipling. The living conditions there were very basic and challenging. The people of these areas live with limited resources, yet their resilience and simplicity were deeply inspiring. Despite hardships, the team worked with dedication and faith, successfully completing their mission. Their service reflected Christ's call to walk with the poor and serve with compassion.

On 23 November, we joyfully celebrated Fr. Mathew's birthday at Kamal Niwas. Jesuits from Valley joined us, making the celebration truly special. On 24 November, we were encouraged by the visit of Mrs. Pilar from the Xavier Network. During her stay, she guided and supported the NJSI team, offering valuable insights and constructive suggestions. From 25 November, Fr. Augustus, David, and the NJSI team began organizing a special week-long program for teachers and students in Kavre, Panchkhal. With prayerful planning, teamwork, and commitment, everyone worked together to make the program meaningful and impactful for those who participated. Overall, November was a busy yet grace-filled month. Through visits, fieldwork, celebrations, and learning experiences, we felt God's presence guiding us and strengthening us as a community committed to service.

Niroj is busy preparing his presentations and online classes in the evenings.

December began with a spirit of reflection and renewal. From 1 to 15 December, Fr. David attended a retreat at Matigara. On 6 December, we were happy to welcome Fr. Xavier Ignatius (revisor) from the Delhi Province, who visited Kamal Niwas briefly and shared dinner with the community. From 10 to 17 December, Fr. Mathew was away for the Superiors' Meeting at Matigara and for visits in Jhapa schools. He also inspected the housing project that is going on near Maheshpur tea gardens.

On 19 December we went for the CRN Christmas gathering at Godavari. On 20th, we celebrated Fr. Augustus' birthday at Kamal Niwas; the celebration remained simple and meaningful. On the same day, we also offered a heartfelt farewell to Fr. David, who is moving to Darjeeling for his next mission. At the community Mass we thanked God for his generous service among us, and entrusted his future ministry to God's loving care.



NJSI activities in villages, and birthday celebrations

Shishu Bikas Kendra (SBK) witnessed several important events and activities during this month. We were happy to welcome a new student into SBK, making another step in our mission of care, education and inclusive growth. The international day of persons with Disabilities was observed meaningfully and our students actively participated in a public rally. Through their involvement, the children promoted awareness, dignity and inclusion for persons with disabilities.

The Provincial of the Holy Cross Sisters (SSC) made her annual visit to Pokhara and SBK. Her presence was a source of encouragement and inspiration for the staff and students, strengthening the bond between the congregation and the institution. A joyful highlight of the month was the students, parents and staff picnic which provided an opportunity for relaxation, fellowship and mutual understanding. The month concluded with a Christmas celebration at SBK, celebrated with great enthusiasm, prayer and cultural activities, remembering the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.



Public Rally



Christmas at SBK



The Christmas carol singing program was successfully conducted at the parish level, spreading the message of peace, hope and joy to many families. Fr. Ayar visited Gorkha to celebrate the Holy Mass and the sacrament of reconciliation along with Fr. Ashim SFX.

Fr. Devadhas preached during the Holy Eucharist during the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Pillar Fathers presence in Nepal. A CRN meeting was held at St, Mary's Pokhara which included a meaningful time of gathering and the sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Devadhas attended the Jubilee celebration of Notre Dame School, Bandipur. We were also blessed to accept invitation for Christmas dinner in the homes of the faithful sharing fellowship and festive joy.

Most people think alcohol is a problem. It's not. It's a solution. At least in the beginning. It begins as a solution helping us escape from spiritual malady such as stress, anxiety, emptiness, lonelines, disconnectedness, boredom, pain, trauma, etc. Alcohol quieted our minds, and sedated or numbed our pains. But only for a while. That's what makes adiction of all kinds so dangerous. It was the shortcut to peace that never lasted. And slowly, without noticing, the solution becomes the problem. Alcohol or any drug pretends to fix what it's actually making worse. The real solution isn't found in a glass, but in honest acceptance in facing life without hiding behind a chemical that gives short-term escape destroying long-term peace and purpose in life. And when that illusion breaks, that's when FREEDOM begins.



As a part of the ongoing Substance Abuse Awareness Campaign in order to give right information and knowledge that any chemical or drug is never a solution but a powerful problem, and yet a treatable disease, Fr Peter Bhujel held productive and interactive sessions for 13 FC Junior Sisters in Kurseong, CRI Christmas gathering at the Cluny Provincialate in Kalimpong, 8-10 standard students of St Mary's High School in Singla, 80 Asha Karmis at Woodcot, Kurseong, St Paul's Church Youths in Kurseong, and for the faithful of Mahanadi and Giddhepahad churches, Kurseong. They come to know and realise that any addiction begins as a solution, but eventually ends up as an acute problem destroying individuals and their families.

NBSXC, RAJGANJ

DIVYANANDAM SJ

Pre Christmas was celebrated separately in both the campuses, led by the 1st year AICUF students at Rajganj and by the staff and students in Matigara. The AICUF students also celebrated Pre Christmas with orphanage children of Howrah South Point at Bakuabari. Jalpaiguri District Health Dept. organised Awareness on Tobacco, HIV, Aids and other health related issues for the staff and students.

Xavier Niwas:

Frs Lalit, Deven and Br. Ashish were in Kheripara village to celebrate Christmas with study centre children. The Jesuit community dispersed themselves for Christmas ministry at different places: Fr Dennis in Bhutan, Fr Lalit in Malbazar, Fr Divyanand in Kelabari, and Fr Devan in the local parish. Fr Kennedy was in Nepal in connection with Shared Vision.

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING

DONATUS KUJUR SJ

The Department of Computer Science and Applications at St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, successfully organized an international seminar titled "Computational Technologies" on November 22, 2025. The event brought together scholars, researchers, and students to explore contemporary advancements and emerging concerns in the field of computation, data science, communication systems, and intelligent technologies. The seminar featured expert speakers discussing advanced topics in technology and its societal implications. Professor Somarjit Chakraborty introduced Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) for Parkinson's disease, explaining its surgical procedure, clinical benefits, and computational modeling to optimize treatment. Dr. Deepanjali Shrestha explored the global data economy, highlighting the economic and political impacts of data as a valuable resource while warning about risks like privacy erosion and algorithmic manipulation. Dr. Saroj Kr. Biswas detailed the applications of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in smart decision-making across sectors such as healthcare and finance, emphasizing their role in enhancing predictive accuracy and automation. Finally, Dr. J. K. M. Sadique Uz Zaman outlined the evolution of communication methods, focusing on computational advances that have improved digital message security and transmission efficiency, transforming global communication networks.

Congratulations to Mr. Sangeal Tamang and Miss Anushka Tamang from the Department of History, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling! They were selected to represent North Bengal University at the prestigious East Zone Inter-University Badminton Championship 2025 held in Odisha from 17th -21st December.



International seminar



NTS Picnic



Badminton



Mr. N. K. Pradhan, Associate Professor of St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, retires on 31 December 2025 after an extraordinary 40 years of dedicated service. On 20 December 2025, the college community gathered to express their gratitude and appreciation for his remarkable contributions. The event was marked by heartfelt speeches, fond recollections, and warm tributes that highlighted the profound impact he has made over four decades. St. Joseph's College extends its deepest gratitude to Mr. N. K. Pradhan and wishes him a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retired life. His service will remain an enduring inspiration for all.

25 supporting staff of St. Joseph's College enjoyed a refreshing picnic at Green Valley Resort on 14 December. The day offered relaxation, rejuvenation, and togetherness, allowing staff members to unwind, bond, and celebrate their hard work in a peaceful natural setting. It was a memorable and energizing outing for all.

The University examinations were conducted from 5 to 22 December 2025. The exams were supervised of the Examination Committee headed by Fr. Dr. Binay Xavier Kandulna, SJ and efficiently executed under the guidance of Fr. Dr. Sanjiv Lakra, SJ Controller of Examinations. All examinations were carried out smoothly and in an orderly manner. Following the completion of the exam schedule, the college will remain closed for winter vacation from 23 December 2025 to 31 January 2026.

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAITIGHAR

CAMPION HOUSE SOURCES

St. Xavier's College, Maitighar stepped into the final month of 2025 with a rhythm that was both reflective and celebrative. December unfolded as a season of learning and community bonding, each event adding its own note to the larger Xavierian story.

The academic pulse was strong. The Prabaha Poetry Gathering and Competition concluded in late November, offering students a space to rediscover hidden literary gifts. The Department of Physics sustained intellectual curiosity through a month-long crash course on Quantum Computing using Qiskit, while also hosting a special academic interaction on the teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics. The Department of Microbiology brought together over 150 participants from across Nepal for its 5th Seminar on Researches in Microbiology.

The Faculty of Journalism marked the 40th edition of its Media Talk series by addressing Nepal's Gen Z and the anti-corruption movement, provoking critical reflection on governance. Winter Warmth Volume 9.0, led by Social Work in collaboration with Major Arts, translated compassion into action and shared joy to support those facing the harsh winter.



Christmas Celebration



Microbiology Seminar



Winter Warmth Stage Presentation



Xavier's Day



Shared Vision

December also celebrated identity and belonging. Xavier's Day on December 3 was marked with gratitude and inspiration, enriched by the presence of an international guest committed to solidarity. Christmas and the Alumni Homecoming became moments of pause and play where prayer, performance, memory, and reconnection reminded everyone what it means to be Xavierian.

The year concluded with a deeper sense of mission as Jesuit institutions of Darjeeling and Nepal came together for the much-appreciated Shared Vision Workshop, reaffirming a common call to educate in the Jesuit way. We extend our sincere gratitude to Frs. Donatus Kujur, Daniel Bara, Vijay Toppo, John Kennedy, and Mr. Subarna K.C., for their valuable time and excellent facilitation. Truly top-notch.

MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE

NOVICE ALOYSIUS ANTONY

The month of December commenced with great joy, hope, and fervor. To begin with, we were each assigned Christmas friends, for whom we prayed throughout this season. At the very outset of the month, Fr Amrit guided five Darjeeling diocesan brothers in a three-day retreat. As they departed after the retreat, they expressed their sincere gratitude, sharing that the three days had greatly helped them to sit at the foot of Christ and listen to Him in silence. We celebrated the feast of St Francis Xavier with double joy, as it was not only the feast of the Society but also the feast day of our dear Novice Master. The Eucharist was celebrated by the man of the day, Fr Xavier, during which he expressed his gratitude to the saint and spoke of how fortunate he felt to belong to the same Society and to walk in the footsteps of the great missionary saint. The novices also expressed their delight on this special day by felicitating him through sharing and an especially composed song. After the celebrations, Fr Xavier went to Matigara to participate in the Final Vows, following which he embarked on an eight-day annual retreat. He returned on the 13th.

To mark the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we had a rosary procession from the main chapel to the lower chapel, then to the cave, and finally concluding in front of the grotto.

The CJ novices who came for their long retreat under the guidance of their Novice Mistress, Sr Bernadette, concluded their retreat on the 12th of December. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Sr Bernadette for choosing Manresa and also for teaching us many songs during her stay here.

On the 15th, we engaged in a very important exercise, Charity Encounter, during which we offered fraternal suggestions and recommendations to our fellow companions as we journey and grow together.

On the 16th, Fr Amrit accompanied our co-workers, Dilu Daju, Usha, and Sanju Aunty, the “St Josephs” of our house who silently offer their dedicated and generous service—on their picnic to Darjeeling. It was indeed a refreshing experience for them.



On the 18th, to spread and share the joy of Christmas, we novices, along with Fr Master, went for carol singing at Gianora Home (the diocesan senior home) and a nearby convent of the Sisters of St Anne of Vijayawada. It was truly a splendid experience for the novices to share the joy of Christmas with others.

From the 19th to the 22nd, we threw ourselves into crib preparation and decorations. We were divided into four groups. It was a unique opportunity for different minds and ideas to come together and finally produce something creative and beautiful. On the 23rd, we cleansed and prepared our interior cribs and mangers by spending a day of recollection with the Lord on the theme, “How do I see my internal world?” Inspired by Fr General’s recent letter to the whole Society, it was an occasion for us to look within ourselves and identify the conflicting areas, the war zones, and the enemies within us.

The month was busy, meaningful, and filled with growth. From 28 - 30 November, 14 Pre-Novices were sent to different parishes - Sacred Heart, Darjeeling; St. Mary’s, Kankebung; St. Paul’s, Kurseong; St. Vincent’s, Hatighisha and St. Xavier’s, Maheshpur – for a month of mission experience in villages. We sincerely thank all the Parish Priests for their support, guidance and for arranging suitable places for the Pre-Novices. We are also grateful to all the families who accommodated the Pre-Novices for a month and took good care of them.

The other 12 pre-novices continued with their regular classes during this time with the special focus in English. On 3rd December, we celebrated the feast of St. Francis Xavier and the birthdays of Frs. Fredrick and Giles.

On 4th December, Fr. Leo began his annual retreat which continued till 12th December. Until 17th December, the Pre-Novices continued their usual classes, ministries, and daily activities. Classes were stopped on 17th to prepare for Christmas; with decoration and cleaning of the house. On 19th, one of the Pre-Novices from Odisha decided to return home. On 23rd, the Pre-Novices had a recollection day, which helped them prepare spiritually for the season. On 26th, all the boys who had gone to the villages returned with rich experiences and had their Christmas gathering on 27th December.

On the 21st December, on the occasion of Bal Maithiri’, the Bhadrapur Nagarpalika conducted marathon race for the boys and girls between the age of 14 to 18 years. Two of our girl students Miss Geeta Uroan and Miss Numa Limbu secured 2nd and 4th position in the marathon. They were awarded certificates and a cash prize of 3500/- and 1500/- respectively.

The school held the pre-Christmas celebration on 22nd December. The day was very cold but our students exhibited high spirits and great joy in performing dances, songs, Christmas skit, mime and action songs (lower-primary).

The grand finale of the program was Santa's arrival to entertain the children, and dance with them. Every program was excellent; credit goes to the students and teachers. During the Christmas holidays, a few of our students are getting ready for the Nagarpalika level inter-school dance competition and science exhibition, to be held on 28th December.

ST. XAVIER'S PARISH

Around 20 pilgrims from Damak, accompanied by Fr. Pius, visited the parish. The group, made up of village leaders and their spouses, spent time in prayer and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation before participating in the Mass, assisted by Fr. Dilip. Another group of pilgrims from Bharaul, Sunsary, led by Fr. Eugene, also came to St. Xavier's Parish.

The parish marked the beginning of its Christmas with the carol singing program under the leadership of Fr. Dilip and Sr. Rita, moving from home to home to pray with parishioners and share Christmas blessings. Frs. Nicholas and Anup too joined the carol team.

On the eve of Christmas all parishioners assembled at the parish for the Vigil Mass. The Deonia community generously arranged transportation for the faithful. The liturgy, presided over by Fr. Sanjay, brought the community together in a meaningful celebration of the Holy Night.

APOSTOLIC SCHOOL

Just before Christmas, the sister-in-law of Amit Minj, our cook, passed away due to cancer. This left the four boys to manage their own cooking while balancing their studies and exams with commendable effort.

The Apostolic School hosted the Fathers for a pre-Christmas lunch. Fr. Anup generously shared the Christmas gifts with the boys. The apostolic school boys joined the parish carol singing and actively participated in the vigil Mass. The following day, three boys from Sadakbari and Simbalbari traveled home to be with their families for Christmas, while Isak Tamang from Tipling remained at the school as his classes at Birendra Secondary School, Chandragadhi, are on.



SADAKBARI-SIMULBARI

JOMON JOSE SJ



The Christmas celebrations at Sadakbari and Simalbari churches were marked by prayer, joy, and togetherness. Under the inspiring leadership of Fr. Arun, the Parish Priest, the parishioners were prepared through confessions in various SCCs during the Advent season. The faithful gathered for Midnight Mass and carols in tastefully adorned churches, with the Sadakbari choir guided by Scholastic Sawan. The faithful of both churches came together for Mass, a fellowship meal, and fun games on Christmas Day.

Our students secured first place in Senior Boys' Football, second place in Senior Girls' Football, and third place in Junior Boys' Football at the Jhapa Municipality PABSON ECA Meet. The Annual Sports Day on 28th November was well attended, with over 250 parents participating. Fr. Tomson SJ served as the Chief Guest, while Sr. Rose, Principal of Loyola School, attended as the Guest of Honour. The school community bade farewell to volunteer Mr. Matuz from Slovakia, expressing gratitude for his service. Mr. Alex from SXS visited SXS to guide Scout students and worked with Mr. Samuel, a volunteer from Italy, to formally establish the SXS Scouts.



Xavier Day on 3rd December was marked by the second SXS Science Exhibition, XEST FEST (Xavier Environment Science and Technology Fest). The exhibition welcomed students from Loyola School, Believers School, and Judo School, as well as many parents, showcasing creativity, environmental awareness, and scientific curiosity. The Primary School Parents' Day on 23rd December was joyfully attended by a full house.



PARENTS' DAY



CRNP RECOLLECTION

On 4th December, the Gonzaga community hosted the Catholic Religious of Nepal (Purvanchal) (CRNP) Advent Recollection, attended by about fifty priests and religious. The recollection talk was delivered by Fr. Babu Joseph, SDB, Principal of Salesian College, Siliguri. The community also hosted the Annual Christmas lunch for collaborators, well-wishers, and their families on 24th December.

Frs. Arun and Victor participated in the final vows of Fr. Divyanand at Matigarah and made their annual retreat from 4th to 12th December. Fr. Jiju, the Superior of Gonzaga House, visited the community on 21st and shared with them the key points from recently-held Superior's meeting in Matigara. Fr. Victor's 68th birthday was celebrated with much joy together with our religious collaborators and Jhapa Jesuits on 23rd December.

ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

BIPIN BARA SJ



St Peter's was a venue for West Bengal Police Recruitment Examination in which over 600 candidates appeared. The community condoled the passing away of Mr MC John (97), father of Fr Cherian Maliekal on Dec 01, and Mr Sudhir Beck (70), elder brother of Fr Sundeep Beck on Dec 23.

In December, we welcomed the spirit of Advent and Christmas with open hearts. Unfortunately, Fr. Nabor Dungdung faced a health setback and was admitted to Navjeevan Hospital on 6th December. We kindly request your prayers for his swift recovery.

Led by Fr K. Kurian SJ & team from Fatima Retreat Centre, Patna, the faithful of the parish went into a three-day charismatic retreat from 12 - 14 Dec. Some 21 engaged couples have had marriage preparatory classes from 15 - 20.

The schools celebrated Christmas in advance on Dec. 20 before the short Christmas-New Year holiday. Though the school is shut, Br Robert Lakra & team are busy working even on holidays, taking admissions for the next academic year. Thanks to the initiatives of Fr Nabor and Sch. Bipin Bara, Canisius hostel bears a new look after renovation.

HRDRC, SANEPA

JUEL KISPOTTA SJ

Fr Juel participated in the province retreat, led by Fr Julian Fernandes SJ (KHM) at Matigara, from Dec. 4 – 12. Following the retreat, he consulted with doctors regarding his diabetes and burning mouth syndrome. Encouragingly, the prescribed medication has begun to ease his discomfort, reducing the burning sensation in his mouth. Sch. Ashish Soy, after long hours in school, has been busy scrubbing the floors of the kitchen and the common rooms at Sanepa. His sheer dedication and hard manual labor has given a fresh new look to the place. His efforts set a high standard, leaving the house cook inspired to maintain the same spirit of order and cleanliness.

On 23rd, Ashish journeyed to Tipling with two fellow regents from Godavari and Deonia, accompanied by Fr Boniface, to celebrate Christmas. They departed the Valley at 5 a.m. and, in record time, arrived in Tipling by 2 p.m. on the same day. Ashish returned to HRD on the 26th, carrying with him the joy of the celebrations.

Christmas in the Valley was equally vibrant. On the eve of Christmas, Fr. Juel attended the vigil Mass at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, Baniatar. On 25th December, a grand Christmas celebration was organized for the boys and girls of Aruna Bhavan and the Jawalakhel Social Centre. The event featured cultural performances, gift sharing, and an atmosphere filled with joy and laughter. The occasion was graced by the brief but meaningful presence of Fr Shajumon, our provincial. After spending the entire day with the children at the Centre, Fr Juel concluded his Christmas celebrations with fellow Jesuits of the Valley at Campion House.

**ST. XAVIER'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE
(SXSSC), JAWALAKHEL**

MS. PRATIKSHYA DHAKAL

On 21st Nov., the SXSSC students of Tri-Padma School organized their annual hiking and picnic program, funded through parental contributions. Thanks to the generous support of SXSSC Director, Fr Juel, for covering the expenses of all students.



Dance Therapy



Meditation



Counselling Session

A local businessman, Mr Lila Bahadur Katwal of Imadol, Lalitpur, celebrated his birthday on 24th Nov. at SXSSC. The cake and food were delightful, and we extend our heartfelt thanks for the celebration.



On 28th Nov., SXSSC welcomed a new student, Prakrish Bhandari from Palpa. That same day, Yamuna Darji celebrated her birthday. Thanks to Mr Chhulton Sherpa for generously sponsoring warm jackets for all the inmates of SXSSC.



The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed on 3rd December. On the 5th and 8th, Miss Tripti, Dr. Bikash, Ms. Sushmita, and Ms. Lapa visited Aruna Bhawan to provide counselling for our children.



Gaffney Day was prayerfully observed on 13th Dec. at the Jawalakhel Social Service Center in remembrance of our founder, Fr. Thomas E. Gaffney, SJ. His immense contributions were honoured, and his legacy continues to live in our hearts. The chief guest for the occasion was Mr. Terence G. Lama, a local donor, who distributed prizes to children for their performances in dance, song, poetry, and speeches about Fr. Gaffney, SJ.

The season of Advent was very much in the limelight by the Parish Youth taking up the Carol this year singing and dancing in various Zones in the Parish. Their purpose was to create some fund for the youth activities like, leadership training, youth seminars and conventions within and outside the country.



BANIYATAR PARISH

K.C. PAUL SJ

On the 5th of December along with some parishioners, the parish priest went to Chitwan Navodaya School to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Fr. Michael, CST as a religious. During his tenure in Nepal, he worked among the unknown, isolated and totally illiterate Chapang tribal people in the mid-hilly regions of Nepal. Their children were brought to Chitwan, Tardi near Narayan Ghat. Over 350 children are boarded and lodged and given free education up to class Ten in Navodaya School at Tardi Village.

On 24th evening a new chapter was carved in the annals of Baniyatar Parish History. Our Provincial, Fr. Shajumon C.K, S.J was the Main Celebrant at the Christmas Vigil Mass along with four other concelebrants. The ears of the faithful were glued to the inspirational and thought provoking sermon of Fr Provincial. He was applauded with welcome claps, presentation of Khada, Nepali cap and a Magic Cup. Finally he left the church arena with a very positive note hoping to visit again.

GANDHI ASHRAM, KALIMPONG

SANTY MATHEW SJ

On 18 December we joyfully celebrated Christmas along with the first-ever Alumni Get-together of Gandhi Ashram School. It was a deeply nostalgic and memorable day for everyone present. The campus came alive with warm interactions, as alumni reconnected with their teachers, shared stories of the past, and once again felt at home within the Gandhi Ashram School family.



Along with the Christmas Celebration and the first Alumni get-together we also unveiled the bust of Fr Edward McGuire SJ, the Founder of Gandhi Ashram School Kalimpong.



On 15 December GAS Orchestra went for the carol singing at I.P Park Kalimpong. At the request of the Alipurduar district magistrate Smt. Vimala Ranganathan, the Gandhi Ashram School Orchestra had the honour of performing at the Alipurduar Shristishree Mela on 21st December. We also performed at St. Xavier's School, Alipurduar on 23rd December.

PRABHU JISU RESIDENCE, MATIGARA

BASIL TOPPO SJ

Fr Divyanandam professed his final vows, in the presence of over 70 Jesuits and a few other invited guests, on 3rd Dec. at Prabhu Jisu Girja, Matigara. This was the first major event after the unification of the new Darjeeling-Nepal province.



We thank the Sisters of Notre Dame for the meaningful decoration of the altar, the Jesuit Choir led by Frs Edward and Kalyan, Fr John Tigga for the arrangement of the church, Br Clarence for the accommodation of guests and Fr Tommy for the delicious dinner.

We are grateful and indebted to Fr Julian Fernandes SJ (KHM) for directing the three retreats for 112 Jesuits of the province - the first in June for 27 Jesuits at Godavari, the second from Sep. 28 - 4 Oct., for 47 Jesuits, and the third from Dec. 4 - 12, for 38 Jesuits at Inigo Bhavan, Matigara.



Immediately after the third retreat, 17 Community Superiors of the province assembled for their first meeting from 13^h to 14th of December. They spent two days sharing about their community's life mission. It has made a bonding among the Communities as they have come to know the graces and challenges of each community. They also reflected on ways and means of deepening the bonding and furthering our mission.

The students of Matigara Campus of North Bengal St. Xavier's College organized a Christmas celebration on the 22nd of Dec. Christmas Carols were sung in different languages, and a short skit on Christmas was presented.

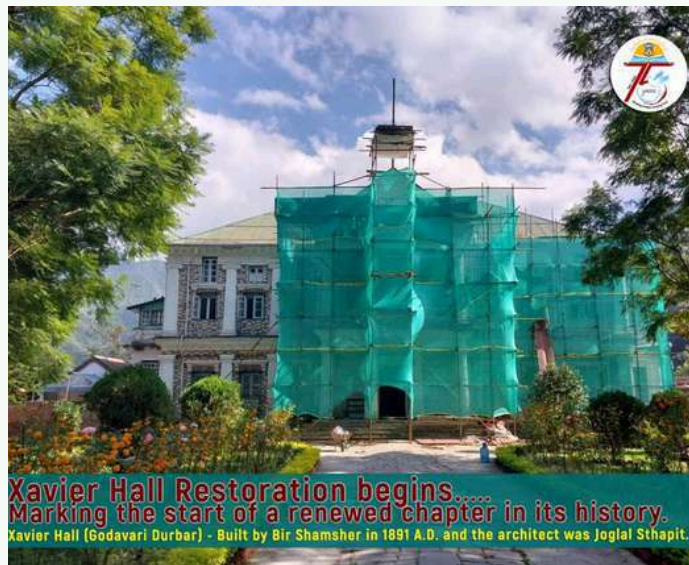
Inter-Team GK Quiz Contest was organized by the Social Studies Dept. from Nov. 5 - 7 for Classes 4–10. During the same week, on 7th November, a Class 11 PTM provided an opportunity for teachers and parents to discuss students' academic progress, strengths, and areas requiring support. A series of educational tours followed. On 9th November, Classes 5 and 6 engaged in experiential learning through visits to major historical sites. Class 5 explored Kathmandu Durbar Square and the Narayanhiti Museum, learning about Nepal's royal heritage, while Class 6 visited the Chhauni Museum to deepen their understanding of the country's history, culture, and traditions. The next day, 10th November, the English Department hosted an English Elocution Contest for Classes 3–8.

Community service took center stage on 11th November as SXG students joined five other schools in a Joint School Community Service program organized by St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel. The visit to the PA Nepal Sankhu Home—home to 37 boys and 24 girls—included the distribution of ration supplies, sanitation materials, and stationery. Cultural performances by students added warmth and meaning to the event.

Mid-month activities remained vibrant. The annual Hub Convention on Students' Quality Circles (SQC), held on 12th November at St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel, saw two Circles from our school presenting case studies and participating in competitions and panel discussions. This experience helped students develop confidence, problem-solving abilities, and presentation skills. On the same day, students from Classes 9–12 took part in an English Extempore Speech Competition.

On 13th Nov. Class 7 took a one-day educational tour to Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Siddha Pokhari, offering them exposure to Nepal's artistic and cultural legacy. Shortly after, on 15th November, students from Classes 5–12 took part in a one-day hiking program across the hills of the Kathmandu Valley. Exploring different hiking routes gave students a refreshing break from academics, and allowed them to connect with nature.

SXG hosted the Fr. Moran Memorial Football Tournament from 9 – 21 Dec. in which 16 schools participated. On 17th November, the Xavier Hall Restoration Project officially commenced with the signing of the contract by Pachali Bhairab and Manakamana Nirman Sewa—an important step in preserving a space cherished by generations of Xaverians. The project received heartfelt support from Prakash KC, Mahendra Shakya, Prachanda Shrestha, Sunil Shakya, and the Miyamoto Team.



English Elocution



Hiking

Family Day for Classes 11 and 12, was celebrated on 22nd November. To conclude the month, a contingent of 89 students and 11 teachers travelled to Lucknow, India, from 23 - 29 November to participate in the 19th National Jamboree organized by The Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG). Representing the largest contingent from Nepal, the group embarked on a memorable and enriching experience.

The community went for an outing on 14 November to Manakamna temple area near Mugling and returned on 15th. Fr. Shajumon, the provincial made a short visit to Godavari on 16 November.

Xavier Day was celebrated on 3rd Dec with special prayers and activities. A basketball tournament was organized to commemorate the day. On the following day, a Cleaning Camp was organized jointly by St Xavier's Jawalakhel and Godavari.

St. Xavier's School, Godavari, proudly hosted the 28th Fr. Moran Memorial Football Tournament from Dec. 8 – 21, in which sixteen schools from across the Kathmandu Valley participated. After an exciting series of matches, Nepal Don Bosco School, Siddhipur Lubhu emerged as the winner. Our students demonstrated endurance, determination, and competitive spirit by participating in the JS Cross Country held at Kathmandu University High School on 10th Dec. The JS Art Exhibition was organized at St. Xavier's, Jawalakhel, on 11th and 12th Dec., in which the six Jesuit schools exhibited their creative, imaginative, and artistic works.

The Annual Science Exhibition was held on 12 –13 December. Students presented innovative projects and experiments, reflecting their scientific curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking skills. A Blood Donation Program was conducted on the same day, and about 100 parents donated blood.

The Students of Classes 8 and 9 went on a day-long educational tour on 15th Dec. On the following day, our students participated in the JS Chess and Volleyball competitions hosted by NDBS. The English Spelling Contest for Classes 1 to 7 was conducted from 17 – 19 Dec.



Art Exhibition



Volleyball Tournament

On the 20th, our students actively participated in the Phulchoki Cleaning Camp, organized by the Prakriti Initiatives, promoting environmental conservation and civic responsibility. The English Original Poem Recitation Competition for Classes 9 to 12 was held on 21st and 22nd, where students expressed their thoughts, emotions, and creativity through original poetic compositions; and on 28 –29 the Nepali Spelling Contest was organized to encourage students to enhance their proficiency and confidence in the Nepali language.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, JAWALAKHEL

BONIFACE SJ & AJAY SJ

Xavier Day was observed in the morning, during which the lay collaborators, Mrs. Binita Thapa and Mrs. Jyoti Chand Shah, delivered the Xavier Day message. The Science Exhibition for Classes 1 through 12 was subsequently organized to provide students with a platform to present innovative models, experiments and research ideas, thereby fostering scientific inquiry and creativity. On the same day, the Interact Club organized a Blood Donation Programme, further reinforcing the values of humanitarian service and social responsibility.

For the first time, the entire school community, including teachers, got involved in different service programmes to mark International Volunteer Day. The objective of the initiative was to promote Corporate Social Responsibility, instill the values of service and reach out to the underprivileged and voiceless. Parents from Classes 1 through 8 also actively participated in different service programmes.

Students of Classes 1 to 3 cleaned the lanes outside their homes, while Classes 4 and 5 undertook the cleaning of nearby cultural and heritage sites. Classes 6, 7 and 8 visited elderly homes, orphanages and other philanthropic institutions. Class 9 students assisted coworkers within the school premises and Class 10 students conducted cleaning campaigns at assigned venues. Class Beadles of Classes 11 and 12 coordinated outreach programmes at government schools, monasteries, dog shelters, orphanages, elderly homes and other institutions. This collective effort reflected unity, compassion and civic responsibility.

The Term 2 Report Card Day was held to enable parents and students to review academic progress and discuss areas for improvement with teachers. The Inter-School Art Competition was conducted with the participation of ten different schools, where students showcased exceptional artistic talent, promoting creativity and cultural appreciation. On the same day, a Class Teachers' Meeting was held, focusing on academic planning and student welfare.

Students participated enthusiastically in the Joint School Cross Country event held at Kathmandu University High School, Kavre. Additionally, as part of the 75th Year Celebration, a Motivational Talk Programme was organized in the school auditorium for students of Classes 8, 9, and 10. Mr. Prakash Babu Chhetri, an alumnus of the 1999 batch, delivered an insightful talk on the topic "Impact of Jesuit Education in Personal Life."

The Joint Art Exhibition was held at St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel, featuring artworks from students of six joint schools and offering a vibrant display of creativity and artistic expression.

A Parent-Teacher Meeting was conducted for academically challenged students of Class 10 to foster meaningful dialogue between parents and teachers regarding students' academic and personal development.

The Scout Investiture Ceremonies for Classes 6 and 7 were conducted on December 15 and 16 respectively, marking important milestones in nurturing discipline, leadership and service among students.



Science Exhibition



Scout investiture



Cross Country Race at KUHS



Motivational Talk Programme



Joint School Art Exhibition



Community service day

On December 16, students also represented the school in the Joint School Chess and Volleyball competitions hosted by Nepal Don Bosco School, Siddhipur, promoting sportsmanship and healthy competition. The Christmas Celebration on December 18 was a joyful occasion, featuring students from various levels performing a short play, singing Christmas carols, and presenting lively dance performances.

The Annual School Mela was organized under the motto “Reminiscing the Alma Mater.” The event featured a variety of games and business stalls, along with lively musical performances by school bands. Students, parents, and alumni participated enthusiastically. The proceeds collected will be utilized to support the education of underprivileged children. Class 10 students embarked on a Social Studies Field Trip to Dhampus and Pokhara, gaining firsthand exposure to geographical, cultural, and social learning experiences. The Second Term Examination for Classes 11 and 12 commenced on 22 and continued until December 30.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

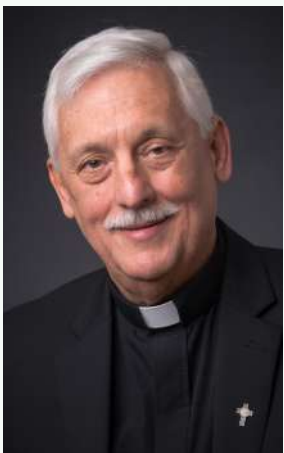
Fr. Boniface and Bro. Herman went to Matigara for their Annual Retreat. Fr. Xavier Ignatius, the Revisor for Nepal stayed with us while he administered the Finance at HRD, Sanepa. The month of December has brought lots of joy, serenity and colour as our compound is glittering with decorations. Schs. Ranjit, Ashish and Anup stayed with us before they went to Tipling with Fr. Boniface for Christmas celebration. Fr. Tek Raj Paudel visited Nepal for his license work and stayed with us. Bro. Herman will be going for home visit on 27th Dec.



REST IN PEACE

- *Fr. Dominic Durairaj SJ (BOM), 84/60 died on 05.12.2025 at Vinayalaya, Mumbai.*
- *Br. Amalraj Michael (MDU), 82/63 died on 11.12.2025 in Dindigul.*
- *Fr. Inaki Berciartua (GUJ), 90/73 died on 12.12.2025 at Loyola, Spain.*
- *Fr. Agapit Tirkey SJ (MAP), 81/60 died on 12.12.2025 at Pathalgaon, Chattisgarh.*
- *Br. Timothy Macwan, SJ (GUJ), 90/67, died on 16.12.2025, in Vadodara.*
- *Fr. Lourdu John, SJ (MDU), 92/72 died on 21.12.2025 at Beschi Illam, Dindigul.*
- *Fr Joseph Ignatius SJ (MDU), 84/64 died on 31.12.2025 in Dindigul.*
- *Mr. Biju Joseph (53), younger brother of Fr. Shaji Joseph died on 08.12.2025 in Dubai.*
- *Sr. Shalini FC died on 09.12.2025 in Hatighisa.*

“How will the faithful respond to suffering?” | Father General’s letter to the Society of Jesus



... Across decades and generations, it is our inability to see the “other” that has prevented us from responding to suffering as we should. Removing the obstacles that prevent us from experiencing life with the other is difficult, but necessary – not just so that we can respond to the suffering of others, but so that we can attend to our own. Seeing the others for what they are – brothers, sisters, friends, fellow humans – is the only way for us to move forward.... To all People of Good Will, I offer an invitation to raise our voices together and insist that violence is a choice, never inevitable. The world needs not more weapons, but builders of bridges. We need hearts willing to understand before judging, to heal before condemning, to welcome rather than exclude. When we look upon those who suffer, we cannot remain indifferent or distant. Their pain is a call to our responsibility for our faith and our world.

<https://www.jesuits.global/2025/12/12/how-will-the-faithful-respond-to-suffering-father-general-s-letter-to-the-society-of-jesus/>



Happy Birthday

03 Lawrence Thanislaus
06 Bobby Joseph Thadathil
06 Vinay Lakra
10 Joseph Kerketta
10 Lawrence Kerketta

11 Gabriel Tirkey
11 Bijay Kindo
12 Sanctius Beck
13 Ashish Soy
19 Ashish Ekka

20 George P.M.
25 Benoy Lama
26 Kevin Moktan
26 Pilat Narzari



In Memoriam: January.



Fr. Thomas Lepcha SJ
09/01/2011



Fr. John Bingham SJ
14/01/2003



Fr. Francis West SJ
23/01/1991



Fr. James McCabe SJ
12/01/2002



Fr. Casper J. Miller SJ
15/01/2023



Fr. Maurice Stanford SJ
24/01/1994



Fr. Laurier C. Harvey SJ
13/01/2016



Fr. Lawrence Abello SJ
22/01/2012



Fr. Robert J. Mayer SJ
28/01/2000

POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2026



FOR PRAYER WITH THE WORD OF GOD

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.