



## Darjeeling-Nepal Jesuits



NO. 02

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

OCTOBER 2025

### PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### MARK THE DATES

#### OCTOBER

- 7-8: Visitation – Jesu Ashram/Siliguri
- 9: MC Meeting, Gayaganga
- 10-12: Visitation – Matigara
- 14-31: Major Superiors' Meeting and JCSA, Rome

#### NOVEMBER

- 1: Matigara
- 5-6: Visitation – Siraha
- 8: Consult
- 9: Ordination of Deacons
- 10-11: Visitation – SJS, Darjeeling
- 12: Visitation – Sittong/Mungpoo
- 15-17: Visitation – Alipurduar and Bhutan
- 22: GB of NBSXC
- 23: Visitation – Kankebong
- 24-25: Visitation – SJC
- 28: MC Meeting at HH
- 29: Meeting of Societies/Trusts

#### DECEMBER

- 1: Consult
- 4: KTM
- 5-7: Tipling
- 13-14: Meeting of Local Superiors

#### NOVEMBER 09:

ORDINATION OF DEACONS

#### NOVEMBER 29:

MEETING OF SOCIETIES/TRUSTS

#### DECEMBER 4-12:

PROVINCE RETREAT AT MATIGARA

#### DECEMBER 13-14:

MEETING OF LOCAL SUPERIORS

*"By calling me into His service He has judged me trustworthy" (1 Timothy 1:12b)*

*Priestly Ordination*

With immense joy and profound gratitude to God we, together with our family members and the Jesuits of Darjeeling-Nepal Province, cordially invite you to our Priestly Ordination to be conferred by  
**Rt Rev. Bishop Paul Simick, Bishop of Bagdogra Diocese**  
 On Sunday, **09 November 2025**  
 at **09.00 a.m.**

**ST PETER CANISIUS CHURCH, GAYAGANGA, WEST BENGAL**

Looking forward to your gracious presence and prayers

*Thanksgiving Mass*

 <b>Fr. Roshan Gyan Topno, SJ</b> <small>Date: Tuesday, 11 November 2025        Time: At 10.30 am        Satal Tea Garden        Sonia Lane, Hasimara, Alipurduar.        Mobile: 8150913423</small>	 <b>Fr. John Lepcha, SJ</b> <small>Date: Saturday, 05 November 2025        Time: At 10.30 am        Ganesh Ashram School        Ngessary Busty, 6th Mile, Kalimpong,        Mobile: 9600554116</small>	 <b>Fr. Sult Minj, SJ</b> <small>Date: Sunday, 16 November 2025        Time: At 09.00 am        St Thomas Church,        Merry View T.E., Haldighata, Darjeeling,        Mobile: 7375791422</small>
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*With Love and Prayers*  
 Fr. John Lepcha, SJ  
 Fr. Roshan Gyan Topno, SJ  
 Fr. Sult Minj, SJ

*With best compliments from*  
 Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakkal SJ, Provincial;  
 Jesuits of Darjeeling-Nepal Province;  
 Families, Relatives & Friends.

### POPE'S INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 2025



#### FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

Fr. Peter Pappu led a triduum for the FC sisters at Matigara, helping them prepare for Mother Mary's birthday cum foundation day celebration. Frs. Siby Joseph and Basil Toppo spent a day with the Jesuit community at Uttar Salbari on September 16. Later, they accompanied Fr. Bosco to Jalpaiguri on September 18 and 19 for legal works related to the school.

Frs. Freddy and Basil joined the Karam Celebrations at St Xavier's College, Rajganj on 20<sup>th</sup> Septmeber and on 21<sup>st</sup> in Matigara. The community came together to celebrate the birthdays of Frs. John Tigga and Bosco Michael on 21<sup>st</sup>. Bro. Clarence is kept busy preparing to host around 50 Jesuits for their annual retreat, starting on 28<sup>th</sup> Sep.

**MATIGARA CAMPUS OF NBSXC:**

The college hosted an inter-departmental throw-ball tournament for girls on September 22 and a football tournament for boys on 23. The Matigara campus women's team won the tournament held at Rajganj. The Nature Club organized a campus cleaning and beautification drive on 23, where the students cleaned the campus, planted trees, and decorated the building with potted plants.

**NORTH BENGAL ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE**

On the occasion of Teachers' Day, some meritorious teachers with a high percentage of research publications and excelling in other academic performances were felicitated and awarded. Among them were two of our Jesuits: Fr. Divyanandam and Fr. Dennis Soosai.

Of the 2025 graduating batch one student each from the Departments of Zoology and Microbiology topped the university. Before the Puja vacation, our first round of Internals was conducted using various innovative modes instead of written exams. Soon after that AICUF unit organized KARAM celebration, the Music Club conducted a musical fest, while NSS conducted a cleaning drive of the college premises and the surrounding villages. Fr Provincial visited our community and college from 21- 22 September.

Fr Augustine travelled to Kolkata for the PCE meeting and returned with many more things to follow up.



Fr. Bobby, upon hearing of the passing of his aunt, Sr. Augustina, made a quick journey to Ranchi to attend her funeral. Even amid the unrest of city protests, the community was uplifted by the first visitation of the Provincial, whose presence brought encouragement and hope.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep., the Department of Computer Science hosted an Interdepartmental Quiz Competition. Students from across the college joined in, testing knowledge, quick thinking, and teamwork in a lively atmosphere. Two students, Ms. Radha Kumari Mahato and Ms. Shrinkhala Chand Thakuri, from the Department of Major Arts, were selected under the Erasmus+ Program to study at Trnava University in Slovakia. They will spend a semester (September – December) abroad, carrying the name of St. Xavier's into a new cultural and academic setting.



On Sep. 20<sup>th</sup>, St. Xavier's College, Maitighar, in collaboration with St. Paul Institute of Professional Studies, Indore, organized an international conference in hybrid mode. This event marked a step forward in the MoU between the two institutions. Our own Mr. Aashish Ghimire, Lecturer at the Department of Major Arts, was one of the keynote speakers, representing the college with distinction. Meanwhile, in response to the GenZ protests, regular classes shifted online beginning September 15. These online sessions will continue through the festival season. Physical classes are set to resume on October 28, bringing students and teachers back to the familiar rhythm of campus life.



## ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, NORTH POINT

DONATUS KUJUR SJ

FRAMES 2025, hosted by the Department of Mass Communication & Journalism on 6 September, celebrated student creativity through a dynamic music video festival honoring the legendary Mantra Band's 25-year legacy. The event opened with inspiring addresses by Director Fr. Dr. Sanjiv Lakra, and founding faculty member Mr. Vikram Rai. The judging panel included filmmaker Sujan Lamjel, blogger Rinchen Tamang, Darjeeling's rock band Yellow Hammer, and emerging filmmaker Krishna Gurung. The winners announced were: first place to "Baaki Rakhena" by Jay Author & Elisha Melo (Metanoia Records), second place to "Pari" by Mantra Band (Chasma Production), and third place to "Bhumari" by Ayush Mangar (Chimerical Yarns Production).

Congratulations to Dipanjali Gurung, 5<sup>th</sup> Semester (Department of English) of our college for achieving 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up among 15 contestants in the North Bengal Fashion Expo 2025 held at Saving Kingdom, Siliguri on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The event was organized by Pari Production House with Bollywood actor Aftab Shivdasani as the Chief Guest.



The Karam Festival celebration was organized by NSS and AICUF on 14 September. The event featured various traditional rituals, vibrant songs, and energetic dances to foster a deep sense of identity, unity, and pride among the participants, helping them appreciate and reconnect with their cultural roots.

St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, was crowned champions at the 18th Basanti Subba Memorial Inter School & Inter College Basketball Tournament 2025, held at the St Joseph's College basketball court under the aegis of the Gorkha Hill Basketball Association. In the Inter-College final, SJC outplayed Salesian College Sonada 27-13, with Nim Dikki Sherpa shining as both Player of the Tournament and Best Player. The two-day tournament was graced by Chief Guest Fr. Donatus Kujur, Principal.

Youth Against Trafficking (YAT) Club of St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling, organized an awareness program on human trafficking and child sexual abuse in collaboration with MARG, a local NGO, on 20th September. The event was attended by over two hundred students and several staff members. Mr. Nirnay and Mr. Dawa Zimba served as resource persons, addressing different forms of human trafficking and child abuse. The session educated and empowered participants to recognize and prevent such crimes within their communities, fostering a safer and more informed environment for all.

The Historia Odyssey Consortium of the Department of History organized a student seminar on 20th September titled "Unfolding the Past: Varied Dimensions of Human History". About twelve students actively participated by writing and presenting papers related to the theme. The engaging presentations were well-received, encouraging academic discussion and critical thinking among the participants and the audience.

Microbiology Day was celebrated with an Inter-Semester Quiz Competition organized by the Microbiology Club on 20th September. Students from the 1st, 3rd, and 5th semesters enthusiastically participated in the event. After a series of challenging rounds, the 3rd semester students emerged as winners and were awarded the first prize.

## LCE, NAMCHI

FRANCIS GEORGE SJ

Fr Lawrence Maniyar went to St Mary's Secondary School, Jawalakhel to attend the Platinum Jubilee of the school on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. Teachers' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 5<sup>th</sup>, featuring felicitation of teachers by students, a basketball and throw ball match between staff and students.

Ms Aruna Gurung and Ms Songmit Lepcha, second year students, participated in a Quiz competition on Waste Management, organized by the Department of Land and Revenue, Government of Sikkim on 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Government College, Chankung. They were awarded certificates. Students participated in RED RUN 3.0-2025, organized by Voice of Youth for HIV/ AIDS on 16<sup>th</sup> and 34 students were awarded certificates. In the inter-college competition organized on 18 & 19 at the state level by the Centre for Computer and Communication Technology, LCE participated in Group Dance, Rangoli, Face Painting, Solo Singing, Duet Singing, Poetry, Short Film making, and Photography, and bagged the overall Champion Trophy.



## ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTH POINT

SAMUEL SIMICK SJ

The month began with a heartfelt tribute to the mentors who shape young minds—Teacher's Day on Sep. 5<sup>th</sup>. Class 12 students took the lead, organising a grand celebration that blended music, dance, and gratitude. Teachers were gifted personalised mugs and cards, each adorned with their photo and cherished quote. A special lunch followed, culminating in the annual summing gala.

The rhythm of the month continued with PD nite on the 6<sup>th</sup> where parents of the Primary Division gathered to witness the talents of their children. Just days later, on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the LD Spell Bee Contest buzzed with excitement, challenging students to showcase their linguistic flair. On 13<sup>th</sup> LD presented their talents in dancing and singing as they put up their LD nite. On 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the Lion's Club conducted an eye camp on campus.

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, our swimming team participated in the Burns Shield Swimming Competition held at St Augustine's School, Kalimpong. On 23<sup>rd</sup>, our volleyball team departed to compete in the national volleyball tournament being held in Tamil Nadu.

From Sep. 23 - 26, the school staged its major production—this year's choice, the iconic musical Jesus Christ Superstar. The Art and Robotics Clubs added their own creative flair through stunning displays that captivated students, parents, and guests alike.

## COMMUNITY

On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Fr Kennedy visited the community with two Jesuits. Fr Rector was away from 11 – 14 in Bhutan for meeting parents. Fr. Justin, ever dedicated, continues to beautify the campus and oversee new construction projects.

## ST.PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

BIPIN BARA SJ

The month of August concluded on a high note with the visit of Fr Provincial from August 24 to 26, marking a significant moment of grace and encouragement for all of us. The presence of the Provincial not only reinforced the spirit of fraternity but also served as a source of profound inspiration, motivating all to pursue excellence in faith, service, and community life.

On August 31st, we joyfully celebrated Monica Day with a heartfelt tribute to the mothers of our parish. In recognition of their unwavering love, strength, and guidance, a short cultural program was organized. The event brought together the community in a spirit of gratitude and celebration, as we acknowledged the vital role mothers play in nurturing both family and faith.

As September unfolded, it brought with it a vibrant array of events that enriched the spiritual, cultural, academic, and sportsmanship of the institution.



The month commenced with the Teacher's Day Celebration on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Students expressed their appreciation through music, dance, and speeches, creating a joyful and memorable atmosphere.

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, the blessing of Merry View Church gathered the community in prayer and thanksgiving. Just two days later, on September 8<sup>th</sup>, the community celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, deepening our devotion to the Mother of God.

The academic rhythm continued with the Third Semester Examinations, held from September 8<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was the first time the semester system was introduced by the West Bengal Government. Our students wrote their exams from Madati High School and around 300 students from various schools wrote exams at St. Peter's School. To facilitate a smooth examination process, students of Classes 5 to 8 were granted a break.



Cultural and religious life also found vibrant expression. On September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Crusvirs celebrated the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross with a solemn Mass. The Karam Festival, celebrated on September 21<sup>st</sup>, highlighted the rich cultural traditions of the local community. The festival provided an opportunity for students and staff to connect with their heritage, fostering a sense of identity and belonging.

Adding to the excitement of the month was the 'Fr Mangal Memorial Football Tournament', held on September 19<sup>th</sup> at St Peter's Primary. The hosting school emerged as the champion.



In summary, the month of September was marked by a harmonious blend of faith, culture, sports and study. Every event—be it academic, spiritual, or recreational—contributed meaningfully to shaping a vibrant, united, and purpose-driven community at St. Peter's, Gayaganga.

## ARRUPE NIWAS, DEONIA

JIJU KEVILLIL SJ

The major event that took place after the last edition of the newsletter was the closing ceremony of the Silver Jubilee on the 29<sup>th</sup> August. Fr Mathew Assari was the chief guest, and Fr Shajumon was the guest of honour. We were worried whether we could hold the program due to the rain that began the previous night. However, the rain gods were kind enough after 11 am, and we started the program 2 hours late. Despite the rain, we had a remarkable attendance of parents, alumni, well-wishers, and students. During the program, pioneer Jesuits, former principals, past and present long-serving staff, and support staff were honoured for their contributions and commitment to the school for the past 25 years. Besides these, our students and staff kept the audience captivated by their excellent creative performances of various kinds.



On September 1, the Nepali Poem Writing and Recitation Contest was held, where students showcased their creativity, literary flair, and command over the Nepali language through original compositions and expressive recitations.

On 3<sup>rd</sup>, Class 7 students participated in the JS Slam Poetry Contest organized by Kathmandu University High School, giving a platform for the students to voice their thoughts, emotions, and experiences with passion and rhythm.

Parents' Night was organized for the students of Classes 5 and 6 on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept. The young students delighted their parents with their creative performances and talents, expressing their gratitude for their relentless care.

On September 6, the school hosted the Interschool Social Studies Workshop, wherein the Secondary level Social Studies teachers from 7 different schools were involved in interactive learning, exchange of ideas, and collaborative exploration of curriculum, pedagogy and evaluation of Social Studies.



Like everywhere else in Nepal, our lives were disrupted by the Gen Z protest. Fortunately, we were able to resume classes on 15<sup>th</sup> Sep. The finale of this year's SXD Singing Star is scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to have our two Jesuit musicians, Edward and Kalyan, as the judges for the finale. We look forward to their presence and a short performance from them. The school closes for Dashain from the 27<sup>th</sup> and resumes classes on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October.

Jhapa Jesuits gathered at Arrupe Niwas to celebrate the birthday of Jiju on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Augustine and Boni spent a night with us on their way to the PCHE and PCE meetings, respectively. We expect a few more Jesuits to pass through our community on their way to the retreat. After many years of dreaming, the faithful of Kaalimura will have a newly built Chapel blessed and inaugurated on the 27<sup>th</sup> September. During the Dashain holidays, Tomson will leave for his home visit, Jiju will make his retreat, and Ranjit will accompany the youth of our parish for the youth program in Tadi, Chitwan. Sanjay will hold the fort while others are away. Anyone wishing to visit our community during the Dashain holidays is requested to contact Fr Sanjay.



On September 7 & 8, the school was blessed with the visitation of Fr Shajumon and during his visit, he held consultations with the Jesuits, administrative staff, and teachers. He also addressed the assemblies of the Junior, Senior, and the students of Classes 11 and 12, where he emphasized the rich legacy of Jesuit institutions and the importance of Xaverian and Ignatian values in shaping character and leadership.



Our generous parents gave us a sumptuous meal on teachers' day while the students entertained us with a variety of programmes expressing their gratitude to the teachers. Leo Beck, another volunteer, arrived on 6 September from the Jesuit Volunteer Network Germany.



The Thrift Sale on September 20 was another highlight of the month, engaging students, teachers, and parents alike in promoting values of sustainability and 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). The month ended with the beginning of the much-awaited Dashain Vacation, from September 17 to October 7. Students and staff departed with festive cheer, carrying with them the blessings of togetherness and renewal.

### COMMUNITY:

Fr Lawrence Maniyar stayed with us from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. and attended the 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of St. Mary's School. Fr Provincial's visit from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> brought much joy and enthused us to live our life-mission courageously. On the last day of his visit (8<sup>th</sup> Sept.) the unrest in Nepal began, and we had to vacate the students early. We survived the next day's violence unharmed. Sch. Ashish has taken up residence at HRD, Sanepa, with Fr Juel Kispotta; however, he will continue to teach in SXJ. Fr. Boniface Tigga (PCE) has gone to Bhubneshwar for a meeting of the Coordinators of Jesuit Education. Bro. Herman will soon be going to Kohima for the annual meeting of Jesuit Brothers.

### **GANDHI ASHRAM, KALIMPONG**

**SANTY MATHEW SJ**

Gandhi Ashram School had the workshop on Shared Vision on 28 & 29 August. Frs Kennedy, Daniel, Lawrence and Alphonse enlightened the staff on Ignatian Spirituality and legacy, characteristics and history of Jesuit education, and lay collaboration. The workshop indeed was an enriching experience for the staff.

### **PRABHU JISU GIRJA, MATIGARA**

**JOHN TIGGA SJ**

St Monica Day, organized in a unique way, was celebrated on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Thanks to Srs Shila FC and Rajni FC for the spiritual preparation of the women through novena and inspirational inputs on the life of St Monica. The youth took charge of making the badges for all women, and during the entrance dance, put the badge on each woman. During Mass, new members took the oath, and the newly elected body of Mahila Sangh was introduced and honoured with Khada. Fr John Tigga, the Parish Priest, thanked the outgoing committee for its active and constructive cooperation during its tenure. After Mass, the women attentively listened to Mr Claude Minj and Sr Shila on the "Art of a Happy Life" and appreciated the same. The celebration ended with Lunch and traditional dance.



Teachers' Day was celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup>. All the teachers were felicitated with Khada and flowers. Catholic Association President thanked all the teachers of the parish for their role in building the society.

On 6<sup>th</sup> Sept., the Jubilee Cross was brought from Hansqua parish and installed in our parish. The Jubilee Cross was taken to all the BECs. and religious houses. The Parish Priest explained the ten meanings of the Jubilee cross and about the synodal church of "Communion, Participation and Mission."



Thirty-two parishioners went on a pilgrimage from 14 – 18 to Maiti Dham, Varanasi, as part of the jubilee year program. They made their retreat, preached by Frs Anil Dev and Sunil. Other fathers helped out in confession and counselling.



The tribal festival, Karam, was celebrated on 17<sup>th</sup> at Maitri Hall, Matigara. Fr Alex Beck was the chief celebrant; Frs John Tigga, Freddy Baraik and Basil Toppo were the concelebrants. The Karam feast ended with cultural dance, immersion of Karam Branch followed by Lunch.

## GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH, TIPLING

PETER CHETTRI SJ

Fr Peter took a few of our youths on a pastoral visit to Lingio and celebrated Mass for the faithful. They spent the night there.



Our house courtyard is beautified by laying stone slabs. It looks grand. Fr. Peter went on a quick trip to Kathmandu to clear the house bills. On his return, he was busy making arrangements for the youths to travel to Narayanghat for the national youth convention and for his own annual retreat at PJR, Matigara. We had a meeting with the youths and the coordinators, briefing them on the goals of this youth meet. Ms. Sushila and Timan are accompanying the group from our parish.

Schools are closed for two weeks - Dashain holidays. First-term exams in the schools were also postponed due to the "Gen Z" strike. Villagers are moving from the hills with their cattle to celebrate "Dashain" with their families.

## ST IGNATIUS CHURCH, UTTAR SALBARI

PATRICK BHUTIA SJ

The parish was abuzz with activities and youthful energy during this month. On Sep. 7<sup>th</sup> the Crusveers had a meeting. A week later, they had the Painting competition to showcase their artistic talent. It was fun and inspiring.

The parish youth practised diligently and participated in the Youth Utsav, Karam Dance Competition. They secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, a witness to their teamwork, rhythm, and cultural pride.

## LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL:

On Sep. 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Forest Department of Uttar Salbari conducted a one-day course in ecological awareness for our students. The students were inspired and informed about environmental conservation. The school came alive on the 4<sup>th</sup> with dual celebrations. A lively one-hour Karam celebration, followed by the Teachers' Day celebration, both were highly appreciated by all. Mr. Giacomo, an instructor associated with Hayden Hall, Darjeeling, conducted a three-day program in self-defence, a mixed karate, for young ladies. The participants appreciated his course and amicable traits.

## ST IGNATIUS CHURCH, BANIYATAR

PAUL K.C, SJ

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Baniyatar is an obscure entity in the vast scenario of Darjeeling-Nepal Province. I am sure that many of our men would not have even heard of its existence. In the previous Newsletter I had not written a Report about Baniyatar parish. (You will get enough information about Baniyatar Parish in the souvenir book released on 31 July, 2025 (Page: 41).



Youth gathered for Novena



Youth gathered for Parish Program

There are about 130 families in the parish, and they need a solid foundation in faith and tradition. We have a few Pious Organizations, like Legion of Mary, Vincent de Paul, Parents Association, Jesus Youth Group and Crusveer.

We have catechism for all, but we have not yet succeeded in conducting it on a regular basis. There is one Religious Community present in the Parish, the Sisters of Charity of Capitanio and Gerosa (SCCG); they are also called Bombina Sisters residing in Preranalaya Convent at Baniyatar heights. They run a hostel for the poor girls of our parish. These children are very active in the parish. They lead the parish choir very attractively. The majority of our parishioners are from the high altitude (7500 feet) hill station of Tipling, where Frs. Peter Chettri and Nobert de Souza are the untiring shepherds.

## SACRED HEART CHURCH, SINGAMARI

ROSHAN GYAN TOPNO SJ

As part of the Jubilee Year 2025, the Singamari Catholic Samaj organized a Pilgrimage for the Babas of the Parish to Maria Basti, Kalimpong, on 30<sup>th</sup> August. The group was accompanied by Fr Patrick Pradhan, the parish priest. The pilgrims experienced a day of prayer, fellowship and spiritual enrichment.



On 31<sup>st</sup> August, the Parish Nari Sangh celebrated the annual Monica Day with much joy and festivity. The day began with the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by vibrant cultural programs. Mrs. Monica Pradhan, a distinguished literary figure in Nepali Literature, graced the occasion as the chief guest. She regularly contributes in Nepali Catholic Magazines.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September, the catechism children organized Teachers' Day celebration to express their gratitude and love for their teachers. It was a joy to see the children taking leadership and managing the whole program all by themselves. It was a proud moment for the parents and the teachers to see them grow in confidence and leadership.

On the occasion of Saint Monica’s Day, our parishes came together to celebrate and honor the gift of motherhood. As part of the preparation, a special day of recollection was organized for the mothers of our quasi-parishes. The recollection was animated by our Parish Priest, who spoke on the theme “The Role of a Mother in the Context of Faith.” Through his inspiring reflections, moments of prayer, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our mothers were reminded of their vital role in nurturing faith, love, and values within the family. A large number of mothers participated with great enthusiasm, making the day spiritually enriching.



Our parish youth are preparing to take part in a three-day seminar organized by the Nepal Catholic Youth Movement in Chitwan, from Sept. 28 - 1 October. This gathering will offer them an opportunity to deepen their faith, share experiences, and grow in synodality with other catholic youth from across the country.

Sch Sawan has been actively guiding the Sadakbari youth every Friday after his classes, teaching them hymns and encouraging them to participate more fully in church activities. His dedication, together with the enthusiasm of the young, is helping our community grow into a vibrant and committed family of faith.



The first week of September was observed as the “Constitution Awareness Week.” Classes 5, 6 & 7 conducted creative, colorful, and thematic assemblies, highlighting the various dimensions of the nation’s constitution; an essay writing competition was also organized based on constitutional themes. The week ended with the Second SXS Invitational Interschool Quiz Competition, in which eight teams from four municipalities participated. The SXS team emerged as the winners.

The school remained shut for five days on account of the nationwide GEN Z protests. Classes resumed on 14<sup>th</sup> following the swearing-in of the interim Prime Minister, Mrs. Sushila Karki, which brought an end to the protests.

The birthdays of Frs Jomon and Arun were joyfully celebrated on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, respectively, with the Deonia and Maheshpur communities joining in both celebrations. Frs. Jiju and Siby inspected the unfinished school structure on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. A community recollection and faith-sharing session was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

FABER HOUSE, MAHESHPUR

DILIP KUMAR TOPPO SJ

ST. XAVIER’S PARISH:

The Faber House community has been actively engaged in several important initiatives recently. The land documents of the seventeen beneficiaries of the housing project were scrutinized. All had proper papers except one.

In a follow-up meeting, housing drawings and models were presented, and contractor Mr. Uttam was introduced; beneficiaries also agreed to contribute a small amount toward social causes before construction begins.

Late one night, Frs Dilip, Anup and Sr. Rita, visited Kalimora to pray over Ashish and three other youths who had become unconscious due to what villagers described as "spiritual possession", and all recovered.

Recovering students and staff from Salvation Nepal, a Drug Rehabilitation Centre, conducted an awareness program for all parishioners. The main speakers were recovering students, who shared their experiences and insights.

The Jesuit community enjoyed a memorable one-day outing at Timai, Shanti Danda on the Ilam-Jhapa border. Meanwhile, Fr Dilip prepared a PPT on the Sacrament of Marriage, which the parish youth are practicing daily for their presentation at the upcoming youth convention in Narayanghat, Chitwan. Out of 58 registered youth, 39 confirmed their participation. Sch. Ranjeet Kullu will be accompanying them..



### MORAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL

On 7<sup>th</sup> September, our quiz team - Bed Prasad Dahal, Renu Bista, and Sushima Majhi - represented the school in a quiz competition at St Xavier's School, Sadakbari. The following day, Master Goutam Bishal of Class 7 took part in a Nepali speech competition held at Grukul Ashram. The Dashain vacation is scheduled to begin from 27<sup>th</sup> September.

### APOSTOLIC SCHOOL

All four apostolic boys are keeping well and have been engaged with their regular classes. After the second term examinations, the boys will go on Dashain holidays. We acknowledge the generous gesture of St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel, which donated three computers for the use of apostolic school boys, which they will begin using after the Dashain vacation.

### **ST. PAUL'S PARISH, KURSEONG**

**PETER JONG LEPCHA SJ**

In late September, the church community held several important events. On September 30, during the celebration of Monica Day, Mrs. Cecilia Chettri was named "Monica of the Year 2025." She was recognized for her significant contributions to the church and for converting her husband before his death. The celebration also included, the release of a new bhajan of Fr Peter Jong, "Naya Manjusha," by Fr David EkKa, SJ and the felicitation of Miss Jean Matthew and Sr. Sangeeta FC for their dedicated service.



Other events of this month included the celebration of Girl Child Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> at both the main parish and the Lalmati churches. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, the FC sisters were honoured on their feast day. A joint meeting of all parish-based associations was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the construction of a new grotto. The existing grotto will be dismantled and a new one will be built in its place.

**Campus Recruitment for Nursing Students:** On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Jesu Ashram welcomed Cynthia Cunliffe and Anthony Cunliffe from Bangalore, who visited us as part of a recruitment drive for their Ashley Care Homes, dedicated to caring for the elderly. The couple interacted with our 3<sup>rd</sup> year Nursing students, sharing insights into the roles and responsibilities of working in their care homes. They offered employment to 12 of our students with a monthly salary of ₹13,000, along with free food and lodging. We are grateful for this opportunity that allows our students to serve with dignity and compassion.



**Leprosy Outreach in Petki Village:** On 6<sup>th</sup> September, Fr. Julius, Mr. William Toppo, Mrs. Shanti (Lab Technician), and Prem visited Petki Village to follow up on two families affected by leprosy. One of the patients, a young girl named Sunita, had been treated for foot drop. We were pleased to see her foot in stable condition. Her mother Chami was also found cured after smear testing. However, Sunita's father, previously positive, remains untraceable.

**A Farewell to Kamla Das:** Kamla Das, a 70-year-old woman referred by the SDO Office, Siliguri in 2020, passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> September at Jesu Ashram. With no family to claim her, the Matigara Police Station took responsibility for her cremation. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their continued support.

**Medical Support for the Handicapped:** Jesu Ashram continues its collaboration with Hawara South Point (Handicapped Homes). On 13<sup>th</sup> September, Dr. Sanyukta Liu conducted a 2.5-hour medical training session for the staff. This follows the 16<sup>th</sup> August medical camp, where Dr. Anand and Dr. Liu examined 150 residents and distributed necessary medicines.

**Visit to Bagdogra Slum Community:** On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Fr. Julius and Mr. Tasirudin visited a slum near Bagdogra Railway Station and met four former leprosy patients. They were warmly welcomed with tea and received walkers, crutches, and other aids the next day. Their request for special shoes is being arranged and will likely be fulfilled by October.

Together, we continue to serve the forgotten and the poor with love, dignity, and dedication.

**HRDRC, SANEPA****JUEL KISPOTTA SJ**

Fr. Juel resumed his spiritual ministry to the religious sisters on his return from India on 1 September. Fr. Shajumon, Provincial of Darjeeling-Nepal Jesuits, landed in Kathmandu on the 3<sup>rd</sup> for his canonical visitation of communities here. Fr. Siby, the treasurer of the province, accompanied him. Fr. Juel joined them in Pokhara on the 4<sup>th</sup>. After the parish Mass on Saturday, they returned to Kathmandu on the 6<sup>th</sup>. While Fr Provincial continued with his visitation of the communities in the valley, Fr Siby stayed in HRD to familiarise himself with the accounting of NJS.

On the same day, Fr Roy Sebastian, former Director of NJSI, moved to ISI, Delhi, to take up his new mission. The annual visitation of Fr. Provincial was badly affected by the Gen Z movement on the 10<sup>th</sup>. He could not meet the staff of our institutes here; however, he was able to meet the Jesuits. Having witnessed the Gen Z movement, Fr. Provincial returned to Matigara on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Scholastic Ashish Soy joined the HRDRC community on 16 September, and after a week here, he proceeded to spend a few days at home before joining the province retreat on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

**SHISHU BIKAS KENDRA, POKHARA****AYAR SJ**

The past weeks have been both eventful and grace-filled for our community at SBK, Pokhara. We were blessed with the annual visit of Fr Shajumon, whose presence brought encouragement and joy to all of us. He met with the staff and expressed his deep appreciation for their dedication to nurturing and educating the special children.

The school faced disruption due to the Gen-Z revolution across Nepal, which led to a week-long curfew and closure of government offices and educational institutions. After the situation stabilised, SBK reopened for a few days, though attendance remained low. This year, the Dashain celebration was not held at the Centre because of the observance of Sraddha Rituals, a time of remembering departed family members, during which traditional festivities such as Tika were avoided. Now the school is closed for the Dashain celebrations. Two boys from the tourism department of Pokhara visited the church to film a documentary. Despite the challenges posed by the unrest, Church services continued faithfully following the directives of the vicariate.



The Saturday Mass presided over by Fr. Provincial was a special occasion where he inspired the parishioners with words of encouragement and faith. The SEE passed students were given a token of love by the Provincial with the wishes of a bright future.

We were delighted to meet Ajay BK, a youth from St Ann's Catholic Church, who had the rare opportunity to visit Holy Land this year.

The General Superior of the Missionaries of St Francis Xavier (Pilar Fathers) paid meaningful visit to the Jesuit community. Fathers Siby, Juel and Devadhas took time to visit some of the scenic tourist spots in Pokhara. Frs Devadhas and Ayar were experiencing some health issues during the curfew days, and are recovering now.

## KAMAL NIWAS, LALITPUR

NIROJ MINJ SJ

The months of August and September were full of joy and togetherness for our community. On 30 August, we happily celebrated Brother Niroj's birthday. All the Jesuits from the valley came to join the celebration. It was a day filled with sharing, love, laughter, and dancing. The warmth of friendship and unity made the day truly special.

On 6 September, we welcomed Frs Shajumon and Siby for dinner at Kamal Niwas. Their short visit reminded us of the strength of connection and care in our Jesuit family. The next day, Frs Augustus Ekka, David Ekka, and the NJSI team went for a field visit and data collection. Plans for Father Provincial's visitation changed suddenly because of the Zen Z Andolan (protest). Finally, from 10 to 12 September, Father Provincial was able to visit Kamal Niwas. Even though many members were away and our cook was absent, we worked together and ensured he felt safe and comfortable. Now, as we prepare for retreats, meetings, and home visits, we carry these memories with gratitude.

## ST. XAVIER'S SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE, JAWALAKHEL

MS. PRATIKSHYA DHAKAL

The SXSSC got a new director, Father Juel, on 26 August. At the same time, we missed Father Thomas NP. Thank you, Father, for your great contribution to the needy children, and we wish you all the best for the next journey.



The SXSSC family celebrated Bikash Thapa's birthday on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Miss Karen Carmody came to Aruna Bhawan on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and conducted a creative paper craft. She teaches English and plays games with girls.



The family of SXSSC warmly welcomed Fr. Shajumon, on the 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a short visit but very memorable. Father Juel, our new director, was also welcomed in Aruna Bhawan on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

14 September was National Children’s Day in Nepal, with an official slogan “Ensuring child-friendly Governance, the conscious participation of all”. The girls conducted a program in Aruna Bhawan. Gyan Bigyan School and Mahalaxmi School are on festival vacation.

PREMANJALI, MATIGARA

VINAY LAKRA SJ

September was a busy and meaningful month with visits, classes and fun activities. From 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September, we visited several communities, starting from St. Alphonsus and Woodcut in Kurseong, St. Joseph’s School, Arrupe House, Sacred Heart Parish and Hayden Hall in Darjeeling. We are grateful to all the fathers for their warm welcome and a special word of appreciation to the school community for providing us with accommodation. After the visits, we resumed our regular classes and daily activities. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, the Pre-Novices organized a Friday Night Programme and enjoyed taking part in quizzes and group performances, which made the evening both lively and meaningful.

From 18 – 20, Fr Leo, the Director, visited the Jesuit Communities at Uttar Salbari and Alipurduar. Meanwhile, as scheduled, Prof. Pavanbir conducted classes on 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Pre-novices appeared for their first examination from 23 - 25. Alongside academics, they are actively engaged in community life, prayer, sports and weekend ministries.



On 23<sup>rd</sup> August, the Novitiate community bid farewell to Fr Jayantilal Patel, the Socius to the Novice Master. During the farewell Mass, Fr Xavier, the Novice Master, expressed his gratitude to Fr Patel for his dedication and commitment to the mission as Socius. In his homily, Fr Patel shared how God has been accompanying him since he joined the Society. To felicitate him, the novices presented a short cultural program.



On 24<sup>th</sup> August, Fr Xavier left for Bangalore to attend the Novice Masters’ Meeting. On 27<sup>th</sup> August, Fr. Amrit Rai joined our community as the acting Socius. Though he is on sabbatical, he generously accepted the responsibility of assisting the Novice Master. His humility and love in accompanying us have been a great source of inspiration.

On 28<sup>th</sup> August, we were invited to St Augustine School for its Annual Day celebration. On 5<sup>th</sup> September, we celebrated Teachers' Day in our community. With great love and respect, we greeted our teachers — Br Gabriel, Frs Amrit, and Xavier. To make the celebration more special, we sang a Teachers' Day song composed in Nepali. We also celebrated the birthdays of three novices on 14, 18, and 23 Sept. Our monthly recollection "Take the log out of your eye first" was on 13<sup>th</sup>, led by Fr Xavier. On 25<sup>th</sup>, the First-Year Novices went on a pilgrimage to Pedong Cruz Dada in preparation for their long retreat, which will begin on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Thanks to Fr Santy Mathew for providing the school vehicle for this pilgrimage. On the way back, we visited St Francis Xavier Church, Sakyong. On the same day, the Second-Year Novices enjoyed an outing together.

## VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

CHRIST RAJAN MINJ SJ

The month of September began with "Youth Matter," a three-day youth animation workshop for the students of Vidyajyoti in Delhi. The workshop was conducted by Fr Bala Kumar Bollineni SJ, the founder-director of YES-J from Andhra province. It greatly enthused the scholastics and others, inspiring them to engage with and support today's youth in creative ways. On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the institution celebrated three special occasions: Students wished and honored all professors and Fathers on Teachers' Day; the feast of St Mother Teresa was commemorated, with the two MC sister students; and Onam was observed with much joy and happiness.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, another significant celebration took place—the Nativity of the Blessed Mother and Monti Fest, led by the scholastics from Karnataka. This celebration followed the traditions of coastal Karnataka, adding a vibrant touch to Vidyajyoti's multicultural atmosphere.

The students of Vidyajyoti College of Theology presented a musical drama and video on 'Christian Contribution to Nation Building in India' for the 'Commemoration of the 1700th Anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council and the Nicene Creed,' an event organized by CBCI, New Delhi and held at St Columba's School. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Prof. Dr. Jacob Parapally, MSFS, delivered an extension lecture on the theme 'Christ Without Borders,' offering a new perspective on understanding Christ in today's context.

Reuell Paul travelled to Bangalore on 20<sup>th</sup> to visit his father, admitted in St John's hospital. The scholastics were occupied with mid-semester exams, held from September 22 - 26. Fr Roshan Kiro SJ, being the chaplain of the diaspora Nepali community of the Darjeeling Diocese residing at Delhi, offers mass in Nepali once a month and visits the sick along with the scholastics.

With the coming of the Delhi Chief Minister's residence at right opposite our residence, the security of the area has been tightened, in and around the area.

## OURS IN PUBLICATION:

Fr. Dennis Soosai Published a Paper in Elsevier titled "DNA Barcoding as a tool for species authentication and conservation of Rudraksha (*Elaeocarpus angustifolius* Blume)" <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.egg.2025.100396>.

## LIVING JESUIT LEGACY (FORMER JESUITS)

### Mr Seraphin Lepcha: Jesuit from 1988-2000



It has been 25 years since I formally left the Society of Jesus, but the legacy of the Jesuits continues to shape my life and work every single day. The foundational values instilled in me by the Jesuit formation—especially through the inspiring lives of Darjeeling Jesuits like Fr. Abraham, Fr. Burns, and Fr. McGuire—have stayed with me like a compass, guiding my path in the most challenging terrains.

After my time with the Jesuits, I served in the social service wing of the Salesian Province of Dimapur for five years. My mission took me to the remote and underdeveloped Tirap District of Arunachal Pradesh, a region marked not just by its lack of infrastructure and connectivity, but also by the presence of underground insurgent groups from neighboring Nagaland and Manipur. Despite the challenges, my work there turned into a deeply transformative journey. I had the opportunity to visit every single village in the district—including areas where even government officials had never set foot. With the help of a dedicated team, we implemented several impactful projects aimed at empowering rural communities. Some of our major initiatives included:

#### Organizing Vaccination Programs:

In collaboration with the District Health Department, we organized immunization drives for children under five. While the government provided the vaccines, the nurses and field workers came from our organization, ensuring the program reached even the most inaccessible villages.

#### Forming and Strengthening Self-Help Groups (SHGs):

We mobilized hundreds of SHGs, involving women and some men, across the district. These groups were trained in the value of saving, collective decision-making, and financial independence. Most importantly, we linked them to government banks and departments to ensure long-term sustainability.

#### Promoting Sustainable Agriculture:

Our team introduced kitchen gardening and modern farming practices to villagers who had previously relied on traditional slash-and-burn methods. We facilitated training sessions by agricultural experts and organized exposure visits to institutions and farms, helping farmers transition toward more sustainable and productive practices.

#### Skill Training for Income Generation:

We conducted extensive training programs in various trades including traditional weaving, tailoring, mushroom cultivation, doll making, poultry, piggery, fishery, food processing, and the production of jute-based products like bags, carpets, and mats.

#### Collaborating with NABARD:

I was fortunate to write proposals and secure support from NABARD, successfully implementing their projects in many of the villages we worked in.

#### Exposure Visits to Successful Models:

To broaden their horizons, we organized exposure trips for SHG members to visit successful projects in other districts and states, encouraging peer learning and inspiring them to adopt similar models back home.

Throughout this journey, I often found myself thinking of the early Jesuit missionaries of Darjeeling—Frs Joe Brennan, Ben Bruno and Tony Miledge. Their dedication, courage, and love for the people left a lasting mark on my heart. I may not have worn the collar anymore, but in every village I visited, in every training session conducted, and in every hand held, I tried to walk in their footsteps in my own small way. Even after all these years, I continue to draw strength from the Jesuit spirit of magis—the desire to do more, to go further, and to serve those most in need. The mission may have taken a different form, but the soul of it remains unmistakably Jesuit.

### ODE TO FR. J. M. ABRAHAM, OUR VISIONARY GUIDE

Jose Nirola on Abe's 100th birth anniversary



In Kurseong 's fog, came a man so grand,  
Fr. J. M. Abraham, with dream in hand.  
A Canadian import, but local in pride,  
He made sure the Gurkhas stood tall worldwide!

With his green board gleaming, his vision flying fast,  
We thought, "Is math magic?!"—but no, it would last.

Nehru-Kennedy library stocked with National Geographic, Times, Newsweek and Hardy Boys: a state of art at that time. And somehow convince us we loved to read.

But books weren't enough—oh no, not for him,  
To the fields we'd be sent, for rocks on a whim.  
"Today, you count windows!" he'd cheerfully shout,  
As we wondered if this was what math's all about.  
While he smiled like a foreman without a care.

"Hollow blocks, boys! Tomorrow it's pigs and cows!"  
Who knew algebra involved raising livestock and digs?  
Poultry, piggery, cow dung —what a surprise!  
Our math and science took on new highs.  
He had us counting chickens, weighing hogs,  
We swore he was prepping us to be farmyard gods.

And discipline—oh, he was strict as can be,  
You'd think he ran the school's army!  
If your rubber slippers didn't dance on your feet  
or line in assembly just so,  
He'd spot it faster than you'd ever know.  
But behind the strict frown was a vision so wide,  
To see little Gurkhas swell up with pride.

He wasn't just tough, he was witty and sly,  
Making us laugh, even as we'd cry.  
"You're not just kids; you're builders and more—  
Future scholars and farmers galore!"

He had us planting crops and cleaning chicken drops,  
Who knew education included pig hooves?  
Fr. Abraham, strict but so zombie,  
With Gandhi's ideals tucked under his Gorkha topi,  
He gave us the tools, both hard work and heart,  
And laughed as we built both the school and our part.

So here's to Fr. Abraham, strict yet so wise,  
Who had us all fooled with that gleam in his eyes.  
He built more than a school; he built a new age—  
A visionary headmaster on Darjeeling's stage.  
Though we feared his glare, and trembled in line,  
We now laugh at those days—and his vision so fine.

He made us lift stones, plant crops, clean pig drops and  
count our stock,  
But we'll always thank him—for thinking outside the  
chalk!



**Joseph Nirola**  
(former Jesuit)



## REST IN PEACE

- *Fr Cyril Desbruslais SJ (PUN 84/63) died on 8.9.2025 in Pune.*
- *Fr Anil Bhushan Kerketta SJ (HAZ 56/34) died on 16.09.2025 in Ranchi.*
- *Fr. Arockiaraj Pushpanathan SJ (MDU 91/73) died on 18.09.2025, in Dindigul.*
- *Fr Yeruva Inna SJ (AND 70/48) died on 19.09.2025 at Loyola Academy.*
- *Br. Christuraj Arpudasamy SJ (CCU 68/43) died on 21.09.2025 in Kolkata.*
- *Ms P. Jeyamary (89), sister of Fr Peter Pappu, died on 01.09.2025.*
- *Mr Uttam Patel, elder brother of Fr Jayantilal Patel died on 04.09.2025*
- *Mr Varghese Joseph (86), brother-in-law of Fr K.J. Jose, died on 07.09.2025.*



**"I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace — personally, in the family, and in community"**

**Pope Leo XVI**



# Happy Birthday

**02 Shiju Ackappadickal**  
**07 Amit Lakra**  
**17 Reuell Paul**  
**21 David Kumar Ekka**  
**22 Samuel Simick**

**23 Ashaf Munda**  
**24 Binod Toppo**  
**26 Nicholas Christuraj**  
**26 Vijay PratapToppo**  
**29 Alvin Minj**

## **† In Memoriam: October**



**Fr. Felix Bulens SJ**  
**11/10/1999**



**Bro. Francis Drobnic SJ**  
**22/10/1963**



**Fr. Marianus Kullu SJ**  
**11/10/2021**



**Fr. Jean Bouvez SJ**  
**23/10/1972**



**Fr. Joseph E. Kolb SJ**  
**17/10/2012**



**Fr. John Whelan SJ**  
**23/10/1996**



**Fr. William Mackey SJ**  
**18/10/1995**



**Fr. Joseph Killoran SJ**  
**25/10/1983**



**Fr. Allan Star SJ**  
**20/10/1999**



**Fr. Akijiro Ooki SJ**  
**29/10/2015**