

him dhwani

Prabhu Jisu Residence, Post Box 3, Matigara – 734 010, Dt Darjeeling, West Bengal

NO. 04

NEWSLETTER OF DARJEELING JESUITS

APRIL 2025

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAM

APRIL

1-12: General Curia Colloquium

14: Manresa

24: Alipurduar

25: POP, Woodcot

MAY

1: Bishop's Ordination, Jalpaiguri

3: Maheshpur, Nepal

4-7: DARJ-NEP Common Assembly

16-18: Former Jesuits Meeting, Darjeeling

19: GB, SJC, Darjeeling

24: SND Novitiate, Matigara

27: Scholastics Gathering, Alipurduar

APPOINTMENTS BY PROVINCIAL

- **Fr Anuranjan Ekka:** Tertianship, Shembaganur
- **Dn Roshan Topno:** Diaconate Ministry at Sacred Heart Church, Singamari
- **Dn Sujit Minj:** Diaconate Ministry at St Peter's Church, Gayaganga
- **Dn John Lepcha:** Diaconate Ministry at St Vincent's Church, Hatighisa
- **Sch. Amar Xalxo:** Theology, DNC Pune
- **Sch. Ramhorchan Mashangva:** Theology, VJ Delhi
- **Sch. Binod Toppo:** Philosophy, SN, Chennai

CONGRATULATIONS

We Praise and Thank God for blessing us with

- **Dn John Lepcha** from Darjeeling Diocese
- **Dn Roshan G. Topno** from Jalpaiguri Diocese
- **Dn Sujit Minj** from Bagdogra Diocese

raised to the Order of Deacons on 29th March 2025.



APPOINTMENTS BY POSA

- **Fr Jagdish Parmar:** Spiritual Director, Papal Seminary, Pune. (25th May 2025)
- **Fr P. Joseph Victor:** Conference Secretary for Inclusive Development (CSID), ISI Delhi. (01st June 2025)
- **Fr Roshan Kiro:** Tutor of Systematic Theology, VJ Delhi. (01st June 2025)

ONGOING FORMATION

- **Fr. K. L. George and Fr. Jayantilal Patel:** Spiritual Directors' Workshop, Patna (05 days)
- **Fr Nabor Dungdung and Fr Oshish Tirkey:** Psycho-Spiritual Integration, Matigara (40 days)
- **Fr. Vincent George:** Roots and Wings, Shembaganur (30 days)
- **Fr Justin Thiraveyam:** Manresa Cave Experience, Spain (27 April to 12 June 2025)
- **Fr Julius Kujur and Fr K J Joseph:** Bible and Spirituality in the Holy Land (5 July to 1 August 2025)

DISMISSAL:

Sch. Aathish Prabhu left on 14 March 2025.

DARJEELING-NEPAL: COMMON PROGRAMS

- Common Assembly 4-7 May at Matigara
- Common Retreats:
 - 9-17 June at Godavari, Nepal
 - 28- Sept to 6 October at Matigara
 - 4-12 December at Matigara

SHARED VISION WORKSHOPS IN OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. April 03-04 Loyola School, Kelabari
2. April 07-08 St Xavier's, Sadakbari - Sirha
3. April 11-12 St Peter's School, Gayaganga
4. April 28-29 St Alphonsus' School, Kurseong

SPECIAL EVENT

Former Jesuits' Gathering from May 16-18 at North Point, Darjeeling

PRABHU JISU RESIDENCE, MATIGARA:

Seventeen Priests and Religious are participating in the Psycho-Spiritual Integration Programme at Inigo Bhavan, Matigara, from March 02 – 11 April. The experienced Fr Joe Parakad (Director of Sadhana Institute) and Sr Selma Nellur SCSC are the resource persons.

"Shared Vision" committee members, Fr John Kennedy, Dr Pavanbir and Mr Andre L, met on 9th March at Prabhu Jisu Residence, Matigara, to plan for the seminars in all our educational institutions. PJR was the venue for the Service of Faith Commission meeting from 25th to 26th March. Twelve pastors representing Darjeeling Province and Nepal Region participated.

The community celebrated three birthdays in March: Fr Cherian Padiyara on 3rd, Fr Basil Toppo on 10th and Fr Boniface Joseph on 14th. Frs Leo Alphonse, Fr Roshan Kiro and Fr Basil Toppo offered Masses on Ash Wednesday in three villages of Hatighisa Parish.

Fr Basil Toppo, Province Coordinator for Eco Jesuit Network, attended the annual meeting of Coordinators of the Ecology Platforms of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) held at Loyola College, Chennai, from March 21 to 23, on the theme 'Towards Climate Justice'.



Socii Meeting at the general Curia

Fr Peter Pappu attended the five-day meeting organized at the General Curia for all the newly appointed Socii of twenty one provinces from March 10 – 14, 2025. Fr Peter reports that the sessions dealt with some important aspects of the mission of Socius for the effective governance in the Society of Jesus. The meeting provided invaluable opportunity for the socii to get to know each other and the people they usually correspond with in the General Curia. Celebrating the Eucharist at St Peter's Basilica, joining the pilgrims to enter through the Holy Door, Celebrating Masses at La Storta Chapel and in the room of St Ignatius, etc. were some of the spiritual experiences and graces received.

FR. BASIL TOPPO SJ

TREASURERS' WORKSHOP: A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE



From March 2-5, the Prabhu Jesu Residence in Matigara hosted the first-ever DAR-NEP Treasurers' Workshop, guided by Fr Xavier Ignatius (DEL). A total of 22 treasurers from various units of the Province actively participated in this enriching event.

The workshop commenced with a warm and traditional welcome from Fr Shajumon, Provincial, followed by Fr Basil Toppo, House Superior, who extended the community's hospitality to all. With a short prayer, Fr Xavier set the tone, emphasizing the importance of avoiding ignorance in financial administration.

Grounding his insights in the Statutes on Poverty, Fr Xavier provided an in-depth exploration of financial administration within the Society of Jesus, aligning it with Canon Law, the Society's Law, and Civil Law. His sessions delivered an abundance of knowledge, clarity, and practical wisdom, ensuring participants comprehended not just the rules but their real-life applications.

Through engaging discussions and practical examples, he meticulously dissected the complexities of financial management, urging treasurers to embrace their vocation wholeheartedly, mirroring Christ's example of service and the Ignatian spirit of dedication. His extensive experience and professionalism made the workshop both insightful and interactive, fostering total participation and active learning.

The event concluded with heartfelt gratitude to Fr Xavier. Fr Siby Joseph Ponnattil, the Province Treasurer, shared how Fr Xavier was chosen as the resource person, appreciating his invaluable contributions. Fr Vincent George then officially expressed thanks in well-chosen words. Finally, participants reflected on their experiences through the lens of Christ's call to live in solidarity with the poor. This pioneering workshop marked a significant step in enhancing the financial stewardship of the Province, ensuring Treasurers are well-equipped to manage their responsibilities with competence, integrity, and faith.

FR. SIBY JOSEPH SJ

PREMANJALI JESUIT PRE NOVITIATE:

On 2nd March, the Pre-Novices accompanied by the regent, Joseph Kerketta, and Fr. Roshan went to visit Bengal Safari. All of us enjoyed this last outing together as a group. We sincerely thank Frs. Edward, K. L. George, Julius, Shaji, Tommy, Roshan, Lawrence, Dennis and Cherian M for their availability and generosity for interviewing the pre novices and thus helping the Society in the selection process. Their valuable inputs and suggestions have been of great help for the formation of our youngsters. Fr Shajumon, Provincial of Darjeeling, Fr Amrit Rai, Regional Superior of Nepal and Fr. Reymond Kerketta SJ, the Socius to the Provincial of Ranchi Province too interviewed the pre-novices of their respective units prior to their selection for the novitiate.

The final examinations of the semester were held from 18th March to 21st March and the assistantcy English examination on 25th March. From 25th March, after dinner, a three day retreat was arranged for the Pre-Novices, guided by Fr. Leo. As we finish the 2024-25 academic year, the Pre-Novices will depart for their long awaited home visit on 30th March onwards. The selected candidates will return to Premanjali on 10th June 2025. The next academic year for 2025-26 batch, will start on 01st June 2025. We sincerely thank every Jesuit of the Province who has accompanied the Pre-Novices throughout this year. Sch. Bipin Tirkey is staying with us until his treatment gets over.

SCH. JOSEPH KERKETTA SJ

MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

The community observed the 21st of February as a day of recollection. Fr. Xavier, the Novice Master, gave an enlightening talk on "Habits Determine Destiny," which helped the novices prepare for Lent as they reflected on the habits they needed to change.

The community wholeheartedly celebrated the birthday of Br Gabriel on the 28th of February by expressing our love and reverence for him, especially by thanking and praying for him during Holy Mass. During Mass, we also shared our experiences with Br Gabriel. After Mass, we felicitated him with songs, gifts and colourful bouquets. In the afternoon, Fr Santy, Br Gilbert and two German guests joined us for a fellowship lunch. On the 2nd of March, Br Gabriel went for a meeting at Matigara and returned on the 5th March. On the 8th, Fr. Jayantilal Patel, the Socius, admitted Novice Aloysius in Dr Chaang's Hospital at Matigara. On the 9th of March, Fr. Xavier was invited by Sr. Eva, the Cluny Provincial, to give a talk to the six Cluny communities in Kalimpong on Pope Francis' recent Encyclical Dilexit Nos.

On the 10th of March, Fr Shajumon, the Provincial, and Fr Amrit, the Nepal Regional Superior, visited Manresa for some official work. On the 14th of March, Fr. Xavier went to give an orientation to the Junior Sisters of MSMHC at Auxilium School, Siliguri, on 'Intra and Interpersonal Relationships.'



On the 29th of March, the second years walked 10 hours from Lohapool to Woodcot, and the following day reached St Mary's Grotto in Kurseong. This pilgrimage allowed us to experience God's providence and accompaniment. The continuous changes in the climate added to our sense of wonder and gratitude towards God. The difficulties and challenges were overcome by placing our full trust in God. We sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude to Fr Pramod Dabhi for providing accommodation and food. We also extend our thanks to Fr. Peter Jong Lepcha and the Wery Niwas community for offering us a delicious lunch. Fr Jayantilal Patel went to Patna for a week long course on Spiritual Direction and returned on the 23rd of March.

NOVICE LEO LOGAPRIYAN (CEN)

ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA



St. Peter's Gayaganga Parish welcomed the Rt Rev. Paul Simick, Bishop of Bagdogra, on 2nd March. A wave of excitement and happiness rippled among the Parishioners as he was welcomed. The carefully planned program unfolded smoothly. His presence was a blessing, a moment of grace that left a memorable mark on everyone present. The smiles on the faces of the parishioners told the story of the day.

Fr Nabor is attending the Psycho-Spiritual Integration Programme being conducted at Inigo Bhavan, Matigara, by Fr. Parakad and Sr Selma SCSC.

The parish celebrated International Women's Day, honouring their invaluable contributions, recognizing their pivotal roles in building a strong community in the Church and in the civil society. It was a day of heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. The Odalabari Mahila Sangh came on a pilgrimage to Gayaganga Parish, a spiritual journey undertaken as a special devotion during the Lenten season. Charismatic retreats were organized in the main Parish and in Gungaram in preparation for the Holy week. The retreats, guided by Fr Raphael and his team, offered parishioners a profound spiritual renewal. His words, profoundly vibrating, fostered introspection and divine connection. As people found themselves again in God's tender embrace, a peaceful space was available for hearts to heal and spirits to ascend.

St. Peter's School (H.S.) hosted 365 students from SMS, RAVS, and Ambari schools for the Higher Secondary (H.S.) examinations. Simultaneously our students travelled to Madati High School to take their exams.



The school held its investiture ceremony, a moment of pride and promise. Newly elected student leaders were given their responsibilities, and badges, marking the start of their leadership journey.

SCH. RAMHORCHAN MASHANGVA SJ

LOYOLA, UTTAR SALBARI

In March, we are marching solemnly in the ambience of Lent. On Ash Wednesday at 2 pm, there was a good turnout of parishioners and Fr. Benny's homily was also good. On Fridays, the catholic staff and students of our school join the Way of the Cross, conducted by the parishioners.

Fr Benny, parish priest, surely smells the sheep; he is visiting houses, saying mass in village chapels and the parishioners are visiting him as well for various needs.

Fr Kinley en route to visiting his scattered parishioners stopped at our place for a night. In the morning, before resuming his journey, he gave an inspiring pep talk to the students. His talk was pithy and profoundly practical.

Loyola High School is in full swing. On 8th March the school celebrated 'International Women's Day' thanking all teaching and non teaching women staff; the program was short and meaningful. On the 14th Of March in the afternoon the school celebrated Holi explicating Holi's meaning and making all merry. On Saturdays the school is happily busy in its extracurricular activities; a parade practice is mandatory for all the students, after that some go for Karate and some others for football, volleyball and so on. On 23 March Fr Julius Kujur SJ with his Jesu Ashram medical staff conducted a health awareness program in the school; two doctors did free check-ups for about 220 students; the medical program was super beneficial for our students. On the academic front the school was action packed in March.

FR. PATRICK BHUTIA SJ

PRABHU JISU GIRJA – MATIGARA:



The parish celebrated international women's day on 9th March with the theme "Accelerate your Action". Fr John Tigga, Parish Priest, gave an inspiring talk to the hundred plus women. This was followed by adoration and confession. Thanks to Fr Alex Beck for being at the confessional. The women's Day celebration concluded with the Holy Mass.

The Parish Priest is actively promoting BEC. Every evening he is out to different units explaining the Ten Commandments and the six precepts of the Catholic Church. The faithful seem to find it interesting and very meaningful in living their catholic faith. This year on Ash Wednesday a good number of faithful attended the Mass.

FR. JOHN TIGGA SJ

GANDHI ASHRAM, KALIMPONG.

On 3rd March, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Tobias Otte, the in-charge of volunteers from the Osnabrück Diocese, to our school. As a gesture of warmth and appreciation, the Gandhi Ashram School Orchestra gave a wonderful performance, showcasing their musical talents. On 7th March, we officially inaugurated our football season with an exciting Staff vs Students match. It was a thrilling game, and after a tough fight, the Staff team emerged victorious!

Apart from that, we also had a spirited Girls' Football Match between Class 9 and Class 10. After an intense and energetic game, Class 10 clinched the victory. On 8th March, our pool car drivers and some parents came together to help fix a fence around our property, where we plan to grow vegetables. The Tiny Tots (LKG & UKG) celebrated Fruit Day on 20 March. The entire staff members joined the celebration during the morning break.



On 21 March, we had the annual Investiture and Academic Award Ceremony with great enthusiasm and pride. The event was graced by Fr. Xavier Alangaram as the Chief Guest, who inspired the students with his words of wisdom and encouragement. It was a proud moment for the school, as it continues to uphold its tradition of nurturing young minds towards a bright future.

The campus buzzed with excitement on 21 March afternoon as the much-anticipated Staff vs Students Throw ball Competition took place. In a thrilling contest, the versatile teachers showcased their experience and teamwork, defeating the ever-confident but novice students with a close score of 3-2.

On 28th March the Kalimpong Block-1 organised an awareness programme on vector-borne disease and also on various government schemes available for the students. They gave us a sanitary napkin incinerator.

FR. SANTY MATHEW SJ

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, ALIPURDUAR

The first half of March 2025 was marked with exams of both Internal and Board while the second half kept the staff engaged in correcting the papers, preparing the results, etc. The panel for recruitment of new teachers conducted interviews for different subjects. On 21st March, the students came with their parents to collect their annual results.

On 12th March, a small plot of land, adjacent to the plot already in our possession, was purchased at New Alipurduar in view of a feeder nursery school. Every effort is being made to increase the strength of the school.

FR. SEBASTIAN MINJ SJ

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTH POINT, DARJEELING

St. Joseph's School, North Point, experienced a month filled with significant events, spiritual growth, sports enthusiasm, and cultural engagements. The month began with the Inaugural Mass of the Holy Spirit on 1st March, presided over by Rt. Rev. Paul Simick, Bishop of Bagdogra. The spirit of games began on 3rd March with the commencement of the cricket, basketball and volleyball seasons, inaugurated through a friendly match between students and teachers.

Election Week in the first week of March educated students on the value of democratic choices, culminating in the school elections on 6th March. The election results were announced on 10th March, ushering in a new team of student leaders.

The school is observing the Lenten season from 5th March beginning with the Mass on Ash Wednesday. Meanwhile, outings provided excitement as the UD students visited Singla on the 8th and 9th, and the senior boys, along with Class 8 boarders, enjoyed an overnight trip to Singla on 15th March.

On 14th March, the school celebrated the Academic Awards Day for 2024 and the Investiture Ceremony for 2025. The event was held in the auditorium, graced by alumnus Mr Ashok Sadwani as the chief guest. Sports events, including cricket cup ties on 9th and 16th March and the inter-class chess tournament on 13th March, added to the month's excitement. A friendly chess contest was organized between St. Joseph's School and Loreto Convent School on 12th March at Loreto Convent, and on 19th March at North Point. On 17th March, Mr Marcellino, the outgoing sub-prefect, and Mrs Shampa, the school counsellor were given a heartfelt farewell with a program organized by the boarders. On 18th March, the titular feast of the school, St Joseph, was celebrated with a delightful programme led by the PD team. On 19th, the teachers were at St Paul's School for a cricket match; the students inaugurated the new basketball court at LD Field with a friendly game against the sub-prefects. From 17th to 26th March, the school hosted a group of 20 students and three staff members from Smt. Sulochanadevi Singhanian School, Thane, under a student exchange program. They presented a cultural program on the final day, and we gave them a hands-on experience of Darjeeling hill culture and North Point customs.

Sports fever reached its peak on 22nd March with the Fr Antony Sharma Memorial Basketball Tournament. St Augustine's School, Kalimpong, emerged victorious for the second consecutive year among the participating schools—St. Augustine's School, Kalimpong, St. Xavier's School, Pakyong, St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, Dr. Graham's School, Kalimpong and Goethal's Memorial School, Kurseong.

Cultural and spiritual enrichment continued with the PD Singing Competition on 28th March, themed around hymns of hope to observe the Year of Hope. Cricket fixtures between St. Joseph's School and St. Paul's School and chess tournaments at VBS followed on 29th March.

SJS NP Community.

The community welcomed several visitors: Fr Santy Mathew with his German guests on 1st March; Mr and Mrs Iranus Ekka spent a few days; Mr Ashok Sadwani, alumnus, from march 9 to 17; Fr Amrit Rai, Regional Superior of Nepal Jesuits, on 10th March; Fr Dennis Soosai with his family members on 21st March; Fr Nabor's relatives at the end of March.

Br PD attended the Treasurers' workshop in Matigara from 2nd to 5th March. Fr. Justin and Fr. Joseph KJ extended spiritual support to Mongpoo and Sittong by offering Sunday Mass and a funeral Mass. On 16th March, Fr. Joseph KJ traveled to Kolkata to renew his passport.

The month was also marked by significant progress in construction and repair works under the diligent supervision of Fr Justin. The UD Field's water tank is nearing completion, while construction of the basketball court, primary block, and guest rooms is progressing smoothly.

FR. SAMUEL SIMICK SJ

LOYOLA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NAMCHI

The month of March witnessed numerous curricular and co-curricular activities in the College. The 32nd foundation day was celebrated on 3rd March with a special assembly in which the students highlighted the history of the College with speeches and quiz. Fr Pragasan joined our community on 5th March and commutes between Namchi and Guwahati for his Ph.D programme.

The Red Ribbon Club of Sikkim Organized an awareness Programme on Mental Health by Dr Divya Rai, counselor of mental health from Government District Hospital and Mr Kishor Baniya Chettri, State Coordinator of Red Ribbon Club of Sikkim, for the Staff and Students on 6th March.

International Women's day was celebrated in our College in collaboration with Red Ribbon Club of Sikkim. Students highlighted the achievements of Women in various fields. Inter house dance competition added grandeur to the day.



College basketball team participated in TAVERNA TROPHY Organized by Department of Physical Education and sports Association, Salesian College, Siliguri on 8th March 2025. As part of the internship Programme, M.Ed students of Sikkim University, second semester students observed the practice teaching of our students in our schools and practice teaching in our college from 17th to 24th March 2025.

As part of ongoing formation, Fr Vincent George left on 28th March to Shembaganur to attend Roots and Wings Programme.

FR. FRANCIS GEORGE SJ

NORTH BENGAL ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

Fr Kennedy gave two day recollection to DSA Junior sisters at Jalpaiguri. Fr Dennis attended the North Zonal meet of RRSJSA - Province Task Force - ToT from 01 to 04 March 2025 at Dhyanaashram, Kolkata.

The Women's Cell of North Bengal St. Xavier's College organized a Self-defense workshop on 25th February to equip students with basic self-defense techniques to boost their confidence and promote personal safety. 34 students participated in the session, which was conducted by Mr Bijay Gurung, Ms Promila Oraon and Ms Susmita Oraon Minj. The training included practical demonstrations, hands-on practice, and discussions on situational awareness.

The Life Coaching and Wellness Cell of our college celebrated "Kindness Week" (Feb 14- Feb 20) by distributing gift hampers to the children of the conservancy staff. Students showed great joy and enthusiasm in raising funds for the gifts and thoughtfully selected them according to the age of the children which ranged from three months to 18 years. The purpose of celebrating Kindness Week is to encourage individuals to practice acts of kindness which spreads the message of love, joy and thoughtfulness.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Women's Cell of the College organized a special session on 7th March 2025 with the theme "She Matters: Prioritizing Women's Health and Well-being." The resource persons were Dr. Saheli Saha (Oncologist) and Dr. Neha Bansal (Gynecologist). Dr. Saha emphasized cancer prevention, early detection, and the importance of regular check-ups while Dr. Bansal addressed reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, and overall well-being. The interactive session provided participants with expert advice, making it an insightful and empowering experience. The event successfully highlighted the importance of prioritizing women's health and fostering a culture of awareness and self-care.

The Department of Microbiology organised an International Workshop cum Seminar on "Molecular Biology and Immunology" (MBI-2025) from 19th to 21st March. Fr. Dennis Soosai was also one of the resource persons of the event and delivered a Lecture on "Exploring Genetic Blueprints: A Practical Approach to DNA Isolation and Analysis."

Inigo Reading Club organized two silent reading sessions. About 40 students participated in the sessions. Dr Pavanbir has donated 2 copies of a book "Days at the Morisaki Bookshop". Many students are now encouraged to donate books to the reading club.

Current Affairs Forum arranged a seminar on "The Trade War: Clash of Tariffs." With Mr Rajyavishek Pradhan's training the students did a wonderful thought provoking presentation. More than 50 students attended the seminar.

Fr. Divyanandam and his Team of three students gave a day long orientation programme on "Technology and Digital Literacy for School Teachers", to the staff of Holy Cross School, Rajganj and Dalkhola. It was a new initiative to include the JEE/ NEET coaching to the children in the NCERT syllabus and making use of AI in their teaching. Fr Divya also participated in the workshop on "Amelioration of Syllabi in the light of FYUGP" organized by North Bengal University.

FR. DIVYANANDAM SJ

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, NORTH POINT

A series of activities titled 'Department of the Year,' organized by the Student Council, commenced on March 7th and will run until April 5, 2025, beginning with an exciting day of cultural festivities. In the cultural competition, departments presented a distinctive mix of traditional and contemporary cultural expressions, featuring everything from folk dances to creative reinterpretations.

The other events will include a variety of competitions: Inter-Departmental Photography, Extempore, Elocution, MIC 'Stand-Up Comedy', Mock Placement Pursuit, as well as creative activities like Sketching, Painting, and Heritage Strokes, offering a diverse experience for all participants.



On March 8th, the Department of Botany observed International Women's Day with an awareness campaign. Students played an active role by designing informative posters and crafting impactful slogans that celebrated women's achievements and underscored the importance of gender equality. Their contributions highlighted women's significant roles across various fields, promoting empowerment and respect for women's rights.

The collaborative workshop between St. Joseph's College, North Point, Darjeeling, and DLR Prerna, titled Mental Health, Ethics and the Darjeeling Himalaya: Emerging Issues and Research Pathways, was held on March 11, 2025, at St. Joseph's College Conference Hall. The event addressed the growing concerns about mental health in the Darjeeling region, highlighting the limited care, support, and research available. The workshop also focused on ethical research practices and practical solutions for improving mental health care. Eminent global panellists, including Dr. Amar Jessani, Dr.Sunita Sheel Bandewar, Ms. Jasmine Kalha, Dr. Christina Cruz, Dr.Dipanjan Bandyopadhyay, and Mr.Saptak Halder contributed valuable insights.



Kudos to Ms Ismrity Katwal, a student from the Department of History at St. Joseph's College, who has been crowned 'Miss North East India Supermodel 2025' by beating 26 competitors in the prestigious competition held at the Mayfair Resort in Gangtok on March 9, 2025.

An invited talk titled "Voicing the Silences: Jacinta Kerketta and Contemporary Tribal Jharkhand" was organized by the Department of English on 11th March 2025. The talk was delivered by Dr Shreya Bhattacharji, Professor in the Department of English Studies and Dean of the School of Language, Central University of Jharkhand.



Eighteen students, accompanied by two teachers from the Department of Microbiology, participated in a three-day International Workshop cum Seminar on the theme "Molecular Biology and Immunology" at St. Xavier's College, Rajganj, organised in collaboration with DNA Labs CRIS, Dehradun from 20-21 March 2025. The department's students secured first prize in the Poster Presentation, outshining 18 other entries from various colleges in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri.

FR. DONATUS KUJUR SJ

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

Sch. Reuell Paul SJ was invited by the All-India Catholic University Federation (AICUF), under the Patna Jesuits Youth Commission (JYMSA), to lead a Youth Leadership Workshop and training program from March 6 to 9, for youth leaders from the Central and North Zones at Atmadarshan, Patna. Fr. Augustus Ekka SJ, while en route abroad, stayed with us for two days. Vidyajyoti College marked Women's Day with a celebration, featuring Sr. Inigo Joachim S.S.A. as the guest speaker. During the event, all the sisters (students) were recognized and honoured.

Mr Ashwin Limbu (20 years old), a parishioner from St. Mary's Parish, Kankebong, underwent kidney transplant surgery (kidney donated by his elder sister Ms Srijana Limbu) at PSRI Hospital in Delhi on 15th March. Schs. John Lepcha SJ, Ashish Ekka SJ, and Christ Rajan Minj SJ provided selfless support to them through hospital visits, stay at DKK Bhavan (Sikkim House), and arranging blood donors. Seven scholastics from our province willingly donated blood.

During this Lent, the scholastics at Vidyajyoti Community have creatively organized the Way of the Cross, selecting a fitting theme for each Friday. The community was busy preparing for the diaconate ordination of 42 third-year brothers who have recently completed their exams. A two-day National Theologate Centre (NTC) and Jesuit Formation Centre for Theology (JFCT) meeting took place on March 27 and 28, attended by representatives from the Chennai, Karnataka, and Ranchi JFCTs.

SCH. RAJAN MINJ SJ

VOCATION PROMOTION



Fr Roshan Kiro, the Vocation Promoter, visited most of the parishes of Bagdogra diocese to give information about the vocation camp from March 31 to 3 April, 2025 at Premanjali Jesuit Pre-Novitiate, Matigara. Fr Roshan visited Dumka-Raiganj Jesuit Province for a week from March 15 to 23. He enjoyed the hospitality and support of Fr K C Stephen (DUM), the provincial, and the curia community. Going from one mission station to another is quite difficult and challenging without a personal transportation. However, with the generous assistance of Fr Provincial, Fr Roshan was able to visit many places, such as Raiganj, Dumka, Hathimara, Mundli, Tinpahar, and so on.

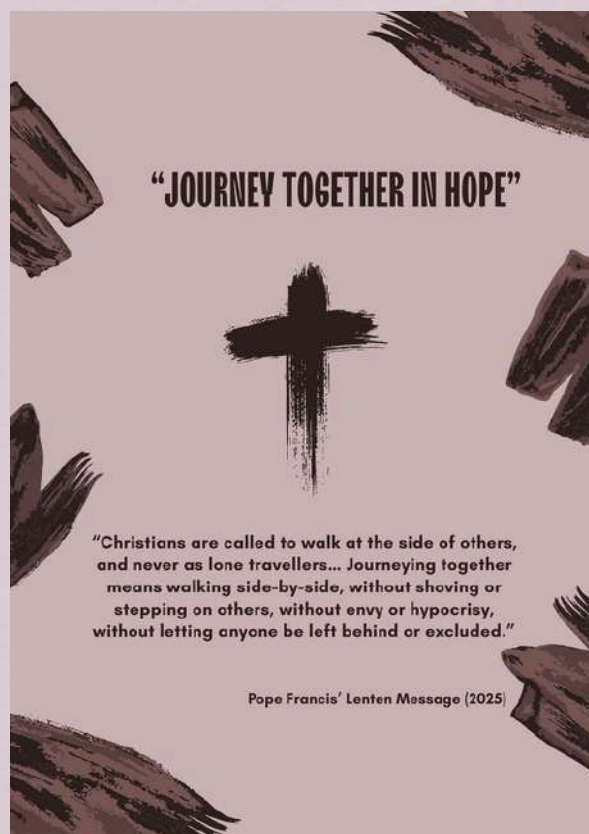


He had the opportunity to share about the mission and ministry of the Darjeeling-Nepal Jesuits with many young boys of classes 10 and 11, especially in Hathimara, Johar, Maharo, Mundli and Tinpahar. Many boys have shown their interest to join the Jesuits of Darjeeling and Nepal. We need to wait and see how many will join us after their +2 exams next year. Overall, the visit had been very fulfilling. Now, we are getting ready to meet many interested boys in the upcoming vocation camp in Premanjali, Matigara.

FR ROSHAN KIRO SJ

PUBLICATIONS

- Dhivviyanandam, I. Lourdusamy, A., Pria, R (2024). MONOPHONIC PEBBLING NUMBER OF DERIVED GRAPHS. Journal of Computational Analysis and Applications, 33(8).
- Dhivviyanandam.I, Kitherimmal. S and Lourdusamy. A" Pebbling on Shadow graph of Cycle". Palastine Journal of Mathematics, Vol14(1) 2025, 269-276.
- Dhivviyanandam. I,K. Christy Rani, "Vertex Square Free Detour Number of a Graph" Journal of Applied mathematics and Informatics Vol 43(2025).



REST IN PEACE

- **Fr Eligius Kandulna (MAP)**, 48/28, on 13 March 2025, in Baikunthpur, Chhattisgarh.

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

01 Denis Rodrigues
01 Peter Pappu
04 Pascal Xalxo
06 Donatus Kujur
08 Dennis Soosai
08 Binod Kerketta
09 John Banerjee
09 Paul D'Souza
10 Pramod Dabhi
13 Pragasan Chinappan
16 Justin Thiraveyam
18 Tek Bahadur Paudel
20 Deven Yonzon
21 Roshan Minj
22 Vincent PD
23 Clarence Joseph
26 Robert Lakra
29 Tej Kalyan Kujur
30 Joseph Karingamavil

ANNIVERSARIES OF OUR DECEASED MEMBERS IN APRIL



FR. LESLIE PRABHU SJ

10 - 04 - 2013



FR. MANGAL KERKETTA SJ

25 - 04 - 2021



BRO. ERIC RUDUM SJ

27 - 04 - 2013



FR. MICHAEL HAWKINS SJ

30 - 04 - 2020



POPE'S INTENTION FOR APRIL 2025

FOR THE USE OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES

“Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.”