



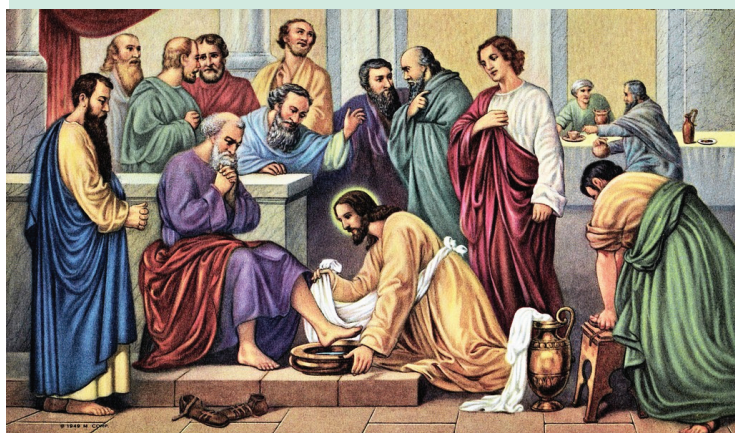
Xavier Sadan, 9/3 Middleton Row, Kolkata 700 071 West Bengal INDIA

CJNL - 683

April - May 2020

2020/04

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME



APPOINTMENTS BY FR. GENERAL

Fr General appoints **Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess** as the Provincial of Ranchi Province. He takes over on 23. 05. 2020.

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Fr. Provincial's program for April-May 2020 will be communicated to you once there is more clarity regarding the Covid-19 situation.

HE LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME



Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages
"curing every disease and illness." and at your command,
the sick were made well. Come to our aid now,
in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus,
that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus.

May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear,

which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.



CALCUTTA JESUITS : NEWS AND VIEWS

St. Xavier's Kolkata

XAVULAS 2020, 'Bhasa Divas' was celebrated on February 21, 2020. **Fr. Milton D'Costa** and Sanjeev Koner, visited the Dhaka University and two more Universities in Bangladesh to mark the International Mother Tongue Day with appropriate cultural functions. The delegation from St. Xavier's College was well received by the officials of the Universities in Bangladesh. Another delegation visited, St. Joseph's college, Trichy, Tamilnadu, and initiated the International Mother Tongue celebration. As the culmination of the celebration, students went on a procession from St. Xavier's College Hostel with a torch and reached the Main Campus on Park street for the final cultural program in which the Bangladesh High commissioner and other officials actively participated. In another function, ten prominent intellectuals who have made immense contributions to the Bengali language and culture were felicitated by the college authorities.

'COFRADIA' the College Hostel Day, was observed on February 23, 2020. The daylong celebration commenced with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by **Fr. Dominic Savio**, the principal. **Fr. Jeyaraj Vellusamy**, the Rector, presided over the grand evening Cultural extravaganza and distributed prizes for various categories.

The NCC unit of St. Xavier's College, was given an award by the Governor of West Bengal on February 25, 2020. **Fr. Dominic Savio** along with other NCC Cadets attended the ceremony at the Rajbhawan.

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata, was selected to be the Host College for the Inter College State Sports and Games under the aegis of the Department of Higher Education, Education Directorate, Government of West Bengal for the 2019-2020 academic year. The staff and students of the College under the able leadership of **Fr. Dominic Savio**, the Principal, went to oversee the smooth conduct of this mega event that was held on February 21-29, 2020 at the Sports Authority of India, Netaji Subhas Eastern Centre. It was funded by the Government of West Bengal and this meet was held in three disciplines: Football (Men), Kho Kho (Women) and Athletics for Men and Women. Nineteen Districts from all over the state sent up district level winners to participate in this State level competition. The event being a resounding success, the College earned a great appreciation from the Department of Higher Education.



In the first week of March, **Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy**, the Rector of St. Xavier's Kolkata, shared with the College teaching

Staff of various departments on the topic: the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) of the Society of Jesus. In his talks, **Fr. Jeyaraj** also stressed on the importance of Jesuit Education in the present context.

The Department Of Management Studies conducted a Workshop on Anti Plagiarism Software 'iThenticate' on March 5, 2020. The resource person was **Dr. Madhu Agnihotri**, Professor of IT department of St. Xavier's College. St. Xavier's College Xaverian Astronomical Society in Collaboration with Department of Social Work & NSS presented an Interactive Session with Jhanjra High School students - "Beyond The Stars" on March 14, 2020.

The College is closed from March 16, 2020 to April 15, 2020 as of now and the Staff are asked to send the prepared notes through online to the students to study at home. The St. Xavier's College, School, Staff and the Alumni members together contributed forty Lakhs (40 Lakhs) to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to fight the Coronavirus outbreak. The College Alumni of various national and international Chapters are generously extending their helping hands by distributing food, medicines and other essentials to the needy and suffering people during this critical time of lockdown in India and other parts of the world.

-Fr. M.S. Arockiasamy & -Fr. Joseph Kulandai

Kindly Pray for Our Sick Companions:

Fr. Carvalho is becoming weaker physically. Spiritually, he is ever strong and serene. Of late his back pain seems to be returning.

Fr. Gaston is alert and responds to visitors well, sometimes in French and sometimes in English. His health is steady

Fr. David Paul raj is taking rest, after his treatment for kidney stone. He is better.

Fr. Arul Joseph is admitted at Paramount Clinic, with fever/typhoid, on 1st April.

Fr. Panimegam (DUM): He is making steady progress with his daily physiotherapy sessions.

Fr. Benjamine Tigga (DUM) too is making progress with physiotherapy. He hopes to be able to sit up slowly. He remains lying in bed most of the time. He too is responding well

Fr. Markus (DUM) is having his regular Chemo, once in three weeks. He is cheerful. His health fluctuates.

Fr. P.J. Joseph is resting in the infirmary as he feels extrem weakness.

Despite the Lockdown, the infirmary staffs are able to come and provide good service in the infirmary.

-Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy

Information:

Publication: Cave of Plenty - a retreat manual by **Fr. George Ponodath SJ**, published by St. Pauls, Pages: 376. Price Rs. 350

New website for Udayani Social Action Forum: www.udayani.org

"Around us there is the presence of evil. The devil is at work. But in a loud voice I say, GOD IS STRONGER"

- Pope Francis

St Xavier's University Kolkata

St. Xavier's University celebrated its 4th Foundation day on February 8. The Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Shri Jagdeep Dhankar along with the First Lady, Smt. Sudesh Dhankhar graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Purnendu Roy, MD and Chairman of Genesis Hospital delivered the Foundation Day lecture on "Physical and Mental Health of Students to shoulder responsibility as leaders".



Fr. Sebastia L. Raj visited Myanmar to be with his ailing eldest sister who lives there. He conducted a one-day Faculty Development Program on 'Becoming effective collaborators' for all the Faculty members and Officers of the University on February 24.

Fr. John Romus of the Diocese of Raiganj has joined SXUK with the effect from March 2, 2020.

Fr. Felix Raj inaugurated the Two-Day National Conference at St. Anne's Degree College for Women, Bangalore on February 5, 2020. He was honored with the Rotary award for Excellence by the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan on March 7.

St. Xavier's University celebrated Bhasha Divas in collaboration with the Alumni Association and St. Xavier's College on February 19. The Economics Society of the University organized the first Economics Summit on March 14, 2020. The University Hostellites celebrated their Hostel Day on March 12.

St. Xavier's University, Kolkata Student Board organized a free Health Check-Up program for all the students, faculty and staff in collaboration with Apollo Gleneagles Hospital, Kolkata on February 22 as part of XAVRANG 2020 celebration. Xavrang 2020, the second edition of the student annual fest was celebrated on February 28-29 and March 1-2.

Hon'ble Justice Subhro Kamal Mukherjee, former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, inaugurated the Moot Court Hall of Xavier Law School, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, christened as **Fr. Aelred Gomes** Moot Court Hall, on March 7.

The University in collaboration with Islamic Studies Association organized Fr. Victor Courtois Memorial Lecture on March 7. Fr. Victor Edwin was the Guest of Honour and Prof. Yusuf Jha delivered the lecture.

The Women and Gender Development Cell (WGDC) organized a one day seminar on Women Empowerment on March 5 to celebrate the International Women's Day. Xav Ultra Talks were organized by the XCMS (Commerce and Management) with four renowned speakers Mr. Numazar D Mehta, Owner at Selvel One, Mrs. Prochy Mehta, Director at One Ad Display, Mrs. Richa Agarwal, CEO of Emami Art House and Mr. Jawhar Sircar, Chairman and Board of Governors,

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata. They spoke on Women Empowerment with different perspectives.

SXUK is conducting all admissions online. Group discussions and personal interviews to screen aspiring students in the first phase will be held using various virtual platforms. A schedule has been announced to all applicants. For every 50 applicants, a teacher has been assigned to oversee group discussions, interview sessions and written tests. Teachers will have to send the reports to the vice-chancellor. The new session of the two-year MBA course is scheduled to start from July 2020.

- **MS. Ruth De Rosario**

Prabhu Jisur Girja

Community: Fr. Mahananda Singh went for the 'North Zone Leadership Training Program' in Delhi along with four other Jesuits of the Province. **Fr. Cyriac** took care of the needs of the Parish in the absence of Fr. Mahananda. **Fr. P. J. Joseph**, Superior, has gone to St. Xavier's Infirmary for recovering his health-fitness. Fr. Cyriac, the Acting Superior, called for an Emergency Meeting to discuss about the need to safeguard ourselves at this time of crisis created by the COVID-19. **Fr. Dipak Gomes** conducted Lenten Recollections to M.C. Sisters, Nimtola, M. C. Brothers at Mansatala, Loreto Students at Dharmotola and Elliot Road and also to the Parishioners of Our Lady of Dolours Church at Boutakhana, Sealdah and C.L.C. (Monjori) at PJG. He preached a recollection on the 1st Sunday of Lent for the Bangla Radio Veritas (RVA).

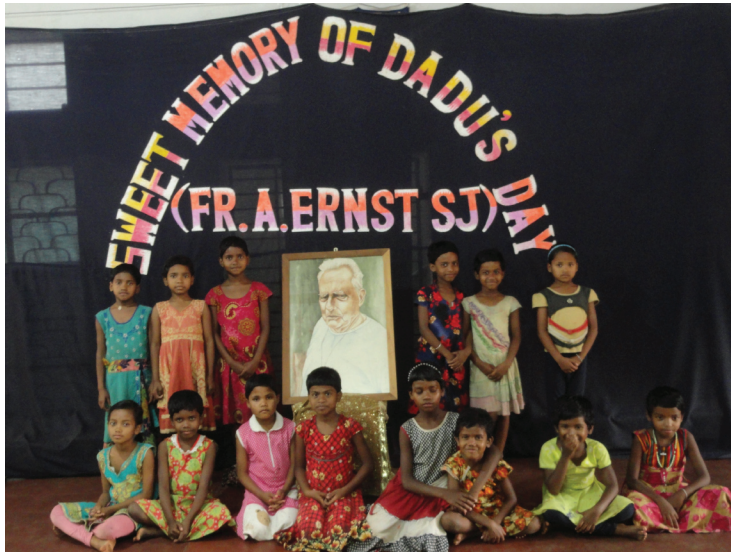
Chitrabani: It celebrated the 16th KSFF at Nandan. The Chief-guest, Mr. Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay, Jadavpur University, the Guests of Honor, Mr. Soham Maitra, an emerging Actor and Ms. Indrani Chakrabarti, Film Maker, inaugurated the 16th KSFF to enliven the spirit of Young budding directors, artists and actors. After the jury selected the Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography and the Best Editing Awards, Dr. G. Mullik of St. Xavier's University, presided over the function and gave away the Awards and Citations to honour the Directors and the Artists. Fr. P. J. Joseph, the Founder of Kolkata Short Film Festival (KSFF), took pride to appreciate the Young Film Makers, thanked the distinguished guests and audience for being part of the festival and the Chitrabani staff for their tireless efforts to make the 5-day KSFF a successful one. Fr. P. Joseph. He also attended the 'Purulia International Poetry



Festival' on March 15. **Fr. Arun Lucas** reached out to Udayani works to be part of its ministry especially for media related matters. Bro. Carlo is looking into the day today matters of Chitrabani in the absence of Fr. P. Joseph.

- **Fr. Arun Lucas**

Premananda Ashram, Chamrusai



The Foundation Day (Dadu's Day) was solemnly celebrated in Premanada Ashram on the death anniversary of Fr. Albert Ernst, on March 14. He was a great pioneer. We had a high Holy Eucharistic celebration for all the faithful, football matches were organized for boys and girls of the Ashram. All the collaborators of the Ashram shared a sumptuous meal together and felt at home. The day was concluded with great funfair and cultural events held in the evening under the leadership of **Fr. Markus Hembrom**. Everyone who had the privilege to spend some time with Dadu, re-lived their experiences. All the students have gone home due to the COVID 19 epidemic. The parish and the holy week activities will be held as per the circular of the Arch Bishop of Kolkata.

-Fr. Sebastian Xalxo

Udayani Social Action Forum

Udayani Social Action Forum celebrated the International Women's Day along with "Sampurna Nari Kalyan Sangathan Bishnupur I Block, Adarsha Nari Sangathan, Jamalpur, Pratyusa Nari Sangathan Pandua Block, Jagrati Nari Kalyan Sangathan, Kalna I Block". The theme was "I am generating Equality; Realizing my rights." The women's day celebration started with the recital of Preamble of the Indian Constitution of India. The women organized traditional dances, songs, poems to bring out the meaning of Women's Day. The speeches highlighted the history of Women's Day and the present condition of women in our country. **Fr. John Kerketta** enumerated the importance of Women's Day in women's life and introduced the Executive Committee Members of the local NGOs to the participants. The women took a special oath to establish equality and eradicate any kind of discriminations in their families and in the society. This year's International Women's Day had a special clown show by Alvaro Neil who cycled the world for thirteen years from 2004 to 2017 covering 1,78,632 km. Alejandro Perez is a scuba diver, likes to do clown show under the water and had a dream of performing clown show in India. These two gentlemen brought smiles on the faces of our women. Alvaro Neil does shows for free of cost for the poor and marginalized people all over the world. He was

in Japan after the tsunami to bring smiles on the faces of the people.

Udayani Social Action Forum celebrated the 46th birthday of Angshuman Ray with his family at Udayani on March 10. Our staff prepared a stupendous cultural program to bring joy to his old mother, who was also sick, but made it a point to be present for the whole program. The children and women from the pavements were special invitees who doubled our joy when they danced in front of us. Fr. John Kerketta gave a beautiful message on service to the poor and the needy.

Fr. Julian Sahayadas, Rector, launched Udayani Social Action Forum's website on March 21 at Udayani. It is available on www.udayani.org.

-Fr. Anburaj

News from Rome

Dear Friends, by the grace of God, all our Jesuit communities in Rome are safe. No one has been tested positive for COVID 19 until today (March 25), although it is totally heart breaking to hear of many elderly people, priests, sisters, doctors and nurses dying in hospitals or at home alone and taken straight to the cremation grounds. Families have neither time to see the dead nor mourn for their beloved ones. North Italy, particularly Lombardia region is the worst affected area. This is not the time to analyze the causes but it is time that we learn to see the hand of God in all these. Amidst this huge global crisis, it is good to see many positive energies and responses emerging.

On March 9, Italy imposed national lockdown to prevent the spread of pandemic COVID-19. Yet, many did not take it seriously. Hence, Italy became the worst affected country in Europe. In Rome, we generally see streets filled with a large number of tourists from every country possible. Hence, it is unimaginable to see Rome, a city that never sleeps, in absolute silence. Streets and piazzas deserted, museums and Basilicas locked, Schools and Universities closed and above all no colorful tourists or migrant vendors from Bangladesh or Africa around. Gregorian University suspended all the formal classes from March 5 for four weeks. We are having online lessons (audio/video recorded lectures, video clips, professors' notes, books, power points, teleconferences, etc.). The rhythm of life at Gesù and Bellarmino communities has changed. We stay more at home, though we can go out with a self-authorizing form. This has given us an opportunity and quality time to build community life - to reach out and take care of the few elderly staff in our communities; to organize common activities (movies, sports, reciting poetry, special prayers, etc.) yet maintaining social distance to avoid physical contacts. We still have our meals and prayers together in the community while keeping a safe distance. We are regularly reminded of the personal hygiene and the instructions of the government to stop the spread of COVID 19. Since the complete lockdown began, we, the three CCU SJs, have not met each other but we try to lift up each other's spirit by regular group 'chit-chat'. Kindly continue to keep all of us in your prayers.

-Sch. Eliash Sarkar



Arunoday, Pre-Novitiate

On March 2, **Fr. Zenith William** came to Arunoday to conduct one of the four sheet examinations for the Calcutta Pre-novices. On March 3, **Sch. Rakesh** left for vocation promotion to Krishnagar Diocese. During the following week we were blessed to have **Fr. Sebastian Xalxo** and **Fr. Sajeew Painunkal** who came to conduct the remaining four sheet examinations. On March 8, **Fr. Vivien Andrew**, the director, went home to meet his father who is diagnosed with cancer. He requests your prayers. **Fr. K.T. Thomas** celebrated his birthday on March 22 which, incidentally, coincided with the 'Janata Curfew'. Fr. Vivien's timely return on the 'Janata Curfew' day brought much cheers to us. All the pre-novices appeared for their Assistancy Examination on March 24. The whole community is remaining indoors and taking precautionary measures against the deadly Corona Virus.

-**Sch. Rakesh Mondal**

Dhyan Ashram

Juniorate: On March 3, we attended the short film festival organized by Chitrabani in Nandan theatre, Kolkata. Since the program took place after our media and film appreciation course at Chitrabani, we were able to analyze and appreciate the short films. We sat for the long awaited Assistancy examination on March 10. The results have been declared and all of us are satisfied by our performances.

On March 14, we the Juniors visited Swami Narayan Temple situated near Dhyan Ashram. Everything that we observed in that place was a learning experience for us: the art and the architecture of the temple, the neat and clean campus, the silent and prayerful atmosphere, the faith and devotion of the people.

March 16 was a day of beautiful experience for us all. We had the opportunity to watch Gopal Kirtan performed by one of our co-workers' (Shambhu's) wife near Khoriberia. The program gave us a taste of the rich religious Kirtan tradition of West Bengal.

The nationwide lockdown due to COVID 19 has greatly affected our life at Dhyan Ashram. We are having regular classes but are unable to go for our ministries. On March 27, we joined the faithful across the world for an hour of adoration devoting our time in praying for humanity. Besides all these we are busy preparing for our forthcoming annual examinations and academy day.

- **Sch. Alex George Jeffry**

Novitiate: We had a community recollection on Ash Wednesday. **Fr. Pierre Jacob** gave practical and inspiring points. It helped us to reflect on the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We had a novitiate community get together on the first day of March. It was well organized by our new MCs and we all got a chance to exhibit our talents and creativity. We made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Good Voyage, Bandel, on March 10, prior to the 'work experiment' of the second year novices. On reaching there, we had a Eucharistic celebration in the main church, seeking God's blessings through the intercession of Our Lady for our spiritual growth in the Society. Prior to the Eucharist, we interacted with the Salesian Fathers and Pre-Novices and experienced their warm hospitality.

The second year novices went for their work experiment to 'Kalahriday', where they experienced the life of workers under the inspiring leadership of **Fr. Saju George**. Unfortunately, they had to cut it short and return to Dhyan Ashram after ten days because of the Coronavirus emergency. Dhyan Ashram is in a lock-down from March 23 to collaborate with the efforts of the government to stop the spread of the virus. The novices, juniors and some of the scholastics who have returned from Pune and Delhi are managing the kitchen and other works in the campus since the workers have been given holidays.

-**Novice Anthony Hembrom (NEP)**

St. Xavier's Burdwan

In the month of March we celebrated the birthdays of **Fr. T.V. George** and **Sch. Stephen Kisku**. Other Jesuits from Gurap, Durgapur, Bankura and Jhanti Pahari had solemnized the occasion. On March 7, 2020 all the Scholastics and **Fr. Sunny** came to Burdwan Jesuit community for their sharing. Our community cordially welcomed the them and ensured a conducive environment for their fruitful sharing. We had a number of community meetings to share and reflect on the Universal Apostolic Planning for our effective Province Apostolic Planning. As required, we drew a tentative Apostolic Action Plan and sent to the coordinator **Fr. Maria Joseph**. **Fr. Mourlin** attended the North Zone Leadership Training in Delhi on March 15-21, 2020. Fr. Mourlin shared that it was all about the art of Jesuit leadership, community animation, decision making skills, etc. Fr. George, the director of XLRI, Delhi campus was the resource person and the animator of the group.

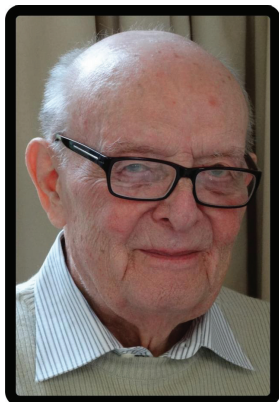
The Valedictory ceremony for the outgoing hostel boys was held on March 5, 2020. Fr. Mourlin celebrated the Holy Mass. In his homily, Fr. Mourlin shared about a bigger "DREAM" and "VISION".

The Department of Commerce of St. Xavier's College, Burdwan organized a workshop on "Classroom Corporate", in association with Xavier's Business School, St. Xavier's University Kolkata. Experts from industry and academic fields were invited to be part of a panel discussion on the topic, "GENERATION 'Z'" in the light of the corporate world and Entrepreneurship. The panellists were Mr. Sabyasachi, HR Schneider Electric Kolkata, Dr. Monodip Ray Chowdhury, Associate professor HR and OB Xavier and Mrs. Sunila Banerjee, Chief Mentor at Bani Communication. They were all felicitated by Fr. Paul Arockiam, the principal.

The AICUF unit of St. Xavier's College, Burdwan in collaboration with the AICUF unit of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata jointly organised ADAYA 2020, based on the theme of "Ghorir Kata" or the rapid changes of various Cultures with time. **Fr. Paul Arockiam**, Principal and **Fr. M.S. Arock**, State animator, West Bengal AICUF and Ms. Trascia, the main guest speaker delivered their speeches. Ms. Trascia spoke about the importance of women in today's modern world and their significance in our lives.

-**Sch. Sebastian Murmu**





Fr. Louis Hincq passed away on 29.03.2020 at Maison Saint Claude La Colombierre, Bruxells, Belgium. He was almost 98 years old.

He was born on 25.05.1922, joined the Society on 07.09.1940, ordained on 21.11.1953 and took his final vows on 15.08.1958. He arrived in India on 17.02.1947. He did his Regency at St. Xavier's Calcutta, Language study at St. Lawrence, Theology at St. Mary's Kurseong, Tertiariaship at Sitagarha.

He was a teacher, prefect and Headmaster of St. Xavier's School, Calcutta, Teacher and Headmaster of St. Xavier's Burdwan. Then, he was the treasurer and a teacher, in-charge of Higher Secondary section at St. Xavier's Calcutta. He returned to Belgium for good on September 21, 1981. On December 11, 1992 he was transcribed to South-Belgium Province.

Fr. Guy Vanhomission, the superior of Masion Saint Claude La Colombierre, writes, "He had been a member of the community practically since the beginning. Like all of us, the nurses and the personnel are very much affected, for he was an excellent companion. Let us pray for him. A thanksgiving mass shall be celebrated here in the community tomorrow, at 10AM. He had asked to be incinerated, which shall be done on Friday only.

We give thanks for the beautiful life of this very fraternal companion. Please do pray that he might find eternal peace and rest in the presence of God.

We had the thanksgiving mass for Fr Hincq on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, with nobody from outside, only the community members. Fr Hincq had given his body for medical research to the medical department of Namur University. Because of the corona virus situation, it was impossible to do so. He had added that if it was not possible, he would like to be incinerated. Cremation shall take place tomorrow Friday April 3, 2020, morning, and the ashes will be placed in the cemetery of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre where many Jesuits have been buried. Because of the sanitary restrictions, I shall go alone, bringing a few flowers sent by Mr. Amitava Mukerjee, an old boy from SXHS (1960-1961). We miss a good companion, serviceable and a man with a good sense of humour."

-(Fr. Guy Vanhomission)



**"Life and love
are measured
by service to others,"**

Pope says in Palm Sunday message



Rest In Peace

Fr Felix Tirkey (DUM, 52/28), passed away on 02.03.2020 in Bathbanga, Sahibganj, Jharkhand

Fr. Geoffrey Michael Meagher (HAZ, 77/59) passed away on 05.03. 2020, at Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata

Fr. Petrus Kerketta, (MAP, 71/51) died on 09. 03. 2020 at Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur

Fr. Arakal Jacob (AND, 96/75) passed away on 12.03.2020 at Loyola Academy, Secunderabad

Fr. Dominic Muthedath (PAT, 85/63) passed away on 20.03.2020 in Patna.

Fr. Andrews Koluvaan (DUM, 72/48) passed away on 29.03.2020

Fr. Louis Hincq (EOF, 98) passed away on 29.03.2020 in Bruxelles, Belgium.

Fr. Valentine De Souza (GUJ, 92 / 74) passed away on 06. 04. 2020 Our Lady of Pilar Hospital, Vadodara, Gujarat

Mr. Eliyas Toppo (81), father of Fr. Joseph Toppo, passed away on 26.03.2020 in his home.

**CJNL wishes you all a joyful experience of
the Resurrection of the Lord!**



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