



Darjeeling-Nepal Jesuits



NO. 06

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

JUNE 2026

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

JUNE

- 01-02: Superiors' Training Program
- 03: Meeting of Former Jesuits
- 04-06: Kathmandu
- 08: GB at St Joseph's College, Darjeeling
- 18: Consult
- 19: Meeting of NZ Provincials and Consultors
- 21: First Vows at Manresa, Kalimpong

APPOINTMENT BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Pascal Xalxo: Superior at Shanti Sadan Jesuit Community (With the approval of Fr General) w.e.f. 27 May 2026.

Fr Dennis Soosai: Principal, North Bengal St Xavier's College, Rajganj, w.e.f. 1 July 2026.

Fr Paul Chemparathy: Premanjali (Retreat Ministry, Asst. Director, Asst to Vocation Promotor for South India) w.e.f. 1 June 2026.

Fr Francis George: St Xavier's College, Maitighar w.e.f. 15 May 2026.

FINAL VOWS:

Fr General has called the following Jesuits for Final Vows: Frs Binay Xavier Kandulna, Dilip Kumar Toppo, Justin Bage, Leo Alphonse, Peter Chettri, Jose Ollukaran, and Thomas N.P. The Final Vows event will be celebrated on 31st July 2026 at Prabhu Jisu Girja, Matigara, on the first anniversary of the establishment of Darjeeling-Nepal Province.

FIRST VOWS:

Novices Antony Aloysius (DAN), Sheetal Kiro (DAN), Linus Kujur (DAN), Alex Exroen (DEL), Aman Shreyas Tete (PAT) Munna Mathias Baskey (DUM) and Naresh Hansdak (DUM) will be taking their First Vows on 21st June 2026 at Manresa Jesuit Novitiate.

COMMON PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2026

- 1 - 2 June 2026 Training for Local Superiors and Secretaries of Society/Trust
- 3 - 4 June 2026: Meeting of Former Jesuits
- 12 - 13 December 2026: Superiors' Meeting/Extended Consult

PROVINCE RETREAT

THEME: CONSTITUTIONS AND THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

- 10-18 June: At Godavari, Nepal (Director: Fr Donald Miranda)
- 16-24 October: At Woodcot, Kurseong (Director: Fr R. C. Chacko)
- 04-12 December: At Matigara (Director: Fr R. C. Chacko)

PROVINCE DAYS

The Darjeeling-Nepal Province Assembly was held from 11–13 May 2026 at Loyola Pastoral Centre, Matigara. It was the first assembly since the historic unification of the Darjeeling and Nepal Jesuit units on 31 July 2025. The three-day event, themed 'Towards Transformation,' brought together Jesuits, to evaluate the province's ministries in the light of UAP, analyse survey data, and draft a new Apostolic Plan, Vision, Mission, values, and priorities for 2026–2031 through Spiritual Conversation and communal discernment.

Frs Alphonse Lepcha and Jomon Jose, presented a comprehensive review of the three ministry areas -Social, Pastoral and Educational – highlighting the major success stories and challenges. Fr Dennis, presented the Google Survey Findings of the 83 Jesuits and 138 Mission Partners. 'Walking with the Excluded' and Collaboration and Ongoing Formation emerged as primary concerns for the groups respectively. Fr. Lawrence Thanislaus' presentation of the SWOT Analysis of the unified province enabled all to be realistic and futuristic in our apostolic planning.

After a few rounds of spiritual conversation on various issues, the Vision and Mission Statements, Core Values and Apostolic Priorities were drafted for further reflection in the communities. The issue of ethnicity was taken up for a special spiritual conversation, to identify, address and uproot at all levels beginning in our own communities.

The assembly was a grace-filled moment of collective discernment for the newly unified Darjeeling-Nepal Province. Guided by Ignatian spirituality and the Holy Spirit, members honestly assessed strengths and weaknesses, forged a common Vision and Mission, and committed to a transformative path forward. Thanks to the Apostolic Planning Team: Fr. Dennis Soosai, Fr. Lawrence T. Fr. Jomon Jose, Fr. Dilip Toppo, Fr. Alphonse Lepcha, & Fr. Roshan Minj and the various other committee members for their tireless efforts to make the Province Assembly-2026 a memorable one.



The Provincial Curia has a new chapel dedicated to the *'Most Holy Name of Jesus'*. On 30 May 2026, Rt. Rev. Paul Simick, Bishop of Bagdogra, blessed the chapel, enshrining 47 relics of saints and martyrs, consecrated the altar, and celebrated Holy Mass for the Jesuit Superiors gathered with the Provincial. Adjacent to the chapel is *'Domus Memoriae'*, a memorial hall dedicated to all the departed Jesuits of the Darjeeling–Nepal Province. Thanks to the tireless work of Fr. Siby Joseph in constructing this archival shrine, Fr. Shajumon in researching and designing it, and Fr. Pragasan in designing the images in the corridor. Do visit *'Domus Memoriae'* and pray in the *'Most Holy Name of Jesus'* Chapel, where the relics of saints and martyrs are reverently preserved.



A three-day workshop was held for the 31 Jesuit Superiors and Secretaries of Trusts & Societies at the provincial curia from May 31st. Thanks to Mr Guilherme Vaz for his insightful sharing on all aspects of governance at different levels in the church and in the Society, enlightening and challenging the participants to be responsible stewards of the resources and evolve a culture of accountability by following the rules and norms of the govt. and church. Thanks to Br Clarence for the excellent arrangements.



SCHOLASTICS' SUMMER PROGRAM

SEBASTIAN MINJ SJ (PCF)

The Summer Program for the Scholastics was planned at four levels: Insertion into the Ministries, Annual Retreat, Media Course and finally common gathering. The Insertion into the ministries of the attached community was a new experience for most of the Scholastics. All are genuinely amazed at and proud of the hospitality, understanding and affinity offered by the respective communities. Immediately after the Province Assembly, 16 Scholastics proceeded to Manresa, Kalimpong, for the annual Retreat, given by Fr. Binod Kerketta SJ. The retreatants expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Fr Binod and the Manresa Community.

Media Course given by Mr. Subroto and Supriya (Media & Art Experts) at Woodcot are useful and enhanced the skills in Photography, Script writing, Screenplay, art and craft, etc. Wonderful classical films were projected for film appreciation and analysis. At the beginning of Media Course, the new priests (Roshan Gyan and Sujit Minj) were felicitated. On the Last day Fr Provincial and the Deacons (Reuell and Rajan) were felicitated by the Scholastics with Khadas.



PRE ORDINATION PROGRAM, KURSEONG

RAMHORCHAN MASHANGVA SJ



A month-long Pre-Ordination Program (POP) was conducted from April 20 – 20 May. The twenty-seven theologians, from JD Pune, Ranchi JFTC, and VJ Delhi, were guided by Frs Sajeev and George Beck.

The well-structured and deeply enriching program offered integrated input sessions designed to deepen Jesuit identity and renew apostolic zeal for the priesthood. The two directors, and the resource persons, Frs Pankaj Kerketta, Stanley K, and Peter Bhujel, greatly enriched and enlightened us on diverse themes. Adding a valuable perspective to the program, three lay persons shared their personal experiences and expectations of Jesuit ministry.

We experienced warm hospitality throughout our stay; thanks to the excellent arrangements made by the Woodcot community. Deep gratitude goes out to the communities of St. Joseph's North Point (both college and schools), Sacred Heart Parish, Loyola B.Ed. College in Namchi, and St. Alphonsus in Kurseong for their wonderful hospitality.

A deeply spiritual retreat, seamlessly connected to the program's core theme, beautifully anchored this transformative month of formation. The Pre Ordination Program (POP) at Woodcot was indeed a memorable journey of learning, reflection, and renewal.

On the 15th of May, 2026, the Cultural Committee, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), organized X-Cellence Day 2026 to celebrate and honour the excellent achievements of the students, alumni and faculty members of North Bengal St. Xavier's College in the fields of academics, research, sports, innovation, and co-curricular activities. The event was attended by students, parents, faculty members, distinguished guests and the award recipients. The day's proceedings commenced with the rendering of the college prayer song, followed by the welcoming of the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour. After a mesmerising inaugural dance performance by Ms. Shawantini Chakraborty, the annual report of the session 2025-26 was delivered by Fr. Dr. Dennis Soosai, Vice Principal (Administration). The report highlighted the institution's achievements and milestones across various fields in the past academic year. Following this, the honourable Chief Guest, Prof. (Dr.) Arnab Sen, Vice-Chancellor, Rajganj University, and the Guest of Honour, Dr. Bhaskar Biswas, Registrar (Acting), University of North Bengal, addressed the gathering and encouraged the students to strive for excellence.

The annual day programme also featured several musical and dance performances by students, including performances by Ms. Afrin Rahaman, Mr. Abhishek Ghosh Nandi, Ms. Srishti Gurung, and Mr. Adarsh Tirwa, adding variety and vivacity to the event. The parents were felicitated with the khada as a token of respect. A major highlight of the event was the conferring of various Awards of Excellence. Awards were presented to the PhD holders, young entrepreneurs, university toppers, department toppers, students with outstanding attendance, and students who represented the institution at college, university, district, state, national, and international levels. A special segment of the event was also dedicated to acknowledge the students who contributed to student seminars, conferences and paper publications, reflecting a profound interest in research and academics.



Another significant moment of the event was the release of the Students' Magazine titled, *Whispers from the Hills: Ruskin Bond Edition*, by the Literary Association, Department of English, NBSXC. The programme also witnessed the release of the book, *The Art of Loving Right*, by Ms. Devipriya Chaki, a fourth-semester BBA student from the Matigara Campus of the college. The event concluded with the Vote of Thanks by Dr. Sourish Dasgupta, Vice Principal (Academics), NBSXC., followed by the College Anthem. The college campus remains active with academic preparations as students get ready to appear for their semester exams soon.

The NBSXC Jesuit community actively participated in various pastoral and educational ministries. Fr. David Ekka celebrated the Holy Eucharist on Fathers' Day at Mongradangi Church on 3 May. Fr. Divyanandam directed an eight-day retreat for the St. Anne Sisters at Jalpaiguri from May 1 – 9; he also led a one-day orientation programme for school teachers in Purnia. Fr. Julius gave a recollection to the Cloister Carmelite Sisters at Jordighi; Fr. James conducted a one-day orientation session for the teachers of Holy Cross School, Rajganj.

St. Xavier's College Students' Quality Circle – UDAAN organized the Youth Summit 2026 under the theme “Resilient Youth, Sustainable Future.” The Department of Counselling and Student Well-being, in collaboration with the Office of International Collaboration, organized sessions on “Managing Stress in College Life” for student leaders and “Work-Life Balance for Educators” for faculty members. Facilitated by Dr. Gulnora Hundley from the University of Central Florida, these sessions offered practical insights into resilience and personal growth. St. Xavier's College also strengthened its international academic engagement as a co-host of the SYNERGIA International Research Conference at St. Louis College, Philippines, represented by Ms. Pramila Parajuli and Mr. Shishir Kumar Bhusal. Adding to the year's achievements, Ms. Ichhya Rana (Microbiology Batch 2022) received the “Most Impactful Campus Director” award at the Hult Prize Nationals 2026.



Campion House, meanwhile, welcomed Fathers Amrit Rai, Francis A.V., and Ajay Lakra. Their arrival brought fresh energy and companionship to the community.

On 5th May, the NSS unit of the college convened a day long programme on the social evil of the dowry system. Mrs Sushma Ghose, in her key note address, traced the historical shift from the traditional notion of Stree Dhan (gifts intended as woman's wealth and security) to the contemporary exploitative practice, often leading to domestic violence and dowry-related deaths. She concluded her address with this thought-provoking statement, “that laws alone are insufficient without rigorous enforcement and sustained public awareness campaigns”. Ms. Prashika Sinchury concluded the programme with a vote of thanks.

The Department of History organized an educational tour from May 8 - 13 to Shillong and Meghalaya, for 34 students and three faculty members. Students visited Umiam Lake to study ecological dynamics and reservoir impacts; Elephant Falls to examine cultural symbolism and geological formation; the Garden of Caves and Mawsmai Cave to observe karst landscapes and human-cave interactions; and Seven Sisters Falls to explore local folklore and tourism conservation challenges. Faculty-led sessions encouraged architectural, environmental, and cultural analysis at each site.

On 10 May, the All India Catholic University Federation of college held a Thanksgiving Mass presided over by Fr. Roshan Gyan Topno and assisted by Frs. Sanjiv, K. L. George, and Donatus Kujur. Immediately after the Mass, the outgoing office bearers formally transferred responsibilities to their successors. The Art Club staged an art exhibition on 15 and 16 May in Campion Hall. The event combined a painting exhibition, live artistic presentations, a photobooth, and an art sale that attracted large number of students and staff.

On 16 May, the department of Geography organized “Cultural Confluence,” a programme designed to celebrate India’s cultural diversity. The event featured 16 cultural groups representing various states, each presenting their distinctive history, customs, attire, cuisine, and rituals through performances, decorations, and informative displays. Students staged creative presentations that combined storytelling, traditional dress, and culinary demonstrations to convey the lived experiences of different communities. The Department of Sericulture facilitated an industrial visit to the Bijanbari Sericulture Unit on 11 May for 33 students, accompanied by Mrs. Barkha Rai, Mrs. Albina Subba, and Mr. Shuvam Sharma. Officials and workers at the unit demonstrated practical techniques and explained both scientific and traditional methods used in sericulture.



Industrial visit to Luck Dairy, Ilam, Nepal



AICUF office bearers



Excursion to Shilong



Cultural Confluence

On 13 May, the Department of Botany led an educational excursion to Mungpoo and Rambh for the study and collection of medicinal plants. Dr. Upakar Rai and Dr. Abhijit Chhetri, guided the 23 students to identify various medicinal species in their natural habitats. They also instructed students on proper collection techniques, herbarium practices, and the importance of documenting scientific names and traditional uses. Emphasis was placed on conserving plant diversity and safeguarding indigenous herbal knowledge.

The Department of Political Science hosted a special lecture by Dr. Lobsang Sangay, a Harvard Law School professor and former President of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile on 18 May. Dr. Sangay traced his journey from his native Lamahatta in Darjeeling to the global stage of Harvard, weaving personal narrative with scholarly reflections on geopolitics.

The Department of Microbiology organized an industrial visit to Luck Dairy in Ilam, Nepal, on 22 May for 21 IV-semester students accompanied by four faculty members. The visit focused on dairy production and food-processing techniques. Dairy experts explained modern technologies and marketing strategies used in competitive markets.

GANDHI ASHRAM SCHOOL, KALIMPONG

SANTY MATHEW SJ

Mrs Rahel a former volunteer of 2010 from Switzerland, conducted a weeklong music workshop in April. On 25 April Mr V. Noel, an accomplished musician who studied at the Maastricht Conservatorium, conducted an engaging and insightful workshop on “Building Sound through the Three Pillars of Communication.” The session focused on fostering deep listening and strengthening effective communication among students through music. On 27 April, Gandhi Ashram bid farewell to Ms Melina, a German volunteer, who had been with us for the past seven months. Her simplicity, warmth, and remarkable ability to connect with everyone made her a cherished member of our school community.



Admissions for the new academic session began on 28 April, followed by an orientation programme for the students on 29 and 30. Regular classes commenced on 4 May during which three new teachers along with Scholastics Vinay and Sukesh were formally welcomed. Mr Lukla Hembrom, Frs Nicolas and Anup were given farewell on 15th May. The school hosted its first alumni gathering of the academic year on 17th, bringing together alumni from different batches. On 26, the Scout troop participated in a grand Scout camp at Godavari.

ST. XAVIER'S PARISH

St. Xavier's Parish witnessed vibrant activities in recent days, combining youth engagement with a significant religious celebration. The parish youth gathered for an awareness programme focused on environmental care. The initiative, guided by Fr. Jiju along with Miss Titi Ghale and Mr. Sajan, aimed to educate the community on the harmful effects of plastic use. As part of the campaign, Miss Aasha Lama distributed bags stitched by local women, thus encouraging the use of eco-friendly alternatives such as reusable shopping bags.

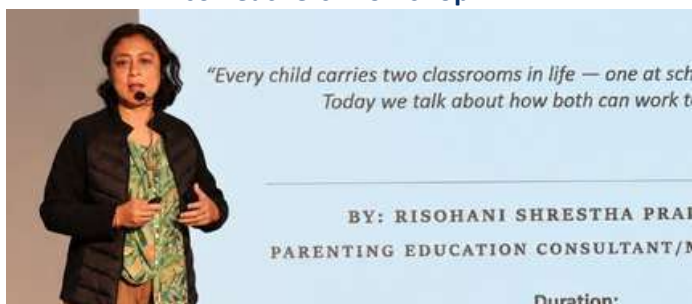
The parish hosted the final vows ceremony of Fr Anil Kumar Beck. About 150 religious and faithful attended this event. Thanks to Fr John, Scholastics Vinay and Sukesh for the meaningful liturgy engaging the youth and the hostellers in the choir. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Shajumon, with Frs Dilip (Parish Priest), Peter Pappu (Socius), Ignatius Rai (Dean of Purwanchal) and about 20 concelebrants.

A health camp was organized on 9 May. The Gandhi Ashram Alumni Association hosted the second Fr McGuire Football Tournament on 9th May. Eight teams participated in it and the Gandhi Ashram teachers coveted the winner's trophy. On 11 May four of our children participated at the District Level Interschool Science Exhibition and Seminar on Healthcare Technology in Disease Control held at St. Augustine's School. On 16th May our Class 10 students, along with six teachers, visited the North Bengal Science Centre. During the visit, the students explored the Taramandal, Digital Planetarium, Science Show, and 3D Show.

Gandhi Ashram School participated in the World Cultural Day event organized by St Joseph's School North Point on 21 May. Various Jesuit schools took part in the celebration, showcasing their ethnic cultures through music, dance, attire, and traditions. Mrs Anu Heyworth conducted a story telling session for our Class 1 and 2 students. It was indeed fun-filled and interesting session.



An orientation program was organized for new Class 1 parents and students on 2nd May to familiarize them with the school rules and regulations, school history, and the use of the school diary. On 8th May, a parenting orientation workshop was conducted for the parents of Classes 2 and 3 focusing on early childhood parenting and child development. The school organized an educational tour, on 12th May, for Class 4 students to Tribhuvan Park, Thankot, with the objective of promoting learning through exposure. On the 13th, a Joint School Drawing and Painting Workshop was organized at Kathmandu University High School for the JS students of classes 6 to 8. Students were introduced to new art techniques, including thumb art. A Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) for Classes 9 and 10 was organized, on 22nd May, with the theme "Understanding Your Child." School rules and regulations were revisited, and teachers interacted with parents and students. A one-day educational tour to the Central Zoo, Jawalakhel, was organized for Class 3 students, on 27th May, to promote experiential learning.

**Class-1: Orientation****JS Teachers Workshop****Childhood Parenting**

A parents' meeting held on 25 April brought together more than 150 parents to discuss the revised fee policies and changes in the school routine and examination system. The following day, Scholastic Ranjeet Kullu of the Ranchi Province joined the Community for his second year of Regency. On 27 April, Fr. Stanley Varghese, SJ, Rector of St. Joseph's School North Point, along with an advocate associate, conducted a session on Safeguarding Policies for Children and Vulnerable Adults for the staff and parish elders.

The new academic year unofficially commenced on 28 April with over 95% student attendance. The school formally inaugurated the academic year on 4 May with the theme, "Informed Minds, Discerning Hearts." Leadership formation programmes, orientation for new parents, badge-giving ceremonies, elocution competitions, and Staff Enrichment Programmes marked the vibrant beginning of the year. The school also celebrated a 100% SEE pass result.

**Open air class!****Leadership Workshop****Captains for the year (2026-27)**



The post-Easter blessing of Catholic families has been ongoing in both Sadakbari and Simalbari parishes. A heavy storm on the night of 25th May, caused significant damage to the roof of the Simalbari church shattering several window panes. The month concluded with the Final Vows of Fr. Anil Beck in Maheshpur, the departure of Fr. Manu for Tertianship after 3 years of service, and the farewell of Samuel Prandini, the Italian volunteer, after seven months of dedicated service.

ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

SUJIT MINJ SJ

Fr John Tigga has moved to his presbytery at Infant Jesus church, Gungaram. Kuldeep Topno made a discernment retreat under Fr Cherian Maliekal. The community gave Bipin Bara farewell with Mass, wishing him well for his future. Fr Roberto Jaramillo, Secretary for Social Ecology and Justice from Rome and Fr Jerald D'souza from Delhi made a short visit to the community. Br Robert Lakra had a little delayed celebration at home to mark his final vows in the Society, Fr Simon and Sundeep too joined him for the joyful occasion. Fr Cherian Maliekal was at Pope John Paul Institute of Psychology, Calicut, for his Practical exams in Counseling & Guidance, Year II. The parish is having intensive House blessing; Scholastic Anthony Hembrom spent a few days in the community, assisted the priests in this pastoral ministry. The youth who had gathered at LPC for Ignatian retreat had come to see Gayaganga Mission. On 17th May more than 200 men from the parish went to Sonada on pilgrimage. The Marian Month of May concluded with a procession and Mass on May 28 at the Infant Jesus church, Gungaram, and on 31 at St Peter's Church, Gayaganga.

St Peter's School contributed for the smooth conduct of the assembly elections by making its facilities available for two booths besides all Jesuits being on election duty at various booths till after midnight. This year the class X and XII results were much better. All Commerce students secured First Division, All Science students, save one, too had First Divisions. Most of the students from Humanities secured first or high second divisions. (A total of 253/260 students passed). There is a lot of rush for the admission in Class 11 forcing the headmaster to apply to WBCHSE for permission to admit an additional 100 students.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, JAWALAKHEL

LEO ALPHONSE SJ

The new academic year officially commenced on May 4th with a warm welcome programme for the newly appointed Jesuit Fathers and teachers. The school proudly welcomed its new Principal, Fr. Leo Alphonse Raj, and Vice-Principal of Administration, Fr. Deven Yonzon, along with several new faculty members. On this very first day, students who secured a perfect 4.0 GPA in the final terminal examinations were honored with certificates of appreciation.

On May 13th, six students represented the school at the Joint School Art Workshop held at Kathmandu University High School. The workshop provided a unique opportunity for students to nurture their artistic talents by painting directly with their hands, without brushes-while collaborating with peers from various schools. On May 15th, Class 9 students participated in a hike to Switzerland Park. The programme was designed to help students to appreciate the beauty of nature and become more attuned to God's creation. A Nepali Elocution Programme was organized for Grades 1-5 on 21 May; and on the following day a Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) was conducted for Class 6. The session focused on orienting parents about the unique challenges faced by "Generation Alpha" students, while also providing a valuable platform for open interaction with class and subject teachers. On May 23rd, the school organized the Inter-House Junior Basketball and Senior Football Tournaments.

The Scout Department conducted Scout Leadership Camp for Senior Scouts, Patrol Leaders, and Troop Leaders from Classes 7 - 9. The 70 participants, focused on developing core leadership skills and strengthening teamwork. The Hiking Club also organized a hike to Nagi Gumba, Shivapuri for the Club members. Forty-four students, accompanied by 7 teachers, explored the trails of the Shivapuri National Park. On May 24th, the school successfully conducted Class 11 entrance examinations, where around 1200 students sat for the Science and Non-Science streams for the upcoming academic session.

The community is entirely new and vibrant, busy in various departments. On 23rd three scholastics from Jamshedpur and Kohima Provinces visited Nepal. Br. P D Vincent joined the community on 16th May.

ARRUPE NIWAS & ST. XAVIER'S DEONIA

ARRUPE NIWAS CORRESPONDENT

The new academic year began on the 4th with the theme Being True Citizens. The theme is intended to elicit in everyone in the school family a desire to be responsible citizens in the wake of the country's political change. We have admitted more than 100 new students to various classes from 1 to 8. An orientation for the parents of the new students was conducted on 9 April. Since Friday is a regular class day, following the government's directives, the activity department had to rework its planned activities to align with the regular working days. 17 scouts and 2 scout masters will participate in the scout jamboree in SXG, organized to mark its 75th anniversary. The Class 11 admission process is underway for the new batch, while the current Class 11 students are appearing for their final examinations.



Orientation Programme for Parents



Class Assembly – Class 10

Fr Sanjay went for a short visit to his home to be with his ailing father. Due to his unbelievably arduous return journey, he missed Anil's final vows. All the Jhapa Jesuits joined us in celebrating the birthdays of Sanjay and Bipin on the 14th. Jiju spends most of his days at HRDC Sanepa working on his PhD thesis and keeping Juel company. Broney went for a health check-up after the province assembly in Siliguri. Bipin has settled down to the life of a staff member at the school. Bosco has been busy keeping the fort and getting the school ready for the new academic year while others were away. We were happy to host a number of our companions who passed through Deonia for Province Days, final vows, and other reasons.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING

JUSTIN BAGE SJ

Anticipating the International Laborers' Day, the LTS team felicitated the Group D and Estate staff, on 30th April, through a cultural program held in the JMJ Auditorium. Acknowledging their significant contribution, Fr Rector urged the students to uphold the dignity of labor on the campus and to show respect by disposing of waste in the proper places. On behalf of the Group D staff, Mr. Sunil Subba expressed that they feel honored when the students excel. The excellent ISC and ICSC results brought much joy and the school celebrated it with a holiday on 4th May. The final match of the Edinburgh Cricket Championship was played, on 3rd May, between North Point and St Paul's School. In the closely contested match, North Point emerged victorious. The school volleyball team won the SD Lama Championship Trophy; and the ISC Volleyball Team won the Anglo-Indian Schools Volleyball Championship held at St. Paul's School. A White Coat was vested on Master Pranav in recognition of his achievements, while Ryan Delek became the second student to receive the Blue Coat for excellence in chess. The winners of the Edinburgh Championship Trophy were also felicitated during the assembly.

The “Gospel Melody” singing for neighboring schools was held at Fraser Hall, North Point, on May 9. A high tea was served to all the students and teachers after the event. An Exhibition was held on May 15 and 16. The quality of the exhibits reflected the students’ academic excellence. NP School organized the World Cultural Day celebration on May 21 with enthusiastic participation from St. Peter’s School, St. Vincent’s School, Loyola School, Infant Jesus’ School and Gandhi Ashram School. On May 23, an Alumni Football Tournament was organized at North Point, in which 18 teams participated. The event brought together former students in a spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie and healthy competition, making it a memorable occasion for the North Point family.



Exhibition



Farewell to Fr Stanley



Gospel Melody



Laborers’ Day

Frs. Anuranjan Ekka and Jayantilal Patel joined the community on 30th April. In a special assembly, on May 11th Fr Patel was welcomed as the new Comptroller of Accounts taking over from Br Vincent who served the institution for nearly sixteen long years. On May 15, during the assembly, Fr Provincial installed Frs Boniface Tigga as the new Rector and Anuranjan Ekka as the Principal. He also thanked Fr Stanley and Br Vincent for their dedicated services. On the same day, a farewell dinner in honor of Fr. Stanley and Br. Vincent P.D. was hosted for the local clergy and religious. On May 22, Fr. Stanley was given farewell by the boarding students and staff, who acknowledged his selfless service and guidance during his tenure as Rector and Principal. Fr. Stanley left North Point on May 23. The community celebrated the birthdays of Frs Justin on 20th and Anuranjan’s on 24th with the Jesuits of the dispersed communities and invited guests.

MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

NOVICE ALOYSIUS T. ANTONY

The month of May was filled with valuable lessons and enriching experiences. The second-year novices began their preaching experiment on 20th April. It was an excellent platform for learning and offered us a foretaste of our future priestly ministry. We were blessed with the visit of Fr Vimal Kishore, Provincial of Patna, on 26th April, when he arrived to meet Aman Tete (Patna Novice). On 1st May, we joyfully welcomed Fr Thomas Nedumparambil, our new Socius. On 3rd May, we were delighted and privileged to participate in the Holy Mass of Confirmation at St Joseph’s Parish. The Mass, celebrated by Bp. Stephan Lepcha, was truly grace-filled and spiritually uplifting. On 6th May, we celebrated the birthday of Novice Jerald. May 11-14 we participated in the Province Assembly, an experience that will remain a cherished memory for all of us. From 15th May, fifteen scholastics of the Darjeeling–Nepal Province made their annual retreat at Manresa under the guidance of Fr Binod Kerkketta. We were also blessed to interact with two dynamic Missionary Cluny Sisters — Sr Pia Lepcha and Sr Mary Magdalene. Their insights and experiences were profound, inspiring, and deeply touching.

PREMANJALI, MATIGARA

ASHISH SOY SJ

The month was full of activities, meetings, visits and celebrations. The community went to Chandragadhi Airport with Fr Leo, who left for Nepal to take up his new mission. Fr Pankaj was hospitalized from 5-11 May. Frs John, Binod, Roshan, Anup and Br. Gilbert stayed at Premanjali during the province assembly. We attended the annual day of North Bengal St Xavier's College on 15th. We welcomed the new Director of Premanjali, Fr Basil Toppo, on 21st May with a simple dinner in which the senior Fathers from Inigo Bhavan joined. Sch. Deepak Jans and Sch. Junit Minj made their annual retreat at Premanjali, directed by Fr Freddy. After a month's holiday, the would be novices are gradually returning to Premanjali.

ST JOSEPH CHURCH, KALIMPONG

JOHN BANERJEE SJ

During the season of Lent, the Way of the Cross was prayerfully conducted every Friday by the BEC members. In preparation for the Easter celebration, the parish organized a one-day recollection, led by Fr. Amrit Rai, which enriched the spiritual lives of the parishioners and helped everyone prepare themselves meaningfully for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was arranged on different days for the Babas, Amas, youth, and Holy Childhood members. The presence, participation and assistance of the priests from St Augustine's School, added solemnity to the Holy Week liturgy.



On 1st May 2026, the parish priest along with parishioners travelled to Nimbong to attend the priestly ordination of Fr. Gabriel Rai. It was a joyous and grace-filled occasion for everyone. The pastoral visit of Bishop Stephen on May 2-3 was truly a blessing for the parish. He administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 40 candidates on May 3rd. The same day also marked the joyful celebration of the Parish Feast. The Baba Samaj lovingly prepared delicious lunch which was shared by all the faithful in a spirit of unity and fellowship.

The Novena to the Holy Spirit began on 15th May, bringing parishioners together in prayer and devotion. Alongside this, daily rosaries were conducted BEC-wise in their respective areas, strengthening family prayer and community bonding.

TIPLING

PETER CHETTRI SJ

Four South Korean Donors along with two SPC sisters came to visit our mission on the first of May. They walked for about two hours to reach our mission, since their vehicle got stuck on the way. The visitors were welcomed after the Saturday Mass. They returned to Kathmandu after meeting the parishioners. We thank Fr. Ayer for taking care of the Tipling mission for two weeks, when Fr. Peter was away. Fr. Ayer left for Kathmandu on 3rd May. Same evening, four students of St. Xavier's came to conduct a two-day social survey in the village and stayed with us. One of the Australian Volunteers, Anaica was given farewell by the Parishioners on 8th May.

The new academic year began on 4th, with new admissions and books distribution. The class ten results were announced on 12th; only one of the 14 students who wrote the exams, passed.

Fr. Norbert returned from his home visit on 10th and attended the Province Assembly, while Fr Peter took care of the parish. And when Fr Norbert returned to the mission on 15th, Fr Peter left the mission, with five youths to attend the Ignatian youth retreat at Matigara.

PRABHU JISU PARISH, MATIGARA

SAMUEL SIMICK SJ

The month of May, began with a solemn evening Mass and common Rosary prayed before the Shrine of Our Lady of Health.

On May 2, Fr Pankaj Kerketta gave a short motivational talk to the babas of the parish in preparation for Father's Day. The following day, May 3, the parish celebrated Fathers Day with a solemn Sunday Mass. The Mahila Sangh, and the youth of the parish generously hosted the program, which included games and a festive breakfast for all. The presence of Fr Basil throughout the celebration was deeply appreciated, thanks to all the other priests who joined in the Holy Eucharist.

A significant milestone was the election of new youth leaders. They actively assisted in the Jesuit Youth Retreat organized at LP from May 17-21 May. The parish now has a new car and the parish priest is making use of it, engaging himself in the cherished duty of blessing the families and their homes. He also guided Schol. Deepak Jans in his annual retreat.



Class Assembly – Class 10



Baba Diwas



WOODCOT, KURSEONG

JOHN KENNEDY SJ & PETER BHUJEL SJ

The director met with the collaborators regarding the Woodcot-SOJASI programs, with a focus on reimagining and restructuring our works to make them relevant for the present generation.

Fr. John Kennedy gave a lecture titled "Mental Health in the Digital World," at Kurseong Government College on the occasion of their annual fest, on 23rd May. He also led an Ignatian retreat for 23 Sisters of Notre Dame (SND) at West Point, Darjeeling, from May 24.

As a part of the Substance Abuse Awareness Campaign to spread right information and knowledge about addiction and its varied dynamics, Fr Peter had satisfying and meaningful sessions for Baba Samaj of St Vincent de Paul's parish, Hatighisa and for 8-10, & 12 students of St Vincent de Paul's school, Hatighisa.

He also had a day-long sessions for 27 theologians of POP (Pre Ordination Programme) at Woodcot, Kurseong. He directed an 8- day retreat for 33 scholastics of the Chennai Province based on the Ignatian and also on the Alcoholic Anonymous spirituality at the Franciscan Friary at Kotagiri in Ooty, Nilgiri Hills.

HAYDEN HALL, DARJEELING

RAJASHEKARAN SJ

During May 2026, Hayden Hall Institute continued to strengthen its community-based interventions through a series of outreach, health, education, and awareness programmes across Kalimpong. Community Development Workers (CDWs) actively carried out home visits, sick visits, postnatal care (PNC) visits, Self-Help Group (SHG) meetings, counselling sessions, and community mobilization activities in several areas including Singamari, Raniban, Dooteriah, Nimbong, Pabong, Singee, Butcher Busty, and Limbu Gaon.

A range of awareness sessions were conducted focusing on critical social and health issues such as hepatitis, hypertension, jaundice, alcoholism, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, adolescent health, and early marriage.

Nutrition Day celebrations and mothers' meetings were also organized to promote child nutrition, maternal health, and hygiene awareness among community members.

In observance of International Nurses Day, a medical camp was organized in collaboration with Gitdubling PHC and Hayden Hall Institute. The programme provided health awareness, basic medical support, and community counselling services, benefiting local residents and strengthening community-health institution linkages.

A field interaction and review meeting was conducted at Tanyang involving CDWs, teachers, supervisors, and programme staff to review ongoing interventions and discuss future strategies. The meeting focused on educational support, youth engagement, health awareness, and challenges faced by remote communities. Key concerns identified included school dropouts, migration, substance abuse, limited access to government welfare schemes, and the growing need for integrated community development initiatives. Plans were also discussed for strengthening educational activities, conducting regular community meetings, and organizing Environment Day programmes.

Additionally, an awareness programme on Domestic Violence, Child Protection, One Stop Centre services, and government welfare schemes were organized at Gasok in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Department. The programme enhanced awareness regarding legal protections, child rights, welfare entitlements, and institutional support services. Discussions during the programme also highlighted the potential need for establishing an Outreach Education Centre for children residing in the remote areas.



Class on Early Marriage



Women with Madame Lorena

As part of its livelihood and women empowerment initiatives, women beneficiaries from Kalimpong participated in an exposure visit to Crookety House, where sessions on livelihood development and self-employment encouraged participants towards income generation, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance.

JESU ASHRAM, MATIGARA

SHIJU MATHEW SJ

The month of May at Jesu Ashram, Matigara, was filled with joy, learning opportunities, celebrations, and renewed hope for the patients, staff members, and nursing students. Jesu Ashram welcomed two new GNM staff members, Ms. Lucy Kujur and Ms. Probita Ekka. Their arrival brought new energy and support to our healthcare ministry.

One of the major highlights of the month was a three-day orientation programme conducted by Ms. Rachana Verma from Bangalore, specialized in education, inclusion, and community health. Her sessions inspired both staff and students. On 2 May, she conducted an orientation programme for first-year nursing students on the topic "Your First Step Toward Professional Excellence," and on May 4 for all the nursing students on the topic "Progress with Purpose," motivating them to grow with vision and responsibility. Later that day, she conducted a session for staff members on the theme "Sacred Service, Professional Excellence," focusing on compassionate healthcare, workplace values, and professional commitment. The programme was highly appreciated and significantly strengthened the morale of staff and students.



Lamp Lighting



Staff Orientation



Staff Upgrading



St Mary's Students, Pradhan Nagar

On 15 May, Jesu Ashram was blessed by the visit of around 80 students and teachers from St. Mary's School, Siliguri. Fr. Shiju Mathew SJ, introduced the mission and services of the institution and explained its work among poor and vulnerable communities. The students and staff interacted with patients, visited the wards, and gained awareness about social responsibility and compassionate service. They also participated in tree planting activities to promote environmental awareness and care for creation.

Another important event was the celebration of International Nurses Day, Staff Day, and the Lamp Lighting Ceremony, held on 15 May. Sixteen second-year nursing students participated in the Lamp Lighting Ceremony.

The programme began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Fr. Shiju Mathew SJ, Director of Jesu Ashram; Fr. Edward, Superior of Jesu Ashram; Sr. Julita, Nursing Superintendent; Dr. Anand; Dr. Sanyukta Liu; Miss Bimla Toppo; a staff representative; and Ms. Julita Lakra, representing the second-year students. Dr. Sanyukta Liu delivered an inspiring speech on the life and mission of Florence Nightingale, highlighting her dedication to nursing, and her lasting influence on modern healthcare systems. She explained how Florence Nightingale's emphasis on hygiene, sanitation, and scientific healthcare management continues to shape nursing education and public health practices today. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Shiju Mathew SJ reflected on the deeper meaning of nursing and healthcare ministry. He emphasized that nursing is not merely a profession but a vocation and ministry of healing, where patients may forget medicines but never forget kindness, dignity, and care. The celebration concluded with colorful cultural programme.

Jesu Ashram continues to conduct the Certificate Course in Community Health under the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Vocational Education Programme. Currently, sixteen young women are receiving practical training in two batches at Naxalbari Primary Health Centre and Dr. Chhang's Specialty Hospital. The students receive hands-on exposure in community healthcare settings to strengthen their practical knowledge, clinical skills, confidence, and professional competence.

On 18 May, Jesu Ashram organized the Annual Report Presentation Programme 2025–2026, where staff members presented departmental reports and healthcare statistics. Discussions included patient admissions, discharge records, referral cases, diagnostic services, outreach programmes, leprosy care services, laboratory investigations, ambulance services, food services, and healthcare support provided to patients. Staff members also discussed ways to improve infrastructure, hygiene, hospital care, and patient services.

Dr. Sanyukta Liu conducted a staff upgrading programme on Hospital Management Systems on 21 May, helping staff strengthen their understanding of healthcare administration and hospital operations.

Throughout the month, Jesu Ashram was encouraged by visits from well-wishers, Nursing Students from NBMC&H, Nursing students from Navjeevan College of Nursing, Gayaganga, local donors, and friends of our mission. Their generous support and presence continue to strengthen our service to the poor, sick, and the destitutes.

We remain deeply grateful to God for His blessings and to all our mission partners.

SXSSC, JAWALAKHEL

MS. PRATIKSHYA DHAKAL

After the final examination, during the holidays, SXSSC conducted different activities: viz. drawing, speech, quiz, Table Tennis, Carom, etc. The winning teams got attractive prizes.

The Social Audit was completed at St. Xavier's Social Service Center, Jawalakhel, on the 26th. More than 40 participants from the government, the police, club members, school teachers, and neighbors attended this public hearing. SXSSC, Jawalakhel, admitted new students on the 27th. The Aruna Bhavan also admitted four new girls in the hospice from Okhaldhunga, Jhapa, and Sudur Pachim. Nirmala Tamang and her family gave away clothes for girls on the 28th of April. The center appreciates Nirmala, her family, and Laxmi Sir.

With the help of Karen and her husband, the Aruna Bhavan girls planted varieties of flower saplings. The counselling sessions have started in both centers by Sr. Carmelita from the 2nd May. On the following day, Fr. Juel called for a staff meeting which focused on students' academics and discipline, staff attendance, clear boundaries and responsibilities of staff and volunteers, staff police verification report, maintaining documents, and the procurement policy.

On the 4th May, Ms. Karen came to Aruna Bhavan for a counseling class for girls of standard Nine. The SEE girls received their board exam results on the 4th of May, securing very encouraging GPAs. Fr. Juel met the inmates, exhorting and encouraging them to do well in their studies and behavior.



Counselling Session



Kitchen Garden



Nirmala Tamam's Family



NCWC Authorities Visit

National Social Welfare Council authorities visited St. Xavier's Social Service Center, Jawalakhel, and Aruna Bhavan, Nakhipot, for field reporting. The result of Class 11 is out, and Plus 2 results are eagerly awaited. There was a family reintegration programme for four outgoing boys and girls in the presence of a representative from the Ward Office. These students have completed their class 10 and 12 while staying in the Center. They left the center with sadness but with excitement for the next chapter.

On 22 April, the Kamal Niwas community had a dinner with ten relatives of Sr. Precilla and the Good Shepherd community. We also celebrated the birthday and ordination anniversary of Fr. Tek. During his stay of more than one month at Kamal Niwas, Fr. Tek did pastoral work outside the Kathmandu Valley, in Okhaldunga district and Hariban in the terai. On 29 April, Sch. Richie Rex from the Kohima Province came to Kathmandu to visit his research institute in Patan. He stayed with the community for two days.

The NJSI team organized two workshops for activist teachers and school managers separately at Panchkal regional center under the Fe y Alegria program. The Activist Teachers' Workshop was held from 27–29 April to collect feedback about the first year of the program. Nineteen teachers from seven schools participated. The workshop included sharing, feedback, planning for the second year of the FyA program, and a session on intellectual disability.

Another three-day workshop for school managers was held at KRC from 1–3 May. Eleven participants from seven schools joined the program. Along with the sharing and planning for the second year, the participants visited the Disabled Service Association at Karyabinayak to learn more from the center.

On 3 May, Fr. Augustus went for his home visit and returned to Matigara on 11 May for the Province Assembly. Fr Mathew too joined the Assembly on the same day. On his way back, Fr. Mathew visited the terai schools and Maheshpur tea gardens to see the house construction that is going on. Sch. Niroj has been busy with his college studies, fieldwork, and research data collection.



Fr. Mathew took part in Citizens Bank Tennis tournament, in senior category, and won a small trophy for reaching the semifinals.



NJSI Teachers training program



Houses for Tea Garden Laborers

Fr. Tek left Kamal Niwas on 8 May for Matigara to attend the Province Assembly and after that proceed to Sitagarha for his tertianship program. On 17 May, NJSI accountant Raman ended his service here.



ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT
IGNATIAN RETREAT FOR THE YOUTH
OF DARJEELING-NEPAL PROVINCE

Prayash Subba
St. Mary's Kankebong



Matigara: Between May 17th and 21st, the Darjeeling-Nepal Jesuits opened its Loyola Pastoral Center to all young individuals from Nepal and India for the highly anticipated Ignatian Youth Retreat.

Organized to nurture spiritual, emotional, and personal growth, the five-day spiritual gathering helped all of us participants to immerse in the profound depths of St. Ignatius' spirituality, discipline, and fellowship. The successful gathering was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Samuel Simick, SJ, Deacon Reuell Paul SJ, Deacon Christ Rajan SJ and other priests and lay volunteers.

The spiritual journey began on May 17th with an orientation and icebreaker session led by the deacons. This set the tone for the rest of the days, helping participants familiarize themselves with the retreat's purpose. Later that evening, Fr. Tej Kalyan, the Province Co-ordinator for Youth introduced us to the dynamics of the Ignatian Examen, thereby planting the seeds for daily self-reflection and spiritual awareness. For the inaugural mass we were grateful to have Fr. Peter Pappu SJ with us. His homily really had us wrapped in attention,

The following day, began with a silent and deeply moving guided meditation by Fr. Peter Chettri SJ after which the deacons laid the theological groundwork with a session on the "Principle and Foundation," while Fr. Samuel later guided the youth through "Experiencing Grace," focusing on the movements of consolation and desolation. Praise and worship sessions, were vibrantly animated and interactions were made possible keeping the group's spirits high. As we moved from moments of silence to interactions and collective worship, Fr. Pankaj and Sch Deepak Jans conducted various self-reflective activities.

"Disconnecting from technology and truly entering into the Examen gave me a sense of peace I hadn't felt in a long time," shared one participant from Baniyatar Nepal, reflecting the retreat's emphasis on a spiritually grounded, technology-free environment. This was made possible due to a very touching "Prayer with the cross" animated by Deacon Reuell. This moment left many of us in tears and we did not realize how the time flew by as we kept vigil alongside each other.

May 19th marked a profound spiritual shift, beginning with a Nature Liturgy animated by Fr. Basil, allowing the youth to experience spirituality through creation. This prepared the group for Fr. Peter Chettri, SJ's session on "Sin, Mercy, and the Call of Christ," which naturally flowed into a deeply moving Adoration and Confession service. The day concluded the Daily Examen led by the theologians. Recognizing the need for continued community support, Mr. Michael a senior figure in this retreat delivered an insightful talk on the Christian Life Community (CLC), explaining the role of lay faithful in daily life.

The spiritual peak of the retreat arrived on the fourth day, as Fr. Ayar led the morning meditation. Following this, we had a session on Contemplation to attain love which challenged us to find God's love in all things through activity and prayer. The day also featured creative expression through vision boards and letter writing, alongside an afternoon exposure visit to the Gayaganga mother church. The Jesuit community there showed us extraordinary hospitality and we had a mini flash mob of sorts at the large courtyard. Another inspiring moment of fellowship under the statue of "Ignatius on the move" – Thankyou Fr. Alvin for guiding us and Fr. Sandip Beck for your creative moments on the mic.

Earlier we were all in awe and deeply stirred by our visit to Jesu Ashram for relaxation and fellowship. We thank the fathers there too for the service they are doing and the lasting impression this visit has left in each one of us.

"These days have helped me visualize my faith in a completely new way. I feel ready to take these Ignatian values back home, and talk to my parish priest to host this for more of my friends" noted a young friend from Kelabari parish.

The retreat would have been incomplete without the inspiring homily of Fr. Peter Chettri on the last day. We felt missioned and commissioned. After which we had the privilege of listening to the provincial Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakkal SJ. Truly his dream for us as young people of the church was motivational and stirring. We are excited for the projects he has for us and we are keenly anticipating to come together to praise, revere and serve Jesus.



We have come back to our starting points inspired to integrate these Ignatian teachings into our daily lives. And to all the volunteers of Prabhu Jisu Girja, the director and his team at Loyola Pastoral center and the Jesuits whom we may have failed to mention at the moment – we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Millions of thanks for planning and executing this successful retreat. When are we meeting next?



REST IN PEACE

- *Fr. Arulanandam Arockiam SJ (MDU 79/62) died on 04.05.2026 in Dindigul.*
- *Fr. Carvalho Aloysius Patrick SJ (CCU 96/76) died on 06.05.2026, at St Xavier's, Kolkata.*
- *Fr. Jeyaraj Michael SJ (MDU 88/71) died on 06.05.2026 in Dindigul.*
- *Fr. George Varangalakudy SJ (KER 80/60) died on 06.05.2026 in Kozhikode.*
- *Fr. Ravi Santosh Kamath SJ (KAR 86/67) died on 08.05.2026 in Mangaluru.*
- *Br. Sebastian Lobo SJ (BOM 93/68) died on 28.05.2026 at Vinayalaya, Mumbai.*
- *Mr. Joseph Francis (87), father of Br. Clarence Joseph, died on 02.05.2026 in Patna.*
- *Mrs Naitho Lukose (91), mother of Fr. K.L. George, died on 24.05.2026 in Ernakulam.*



June

Happy Birthday

01 Jayantilal Patel

06 Sheetal Kiro

12 Michael Parent

12 Norbert D'Souza

15 Shaji Joseph

20 Santy Mathew

22 Augustine Amakkatt

26 John Wilfred Lobo

29 Aloysius Anthony

29 Irenius Guria

29 Markus Narzary



In Memoriam: June



**Fr. Arthur
Rasquinha SJ**

01 - 06 - 2013



**Fr. Van
Walleggem SJ**

01 - 06 - 2015



**Bro. Nicolas
Johannesma SJ**

04 - 06 - 2005



**Fr. Anthony
Milledge SJ**

09 - 06 - 2014



**Fr. Camil
Humbert SJ**

23 - 06 - 1972



**Fr. Philip
Xalxo SJ**

23 - 06 - 2010



**Fr. Emile
L'hoir SJ**

26 - 06 - 1978



**Fr. George
Coutinho SJ**

28 - 06 - 1987



**Bro. Franics
Basumatary SJ**

29 - 06 - 2021

POPE'S INTENTION FOR JUNE 2026



FOR THE VALUES OF SPORTS

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.