

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER

- 3-4: Kathmandu
- 5: Education Commission Meeting
- 5-6: Visitation: Siraha
- 8: Consult
- 9: Ordination of Deacons
- 10-11: Visitation: SJS, North Point
- 12: Visitation: Sittong/ Mungpoo
- 14: Higher Education Commission Meeting
- 15-17: Visitation: Alipurduar and Bhutan
- 19-20: Visitation: SJC, Darjeeling
- 22: G.B. of NBSXC, Rajganj
- 23: Visitation: Kankebong
- 24-25: Recruitment Board, St Peter's, Gayaganga
- 28: M.C. of Hayden Hall
- 29: Meetings of Societies / Trusts at the Curia

DECEMBER

- 3: Final Vows
- 4: Kathmandu
- 5-7: Tipling
- 8: Matigara
- 13-14: Meeting of Local Superiors
- 20: Consult

APPOINTMENTS

BY FR GENERAL:

Fr Bernhard Bürgler as the new Regional Assistant for Central and Eastern Europe, with effect from 1st July 2026.

BY THE DELEGATE OF FR GENERAL:

Fr I. Divyanandam: Vatican Observatory (Specola Vaticana)

BY FR PROVINCIAL:

Br Denis Rodrigues: Uttar Salbari

MARK THE EVENTS

Ordination of Dn John Lepcha, Dn Roshan Gyan Topno and Dn Sujit Minj

Date: 09 November 2025

Venue: St Peter's Church, Gayaganga

Time: 9 A.M.

Meeting of Societies/Trusts

Date: 29 November 2025

Venue: Provincial Curia, Matigara

Time: 9 A.M.

Final Vows of Frs Divyanandam and Jose Ollukkaran

Date: 03 December 2025

Venue: Prabhu Jisu Girja, Matigara

Time: 11 A.M.

Province Retreat III

Date: 04 - 12 December 2025

Venue: Inigo Bhawan, Matigara

Time: 04 Dec Evening.

Meeting of Local Superiors

Date: 13- 14 December 2025

Venue: Provincial Curia, Matigara

Time: 9 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Scholastic Romiyo A. John left the Society on 19 September 2025.

The month of October at Jesu Ashram was marked by compassion, service, and unexpected challenges, reflecting the Ashram's enduring spirit of faith and community care. Continuing their cherished pre-Kali Puja tradition, Dr. Paul and his family from Siliguri once again visited Jesu Ashram, bringing warmth and festive cheer to the Leprosy patients in Jesu Ashram. Their thoughtful gesture of distributing new saris to 30 women, 20 bed sheets to male patients, and five frocks to young girls filled the hearts of many with gratitude. The patients personally thanked the family for their kindness, making their visit a symbol of love and generosity that has become an integral part of the Ashram's annual celebrations.

Adding to the festive joy, eleven rehabilitated patients were taken on a Durga Puja Darshan tour to Matigara and Bagdogra on September 29, accompanied by Fr Julius and four nursing students. For many residents who seldom leave the Ashram, the trip brought happiness, laughter, and a sense of freedom. The day concluded with a special meal of noodles and eggs, enjoyed by all, highlighting the simple joys that nurture community bonds.

An unusual event occurred on September 30, when a five-foot-long cobra was discovered near the General Ward. Fr Alex, with the help of nurses and patients, bravely managed to drive the snake away. Fr Julius joined in the effort, and the situation was safely resolved without harm. The incident served as a reminder of God's constant protection over the Ashram community.



On 10 October, 39 leprosy patients from Jesu Ashram participated in a prosthesis camp at Bagdogra. Deformities from advanced leprosy hinder normal movement, requiring supportive aids. During the camp, 13 patients received wheelchairs, 6 crutches, 3 hearing aids, and 22 walking sticks. Jesu Ashram expresses gratitude to Jaipur Foot for their generous support.



Tragedy struck the Bamandanga region after relentless rains on October 3 caused the Ghatia and Jaldhaka rivers to overflow, leading to devastating floods that destroyed homes, bridges, and livelihoods, claiming eleven lives. Moved by the suffering of the affected families, Jesu Ashram swiftly organized relief efforts. Led by Fr Julius and Fr Pascal, the team braved damaged roads and washed-away bridges to deliver essential food and clothing to stranded villagers on October 9.

On October 17, in collaboration with HLDRC, Jesu Ashram extended its help further through a medical camp, where a team comprised of 3 doctors, 3 nurses, and 12 nursing students treated 178 villagers and distributed free medicines. Thanks to Navjeevan Hospital for sending a doctor in the team. Meanwhile, ten third-year nursing students and a staff member attended a Palliative Care Seminar at Inspiria College from October 16–18, reinforcing Jesu Ashram's mission of compassionate healthcare and holistic service to humanity.

WOODCOT, KURSEONG**PETER BHUJEL SJ**

Addiction to various substances such as alcohol, nicotine, and narcotics is a global and increasingly escalating problem. This affects all aspects, not only the concerned individuals but also their families. In this sense, it is not only an individual disease but also a family disease.

It is considered a complete disease, and so a holistic consideration of this compulsive, impulsive, and progressive disease is a must. If this fatal and terminal disease is not treated on time, it becomes a matter of life and death, bringing immense pain and sorrow to loved ones. As a part of the Substance Abuse Awareness Campaign, Peter Bhujel, a recovering alcoholic for 13 years, has started visiting our educational institutions and parishes to give comprehensive awareness sessions on addiction and its multiple effects.



He hopes that this Healing Ministry to Alcoholics and Addicts would help youth to take preventive measures and to help those who are affected by it recover. Besides visiting schools and parishes for the awareness programmes, "I have started an AA meeting group at St Alphonsus, Kurseong, with five members; started counselling suffering addicts; and also trying to expand the circle of acquaintances and contacts in this field of healing ministry."

Interested institutional heads and Parish Priests may invite Fr Peter Bhujel to engage in the awareness programmes and thus help our youth to live a joyful life.

KAMAL NIWAS, BAKHUNDOL

NIROJ MINJ SJ

The month of October was very good. A few members of the community went home to be with their families, while others travelled for meetings. The Dashain and Tihar festivals were very special and full of joyful memories.

On the 5th and 6th of October, there was heavy rainfall, and we had to pump out water the entire night.

At the same time, our dog became very sick and all veterinarians had gone out to their villages for the Dashain holidays. After a day-long search, luckily, we found one, and the life of the dog was saved during the festival time.

From the 14th of October, Niroj began his mid-term exams; in the same week, Father David and his team went to Tipling for fieldwork. On 19th, Father Mathew returned safely from his home visit and the PDD meeting. On 24th, Father Augustus returned safely after taking care of his sick father. On the same day, Mrs. Laia from the Xavier Network arrived to support NJSI; Niroj, after completing his exams, went to Pokhara for a two-day outing with the scholastics.

HRDRC, SANEPA

JUEL KISPOTTA SJ

October saw the second main festival of Nepal, Tihar. The Nepal Jesuit Society office was closed for the Tihar vacation. However, Bimal was prompt enough in submitting the necessary documents to the Social Welfare Council for their approval before vacation started. For community members, the Tihar vacation was a relaxing and rejuvenating time.

Sch. Ashish joined the Jawalakhel Jesuit community on 19 October to explore western Nepal: Lumbini, Bardia, and Chisopani while Juel guarded the house. No sooner had he returned from that trip, Ashish embarked on another journey to Pokhara on 24 October. He truly deserved these vacation trips for being busy in school, and for spending sleepless nights attending to the needs of Fr Santius in Patan Hospital.

On 14 October, Fr. Juel welcomed the PAWA group, a donor agency from England, to Aruna Bhavan. About thirteen girls are financially supported by this group. They also support students of a Jesuit school in Sadakbari. After a week, he also received an Australian group that could be the Center's future sponsors. They had already begun supporting us on the very day of their visit by taking girls for a mega shopping spree. We believe that they will be benefactors to quite a few girls of Aruna Bhavan for their studies. That will be a great help to the Social Service Centre.

MS. PRATIKSHYA DHAKAL

The month of October was busy with numerous activities and celebrations. Samkishya Thing, a student at St. Xavier's Social Service Centre (SXSSC), celebrated her birthday in October. To her delight, her friends came to Aruna Bhavan to cut the cake and offer their best wishes.

This month also witnessed Vijayadashami, following the festival of Dashain. During this time, youngsters visit their school teachers, and government workers pay respects to the head of state. Elders and teachers welcome the youngsters, offering blessings for success and prosperity in the coming year. Elders also give 'Dakshina'—a small amount of money—to younger relatives along with their blessings. Dashain is celebrated for 15 days, from Shukla Paksha to Poornima. The red vermilion, or tika, symbolizes the blood that ties family members together.



On October 14, our donors, the PAWA group, visited Aruna Bhavan to meet the girls they sponsor for their studies. The Social Service Centre welcomed them with a short cultural program, followed by delicious snacks. The students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all. A few days later, another Australian group visited Aruna Bhavan. Thanks to Mr. Amar Timalina for arranging the visit. The group generously shopped for clothes for the girls, and everyone enjoyed spending time together through singing and dancing. The Centre places on record its gratitude to Laxmi Sir, who introduced them to SXSSC.

October also saw Tihar, the five-day Hindu festival of lights, celebrated across Nepal. Also known as Deepawali or Yamapancaak, the festival honors various animals, such as crows, dogs, and cows, as well as deities like Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Celebrations included decorating homes with lights and rangoli, performing religious rituals, and participating in singing and dancing during the Dausi Bhailo song.

SHISHU BIKASH KENDRA, POKHARA

AYAR KUJUR SJ

The months of September and October were marked by great joy and festive spirit. SBK was closed for the celebration of Dashain and Tihar, the most awaited festivals of Nepal. Children and staff returned to their native homes to meet relatives and enjoy family reunions. The festive atmosphere was felt throughout Pokhara, with colorful decorations, lights, and gatherings filling the streets.

During the holidays, some maintenance work was carried out both in the school and the community. This helped improve the facilities and ensured a better environment for children and staff when classes resumed.

The youth of St. Ann's Catholic Church accompanied by Sr. Shalini SCC participated in the National Catholic Youth Convention held in Narayangarh. It was a time of renewal, learning and fellowship for all the youth.



The spiritual life of the faithful in Pokhara continues to be well cared for. Fr. Sanjay celebrated Mission (Sunday) Saturday Mass, nourishing the faith of the parishioners with his inspiring homily, while other visiting priests concelebrated. We joined the parish community of Pilar Mata Church in celebrating their parish feast. The local religious community of Pokhara enjoyed a day outing to Sarangkot, sharing moments of fellowship amid the breathtaking views of the mountains and valley.

Fr. Devadhas attended a retreat at Matigara and also stayed for treatment of his salivary gland.

We were also blessed with the visits of many priests and scholastics. Truly, it was a season filled with grace, joy, and gratitude.

TIPLING , NEPAL

NORBERT D'SOUZA SJ



Our youth came back to the village on October 4 after attending four days of the National Youth Seminar at Tadi (Narayanghat). After reaching the village, one of the youth, Sunil Tamang, fell sick. The following day, his parents took him to Kathmandu by helicopter for further treatment. He is fine now.

Ms. Samiksha Tamang, one of our youths, got an opportunity to attend the International Youth Programme organized by Caritas Nepal. They visited Rome and had a chance to meet the Holy Father.



During Dashain, the village was filled with people coming back to their roots. The village was in a festive mood, and the youths organized a three-day volleyball match to entertain the visitors. Village roads were cleared by a dozer, and trucks started coming up from Dhading town.

One of our Catholics, Rak Lama, passed away in a hospital in Kathmandu. We held a three-day prayer service at his home.



We were blessed with religious visitors. Fr. David Ekka came with his NJSI team to conduct a two-day seminar for students and teachers at Dongden Devi School. He stayed with us. Sr. Sabina came to visit her parents along with two others from the Sisters of Charity community, Tandi. Fr. Dennis Soosai and Fr. Arul Selvam came to our village as pilgrims, walking for four days. They celebrated Saturday Mass for our parishioners. Our Catholics were overjoyed to welcome Fr. Arul Selvam, one of the pioneers of the Tipling Mission.

ST. IGNATIUS PARISH, BANIYATAR

K.C. PAUL SJ



During this month-long holiday, the Nepal Vicariate organized an "All Nepal Catholic Youth Convention" from September 28 to October 3 at Navodaya School, run by the CST Fathers, in Tardi village, Chitwan District. About 525 youth, along with some 50 animators and parish priests, participated in the event. The topics of sharing were primarily on faith, the Sacraments, and vocation to priesthood and religious life. Some of the Vicariate clergy were the main speakers. In the absence of the Baniyatar PP, who was at the seminar complex, the Vicariate treasurer, Fr. George K.P., took up the parish Mass here.



One of the parishioners, Mr Gele Joseph Andrew is giving a facelift to the Church sanctuary with some financial help from Fr Ninian Doohan with whom he was for a year or so once before. Mr Gele is also planning to make a confessional room and renovate the common toilets.

Knowing the restricted movement of the septuagenarian PP, the medical doctor Sr. Lenita SCCG and the catechist Ms. Kumari went around distributing Holy Communion to the sick and old in the parish.

In the midst of a grand gala festive mood, the minds and hearts of the parishioners sunk into a deep sorrow due to the untimely departure of Mr Rok Lama Tamang (40) to his heavenly abode. He was admitted in the Teaching Medical College Hospital due to cardiac arrest and kidney failure. He passed away on the 22nd of October, leaving behind his wife with two young children. The mid night of that very day itself the relatives and friends wanted to cremate his dead remains. Unaware of all these events, the PP gets an emergency call at midnight urging him to administer the last rites in the cremation site at Swayambhoo which is about 10 kilometers away from the parish. The stuttering PP muttering along the way half-asleep and half-awake reached the cremation ground and performed the last rites in that eerie hours of the night. The PP is now slowly coming out of his psycho-spiritual shock.

ST VINCENT'S, HATIGHISA

VINCENT GEORGE SJ

A three-day Charismatic Retreat was successfully organized at St. Vincent's, preached by the team from the Fatima Retreat Centre, Patna, led by Fr. Satya, Sr. Vanessa, and Mrs. Clotilda. On the second day, around 20 priests joined to assist in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our parishioners received much spiritual fervours!

Deacon John Lepcha completed his retreat at Manresa, Kalimpong, from October 6 to 14. Along with our parish catechist, Ruben Toppo, he successfully completed the survey of our parish.

Flood relief for some affected families in Bamandanga was well planned and executed. Our parish catechist, together with Messrs. Manoj, Pathik, Bishram Tigga, the Mahilas, and the youth, carried out the task meticulously. On October 20, a 32-member team went to Bamandanga and distributed aid received from our parishioners.

We celebrated Mrs. Catherine Minj's 25 years of dedicated service in our school. The day included a meaningful solemn Eucharist, high tea, a colorful felicitation program, and a delicious lunch. She received all blessings gracefully.

Fr. Leo Anand SJ, Secretary, Service of Faith (CSSF), visited Hatighisa Parish on his way to Nepal. He was warmly welcomed by our community and stayed overnight. On the morning of October 23, he was traditionally welcomed in Satbhaiya TE village by the faithful, after which we accompanied him to Maheshpur, Nepal.

ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

BIPIN BARA SJ

The much-awaited Puja holidays commenced on 27th September, marking a time of rest and reflection for many, on the same day, Fr. Cherian J. Maliekal travelled to Calcutta to attend WBACS meeting later proceeded to XIM Bhubaneswar for the PCE meeting.



From 28th September, seven Jesuits of our community utilized the holiday period to make their annual retreat at Matigara. In the absence of many members, Fr. Sandeep, Fr. Alvin, and Deacon Sujit took responsibility for guarding and overseeing the Gayaganga campus.

On 5th October, Deacon Sujit, along with two companions, began their ordination retreat at Manresa, Kalimpong. After his retreat, he made a short visit to Namchi before returning to the community on 17th. Fr Cherman returned from his official engagements on 5th October as well. Classes resumed on 8th, bringing the school back to its usual rhythm of learning and activity.

On 12th October, the West Bengal Police Department conducted the Sub-Inspector Preliminary Examination at St. Peter's School, Gayaganga, utilizing the school premises as one of the examination centres.



A significant event took place on 17th October, when the Central Bank of India, Bagdogra Branch, organized a Mega Bank Account Opening Camp at St. Peter's School. Forty-five Scout cadets from St. Peter's participated in a two-day Scout Camp held at the school on Oct. 18th and 19th.



Br. Dennis was given the farewell on 17th by the school and on 19th by the parishioners. He was thanked and appreciated for his dedicated and selfless service to the Primary School and much more for his pastoral visits to the families. Later that afternoon, community members accompanied him to Uttar Salbari (Kalabari), where he was warmly received.

At present, the Gayaganga Parish is abuzz with preparations for the upcoming Ordination ceremony. Numerous meetings are being held to ensure smooth coordination, and various maintenance and beautification works are actively underway to make the parish ready for this significant spiritual event.

GANDHI ASHRAM SCHOOL, KALIMPONG

SANTY MATTHEW SJ

On 26 September, Gandhi Ashram School, Kalimpong celebrated Gasotsav, our annual concert, for the very first time in the Wegener Auditorium. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Mrs. Senora Namchu, Sabhasad GTA, Kalimpong, and the Guest of Honour was Fr Xavier Alangaram, Novice Master at Manresa Jesuit Novitiate. From the tiny tots to the senior students, everyone put up fantastic performances that won the hearts of parents and guests alike. The school orchestra left the audience spellbound with their outstanding rendition, while our teachers and volunteers too gave an amazing performance.





A moment of pride and joy for the entire Gandhi Ashram family — the first-ever ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) examination was successfully held at our school on 10 October 2025. A total of 21 students appeared for the violin, cello, and viola exams, marking a significant milestone in our journey of nurturing musical excellence.

Gandhi Ashram School came alive with joy and excitement as we celebrated our much-awaited Annual School Fete on 11 October. The school grounds were filled with laughter, music, and cheerful faces as students, parents, teachers, and visitors joined in the festivities.

Loreto sisters from Darjeeling and Lolay visited us on 12 October. Fr Santy Mathew went to Tripura to conduct a three-day workshop on Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health for the staff members of two Jesuit schools in Tripura. Brother Gilbert went to Phesama on 27 September to attend the brothers' gathering and on 18 October to Matigara for his retreat.

INFANT JESUS SCHOOL, SITTONG II

IRENIUS GURIA SJ

During the Puja vacation, Br. Irenius attended the Jesuit Brothers Meet at Phesama. The recent floods and landslides also affected Sittong. There were a few small landslides at the Infant Jesus School playground, along the public road, and in some parts of the church premises.

After the pujas, classes resumed for a few days until the festivals of Diwali and Chhath, from October 17 to 26.

The teachers of Infant Jesus School visited the bereaved family of the late Jagat Gurung, grandfather of one of our students, offering their condolences and support.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTH POINT

SAMUEL SIMICK SJ

Though the school remained closed for most of the month due to the Puja and Diwali holidays, the days surrounding the break were filled with memorable events, athletic achievements, and heartfelt moments.

The month began with a flourish on 27th September, as the school hosted its 134th Annual Sports Day in the morning. The event was graced by Mr. Crispin Chettri, National Women's Football Coach of India from Kurseong, who served as Guest of Honor. Joining him was Mr. Mehetab Husain, a former Indian National Footballer from Kolkata and a proud parent of the school, who presided as Chief Guest. Later that evening, the school family gathered once again to celebrate Rector's Day. The Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma (an alumnus of the school), honored the event as Chief Guest, lending dignity and warmth to the celebration.

Following these celebrations, the school closed for the Puja vacation. Yet, even during the holidays, the school's commitment to excellence continued. The volleyball team went to Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu, and the basketball team travelled to Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, to compete in the National Championships. The volleyball team secured fourth position, while the basketball team brought home the silver medal—an achievement that resonated across the campus and reflected the dedication of both students and coaches. Our music team, led by Torrents, participated in the Battle of Bands in Siliguri and bagged the silver in the competition. Meanwhile, Fr. Stanley, Br. P.D., and Mr. Nima led a group of 21 students on an educational tour to the United States of America.

The festive mood was interrupted by nature's fury. On the night of 4th October, Darjeeling was struck by torrential rainfall, triggering over 110 major landslides across the region. Roads were blocked, homes were damaged, and nearly 30 lives were reportedly lost. The school closed for three days to mourn the tragedy and allow time for recovery. One of the landslides occurred within our campus, below St. Michael's School, causing the north wall of the school cemetery to collapse and blocking access to Singtom Tea Estate and nearby villages. Fr. Justin and his team responded swiftly, mobilizing a clearing operation that restored access.

When the school reopened briefly from 13th to 18th October, it did so with renewed purpose. On 17th, students from Classes 5 to 8 participated in a workshop on Time Management, equipping them with essential life skills. The following afternoon, the school hosted the first ever Sir Warwick Memorial Music Competition, a heartfelt tribute to the late Sir Warwick and a celebration of student talent. The event provided a platform for musical expression and honored a beloved figure in the school's history.

During the Diwali holidays, 24 boarders remained in the hostel. Fr. Samuel, along with the Sub-Prefects, organized a joyful celebration that included rangoli-making and a fireworks display. The boys were taken on a tour to Namchi, where they visited Char Dham and Samdruptse, stopping at Loyola College of Education. The school extends its gratitude to Fr. Lawrence Maniyar and his community for hosting the boys with a delicious lunch and a court to play basketball. The journey continued with a night in Singla, where the boys enjoyed a refreshing morning swim in the river on the 22nd. On 24th October, they visited Savin Kingdom Water Park and the City Centre for a recreational outing.

Community:

Throughout the month, the Jesuit community remained active and engaged. During the Puja holidays, Fr. Samuel and the collegians made their annual retreat, while Fr. Justin and Sch. Valerian safeguarded the house. On 28th September, Fr. Santy and three German volunteers from Gandhi Ashram School joined the community for lunch, along with two student priests from Namchi B.Ed. College who stayed for two nights.

On 18th October, Fr. Dipak Toppo SJ, PCF of Ranchi, visited to meet Ranchi scholastics studying at North Point College. Fr. Samuel's birthday was celebrated in advance on 19th October with the neighboring community.

The school also hosted the Annual Conference of Regional CRI, BRBC, and CDPI during the Diwali holidays from 20 - 23 October. Fr. Justin and Br. Vincent P.D., along with their team, served diligently. While Fr. Samuel and Sch. Valerian attended to the boarders, Fr. Stanley travelled to Hyderabad for an official meeting. The community joyfully hosted the nursing students from Jesu Ashram on two occasions – 22 of them accompanied by Fr Alex Beck and 20 of them accompanied by Fr Shiju on 24th and 25th respectively.

ST XAVIER'S, DEONIA

JIJU KEVILLIL SJ

Due to the Dashain and Tihar-Chhath holidays, we had only a few working days this month. However, several important and fruitful activities took place during that limited time.

Mr. Mani Karmacharya from SXC conducted a basic photography training session for seven interested staff members, aiming to equip our photographers with the necessary skills to capture better images.

Resource persons from Kathmandu University visited on the 12th for the Teachers' Professional Development Program. This session focused on child protection and safety, as mandated by Nepalese law. They also spent two additional days evaluating classes and providing feedback to help teachers improve further.

We expressed our solidarity with the flood victims of Jhapa by supporting them with relief materials through SXS. We are grateful to our students, parents, and staff for the generous response to our request.

On the 17th, the last working day before the Tihar holidays, the activity department organized a rangoli competition for students of classes 4 and above, filling the assembly hall and corridors with colorful, creative designs.

In the younger classes, the students themselves looked more colorful than the rangolis they created! On the same day, Plus Two students conducted a quiz competition.

On the 18th, 60 scouts went for a one-day hike across the third-longest hanging bridge in Nepal, accompanied by Ranjit and Jiju.

After the school closed for Tihar holidays, Sanjay and Ranjit went to Alipurduar for a two-day visit and then spent a few days in Pokhara. Jiju stayed back to manage the community. Frs. Joe Victor, Basil, and Denis came for eye check-ups and stayed overnight; Anil Beck, Peter Chhetri, and Tej also passed through on their way to other destinations. Tomson is expected to return from his home visit on the 28th. School will reopen on the 29th after the Tihar-Chhath holidays.



Rangoli Preparation



Teachers: Professional updating



Scouts on the move



Relief Service

October began with Dasain holidays and ended with the Chhath festival, but between these two celebrations, the community of St. Xavier's Sadakbari faced one of its most challenging moments.

On October 5th, unprecedented floods from the Kankai River swept through Simalbari, Quadi, Sadakbari, Situmari, and Nayabasti. Water rose to neck height, inundating homes, destroying crops, and sweeping away livestock. Locals reported that they had never witnessed such flooding in living memory. While the school grounds were submerged, the buildings themselves were spared. A few families, along with their cattle, took refuge inside the school. Fr. Victor Beck, who had been celebrating Mass in Simalbari, was stranded there until the afternoon and spent the night at a nearby convent. The bridge on Hulaki Marg collapsed, isolating the area.

As the waters receded, the extent of the damage, especially among the Santal community, became apparent. The Jesuits immediately began house visits and relief coordination. Classes were suspended while families cleared debris, and nearly 160 students were directly affected. Fr. Arun organized community kitchens in Sadakbari and Simalbari, serving two meals daily to displaced families, most of them Catholics.



Help poured in from multiple sources. Teams from Navjyoti (Dharan) and the Daughters of the Cross Mobile Clinic distributed school supplies and conducted free health camps. With support from the Nepal Jesuit Society, St. Xavier's provided additional assistance to the worst-affected families.



By mid-October, students returned to school. The month closed joyfully with the Rangoli competition and the Graduation Day of SEE Class of 2081, where Fr Jiju Kevillil, SJ, delivered the graduation day message. The community even managed an outing to the Jesuit mission in Siraha and visited Janaki Mandir in Janakpur.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, JAWALAKHEL

BONIFACE TIGGA SJ

From October 8 to 17, the school conducted the First Terminal Examinations for Classes 11 and 12, alongside Cycle Tests for Classes 4 through 10 from October 12 to 17. These assessments helped evaluate students' academic progress and encouraged them to strengthen their learning habits.

On October 9, students of Classes 9 and 10 witnessed Jazzmandu, the International Jazz Festival, in the school auditorium, where they enjoyed diverse musical performances by artists from Australia, Switzerland, Germany, and Sweden, and gained valuable cultural insights.

From October 9 to 11, two teachers — Mr. Ram Hari Shrestha and Mrs. Aarati Silwal — from St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel, reached out to the teachers of Bachhala Devi Secondary School, a remote school in Dhading. They shared their expertise on the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP) with 20 teachers, fostering professional growth and mutual learning. The session highlighted the school's ongoing commitment to sharing Jesuit educational values beyond its own campus.

Upholding the Xavierian value of service, the school community extended heartfelt support to the flood-affected students of St. Xavier's School, Sadakbari, Jhapa on October 14. Both students and teachers contributed generously in cash and kind, offering clothes, exercise books, pressure cookers, hot cases, mattresses, stationery, steel utensils, bed sheets, blankets, and pillows to assist the affected families.



Jazzmandu



IPP Training



Donation of Braille paper



Outreach Club

Continuing its commitment to inclusivity and compassion, on October 15, the school donated Braille paper worth NPR 50,000 to Fellowship Society Nepal to support the educational needs of visually impaired learners. Further extending their spirit of outreach, on October 18, members of the Outreach Club visited PA Nepal Sankhu Home and engaged the children in various personality development programmes, including meditation sessions, presentations on health, hygiene, and the importance of education, along with fun-filled games and entertaining activities.

October brought with it holidays of Dashain and Tihar. Early in October Fr. Boniface Tigga went to Bhubaneshwar for PSSE meeting. Bro. Hermon went to Kohima for Brothers' Meeting and Schol. Ashish for Retreat at Matigara. The school reopened after Dashain on 8th October and soon closed for Tihar from 18th October.

During the Tihar holidays, Frs. Boniface, Ajay and Schol. Ashish visited Jesuit missions around Nepalgunj, including different schools and parishes in Lumbini Province. Four Fathers from Bethia Diocese stayed at the school for a night their Nepal tour. Mr Sandeep (nephew of Bro. Hermon) stayed for a couple of days as well.

NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE

DIVYANANDAM SJ

The college is on a month-long holiday, which will end with Chaat Puja. Construction of the 3rd floor of Loyola Block-II has begun to ensure we have sufficient classrooms to accommodate students when 4th year classes under FYGUP begin in the next academic session. During the puja vacation, Frs. Deven and Divya went for home visits to Kathmandu and Tamilnadu, respectively, while Fr. Dennis and Sch. Ashish made their annual retreats. Fr. Lalit went for his nephew's engagement and was later hospitalized for replacing his pacemaker.

During this period, Fr. Kennedy took care of the campus, and the second half of the holiday, he went to Patna to give a retreat to CJ nuns.

Fr. Divya was invited to be the resource person for the "International Conference on Applied Mathematics and Data Science" organized by Morning Star Arts and Science College for Women, Kamuti, Tamilnadu. He also presented a paper at this conference.

LOYOLA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NAMCHI

FRANCIS GEORGE SJ



Loyola College of Education, Namchi, received an award for securing First Position in the inter-college waste management competition, 'Segregation at Source under Engage 2025', organized by the Swachh Bharat Mission under the Urban Development Department, Government of Sikkim. The award was received by Fr. Francis George and a student from the Hon'ble Governor and Hon'ble Chief Minister of the Government of Sikkim on 2nd October 2025.

Officials from the Fire Station, Namchi, organized an awareness-cum-demonstration on fire safety measures for staff and students, covering the use of fire extinguishers in buildings and LPG safety in kitchens on 18th October 2025. On the same day, staff and students organized pre-Diwali celebrations, highlighting Laxmi Puja and Bhai Tika as part of the Loyola family's co-curricular activities.

Fr. Francis George went to Lal Kuan in Uttarakhand to meet his eldest sister, Sr. Elsy George, MSI, along with his siblings from Kerala during the Diwali holidays. He requests prayers for his sister, who is suffering from cancer.

Ms. Bonovili Chishi, a 5th-semester student from the English Department at St. Joseph's College, was one of five cadets selected from different directorates across India to represent the country in the Youth Exchange Program in Kyrgyzstan; she participated in the event, organized by the Director General (DG), National Cadet Corps (NCC), Delhi, from 15 – 21 September. During the visit, the cadets toured the Kyrgyz National Military Lyceum, M V Frunze Museum, Indian Embassy in Kyrgyzstan, Ata-Beyit Memorial Complex, Ala-Archa National Park, Air Defense Museum, Victory Square, and the National Historical Museum. The visit concluded with an official dinner hosted by the Ministry of Defence of Kyrgyzstan.

The Department of Computer Science & Applications conducted a three-day Students' Retreat from 23 - 25 Sep. at Intake, Sonada, with the theme "Design Your Impact." The retreat hosted 84 students and 4 faculty members. Activities included a nature walk and a visit to Indreni Falls, Sonada, fostering a connection with nature. Students returned enriched and inspired to design their personal and professional impact, reflecting the retreat's core message and successful execution.

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, in collaboration with the Darjeeling Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (DSPCA), organized an awareness program on the ill effects of firecrackers on the environment, human health, and animals for the students and staff. The event emphasized the motto: "Animals can't speak our language, but they feel fear, pain, and love". This Diwali, let's spread joy with lights, not fear with noise. Speakers Rupa Dhimiray, Ramu Sherpa, and Dr. Samir Chettri highlighted how the sound and smoke from firecrackers cause mental and physical suffering, especially to dogs, cats, and birds, urging for a noise-free Diwali.



NCC Cadet



Awareness Program



Students' Retreat



Book Release



Silver Jubilee



Women Basketball

On 16th October, Yogesh Pantha, Assistant Professor in the Department of Nepali and author of three books-Bhav Bhasagat, Prakash Kovidka Upanyas, and Bodhrekha- released his works in a ceremony held at the college, attended by staff and students. The event honored his 15 years of dedicated effort in creating these literary contributions. This release marked a significant milestone in the college's cultural and literary landscape. Copies of all three books are now available for purchase at the college.

Congratulations to Mr Abhijit Lahari Assistant Professor from the Department of Commerce, and Dr. Padam Nepal, Associate Professor, from the Department of Political Science, for completing 25 years of dedicated service to the institution. Throughout their tenure, they have contributed significantly in various capacities, including as lecturers, Heads of Departments, and active members of multiple committees. Their commitment to both curricular and co-curricular activities has greatly enriched the college community. The institution recognizes and appreciates their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and valuable contributions that have played a vital role in the growth and success of the college over the years.

Youth Fest 2025 was held from Sep. 25 - 16 Oct., beginning at Bhanu Bhavan and concluding at Chawrashta. Organized by the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), the festival featured a Battle of Bands and Dance Competition among various hill colleges. In the finals, the Music Club of St. Joseph's College won the Battle of Bands and secured third place in the Fusion Dance Competition.

The Late Aarati Rana Women's Memorial and Narjeet Singh Gurung Men's 30th Open Basketball Tournament 2025 was held at St Joseph's College Basketball Court from 17 – 19 October, organized by the Gorkha Hill Basketball Association, Darjeeling. Congratulations to the women's team of St. Joseph's College for their impressive performance in securing the runners-up position. Likewise, the boys' team displayed remarkable skill and determination, reaching the quarterfinals.

St. Xavier's College, Maitighar, continued its academic schedule between Dashain and Tihar through online classes, ensuring convenience for students residing outside the Kathmandu Valley.



During the holidays, several faculty members represented the college abroad. Ms. Saluja Chand, Ms. Priti Sharma Bhandari, Sr. Sophia Lee, and Fr. Boby Joseph visited Trnava University in Slovakia as part of the ongoing exchange program between the Education and Counselling departments. Similarly, Fr. Augustine Thomas travelled to the Philippines for spiritual, academic, and administrative engagements.

Meanwhile, the college premises underwent minor renovations and facility upgrades to enhance the campus environment.

At Campion House, Fr. Paul K.C. and Fr. Michael J. Parent stayed back, keeping each other company and enjoying the solitude and festive atmosphere during the break.

October was a busy month at Inigo Bhavan. It began with 48 Jesuits of our province making their annual retreat from September 28 to October 6, directed by Fr. Julian Fernandes, SJ. The minister, Bro. Clarence, ensured that all participants had comfortable rooms and enjoyed good and timely meals. It was the first time such a large group made a retreat together at Inigo Bhavan.

Fr. Boniface Joseph returned on October 10 after a month-long home visit. Fr. Siby Joseph attended the annual meeting of COJET in Hyderabad from October 6 to 10, and then proceeded to Dumka for the PDDs' annual meeting from October 11 to 14.

Fr. Provincial made his canonical visitation to the community from October 10 to 12, concluding it on the 12th with an exhortation followed by a dinner.

Fr. Freddy Baraik directed an eight-day retreat for two Jesuits and a Loreto Sister, beginning on October 17. Fr. Peter Pappu guided eight Sisters of Notre Dame in their week-long retreat, which began on October 20.

Fr. Lalit Tirkey spent a week recuperating at Inigo Bhavan following surgery to replace his pacemaker.

The regular activities of the Premanjali Programme have been going on well. As part of the programme, the Pre-Novices visited Science City during the last week of September - a visit they found both educational and memorable.

Fr. Leo was admitted to Navjeevan Hospital on September 27 with viral fever. After a few days of treatment, he returned on October 1. Sincere thanks to Fr. Shajumon, the Provincial, for celebrating Mass for the Pre-Novices during those days.

Fr. Amalraj, the PCF of the Delhi Province, visited us on October 8 on his way to Darjeeling and Namchi. Fr. Provincial's annual visitation on October 10 was a moment of grace for both Fr. Leo and Sch. Vinay.

Fr. Freddy has been meeting the Pre-Novices regularly. With the departure of one Pre-Novice on October 13, there are now 26 Pre-Novices: 5 for Ranchi, 3 for Jamshedpur, and 18 for Darjeeling–Nepal. Sch. Vinay made his retreat under the able guidance of Fr. Freddy, beginning on October 18 at Inigo Bhavan.

The Pre-Novices also visited the Puja pandals and the city on Diwali, on the 1st and 20th, respectively. Fr. Leo will be attending the Vocation Promoters and Pre-Novitiate Directors' Annual Meeting in Bhopal during the last week of October.

This October has been a month of profound blessing — a season marked by grace-filled encounters, deep learning, and purposeful preparation.

We began with the first-year immersion program in Varanasi and Lucknow, cities steeped in spiritual and cultural heritage. These sacred landscapes invited us into rhythms of reflection and reverence. We experienced not merely a journey through places, but a journey inward. We found ourselves not just visitors, but pilgrims.

A moment of particular grace this month was the visitation from the PCF. His presence was not merely official but profoundly pastoral, quietly affirming the sacredness of our journey. He entered our space not as a distant observer but as a companion in formation — one who sees with the eyes of faith and listens with the heart of a shepherd. With genuine attentiveness, he heard our joys and sorrows, our questions and our hopes. He helped us recognize the often-unspoken dimensions of our vocation, inviting us to rediscover the meaning and mission at the heart of our journey: not simply to be formed intellectually or ritually, but to be transformed interiorly, becoming vessels of grace for others.

One evening, we had the joy of sharing dinner with Frs. Paul Chemparathy and Roy Sebastian. Their presence brought warmth, and our conversations at table were both enriching and encouraging. As the month progressed, our focus shifted toward preparations for the upcoming National Seminar, one of the college's most significant annual events.

INDIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI

JOE VICTOR SJ



“Over the past two months, I visited ten provinces in the South and Central zones as part of my assignment. These visits brought me closer to the works of the Society, especially in the rural areas. The joys and struggles of the Jesuits and their collaborators there are truly inspiring.

I also participated in the annual JESCOM Coordinators' Meeting in Calicut. From October 12 to 14, I organized the annual PDDs and RDDs Meeting in Dumka, ably hosted by the Dumka-Raiganj Province. It was my first experience as CDD, and it proved to be quite fruitful. After the meeting, I spent a few days in Matigara and Deonia. We recently concluded a refreshing community program in Srinagar.”

PREMAL JYOTI, AHMEDABAD

ANURAG TOPPO SJ

The months of September and October were very busy for us. Our main focus was on preparing for and taking exams, along with various other activities.

The CIA-2 exams began on September 22, followed by the internal and external practical exams, which took place from October 1 to 10. Fr. Sebastian, the PCF, was with us from October 15 to 18. During his visit, we had the joy of showing him around the area.



On October 18, we went on a two-day trip to Rajasthan, where we visited many historical monuments. Another major activity began on October 22, when all the scholastics were sent on mission exposure to various communities in the Gujarat Province.

Four scholastics stayed back at Premal Jyoti. Among them, Scholastic Anurag is doing an internship at the Kankaria Zoo.

VINAYALAYA, MUMBAI JUNIORATE

NIKHIL SJ

On 2nd October on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the Bombay Jesuits organized an “Inter -Religious- Dialogue” at Vinayalaya. The eminent speakers, Mr. Irfan Engineer and Mrs. Teesta, shared their views about fostering dialogue and tolerance with other religions, essential for peace and mutual respect.

We also had a course on Ignatian Spirituality by Fr. Vincent Saldhana, the dean of Juniorate. He explained creatively the origin of Ignatian spirituality. Through this, we broadened our understanding of our spirituality and the Jesuit way of living.

From Oct. 20 -22, we participated in the Mumbai Magis, organized by the Bombay Jesuits at St Peter's Church, Bandra. About three hundred enthusiastic and energetic youth participated in the program. The event had outreach ministries, a talk on Ignatian spirituality, spiritual sharing, along with all the fun and frolics.

Following the summer recess, the university formally resumed classes on 1st October with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Bruno Niederbacher, SJ, Rector of the Jesuit Church.

During the vacation, I spent one week in Munich, Germany, and another in Prague, Czech Republic, exploring the rich beauty, architecture, and culture of these historic cities. With the end of the summer break, all our community members have returned, and the regular community schedule has resumed.

A significant event in our community was a change in leadership. Fr. Christian Marte, SJ, handed over his responsibilities to Fr. Toni Witwer, SJ, who became the new Rector of the Jesuitenkolleg Innsbruck on 31st July. Fr. Christian has since taken charge as the Superior of the Vienna community following his transfer.

My academic work is progressing well. During this winter semester, I am attending three seminars and one lecture, which keep me actively engaged in my studies. I am pleased to share that my doctoral guide, Fr. Boris Repschinski, SJ, has approved my doctoral proposal, which has now been officially registered with the university. I have begun writing the first chapter of my dissertation.

In addition to my academic responsibilities, I continue to be involved in pastoral ministry, celebrating Masses in old-age homes, convents, and parishes. These pastoral engagements provide a meaningful balance to my academic life.

Winter is gradually setting in here in Innsbruck, and this year it seems colder than usual—we have already experienced a few instances of snowfall. I am especially looking forward to winter sports, particularly cross-country skiing, as I continue learning to glide gracefully across the snow.



Br. Irenius Guria, along with Brothers Hermon, Denis, and Gilbert, attended the annual meeting of Jesuit Brothers of South Asia at Phesama, Kohima, from September 30 to October 4. It was a valuable time to get to know one another and to understand the mission of the Brothers in the South Asian Assistency.

Sharing among the brothers illuminated the group and inspired us to promote more vocations to the Brotherhood. Our visit to Phesama also helped us appreciate our involvement in various ministries across different parts of the Assistency.

The meeting concluded with the final Brothers' Phesama Statement, which will serve as a special guide for any Jesuit discerning a vocation as a Jesuit Brother in the future.



The Holy Father's Address to the Major Superiors

“... When the Spirit leads the apostolic body elsewhere for a greater good, this may require letting go of long-cherished structures or roles — an exercise of Ignatian ‘holy indifference’...”

THE HOLY FATHER'S ADDRESS TO THE MAJOR SUPERIORS



"The Society of Jesus has long been present where humanity's needs meet God's saving love." Pope Leo XIV affirmed this during his audience with global Jesuit leaders gathered in Rome for their meeting. "Today, I repeat: the Church needs you at the frontiers – whether they be geographical, cultural, intellectual, or spiritual", the Holy Father said, encouraging Jesuits to continue their service despite rapid cultural, economic, and political changes.

Pope Leo identified key frontier areas today. The path of synodality within the Church "calls all of us to listen more deeply to the Holy Spirit and to one another", so that ministries and structures "may be more agile, more transparent and more responsive to the Gospel". Another frontier lies in "reconciliation and justice". In a world ravaged by inequalities and conflicts, he called on the Society to oppose the "globalization of powerlessness" with a culture of reconciliation.

The Pope also pointed to artificial intelligence as an important frontier, calling for discernment on using digital platforms to evangelize while facing technologies that risk isolation and manipulation.



"The Society's Universal Apostolic Preferences... are certainly frontiers calling for discernment and courage", Pope Leo XIV affirmed, encouraging Jesuits to serve at these crucial intersections of faith and contemporary challenges.

"My hope for the Society of Jesus is that you may read the signs of the times with spiritual depth; that you embrace what promotes human dignity and reject what diminishes it", the Pope said, expressing his desire that the Society be "agile, creative, discerning, and always in mission".

For Pope's full speech: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2025/october/documents/20251024-compagnia-gesu.html>



REST IN PEACE

- *Fr. Mathew Kattathara (PAT 73/55) passed away at Xavier Bhawan, Patna.*
- *Fr. Tony V. D'Souza SJ (BOM 77/60) passed away on 16 October 2025 at Vinayalaya, Mumbai.*
- *Fr. Antonio Gimenez Jurschik SJ (BOM 85/68) passed away on 20 October 2025 at Nashik.*
- *Mr. Bhushan Ddungdung, nephew of Fr Nabor Ddungdung, passed away on 1 October 2025 in Rourkela.*
- *Mr. Pratap Kumar Minj, cousin of Fr Vijay Toppo, passed away on 29 October 2025 in Bangalore.*

POPE'S INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2025



FOR THE PREVENTION OF SUICIDE

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.


November **Happy Birthday**

01 Sunit Minj
02 Ashish Basumatari
05 Anthony Hembrom
06 Oshish Tirkey
12 Broney Chettri

13 Philemon Tirkey
14 Anurag Toppo
14 Patrick Bhutia
16 Sebastian Minj
16 Siby Joseph

21 Valerian Kujur
23 Deepak Jans
23 Mathew Assarikudy
25 John Kennedy
26 Anil Kr Beck
28 Arif Beck

† In Memoriam: November



Fr. Gerald McDonough SJ
01/11/1999



Fr. Alexius Minj SJ
16/11/2015



Bro. Bruno Carpenski SJ
06/11/2008



Bro. Leopard Vidmar SJ
18/11/1984



Fr. Abraham Thannikapara SJ
09/11/2002



Fr. Donald Brugger SJ
20/11/2000



Fr. Joseph Scharf SJ
12/11/2002



Fr. Edward Gurung SJ
21/11/2012



Fr. Vincent Curmi SJ
14/11/2005



Fr. William Bourke SJ
29/11/2019



Fr. Leo Bryan SJ
16/11/1966

“For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

Romans 14:8