



Darjeeling - Nepal Jesuits

NO. 03

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

MARCH 2026

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

MARCH

- 07-09: Mangalore
- 10-11: Manresa - Meeting Novices
- 19-22: Meeting of those in their 40s and early 50s
- 23-24: Meeting pre-novices

APRIL

- 01-06: Tipling
- 10-13: With Regents at St Joseph's North Point
- 17: Eco-Jesuits
- 25: MC of HH

MAY

- 11-13: Province Days
- 18-20: Youth Retreat
- 30-31: Superiors' Training Workshop

JUNE

- 01-02: Superiors' Training Workshop

DIACONATE ORDINATION

Christ Rajan Minj and Reuell Paul will be ordained deacons on 8 March 2026 at St. Xavier's School, Delhi, by Most Rev. Deepak Valerian Taura, Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi. Congratulations and prayers on this blessed occasion.

COMMON PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2026

- 19 - 22 March: Meeting of those who are in their 40s and early 50s
- 11 - 13 May: Province Assembly
- 17 - 20 May: Retreat for youth
- 23 - 28 May: A Course on Filmmaking for Scholastics by Mr Subroto Gosh
- 30 May - 02 June: Training for Local Superiors and Secretaries of Society/Trusts
- 03 - 04 June: Meeting of Former Jesuits
- 12 - 13 December: Superiors' Meeting/Extended Consult

PROVINCE RETREAT

- 10-17 June: At Godavari, Nepal (Director: Fr Donald Miranda)
- 16-24 October: At Woodcot, Kurseong (Director: Fr R. C. Chacko)
- 04-12 December: At Matigara (Director: Fr R. C. Chacko)

APPOINTMENT BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr John Lepcha: Principal, Moran Memorial School, Maheshpur w.e.f. April 2026.

Fr Nicholas: Principal of St Joseph's School, Mungpoo, w.e.f. May 2026.

Fr Patrick Bhutia: St Xavier's School, Godavari.

Br Irenius Guria: Minister at St Joseph's school, Mungpoo.

Tertianship:

Frs Anup Ranjan Minj, Manu Mathew and Oshish Turkey at Sitagarah; **Frs Tek Paudel and Ayar Kujur** at Shenbaganur.

TEAM FOR APOSTOLIC PLANNING & RR:

Fr Dennis Soosai (Coordinator), **Frs. Lawrence Thanislaus, Jomon, Dilip Toppo, Alphonse Lepcha, Roshan Minj,** and the **Socius**

'SHARED VISION' COMMISSION (Training of our collaborators in Ignatian Spirituality)

Fr John Kennedy (Coordinator)

For Social ministries: **Frs Dilip Toppo & Pascal Xalxo**

For Parish Ministries: **Frs Peter Pappu, Peter Jong & Benoy Lama**

For Education Ministries: **Resource Persons**

On 27 January, the President of the Godavari Alumni Association (GAA), Mr. Nirmal Shrestha and other members visited the school and generously distributed sports materials to the students. A School Management Committee meeting was held on 29 January. On 8 February, Classes 4 and 5 enjoyed a picnic at Jamunghadi. A highlight of the month was the Pre-Primary Parents' Day on 13 February, featuring colourful cultural performances by Nursery, LKG, and UKG students. Pre-board examinations for Classes 5, 8, and 10 commenced on 16 February. The following day, the school proudly celebrated its students' victory in the municipality-level inter-school quiz competition. The annual staff picnic to Jamunghadi on 19 February fostered fellowship and relaxation among staff members.

**Class 4 Picnic****Pre Primary Parents Day****Godavari Alumni Association****Winners of the municipality-level quiz competition**

On 7 February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and Holy Childhood Day were solemnly celebrated in the churches with candlelight processions and distribution of gifts to the children of Cruzbir. Lent began with Ash Wednesday Masses at both the churches and at the school.

SIRAHA MISSION**ANIL BECK SJ**

The past few weeks at Siraha Mission, Zeromile have been vibrant and full of energy. While the Jesuits carefully prepared for Class 1 registration, excitement grew for the 2nd Parents' and Annual Day Programme 2082. Students, teachers, and parents shared in the anticipation, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere across the campus.

On 21st January, the mission warmly welcomed Fr. Victor Beck, who immediately took charge of Class 1 registration during Fr. Arul Selvam's absence. Demonstrating great dedication, Fr. Victor travelled to Kathmandu, Jhapa, and Siliguri, India, to collect signatures from the NJS signatories. The documents have now been submitted and are awaiting approval.

Fr. Arul returned on 7th February after visiting home and receiving medical treatment in Kerala. He completed the handover of accounts and essential documents to Fr. Victor. Together, they prepared for the Parents' and Annual Day Programme, arranging purchases, organising the venue, and welcoming guests to ensure everything ran smoothly.

**Fr Boniface at the Annual Day****Fr Arulanandam's Anniversary**



Siraha Teachers at NP School, Darjeeling



Welcoming Fr Victor Beck SJ



Farewell to Fr Arul SJ

On 12th February, the mission had the honour of receiving Fr. Shajumon, Provincial, and Fr. Boniface, Principal of St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel. They addressed students during the morning assembly, offering guidance and encouragement. Fr. Shajumon left for Siliguri later the same morning, while Fr. Boniface remained to spend time with students, inspiring them to grow as responsible and enthusiastic learners.

The 2nd Parents' and Annual Day Programme, held on 14th February, was attended by over 600 parents and guests. Chief Guest Fr. Boniface delivered a heartfelt message on education and the Jesuit mission. Guests also included Fr. Babu, and Br. Mathew, from St. Michael's School, Sakri, Bihar, and Fr. Robi, CST, with his staff from Little Flower School, Bardibas. Pre-primary children delighted the audience with lively performances, proudly showcasing their learning.

From 16th to 20th February, Fr. Anil, Principal, organised a staff outing to Siliguri and Darjeeling. The group visited several Jesuit institutions, including schools and colleges, and experienced the hospitality of Jesuit communities such as the Jesuit Curia, St. Xavier's College, Rajganj, St. Joseph's School and College, North Point, and Jesu Ashram, Matigara.

The outing provided our lay teachers with valuable insight into Jesuit education and mission. Fr. Victor also joined the group for medical tests and will return before Fr. Arul leaves for Kathmandu.

With the transition to primary education next year, construction of two temporary classrooms began on 17th February. As Fr. Arul prepares to leave for Baniyatar, the mission expresses heartfelt gratitude for his guidance and service. These weeks demonstrate that through cooperation, shared responsibility, and faith, Siraha Mission continues to grow as a place of learning, joy, and community spirit.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, GODAVARI

GEORGE PM SJ

Class 12 students undertook an educational tour to Muktinath and Pokhara from 1–5 February. The journey became a memorable experience of companionship and reflection, highlighted by a beautiful snowfall at Muktinath. Beyond recreation, the tour strengthened friendships, resilience, and appreciation for nature.

For Classes 6–12 girls, a Scout/Rover Ranger Camp was conducted from 6–8 February. Class 6 attended a one-night camp, Class 7 completed a two-night camp, and senior Scouts stayed for three nights, while the Rover Rangers remained throughout for service activities. The camp emphasized discipline, teamwork, responsibility, and leadership, nurturing the spirit of service among students.

The Fr. Starr Inter-School Girls' Football Tournament for junior students was organized on 9 February. Our students performed impressively in the competition. To strengthen academic excellence, a Mental Math Contest was held for Classes 2–7 from 10–12 February. The Annual School Mela brought together parents, teachers, and students in a joyful celebration of community life on 14 February. The event stood as a beautiful example of collaboration and partnership in education and was a grand success. The surplus from the mela will be used for the restoration of Xavier Hall, which was damaged in the earthquake.

Family Day for Classes 1 and 2 and the Senior Futsal Tournament for Classes 11 and 12 were held on 18 February.

Parents were delighted to watch their children perform. The senior students demonstrated excellent football skills in the inter-school futsal tournament. The Inter-School Teachers' 7-a-Side Football Tournament was organized on 19 February and after a gap of four years, the Godavari teachers emerged as winners.



Class-2, Family Evening



School Mela



Fr Starr's Football Tournament for Girls



Teachers' Tournament

Preparation exams for Class 8 (Pre-BEE) and Class 10 (Joint School SEE) began on 20 February and continued throughout the week, helping students prepare confidently for the board examinations.

A football tournament for Classes 6 and 7 on 24 February provided an opportunity to showcase their talent and teamwork. Our girls' team were runners-up, and the boys reached the semi-finals. The Class 10 Award Distribution and Flag Handover Ceremony was held on 27 February, where outgoing students were honoured for their achievements and new student leaders assumed responsibility. Fr. Shajumon, our provincial, visited the school on the 17th and 18th and interacted with the staff.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, ALIPURDUAR

SEBASTIAN MINJ SJ

The month of February in St. Xavier's School, Alipurduar was spent revising the academic pursuit of the year, after the joyous moments of Picnic of Students, Teachers and the supporting staff at the weekend of January' 26.

On 3 Feb onwards, the school conducted Admission tests and Interviews for new comers to various classes. The ICSE & ISC Board Exams for Classes X & XII started on 13 Feb, followed by the Internal Annual Exams for all other classes. All internal Exams are scheduled to end by 28 Feb'26, however the Board Exams will continue till End of March'26.

In the Community, Ash Wednesday liturgy was celebrated along with the Residential Staff and Hostel Boys in the Community chapel. On 24 Feb. the RR Team, consisting of Frs. Lawrence, Denis, Roshan and Alphonse came for preliminary Planning for the Province Days'26 and stayed with us overnight. Fr PCF is busy working out the nitty-gritties of the Summer programs of the Scholastics.



ST VINCENT'S, HATIGHISA

VINCENT GEORGE SJ

We organized village retreats for three days each in seven designated places of our Parish. Responses from Merry View, Rakam Jote, Hatighisa, Bijay Nagar, Giramuni, Bara Line and Kiran Chandra were encouraging. Fr Lijo, Fr Rohit, and Mr Abhijit Kujur from Messengers of Good News (MGN), Siliguri conducted the retreat. We at St. Vincent's helped them when in need. Frs. Shaji Joseph and John Lepcha and our Catechist Ruben Toppo deserve much credit!

On 7th, our Crusveer and Christeen went on picnic to North Bengal St Xavier's College campus in Rajganj. On the same day, Fr Alex Beck and Jesu Niketan School's Staff and Students enjoyed their picnic in our premises. Sch. Kuldeep Toppo and our Hostel team assisted them. Many of our Catholic couples underwent Marriage Preparations and Sacrament of Matrimony. On Ash Wednesday Frs. Philemon Tirkey, Alex Beck, Leo Thomas and Edward Arockiaraj helped us in various places.

In School, colourful Sports-cum-Republic Day Celebrations were held. Mr Suman Kujur from Income Tax Commissionerate and Audit Directorate was our Chief Guest. On the 27th, the School Staff spent quality-time in a well-deserved picnic at Dudhiya. We were busy preparing for Board Exams. On Feb 2nd the Class X students began their Board exams. Students from two Naxalbari schools wrote their Class X Exams in our premises. During exam days, our teachers who were free from exam duty guided the rest of our students in designated special coaching centres. The Madhyamik Exams having ended, the Higher Secondary Exams began. All exams were conducted smoothly.

MORAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL, MAHESHPUR

NICHOLAS SJ

On 27th January the Godavari Alumni Association (GAA) members from Kathmandu visited our school. The GAA president Mr. Prakash Babu addressed the students in the assembly and motivated them to be successful in life; he sighted few incidents to our student how Fr. Marshal D. Moran as an inspiring teacher taught him in Godavari school.



The GAA provided some sports items for our school. On 30th January, we had a staff picnic at Kalika Simsar, Jhapa. On 3rd February, Mr. Prakash Munda one of our parishioner and St. Xavier's Deonia school co-worker passed away. His son is studying in class 5 in our school. As a gesture of kindness the staff and students collected some money on the initiative of Calss 5 students and visited the bereaved family on the 9th and offered the financial support. The Bhadrapur Nagarpalika conducted 8th Rastrapathy running shield 2082 for three days from 6th to 8th Feb. Students from 30 schools participated in different sports events. Our Moran Memorial students actively participated in different track and field events and won 16 medals: 2 gold, 2 silver and 12 bronze medals.

In the overall medal tally our school was in the 5th place. The class 9 students, accompanied by teachers went to the historical place -Janakpur, in Madhesh Pradesh as part of their two days educational trip. They stayed overnight in a centre for Mithila culture and tradition, where they were explained about Mithila culture and art and were provided Mithila Famous dishes as dinner. On the way they also visited the Koshi Tappu, Wildlife Reserve. The class 7 students were taken to Kanyam on a one-day outing. Our class 5, 8 and 10 students have completed their Pre-Board Exams and are intensely preparing for their board exams, which will be held in the first week of April. Our school scout team participated in a two-day inter-school scout camp held on 23rd and 24th February. The students had both training sessions and competitions. MMS scout students have won prizes in art and cooking competitions.



LOYOLA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NAMCHI

FRANCIS GEORGE SJ

The even semester began on 2nd February 2026 with an orientation programme on Creative Class Room by Fr Lawrence Maniyar who highlighted teacher behaviour in the classrooms.

The annual sports meet with inter house competitions in badminton, volleyball and basketball were held in early February, culminating in the final competitions on Annual Sports Day, on 7th February. Fr Kinley Tshering delivered insightful talk to staff and students on 11th February inviting the members of Loyola family to ponder over the 'meaning' of life, education etc. On the same platform, Mr Netra Narayan Poudyal, Education Officer, Government of Nepal shared his experiences in education.

Orientation programme on school Internship was conducted for the heads of Institutions on 12th February. Fr Francis George was nominated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Sikkim University to attend a 5 day orientation cum workshop on modern trends in Higher Education, organized by National Institute of Higher Education, New Delhi in collaboration with Dhana Manjuri University, in Imphal from 16th – 20th February 2026.



Loyola Basketball team participated in the Taverna Trophy inter-college basketball tournament, held at Salesian College, Siliguri on 21st February and emerged as runners up. A National Seminar with the theme 'NEP 2020: Reimagining Teacher Education for 21st Century and Beyond' will be organized by the college on 27th and 28th February 2026.

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING

DONATUS KUJUR SJ

The quiet college campus has come alive again, filled with the cheerful laughter and excitement of students returning from a refreshing winter break. Especially inspiring are the first-semester students, who have immersed themselves in rigorous preparation for their First Semester End University Examinations, which commenced on 19 February 2026.

Ms. Joy Xalxo, Ms. Nancy Christine Lakra, and Michelle Ayesha Kachhap of St. Joseph's College, participated in the NextGen Leaders: A Three-Day Residential Leadership Training Programme. Organized by Xavier University, Patna, under the aegis of the Jesuit Higher Education Association of South Asia (North Zone), the programme was held from 13 to 15 February 2026 at Atmadarshan campus. Represented by three students and one faculty member each, participating institutions included St. Xavier's College (Kathmandu, Nepal; Umoid, Meghalaya; Rajganj, West Bengal; Burdwan, West Bengal; Kolkata); Loyola College, Williamnagar, Meghalaya; St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling; and the host Xavier University, Patna. This diversity enriched intercultural dialogue and collaborative bonds.

Expert sessions on self-awareness, decision-making, communication, digital tools, and sustainable leadership-complemented by discussions, reflections, community living, gatherings, and a campus visit- nurtured self-aware, value-driven student leaders through Jesuit principles of reflection, discernment, MAGIS, and cura personalis in a spiritually enriching setting. The closing ceremony on 15 February 2026, was graced by Chief Guest Fr. Vimal Kishore SJ, Provincial of Patna Jesuits, featuring his inspiring address emphasizing responsible leadership and service, vibrant cultural performances celebrating regional heritage, and distribution of participation certificates.



SUO Bonovilli Chisi



SUO Pratima Rai

St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, proudly celebrates the conferment of the prestigious Governor of West Bengal Medal for exemplary performance (2025-2029) on two outstanding cadets from Unit 4(B) Girls BN NCC, Directorate West Bengal and Sikkim. SUO Pratima Rai, recognized for scaling Mount Everest with unparalleled endurance and leadership, and SUO Bonovilli Chisi, honored for her best performance in the Republic Day Camp (RDC) Parade, New Delhi, on 26 January 2026, showcasing precision and discipline. The awards were presented by the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal on 9 February 2026 at the Governor's House, Kolkata.

The Placement and Career Guidance Cell organized a seminar on 20 February 2026 at the College Seminar Hall on the topic "MA in Public Policy and Career Opportunities". The session was conducted by Dr. Soumyajit Das from BML Munjal University, School of Liberal Studies. He shared valuable insights into public policy and its growing relevance in contemporary society, explaining how effective policymaking addresses pressing issues like poverty, unemployment, climate change, and regional concerns such as water scarcity. Dr. Das also detailed pursuing an MA in Public Policy, including specializations, eligibility criteria, and career prospects across sectors. The interactive session engaged 4th- and 6th-semester students, who actively asked about admissions, higher studies, and career pathways. Fifty-nine students attended, supported by four volunteers for smooth execution.



Leadership Training Programme



Seminar on Career Guidance

ST XAVIER'S, MAITIGHAR, KATHMANDU

CAMPION HOUSE SOURCES

Leadership and achievement were the highlights of this month at St. Xavier's College. Three members of Student Quality Circle—UDAAN, along with Dr. Basu Dev Ghimire, represented SXC at the NextGen Leaders Training (Feb 13–15) at Xavier University, Patna. Earlier, Fr. Benedict Jung, SJ, from the Gregorian University conducted a transformative leadership workshop for our faculty and student leaders, enriching them with valuable insights and reflection.

We were also privileged to witness the moving performance of Jhola Harayeko Manche, written and brought to life by our Major Arts students. As the story unfolded, it touched hearts deeply. The tear-filled eyes in the audience quietly testified that the play had its intended effects on the viewers.

Adding to our pride, Cambridge International honored four of our A-Level students—Sakchyam Rajbhandari, Sidant Chaturbedi, Shayna KC, and Manabi Gyawali—with Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards for achieving top national and world rankings.

The SXC family enjoyed a staff picnic in Nagarkot, where everyone could let their hair down and refresh themselves.



Family week



Exhibition



Walkathon



News Writing Workshop

At Champion House, Fr. Boby relocated his residence to the St. Xavier's School community and assumed his role as the Superior there. He continues to shuttle between Maitighar and Jawalakhel while attending to his responsibilities at the College. Before the present community members disperse to different communities, we decided to go for a long-awaited outing to the nearby hills, enjoying a refreshing night together.

TIPPLING

PETER CHETTR SJ

On January 28, our elderly parishioner Suk Rani Ghale, passed away peacefully at her home after receiving the last sacrament. The following day, we celebrated her Funeral Mass in the church. On February 11, her family offered Memorial Mass. After the mass they served a meal for all who attended.

We were blessed to welcome Fr. Richard Ramesh along with 14 members of the Australian Cardoner Immersion Group to our parish, they camped in our church compound and actively engaged in parish life. During their stay, the group visited Gothen Devi primary school and Dongden Devi High School. The volunteers generously contributed their time by teaching in both schools and assisting in various parish activities.

Their presence and service have been a source of encouragement for the students and for our community. On Feb.1, Gothen Devi Primary school organized its annual picnic near a stream. The children had a joyful time, enjoying games, food and fellowship.



Donating Sports Material



Parents meeting the NJSI Team



Fr Norbert celebrating Mass on Ash Wednesday in Linjo



Australian Cardoner emersion group in Dongden High School

Dongden Devi High School: The NJSI team visited and conducted parents' meeting for the students of classes 10 and 8. The meeting was fruitful and focused on the academic progress and future plans of the students. The team also generously donated sports items to the school, encouraging students to actively participate in physical activities. On Feb.11 celebrated its Annual Parent's Day. The program was short and simple, yet meaningful, highlighting the cooperation between parents and the school in nurturing the students.

Fr. Peter attended the Awaiting Final Vows Group meeting held at Matigarah, participating in discussion and ongoing formation program.

We celebrated Ash Wednesday Holy Mass marking the beginning of the Lenten season with devotion and prayer. The following day, we also celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass in Linjo, enabling the faithful there to begin Lent in a spirit of repentance and renewal.

BANIYATAR

K.C. PAUL SJ

"You end up from where you start." This saying is quite apt to my life. After my ordination in 1990, my first appointment was in St. Xavier's Parish Jawalakhel, as the parish priest. I have completed almost 36 years of priestly pilgrim path. Till the present, I have gone through all the parishes and Jesuit Educational Institutions in the Vicariate except Siraha and Kohalpur. Now I am appointed as the assistant parish priest in the Church of the Assumption, Dhobighat. Fr. Lalit Tudu is the Parish Priest. This was initially called St. Xavier's Church which is now under the Patronage of Our Mother. Thus, I am ending up from where I started. Before the departure of Boby and me from the Campion Community all of us went for an overnight outing in a beautiful Hill Resort arranged by Fr. Greg Sharkey, one of our community members who is guiding the foreign students coming to Nepal for learning Buddhism.



On Saturday, the 1st of March Fr. Silas Bogati, the Vicariate Apostolic Administrator will Officiate the Eucharistic Celebration and Officially appoint Fr. Arulselvam as the New Parish Priest in St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Baniyatar.



On Ash Wednesday we had the evening service and the church was full to the brim. On that day the parish youth took up the Adoration which they conducted very meaningfully. All through this Lent we will have daily Adoration of the Bl. Sacrament followed by Holy Mass and the Stations of the Cross on Fridays and Saturdays followed by the Eucharist. Quite a few people are very regular in their daily attendance.



At the same time, January was academically challenging for Scholastic Niroj. From January 11 to January 25, he had third-semester exams, viva, fieldwork, report writing, and thesis proposal defence. Balancing study and field responsibilities was not easy. However, these challenges showed discipline, hard work, and dedication. They reminded everyone that formation needs sacrifice and commitment for future mission.

In February, the team continued field visits. On February 14, we had a community meeting to share experiences and discuss challenges openly. We reflected on Lenten practices and planned future programs carefully. On February 19, they went for a one-day outing to Kulekhani Mohini Jharna, enjoying friendship and unity. Overall, these months were meaningful, inspiring, and full of growth.

KAMAL NIWAS, KATHMANDU

NIROJ MINJ SJ

January was mainly a fieldwork month. It was a time of learning, service, and responsibility. From January 4 to January 23, the NJSI team went for three weeks of field visits. Different teams visited districts like Kavrepalanchowk, Sindhuli, Dolakha, Ramechhap, and Sindhupalchowk. These visits helped them understand the real-life situation of people at the grassroot level. They met the poor and the needy families, listened carefully to their problems, and saw their daily struggles. This experience reminded them that mission is not only about office work and planning, but about being present with the people and walking with them in their difficulties.

For one week, Fr. Augustus joined the team in the field. His presence gave encouragement and support. On January 10, Fr. Peter Chettri and Fr. Tomson were invited for dinner at Kamal Niwas. The simple joyful gathering strengthened relationships and gave emotional support.

JESU ASHRAM, MATIGARA

SHIJU MATHEW SJ

The months of January and February 2026 were vibrant and grace-filled in the life of Jesu Ashram, marked by outreach, celebration, transition, and renewal.

The New Year began with a meaningful Medical Camp on 7th January at Gangaram Tea Garden under the leadership of Fr. Julius Kujur, where our dedicated doctors - Dr. Remesh Anand, Dr. Louis Tirkey, and Dr. Rupanjli Lakra - along with nurses and volunteers, provided free medical check-ups, essential medicines, and health education to the poor and the underprivileged.

Republic Day on 26th January was celebrated with solemn pride through Holy Mass, flag hoisting, and vibrant cultural performances; the nursing students presented a thematic dance on unity and service, Ms. Sunita Kindo delivered an inspiring speech, and Ms. Elina Barwa gracefully anchored the program. On 30th January, Leprosy Day was observed with a special awareness session by Ms. Anjlina Tigga (3rd Year Nursing Student), who spoke on the history, symptoms, stigma, and realities of leprosy, helping patients regain confidence and understanding, while Bro. Herman Anthony added warmth by serving tea and snacks. The most emotional moment came on 31st January with the farewell of Fr. Julius Kujur after more than 23 years of devoted service. Before the Holy Mass, he blessed the newly renovated chapel, symbolizing gratitude for the past and hope for the future. The Eucharistic celebration, concelebrated by fellow Jesuit companions, was marked by his deeply touching homily reflecting his humble and prayerful journey of service to the poor, especially TB and leprosy patients. Tears, gratitude, and heartfelt emotions accompanied his departure, as many staff members escorted him to his new mission, a testament to the love and respect he inspired.



Medical Camp at Gungaram TE



World Leprosy Day



Farewell to Fr Julius Kujur

On 2nd February, the Jesu Ashram staff & community warmly welcomed Fr. Shiju Mathew as Director and Bro. Herman Anthony as Minister with songs and floral greetings, marking a new chapter filled with unity and hope. World Health Day on 11th February was celebrated enthusiastically at Jesu Ashram and Malaguri Clinic, our three wards, where newly recruited nurses - Nikita Tirkey, Jaspina Tirkey, Asha Kiran Kujur, Emilda Munda, Jasoda Xaxa, and Rosemary Minj - delivered impressive awareness talks on hygiene across the wards. The season concluded joyfully with a staff picnic at Dudhia from 13th to 15th February, organized in groups and enriched by fellowship, natural beauty, and spiritual renewal. These months have truly been a time of gratitude and hope — filled with memories, emotions, and new beginnings. Though we deeply miss Fr. Julius, we carry forward his spirit of selfless service, trusting that the mission of Jesu Ashram will continue to flourish and bear abundant fruit in the years ahead.

WOODCOT, KURSEONG

PETER BHUJEL SJ

Man takes a drink (or any other drug), the drink takes a drink, and then the drink takes the man. This phrase is most widely attributed to Japanese novelist, Haruki Murakami. It appears in his novel, "Norwegian Wood" (1987). In this book, the line is used in dialogue to reflect on alcohol's progressive grip - how what begins as voluntary use or consumption slowly turns into psychological and physical dependence. This is the reason why addiction to any substance or behaviour is considered a combo of physical allergy, mental obsession and spiritual malady affecting both the body and brain. That is why no other disease is as complete as addiction.

We often talk about the physical hangover, but we do not talk enough about the mental hangover. Alcohol is a depressant that does not disappear overnight. Even a small quantity of it lingers in the brain 8 days after you drink. Yet, many still wonder why they do not feel their best after a night of drinking. Many people drink for relaxation. But what alcohol does is merely numbing your brain and your senses. That is why, no one wakes up in the morning relaxed but, on the contrary, feeling more tired and anxious.



A Substance Abuse Awareness Campaign was conducted by Fr Peter Bhujel for 2-days for the 18 Jesuit novices at Manresa, Kalimpong; one and half hour long session for 9 Claretian brothers in Sonada, Darjeeling; two sessions for about 200 Ashakarmis in Woodcot, Kurseong in separate groups; and one and half hour long session for 40 students of North East Institute of Social Sciences and Research, Dimapur in Woodcot, Kurseong. They come to realise that addiction is a dangerous fire that will slowly but surely burn individuals and their loved ones.



On 19th February, Frs K L George, Edward, Shaji, Bijoy, Dennis, Kennedy, Tommy, and Basil conducted and completed the four-sheet examinations for the Pre-Novices. We are thankful to all the fathers for their time, effort, and their continuous support. On 23rd February, the community celebrated Fr Leo's birthday. Fathers from Curia, Jesu Ashram, and Inigo Bhawan joined the birthday Mass and lunch at Premanjali and later for dinner at the Curia, making the day pleasant and memorable.

Throughout the month, the Pre-Novices regularly went out for ministries. As February comes to an end, we are preparing for the upcoming examinations and other important programmes planned on the calendar. The Pre-Novices will conclude their Saturday ministries on 28th February. They also will start their five-day retreat on 28th February. We request your prayers for them as they discern God's Will in their life.

PREMANJALI JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE

VINAY LAKRA SJ

February was a busy and a meaningful month for our Premanjali community. On 2nd February the Pre-Novices went to Gangaram for the inauguration of Infant Jesus parish. We were glad to take part in it. On 3rd & 4th February, regent Vinay attended the treasurer's meeting at Inigo Bhawan. The next day, on 4th February, Prof. Pavanbir, conducted a class for the Pre-Novices, which helped them in their regular studies. On 9th February, Frs Sujit, Roshan, and John celebrated Holy Mass for the Pre-Novices. On 14th and 15th of this month, Fr Leo attended the meeting of Jesuits at Inigo Bhawan, who are awaiting Final Vows. Later, on 15th February, the Pre-Novices conducted the choir in the parish and took active part in the liturgy.

MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

NOVICE LINUS PETER KUJUR

The second-year novices were sent to Gayaganga, and a couple of them were sent to Gandhi Ashram for their work experiment. We are grateful to both the communities for giving us the opportunity to experience the dignity and hardship of labour, which fostered in us a deep sense of empathy toward the poor.

We were blessed to witness the episcopal ordination of Reverend Father Edward Baratto on 21st January. On this joyous occasion, our community accommodated fourteen guests, including six bishops, an archbishop, and priests from other dioceses. Their presence at Manresa filled the house with immense joy and created an atmosphere of celebration. The second-year novices worked tirelessly to ensure a comfortable stay for the guests and extended their service in preparing and arranging the ordination venue. We were privileged to serve as altar servers during the episcopal ordination. Our wholehearted involvement made us feel that it was truly our Bishop's ordination.

Throughout the entire month of January, the first-year novices were in different villages for their village experiment. After experiencing the love and care of the people in their respective villages, they returned to the Novitiate on 31st January. This one-month immersion became a profound encounter with Christ's steadfast love, revealed through the lives and generosity of the people they met. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Benoy Lama, Fr. Justin Thiraveyam, Fr. Peter Jong Lepcha, and Fr. Rocky D'Souza (Lolay Parish) for their generous support in arranging for the first-year novices to stay with families in their respective parishes. Their hospitality, guidance, and care greatly enriched the novices' village experience and contributed meaningfully to their formation journey.



Novices with Sakyong Parishioners



Way of the Cross

In the presence of the first-year novices, we, the second-year novices, had our book presentation. It was a reciprocal learning process in which everyone benefited. We shared insights, listened attentively, and engaged in meaningful discussions. This process broadened our perspective, sharpened our analytical abilities, and fostered critical thinking among us. Following this, the first-year novices shared their village experiences in the presence of the Novice Master. A few days later, the second-year novices also shared about their work experiment. Both sharings were heartfelt and deeply moving, helping us to grow in self-awareness and in our spiritual journey.

We were also glad to have Fr. Peter Bhujel as a resource person, under whose guidance we had a two-day session on addiction. The session significantly enhanced our understanding and perception of alcoholism and addiction, as we learned about its various dynamics. We are especially grateful to him for sharing his own vocation story, which was both thrilling and poignant. On 18th February, we embarked upon the Lenten season - a journey of solitude with the Lord. As the priest traced the sign of the cross with ashes on our foreheads, we were reminded of the fragility and transience of our mortal life. Above all, the homily of Fr. Amrit on the three pillars of Lent - prayer, fasting, and almsgiving - continues to resonate in our hearts.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTH POINT

JUSTIN BAGE SJ

The Sub-Prefects returned on 5 February after a refreshing winter break, with a few arriving slightly after. On 8 February, Fr. Rector warmly welcomed the new Sub-Prefects, Mr. Amos and Mr. Simon Rozario, followed by a shared meal. He also introduced the new Prefect, Fr. Justin and the new Minister, Fr. Tomson Thomas. Fr. Rector travelled to Hyderabad on 9 February for official duties and returned on 12 February. A teachers' orientation programme on advanced NLP was held on 12 & 13 February, led by Mr. Partha Ghosh. It was followed by a session on introduction to Jesuit and lay collaboration. Classes VI-XII boarders returned on 15 February. Their parents had an orientation on 16 February, highlighting initiatives like Vawsum App, required documents and Pathfinders programme.

Fr. Divyanandam gave a motivational session for students of classes IX, X and XII from 18 to 20 February. On 21 February, On behalf of the school, Fr. Rector and Bro. Vincent P. D. received an Excellence Award in Siliguri. The day scholars of Classes VII & VIII visited the SRD (Sikkim Rural Development) Centre in Jorethang on 20-21 February while 85 UD section boarders enjoyed an overnight outing in Singla.



New Developments: The main building's roof has been fully renovated and wears a new look. The PD turf ground awaits inauguration on 2 March by Rev. Bishop Edward Baretto. The classrooms now have new furniture and the Vasum App keeps parents updated on their wards. An interlocking tile footpath from Navin Gram to the St. Michael's School gate opened on 23 February, inaugurated by Fr. Tomson Thomas who completed the project on time.

Community: The community now consists of eight members after Sch. Markus Narzary joined us on 6 February. Mr. Ashok Sadhwani (alumnus) and Fr. Divyanandam visited the community from 15-21 February.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, JAWALAKHEL

BONIFACE TIGGA SJ

From February 2 to 8, the Third Cycle Tests for Classes 4 through 9 were conducted, enabling students to assess their academic progress. From February 3 to 5, an Oral Health Screening Camp was organized for students of Classes 1 through 12 by the SXJ Alumni Association in association with Samaj Dental, Jawalakhel, promoting awareness about dental hygiene and preventive care. On February 5, Class 3 students visited the Botanical Garden at Godavari for an educational excursion and on February 6, students of Classes 11 and 12 presented the annual play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.'

On February 13, a Club Exhibition was organized, where various student clubs showcased their projects and year-long activities. On February 14, students participated enthusiastically in the JS One-Day Cricket Tournament. On February 17, Provincial Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakkal addressed all staff, thanking teachers for their dedicated service and reminding them that Jesuit education is meant for the praise, reverence, and service of God.

On February 17 and 18, Classes 8 and 9 undertook Social Studies field trips to Kulekhani, Chitlang, and Chisapani. On February 18, the Business Club hosted a talk show 'Numbers, Narratives and Success', featuring renowned Chartered Accountant Anupama Sangroula. On February 20, the 3rd Br. Bruno Karpinski, S.J. Memorial Interschool Cricket Tournament commenced, bringing together participants from five different schools. From February 19 to 20, 2026, six students represented the school at the National SQC Meet organized by Aarambha School, Gongabu. On February 21, a New Academic Year Planning Meeting was organized for all teachers of Classes 1 through 10, where Principal Fr. Boniface Tigga, reminded teachers of the core principles of Jesuit education and Heads of Departments proposed activities for the upcoming year.



National SQC Meet



Visit to Botanical Garden



Br. Bruno Memorial



Scout Cooking Contest

Eight Scouts participated in the Inter-Scout Troop Cooking Competition organized by the Local Scout Office of Lalitpur Metropolitan City. On February 26, the Class 10 Farewell and Award Ceremony was held to honor students' achievements and bid them farewell as they prepared for their next academic journey. On February 28, a Staff Picnic was organized to foster camaraderie, relaxation, and team bonding among faculty members.

Community:

Fr. Suleman Lakra (a Capuchin priest) stayed with us for his Indian Embassy registration. Frs. Amit and Ajay attended the meeting of Post Tertians at Matigara on February 14 and 15. Fr. Provincial visited the Kathmandu Valley from February 16 to 19 and stayed with us. On February 17, Fr. Bobby Joseph took over as the new Superior of St. Xavier's Jawalakhel from his predecessor, Fr. Boniface Tigga.

On the eve of February 17, being Shroud Tuesday, the Valley Jesuits gathered in our community for Mass presided over by Fr. Provincial and concelebrated by the incoming Superior Fr. Bobby and outgoing Superior Fr. Boniface. Fr. Provincial exhorted the gathering about the changes in the province in Nepal. He informed that HRD community is suspended and it comes under the dispersed community of St. Xavier's. Tipling mission and Pokhra mission also likewise become the dispersed community of St. Xavier's.

Fr. Amrit Rai arrived on February 22 and stayed with us until February 24. As Chairperson of the Managing Committee of SXJ, SXG, and SXC communities, he attended meetings at each of these institutions. Mr. Samuel, a volunteer at St. Xavier's Sadakbari, also stayed with us to renew his visa.

ONGOING FORMATION

XAVIER BINAY KANDULNA SJ

A series of Programs were organized for Ours at Inigo Bhavan, Matigara.

A two-day seminar for all the treasurers of communities and apostolic units was held on 3 and 4 February. Twenty three of them attended. Thanks to Fr Paul Carlose (CCU) and Mr Mishra for enlightening them.

A two-day meeting for the eight pre-tertians was organized on 7 and 8 February and was accompanied by the Provincial himself.



The Provincial, Fr Shajumon SJ, personally accompanied the 16 Jesuits, present for the meeting. There were discourses on the following: criteria for final vows; the GC 35 Decree 2, # 4-19, Decree 1, # 9-13; Our way of proceeding; A life shaped by the Vision of La Storta; Complementary Norms of the Constitutions and Information before final vows. There were sessions of personal prayers, reflection and sharing among the members present so as to facilitate deeper awareness regarding one's growth in the virtues and characteristics discerned in a member proposed for definitive incorporation in the Society. The meeting concluded with expression of hope, sincere appreciation of belonging to the Society and a sumptuous dinner in the curia community.



REST IN PEACE

- *Fr Paul Aquilina SJ (DUM 94/75) on 8.2.2026 at Jisu Jahar, Dumka.*
- *Fr Abraham Puthumana SJ (PAT 92/72) on 9.2.2026 at Kurji, Patna.*
- *Fr Mathias Dung Dung SJ (RAN 100/79) on 23.02.2026 at Manresa, Ranchi.*
- *Sr Lucia FC died on 7.2.2026 in Gayaganga.*
- *Sr Salomi Tudu HC (73/41) on 12.2.2026 in Hatighisa, Siliguri.*
- *Mr Michael Rodrigues (73), brother of Br Denis Rodrigues, died on 23.02.2026.*



Happy Birthday

01 Nabor Dungdung
02 David Ekka
03 Cherian Padiyara
07 Alexius Beck
10 Basil Toppo

11 Praful Lakra
13 Christ Rajan Minj
13 Pankaj Kerketta
13 Amit Kullu
14 Joseph Boniface

20 Amar Xalxo
20 Animesh Ekka
28 Gregory Sharkey
31 Ayar Kujur
31 Benny Paul



In Memoriam: March



Bro. Louis Phillian SJ
05/03/1983



Fr. Victor Tucker SJ
12/03/1988



Fr. Marcel Benedict SJ
21/03/2019



Fr. Ludwig F. Stiller SJ
10/03/2009



Fr. Leo Forestell SJ
14/03/2002



Fr. Paul Dent SJ
25/03/1980



Fr. Bernard Bruneau SJ
11/03/2000



Fr. Francis B. Murphy SJ
14/03/1971



Fr. Vincent Morgan SJ
25/03/2010



Fr. Edward Niesen SJ
12/03/1974



Fr. John K. Locke SJ
18/03/2009



Fr. Thomas Downing SJ
29/03/1987

POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH 2026



FOR DISARMAMENT AND PEACE

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.