



LOYOLA NIKETAN, BILASPUR, C.G., India

April, 2021

Year 42, No. 04

From Provincial's Desk



We are Easter People

What is Easter for me? What is Easter for us? In one of his sermons at his cathedral in North Africa, St. Augustine told the faithful, "You are an Easter People and Alleluia is your song."

"Alleluia" means "Praise God," or in an ancient verse, it means, "Thanks be to God." To be an Easter Person, therefore, is to be a person filled with praise and thanksgiving for God's favors and blessings. It means to be grateful for everything – for people, family, friends, society, country, nature, ecology, creatures, events, thoughts, words, deeds ... for everything on earth. An Easter Person is one who is able to look at another person – rich or poor, black or white, belonging to a high class or a low class – in the spirit of God and say, "You are good and I thank God for you."

In the liturgy of the Easter Vigil, we started the liturgy with the lighting of the Pascal Candle which burnt itself and brightened the place for others around. We are called to be that light with a power to illuminate the space and people, with the power to enlighten ourselves and people we meet.

We who follow the Risen Lord, are called to be an Easter Person, in other words, to be a light-giver, to be a life-giving illumination in the darkness of this world and in the dark corners of peoples' hearts. How could we do it? We could do it by being a loving person, joyful, peaceful, generous, humble, caring, helpful, faithful, gentle and kind person and by sharing what we have with the needy. These are the fruits of the Spirit of the Risen Jesus.

We are passing through a unique time of the history of the universe – walking through the valley of fear and death caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Let us be good Easter People by praying for the victims of Covid-19, by being helpful, gentle and kind to the afflicted, by generously sharing our resources with the needy and by rendering our services to the poor migrants.

HAPPY EASTER!

Fr. Ravjit Tigga, S.J.

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Date	April 2021	Date	May 2021
01- 04	Easter Triduum, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur	02	Ordination, Akhilsai Bara, Banea
07	Extraordinary Province Consult (zoom)	04	Ordination, Dilip Minj, Musgutri
09	Extraordinary Province Consult (zoom)	06	Ordination, Preetam P. Panna, Darupisa
21-23	Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur (Lockdown)	10	Ordination, Virendra Tirkey, Tamamunda
25-26	Province Consult, Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur	20-21	Province Assembly, Asha Deep, Pathalgaon
28-29	Visitation, XIDAS, Jabalpur		
30	Meeting, XIDAS, Jabalpur		

Ignatian Retreats for the members of the Province (Ignatian Year Special)

S.No.	Month	Date (evening to evening)	For Whom	Place	Preachers
1	May 2021	22 - 30	Priests & Brothers	Ashadeep, Pathalgaon	Fr. Alphonse Tirkey
2	June 2021	02 - 10	Priests & Brothers	Ashadeep, Pathalgaon	Fr. Pancratius Minj
3	October 2021	18 - 26	Priests & Brothers	Ashadeep, Pathalgaon	Fr. Agapit Tirkey
4	November 2021	01 - 09	Priests & Brothers	XISA, Raipur	Fr. Leander Xalxo
5	December 2021	27 - 04, 2022	Priests & Brothers	Campion, Bhopal	Fr. Christi Kujur
6	March 2022	07 - 15	Priests & Brothers	Ashadeep, Pathalgaon	Fr. Stephen Ekka
7	May 2022	02 - 10	Scholastics	Ashadeep, Pathalgaon	Fr. Manoj Toppo
8	May 2022	02 - 10	Scholastics	Ashadeep, Pathalgaon	Fr. Rakesh R. Bara
9	May 2022	02 - 10	Scholastics	St. Xavier's Ambikapur	Fr. Arvind Tirkey
10	May 2022	02 - 10	Senior Priests	Khrist Milan, Namna	Fr. Alok Kujur

Note:

All members of the Province are recommended to make one of these Ignatian Retreats on the occasion of the Ignatian Year. There will be **six** retreats for Fathers and Brothers (28-30 participants in each group), **three** retreats for Scholastics (33 participants in each group) and **one** retreat for the Senior Fathers in Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna. All Fathers and Brothers are requested to give your names to Fr. Alphonse Tirkey, S.J. indicating the month, date and the name of the preacher. Fr. Dilip Soreng, S.J. will divide the groups for the Scholastics.

TERTIANSHIP

	Name	FROM	TO
1	Fr. Alok Kujur	AICUF, Bhopal	Kandy, Sri Lanka
2	Fr. Arvind Tirkey	Prakash School, Pathalgaon	SSC Sitagarha
3	Fr. Manoj Toppo	Jayanti Niketan, Kota	Shembaganur
4	Fr. Rakesh Richard Bara	St. Xavier's School, Moirang, Manipuri	Shembaganur
5	Fr. Simon Aind	Campion School, Mariado	SSC Sitagarha

TRANSFERS 2021-22

	Name	FROM	TO	Designation
1	Fr. Akhilsai Bara	Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur	Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur	Asst. P.P., in-charge CLC & AICUF
2	Fr. Alexius Lakra	Campion, Raipur	Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur	Principal, St. Xavier's H. School & Treasurer
3	Fr. Alok Toppo	St. Joseph Niwas Kerakachhar	AICUF, Bhopal	Director
4	Fr. Amritlal Xalxo	XISA, Raipur	JVM, Pathalgaon	Livelihood Project & Tarumitra at Rajpur (Lailunga Rd.) & Jhingo
5	Fr. Anil Tirkey	St. Xavier's, Ambikapur	Loyola, Bhiswar	Acting Superior & Principal
6	Fr. Dharam K. Lakra	XIDAS, Jabalpur	XIDAS, Jabalpur	Director
7	Fr. Dilip Minj	St. Francis Xavier Church, Boirdadar,	St. Joseph Niwas Kerakachhar	Asst. PP & Teacher, RVTC
8	Fr. Dino Toppo	St. Francis Xavier Church, Bandiakhar	Prakash School, Pathalgaon	Treasurer, Teacher, in-charge Farm & Garden
9	Fr. Eligius Kandulna	Jiwandhara Ashram, Mauhapali	St. Xavier's, Baikunthpur	Teacher, Hostel In-charge
10	Fr. Godfried Ekka	Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna	St. Ignatius Church, Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	Minister & Assistant P.P.
11	Fr. Isaac Kujur	St. Xavier's, Rajpur	Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna	Treasurer, Chaplain, Holy Cross Hospital
12	Fr. Kuldeep Kujur	Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur	Loyola School, Bilaspur	Teacher
13	Fr. Milyan Xaxa	Tertianship	St. Xavier's Ambikapur	Director, Apostolic School, Teacher, Counselor
14	Fr. Panka Toppo	Campion, Bhopal	XIDAS, Jabalpur	Act. Superior, Administrator & Faculty member (Coordinator RM)
15	Fr. Polycarp Xalxo	St. Xavier's School, Rajpur	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	Acting Sup., Manager, Nirmala Sch. & St. Xavier's Sch., Rajpur, Co-Pastor
16	Fr. Prabodh Barwa	SSC Sitagarha	St. John Berchmans' Dhanwarkala	Vice Principal & Hostel Prefect
17	Fr. Preetam Prakash Panna	St. Ignatius Church, Namna	Campion School, Raipur	Minister & Teacher
18	Fr. Sandeep Lakra (S)	Apostolic School, Ambikapur	Juniorate, St. Stanislaus College, Sitagarha	Teacher (English)
19	Fr. Tej K. Minj	Loyola, Bhiswar	Campion School, Raipur	Acting Superior & Principal
20	Fr. Vinod Tirkey	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	St. Xavier's, Ambikapur	Principal
21	Fr. Virendra Tirkey	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	St. Xavier's, Rajpur	Minister, Teacher & Bus in-charge, Farm & Garden, Co-Pastor, In-Charge of Karmchari Sangh
22	Sch. Almon Lakra	St. Xavier's Ambikapur	Jiwandhara Ashram, Mauhapali	Minister, Hostel In-charge, Teacher

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES: 2021-22

	Name	FROM	TO	Designation
1	Fr. Alexander Ekka*	XISA, Raipur	XISA, Raipur	Administrator
2	Fr. Bernard Ajay Ekka*	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	Nirmala Ashram, Jhingo	HM Nirmala Sch.& Hostel Warden Berchmans Hostel, Co-Pastor, Mod. CLC, AICUF/AYCM, Parish Youth & Counselor at St. Xavier's Eng. Med. School Rajpur
3	Fr. Bipin Kishore Kujur*	St. John Berchmans' Dhanwarkala	St. John Berchmans' Dhanwarkala	Minister
4	Fr. Michael Ekka*	Campion School, Mariado	Campion School, Mariado	Manager
5	Fr. Michael Tirkey*	Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur	Shanti Bhawan, Jashpur	PCE, In-charge of Construction
6	Fr. Rajesh Xalxo*	RVTC, Kerakachhar	RVTC, Kerakachhar	Hostel Prefect, Co-Pastor
7	Fr. Rajkumar Badne*	St. Xavier's, Ambikapur	St. Xavier's, Ambikapur	Asst. Hostel Prefect

Please note:

1. The asterisk (*) indicates new assignment(s) in addition to the previous responsibility in the same community.
2. All appointments and transfers, unless otherwise communicated, should take effect before or from 10th June, 2021.
3. All the customary procedures and rules have to be followed, namely:
 - All inventories have to be passed on to the successor.
 - Financial transactions have to be cleared before handing over.
 - Handing over has to take place in the presence of the Local Superior, one member of Finance Commission / one member of a neighbouring community, incoming and outgoing persons.
 - A copy of the same has to be sent to the Province Curia by the Local Superior.
4. Official appointments of Parish Priests will be given by the Local Bishops.



Fr. Ranjit Tigga, S.J.
Provincial Superior
Madhya Pradesh Province

JCSA Appointments As on 25 March 2021

By Fr General

Fr Antonysamy Stephenraj, SJ (PAT) – Regional Director, JRS
Fr Francis Pudhicherry (GUJ) – Rector of De Nobili College, Pune
Fr Nirmal Raj Arulanandu (DUM) – Rector of Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi
Fr Sunny Jacob (JAM) – Asst for Mission and Identity for the Secretariat for Education and Jesuit Education Specialist for 'Educate Magis'

By the POSA

Subject to the appointment by CBCI

Fr Jesu Benjamin (DUM) - National Director, AICUF

Jor Bagh, Delhi

Fr Shajumon C.K. (DAR) – Superior
Fr James Arjen Tete (CCU) – Secretary, Formation
Fr Arun Kumar (KAR) – Secretary of Faith
Fr John Ravi Selvan (DEL) – Secretary, JEA
Fr Nelson Gonsalves (GOA) – Asst Finance Officer, JRS

ISI, Bangalore

Fr Francis Balaraj (KAR) – Administrator and Program Head of Social Inclusion and Democracy

ISI, Delhi

Fr Thomas Perumalil (PAT) – Acting Superior
Fr Siji Chacko (PAT) – Director MAIN (Additional responsibility)
Fr Shin Kallungal (KER) – Asst Director, MAIN
Fr Franklin Rex (CEN) – JRS
Fr Alwyn D'Souza (KAR) – Research Scholar
Fr Lancy Lobo (GUJ) – Research Scholar

Satya Nilayam, Chennai

Fr Francis D' Souza (KAR) - Registrar & Treasurer
Fr Arul P Stanislaus (CEN) - Minister and Spiritual Director
Fr Benedict Lakra (RAN) -Spiritual Director
Fr Lindsay Lobo (GOA) – Trial teaching and Asst Program Coordinator of SNRI
Fr Martin Gnanapragasam (AND) – Trial teaching

Papal Seminary, Pune

Fr Antony Raj R (JAM) – Moderator of Philosophers & Spiritual Director
Fr Rocha Rozario (GOA) – Spiritual Director
Fr Linus Dabre (Pune Diocese) – Trial teaching at Jnana Deepa

Jnana Deepa, Pune

Fr Peter Ignatius (PAT) – Registrar and Teacher
Fr George Cordeiro (BOM) – Moderator of PG Students and Manager of PG Block
Fr Biju Vadakkumchery (KER) – Change of residence to PG Block

De Nobili College, Pune

Fr Paul Chemparathy (NEP) – Treasurer
Fr Joji Devara (AND) – PhD
Fr Jagdish Parmar (DAR) – PWP Office relocated to De Nobili College, Pune
Fr Clement Jesudoss (MDU) – Teaching at Jnana Deepa

Vidyajyoti, Delhi

Fr Hector Pinto (GUJ) – Registrar & Treasurer, Vidyajyoti, Delhi
Fr Anthony D' Souza (KAR) – Trial Teaching, VJ
Fr Edwin Philip Rodrigues (BOM) – Teaching, VJ

JRS, Afghanistan

Fr Jerome Sequeira – Country Director

Tertianship

Irudayaraj Manickam (GUJ) - Tertian Instructor, Sitagarha
Fr William Sequeira (KAR) – Tertian Instructor, Kandy
Fr Jose Jacob M (KER) – Tertian Instructor, Shembaganur
Fr Valerian Mendonca (JAM) – Tertianship at Shembaganur

IGNIS

Fr Somy Mathew Mannoor (JAM) – Editor, IGNIS

Gratitude for the services rendered to Common Houses and works of South Asia

Fr Edward Mudavaserry (HAZ)
Fr Michael Thanaraj (JAM)
Fr Christuraj A (CCU)
Fr Jose Thayil (PAT)
Fr George Karuvelil (PAT)
Fr Paul D'Souza (GUJ)
Fr Alex Gnanapragasam (JAM)
Fr Chandy Kumblankal (KER)
Fr Louie Albert (CEN)
Fr Stanislaus Fernandes (PUN)
Fr Linto Kanichai (KER)
Fr Stephen K.C. (DUM)
Fr Keith Abranches (GUJ)

Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur

The Community had its community meeting on 2 March. The main agenda were the reporting of the action taken since the previous community meeting, spiritual preparation for the Holy Week and Easter and presentation of the community budget.

Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial, lost his father, Lt. Alois Amarsai Tigga (87), on 9 March. The funeral Holy Mass was in Lureg Parish Church and the burial was at the court yard, behind the house near the tomb of his mother in Labnipara. Fr. Henry Lakra, Pradeep Ekka, Arvind Vinay Tirkey, Fr. Herman Joseph Minj and Fr. Pancratius Minj had gone for the burial from the community.

Loyola school conducted home exams online for all the classes and practical exams for the students to be appeared in the board exam. The results for the students of home exams were ready printed meanwhile all the schools were declared to be closed by the Govt. due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases. Loyola school too could not distribute the results.

Fr. Emilius Ekka, Province Treasurer, prepared to file the annual return and helped other Societies of the province too. He got the FCRA Account from Delhi and helped other Societies to furnish the same. He visited Baramkela on 27 March to assess the progress of the construction of the additional school building.

The community had a recollection talk by Fr. Henry Angel, SAC and the sacrament of reconciliation received by him on the eve of Palm Sunday, 27 March.

The preparation for the Palm Sunday and the Holy Week was in Progress with much enthusiasm. Meanwhile the Govt. suspended all the religious functions and celebrations. The celebration during the Holy Week and of Easter was confined to the community members.

Scholastics of the community continued their online classes during the month of March. The liturgy and the singing during the Holy Week and Easter were meaningful and helped in devotion. Simultaneously, they were busy towards the end of the month in the preparation for their forthcoming semester exam.

Fr. Herman Joseph Minj

St. Ignatius Church, Namna

The month of March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war and an ancestor of Roman people through his sons Romulus and Remus. His month *Martius* was the beginning of the season for warfare and the festivals held in his honour. Like others we too fought a good fight during the Pandemic of COVID – 19.

The Palm Sunday and the Holy Week services declared all suspended in the Parish. Fr. Pratap was invited by the OMI Fathers to give some classes for the candidates in the first week of March. The women folk of the parish made a pilgrimage to Tapkara and Tamamunda on 14 March. Four buses were used for the purpose. Dn. Preetam took a few classes to the Ursuline Novices.

We celebrated the feast of St. Joseph in the Parish on 21 March. On the occasion of the feast all



fathers were felicitated by the women, youth and children. It was a half-day programme for the daddies followed by festive Lunch. The same day the youth of the parish made a pilgrimage to St. Ignatius Church, Shantibhavan, Jashpur. The youth expressed that they were very happy with the pilgrimage.

Dn. Preetam Prakash Panna

Khrist Milan Ashram, Namna

Sch. Anjay was discharged from Holy Cross Hospital, Ambikapur on 24 February. What a see-off it was: Sr. Diana, Sr. Bincy, Sr. Mamta, and many more doctors and nurses came at the gate to see Sch. Anjay off. They wished him a fast recovery and told him to come after one month. As the time was given to Sch. Anjay to show himself to the doctors after one month, we took Sch. Anjay to the Hospital on 24" of March. Sr. Dr. Manju and Sr. Diana were very happy to see the progress in Sch. Anjay. Though Sch. Anjay could not speak but he expressed his gratitude through his smiles, a sign of yes and

no. He could listen and understand what the Sisters were saying. They suggested community members to talk to him regularly even though he could not speak.



Fr. Marcel Ekka went to the Hospital for dialysis every Wednesday and Saturday. He improved his health and strength. He could talk and walk. Guavas



appeared very well for his stomach he said.

So Fr. Leo, with the help of the workers, provided guavas regularly. Sometimes papaya was replaced for his health. Fr. Lalit Ekka was trying his best to increase his blood count, which was one of the requirements for his eye operation. He took porridge and simple and boiled vegetables only. He passed his time creatively. Fr. Theodore Minj, though he used to forget now and then, tried to write his autobiography. He relished his trip to America very much. He remembered names of places and persons very well. He wished to write everything in a book form. Fr. Antony Parapullil visited his ear doctor and the engineer of his hearing aid. Now his hearing aid is very helpful. He uses it during the Holy Mass and evening prayers.

Fr. Shanti Prakash Ekka

Shantibhawan, Jashpur

The month of March remained enriching. Many activities took place in the premises of Shantibhawan. Several activities took place at the Parish and the School.

St. Xavier's English Medium bagged the first prize for keeping the place neat and tidy. The credit belonged to Fr. Ajay Kerketta, Principal, teaching and non-teaching staff and students for having the aesthetic sense of cleanliness and belongingness.

The Lenten tour was started on 19 February, which went on till 10 March. Two palaces were covered in rural area and one place in the town area daily. Fr. Theodolus, Fulgence, Nirmal, Prabodh, Deacon Akhilsai, and the head catechist were actively involved in the Lenten tour Holy Mass. Sisters of Saint Anne's and Jyoti Niwas joined priests according to their conveniences.

There were three days of charismatic retreat for the parishioners from 12-14 March. The two main preachers, namely Joby and Sebastian, Directors of Divine Retreat centres, Jamshedpur and Dumka, belonging to the order of Vincentian. Along with them, four lay persons were there to help them. They conducted the prayer sessions from 9 AM – 4 PM. The faithful responded positively and took part in the prayer sessions very devoutly. The number of participants was more than the expected.

No sooner than the charismatic retreat was over, there was a three day course for the preparation of marriage from 15-17 March. Frs. Nirmal, Prabodh, and the head catechist prepared 52 participants rigorously. Some of them were without would-be brides and bridegrooms. About 70 youth from Namna, Ambikapur came for the pilgrimage to Shantibhawan on 21 March. Fr. Pratap and Deacon Preetam accompanied the youth.

Fr. Prabodh Barua

Catholic Ashram, Boirdadar

Fr. Kamal Lakra attended his fatally wounded



brother Vinod Lakra, Bank Cashier in Jindal and Sch. Pawan Lakra brought his father Rajesh Lakra to JMJ hospital for dialysis. Fr. Zacharias Lakra was given Corona Vaccine. Fr. Milyan Xaxa rendered medical

assistance at Leprosy centre Shantidan-Raigarh.

Dn Dilip Minj visited home in view of preparation for Ordination. Fr. Marianus Kerketta dropped in the community for relaxation. He appreciated the upcoming School Building.

The Parish celebrated International Women's Day with the theme " Health and Women of today" The Parish youth felicitated them with songs and bouquets. The speakers were Dr. Jenevibha Minj, Dr. Sushma Xess, Sr. Prem Kumari JMJ, and Ms. Christina Baxla.

The birthday of Frs. Martin M. Tirkey, Prabhu Narayan Xalxo and Sch. Roshan Baxla brought joy to the respective communities. All the Jesuits made their joyful days memorable.

The Parish held meetings of all associations, resolved the problem of misunderstanding and helped the parish function smoothly. A one day seminar on Catholic Parenting was organized on 11 March at the parish sponsored by the Family Commission of CG under the initiative of Fr. Saleen Pushpraj of the Archdiocese of Raipur and Sr. Prem Kumari, JMJ.



The city parishes of Raigarh celebrated the "Aba Diwas" in St. Francis Xaviers' Church Boirdadar on the feast day of St. Joseph the patron of the parents. The speaker was Fr. Milyan Xaxa. Fr. Zacharias Lakra explained the purpose and in future the awaiting programmes for fathers in St. Joseph Year. Being Friday, the combined Way of the Cross and Holy Mass ran short of time for personal confession.

The local unit of CRI of Raigarh Diocese had a one day recollection in Carmel Convent on 21 March. Sr. Metty, CTC, President welcomed all, and Fr. Milyan Xaxa, led the group into prayer on the topic: "St. Joseph's Spiritual Path". Fr. Zacharias Lakra, S.J. Secretary officiated Eucharist.

Along with the marriage catechumen, the preparatory classes for the Sacrament of Confirmation, fixed on 11 April, were held in Shalini, Regra, and Gopalpur. The CTC Sisters and Teachers

took classes daily while Frs. Zacharias Lakra and Milyan Xaxa went to Regra and Gopalpur everyday. The Lenten Tour Masses concluded successfully.

March 24-25 were allotted for Chrism Mass. Fr. Zacharias Lakra exposed the blessed Sacrament and led the group into reflection for confession on 24th evening. The Newly ordained priests Frs. Anmol Lakra, Sandeep Tigga, Ranjit Kr. Kispotta and Anand Prakash Toppo were welcomed in the community. The Chrism Mass commenced at 6 am next day followed by festive dinner.

Fr. Zacharias Lakra

Jeewandhara Ashram, Mauhapali

Bishop Paul Toppo, D.D., Raigarh Catholic Diocese, was invited by Fr. Sandeep Tigga, S.J., Parish Priest, Mauhapali for a visit of the Parish and to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. He came to Mauhapali on March 21, 2021 after eight years. The faithful welcomed him warmly with a traditional hand-wash and a garland. The Eucharist began at 09.30 AM. The women led the Bishop and the concelebrating priests to the altar with an entrance dance. After the homily on the reading of the day and the power of the Holy Spirit, Bishop called on the names of the candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. After due examination, he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation on 07 candidates. There were 03 local adult faithful in the



group. The Bishop, then, called on the names of 03 candidates who had prepared themselves for the First Holy Communion. He examined and instructed them to be faithful to the teachings of the Church. In response, the candidates offered themselves to the Lord with a prayer. The young candidates of sacraments led the gifts to the altar by a devotional offertory dance. During the Communion, Bishop distributed the Body and Blood of Christ to all those who were confirmed and had prepared themselves

for the First Holy Communion. The choir made the Eucharist soulful and devotional.

After the Eucharist, the faithful felicitated the Bishop and all those who were confirmed and received the First Holy Communion with songs and flowers. The number of the faithful was small but atmosphere was of great joy and happiness. Bishop Paul in his address encouraged the faithful to be devoted in Christian life and works. The small number gives faithful more occasions to practice their faith as well as Christian life. They should not be discouraged but lead an authentic Christian life amidst people of other faiths. Finally, all faithful shared the meal together prepared for the occasion after the Grace said by the Bishop.

Fr. Alfred Toppo

Asha Deep, Pathalgaon

A self-directed eight days retreat was guided by Fr. Alphonse Tirkey for the Deacons from Feb. 19 – 27 at Asha Deep. They prepared themselves for their priestly ordination. They were Deacons - Dilip Minj, Virendra Tirkey, Alok Kumar Toppo, Akhilsai Bara and Preetam Prakash Panna.

The Catechist Certificate training programme was offered from Feb. 14 to March 14, at the centre. There were 17 catechists from different Parishes of Jashpur and Raigarh Dioceses. A month-long training imparted to the catechists knowledge, skills and abilities to their sacred calling.

There was a six days marriage preparation course at the centre for 44 couples from Feb. 22–27. The syllabus for the marriage preparation course helped the couples to learn about the sacred tradition of the celebration of the sacrament of marriage and marital life.

Deacons Cyril and Tobias witnessed a historic day in their life when they received Diaconate Ordination on March 13 at Catholic Church Kanke, Ranchi. This provided a great occasion of the celebration to all Jesuit communities at Pathalgaon.

Fr. Fulchandra Kujur

JVM, Pathalgaon

Jeevan Vikas Maitri observed Women's Day on 8th March at Kilkila with the theme "Choose to Challenge." It affirmed that a 'Challenged world is an alert world, and from challenge comes change.'

The program began with the recitation of the Preamble of the Constitution. Two decisions were taken, first to demand a drinking water facility through *Nal Jal Yojana* for every family and second lift irrigation.

Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp was organized by District Business and Industry Center Jashpur at Sarna Ethnic Resort Jashpur on 13th March in which more than a hundred tribal leaders participated in



which Commissioner Mrs. Jeneviva Kindo, IG RP Sai, Forensic engineer Kujur, Collector M Kavre, SP SL Baghel, DFO S Jadav, SDM Rajpoot and other officials participated and guided the camp. By the officials of the department, Schemes were explained by the officials. Issues were addressed by the dignitaries. The officials responded assured to help the tribal entrepreneurs.

Fr. Yacub Kujur

Dhanwarkala

About 60 Kodakus participated in a Maha Sammelan organized by Sarva Adivasi Samaj in Raipur on 23rd of February. It was an eye-opening event for Kodakus who interacted with different tribals of Chhattisgarh. Beside the meeting they had their Raipur Darshan. They visited Naya Raipur, the airport, Purkhauti Angan, XISA and Mantralaya, and other places. Many of them visited Raipur first time.

Rev. Bishop Patras Minj S.J. D.D. Ambikapur diocese visited Dhanwar on 5th of March. It was a graceful moment for the Dhanwar Family to receive His



Lordship and discuss with him about the Kodaku Mission. He visited several Kodaku villages on the

next day and celebrated Holy Mass for the parishioners and school children. He blessed the newly installed machine for the sanitary pad.

The International Women's Day was observed on 8th of March with much zeal and enthusiasm. Sr. Joslin and Fr. Bipin Kujur took the initiative and arranged the programme for all the village women. Fr. Bipin Kujur gave an inspiring talk for the women and 3 mothers and Sr. Joslin Ekka also shared their opinion about women.



There was a deanery level pilgrimage in Vishunpur Parish on 19th March. 40 parishioners partook in it from Dhanwarkala. It was much appreciated because many Kodakus took personal interest and went on the pilgrimage.

Fr. Samir Minj

Campion School, Mariado

The month of March ended with a lot of blessings. People around Mariado were so busy harvesting wheat and sowing Moong. This is the third crop in a year, so there is rest neither for the people nor for the land. MAGIS is seen in their hard work.

Fr. Simon Aind and Fr. Deobhushan Toppo learnt some effective technique on 2nd March, from the unstinting sharing of Fr. Athanas Lakra, Principal, Campion School, on how to run the school efficiently.

Fr. Michael Ekka led the recollection and adoration while the sacrament of reconciliation was received by the parish priest of St. John Paul II Church Nadan during the second week of Lent. It is a new parish for the new faithful of the locality.

Despite many difficulties, we managed to conduct annual exams for our students. We declared the result on 31st of March. Thanks to Sr. Margret Tirkey, Headmistress, Fr. Michael Ekka, Manager, Fr. Simon Aind, and all the staff members for their hard work.

We celebrated the birthday of Fr. Michael Ekka. It fell on Palm Sunday. The presence of our neighbours Fr. Ishwardas Minj and Fr. Prabhudas Tirkey added joy to our celebrations.

Fr. Deobhushan Toppo

St. Xavier's, Rajpur

As vaccination for Covid-19 started, the clouds of fear and doubts of the Coronavirus pandemic slowly got dispelled during the month of March. Parents, students, teachers and the management of the school felt much relief. Some activities had started at school. The fees were collected progressively.

Admission had already started for PP-I. More than seventy kids took admission in PP-I. The lessons were completed for all the classes through the online classes. The time tables for both board and home exams were conveyed well ahead of time. Then suddenly the lockdown for the second wave of Corona Virus struck like a thunder volt, shattering all little hopes of opening and having off-line classes. Once again the fees stopped coming. The government announced that all the home exams are canceled except the board exams. The government declared a package of general promotion for the students.

However, the students have already completed the project works and now they are busy writing assignments of each subject.

- Fr. Isaac Kujur

Prakash School, Pathalgaon

We finalized our Community Annual Budget in the community meeting held on 6 March. The three units, Community, Hostel, and School presented their tentative Budget to the Community and they were finalized with some corrections. Fr. Amrit



Kumar Kujur was much busy in the spiritual preparation of the faithful for Easter. First, he preached Annual Retreat to the staff of Holy Cross Primary, Middle, High School, and B.T.I. from 12 to

14 March. Then he gave Recollection to Mahila Sangh and RVTC trainees of Kerakachhar on 25 March and to Ursuline Sisters of Dharamjaigarh on 26 March respectively.

When Covid-19 had slowed down a bit, the most of the government and private schools conducted offline classes in full swing. Now once again Covid-19 is spreading like wild fire. Seeing the worsening situation C.G. State Government has declared to close down all the educational institutions. The C.G.B.S.E., Raipur declared general promotion for the students of 9th and 11th classes. The Board Examinations for the students of 10th and 12th remain as scheduled earlier. So we have closed down the school with immediate effect from 22nd March.

The Parish Priest and the Parishioners had



organized a Novena Prayer from 10 to 18 March on the occasion of the Feast of St. Joseph on 19 March. Some of our Community members contributed their helping hand to make the Novena Prayers a success through offering the Holy Masses. Fr. Eugene Toppo lost his uncle - Fr. Jerome Toppo, Jashpur Diocese on 26 March. The latter suffered from paralysis for the last few years and rested at Bishop's House, Kunkuri. Fr. Eugene Toppo attended the burial Holy Mass and rites on 27th March at Kunkuri.

Sch. Anup Minj

Campion community, Raipur

Fr. Alexander Ekka and Fr. Alok Kujur had a planning session with Fr. Binay Bhushan Barwa, SAC, Parish Priest, 27 Kholi, Bilaspur for some youth programme in the future. Fr. Alexander Ekka met Sr. Joy at her Holy Cross Convent and planned the future activities in the prison of Bilaspur. Later in the evening Fr. Alok Kujur also had a combined meeting with Fr. Arvind Vinay Tirkey, Fr. Herman Joe Minj, and Fr.

Alexander Ekka, to plan out programme for the youth in Chhattisgarh.

Fr. Lalit Ekka was discharged from Shree Narayana hospital, Raipur on March 5, and was taken to Khrist Milan Ashram, Ambikapur accompanied by Fr. Amrit Xalxo.

Fr. Alexander Ekka began the Kurukh spoken class at Pallotti Holy Cross Primary School, Shailendra Nagar, Raipur from March 07. It was encouraging to see the increasing number of 33 enthusiastic college students for the Kurukh spoken class.

Fr. Marianus Kerketta, Fr. Dr. Ignace Kindo, Fr. Theodore Kujur and Fr. Ravindra Lakra came to Campion community, Raipur on March 13 for a medical checkup at Shree Narayana hospital, Raipur and went back to Kunkuri on March 16 after the check-up.

The entire Jesuit Campion community including Fr. Vijay Minj went to Gariaband to celebrate the combined feasts of Palm Sunday and Happy Birthday of Fr. Bartholomius Kerketta on 28 March.

- Fr. Alexander Ekka

XIDAS, Jabalpur

This year has been a challenging year for allowing the pandemic. The MP Government had permitted the colleges to open for a few days following its SOP protocols. XIDAS also followed all the protocols and we had a few students of St. Aloysius College for a few days in the girls' hostel till the government announced the closing down of all the academic institutions due to the sudden rise in the number of Covid-19 cases.

We lost Ms. Vimla Tiwari on July 3rd, 2020. As there was a need for a Hostel Warden, Sister Asha Xalxo, OSU, from Ambikapur Province, has been kind enough to join as the Warden of the girls' hostel and has also taken on the role of Professional Staff.

The students of Rural Management had done a Live Project for HDFC- CSR in Vidisha from 10 March to 15 March 2021. Fr. Alexius Ekka, Director had accompanied them on the Project along with Dr. J R Jha and Mr. Pushpendra Tiwari. The students learnt a lot from the example set by Fr. Director of simple living and high thinking.

On 22nd March 2021 Fr. Dharam Kishore Lakra had to rush to Bhopal as his brother was seriously

taken ill. He was admitted in AIIMS, Bhopal for two weeks. Initially, he was Covid-19 negative in the first test but later on in the second test he was Covid-19 positive. He was also battling lung cancer. Unfortunately, Mr. Marcelinus Lakra left for his heavenly abode on 3 April 2021 leaving behind his wife and two children. Fr. Dharam had been by his side all along and took care of him. His last rites were performed in Bhopal.

All the Fathers joined the Divine Mercy Parish for all the worship and Liturgy for the Holy Week. Jabalpur has weekend lockdowns every Sunday and so many of the Churches could not have Easter Vigil. Some of the faithful from Bilhari had requested to have the Mass in XIDAS and we had a very good Easter Vigil.

We are gearing up hard for admissions for the academic year 2021-22. Similarly, the online classes for the current first and second-year students are going on in full swing.

Fr. Binod Toppo

St. Xavier's, Ambikapur

St. Xavier's Girl's Hostel was opened for the students of B. Ed. College. All the forty seats were full by 2 March. We had the introductory cum welcoming ceremony for the B. Ed. Girls' hostellers on 3rd of March.

On 19th March catholic parents of Godhanpur village used our chapel and premises for the prayer and recollection to prepare for the feast of St. Joseph. There was a one-day recollection on 20 March for the B. Ed Catholic hostellers guided by Fr. Kalyanus Minj.

Apostolic boys were sent back home for one week because of the spread of viral fever among them. They came back to apostolic school on 22 March.

The second wave of Covid-19 forced the government to close down all the schools and colleges of Chhattisgarh. According to the government's guidelines we closed our schools and college on 21 March.

Palm Sunday was celebrated in a simple but meaningful way. On 28th March we had the community meeting. On 29th March we had community recollection and sacrament of reconciliation to prepare for the holy week.

Sch. Sandeep Lakra

DNC, Pune

As we entered the last month of this academic session 2021, most of us were busy with our assignments and preparation for exam. We had a short farewell program for Rev. Fr. Edward Mudavassery, by outgoing theologians and philosophers on 7 March. We began our semester exam for this academic session on March 12. Meanwhile 2nd year philosophers engaged themselves in the preparation for their comprehensive exam, beginning from 21 March. The third year theologians were busy with their hot discussion preparing themselves for Ad-Auds due to begin on 26 March. We had Rector's handing over ceremony on 25 March. Rev. Fr. Francis Pudhicherry, new Rector took charge from



his predecessor Rev. Fr. Edward Mudavassery. Scholastics began to return to their respective provinces from the last week of March for their summer vacation according to their convenient time as they finished their exam.

- Sch. Ravindra Bara

POPE'S INTENTION:

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fundamental Rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



C. Father Van den Driessche's District (Nich Ghat)

"I hear that Bagehi has left for Calcutta and a certain Nares Chandra, who was there before, has come back to Nagar. In a private letter of Nares Chandra to Fr. De Gryse, I read: I am going home shortly... I may not come back for I do not like to serve here. For in many cases I am required to act against my conscience." This speaks volumes! The Kelba case did not fare better. It began just when the Birsai case was shelved. Here is what Fr. Van den Driessche wrote when welcoming His Grace back from Europe, i.e. in his letter of 8th October 1911: "From my last letters to Father Superior, Your Grace will have seen that they began to take the fields of some Christians: the 2 first victims are two of our *chaprassis*, Birsai *chaprassi* of Tapkara and Phalsa *chaprassi* of Kelba. I have given already the details of Birsai's case. The case of Kelba was also "settled", whilst I was in retreat at Rengarih. Phalsa had given a *darkhast* (petition) in the court of the *Diwan*. A *sipoy*, of all people, was sent to Kelba to make an enquiry and then told Phalsa that he had to go back to Nagar. There he was forced to sign a *rajinama* (agreement) giving up his field! The poor man told me: I had given a *darkhast* for one *dand* (high field), and now they have taken three!"

"Another Christian Soma Majhi of Charaikera, whose fields had been ploughed whilst I was in Kelba (end of August), gave also a *darkhast* in the court of *Diwan*. An enquiry was ordered. Dadhu *gomoshta* went to make enquiry on 27th September, 1911. He did not enquire about the field that had been ploughed, but wrote down all the other *dands* of Soma Majhi and told him to go to Nagar. Soma knowing what had happened to Phalsa of Kelba, did not go but came to ask me, on 6th October, what he had to do. Of course I told him not to go to Nagar, and if they came to take him there, to send at once news to 2 *Pracharaks* to join him, and to refuse to sign any paper, as Birsai of Tapkara had done. I fear however that, he would not have as much courage as Birsai. The poor chaps are naturally afraid of being beaten and maltreated by the police. "Before I left for Rengarih, I wrote to the *Diwan* on 17 September: "On 5th August 1911, Birsai of Tapkara lodged a complaint against the *bhandari* of Tapkara who had ploughed and sown his (Birsai's) field."

"The case came finally before the court on 13th September, 1911 and Birsai informs me that he was told by the magistrate that he would not get his field. I shall say nothing at present of the manner in which, as I hear, this case has proceeded, but as you have kindly informed me in your letter of 16th June, that 'No orders as to the confiscation of fields belonging to Christians have been passed', may I ask you, Sir, whether *bhandaris* or *gomoshtas* have the right to dispose of the *rayati* fields without orders from the Jashpur authorities? I wrote this 3 weeks ago, and I am still waiting for an answer." He then tells the Archbishop now the Tapkara *bhandari* had received verbal orders to confiscate Birsai's field.

"As they have gone in now for this new trick to confiscate the fields and obtain an agreement of the *rayat* to the confiscation, I have written today to the Political Agent about it. Fr. Bressers wrote to me that they are doing the same in his district, but of course in my letter I spoke only of the cases of Birsai and of Phalsa. I suppose the Political Agent will find that what they are doing in Jashpur is all right." The *Diwan* replied under date 23rd September 1911: "With reference to your letter dated 17th September 1911, I have the honour today that under the circumstances I do not see that you have any concern with the *zemindari* affairs, nor are your any party in the case referred therein. If any *rayat* or party is not satisfied with the decision of a case, he may appeal to the proper court." This Narendra N. Sinha signed in June. Hence he is the one with whom the Father had to deal at Nagar, for the Kastura case.

In his short comment, when writing to the Archbishop on 15th October, the Father remarks: "Of course this is not an answer to my question, but it says clearly that we should leave them perfectly defenseless! Besides how can they appeal to any court, when as in the case of Birsai of Tapkara there are no written decisions and the *mokhtar* even refused to ask for a copy of Birsai's petition, his deposition and the deposition of one of his witnesses, i.e. the only things that were written". Far from leaving the statement of the *Diwan* of Jashpur, the Father sent his spirited reply: "To the *Diwan* of Jashpur, 26 December 1911. In answer to your letter of the 23rd September, I beg to state that my only concern is to have my Christians treated with fairness and

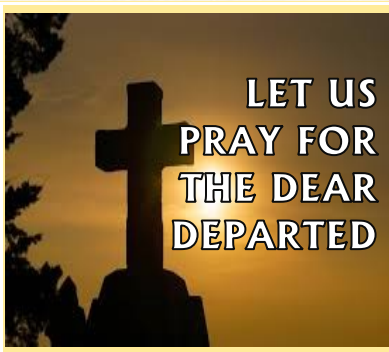
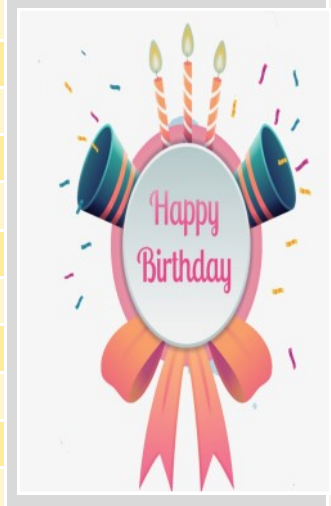
justice." If law affairs ever became no concern of the public, it would become too easy to camouflage all acts of injustice and unfair-play in the courts.

Here follows Fr. Van den Driessche's letter to the Political Agent already spoken of. "8th October 1911: Sir, I beg to bring to your notice the following facts: (1) On 5th August, Birsai Uraon of Tapkara brought a case to the magistrate of Jashpurnagar against the *bhandari* of Tapkara, who had ploughed and sown one of his fields (3 *kiaris doin*). The case was postponed twice (on the 13th and 28th August) when it came finally before the court on 13th September the magistrate ordered Birsai to come to an agreement and told that he would not get his field. (2) In September, Phalsa Uraon of Kelba gave a petition in the court of the *Diwan* of Jashpur. He had also been deprived of one of his fields by order of Tipu Sikar *gomoshata*. I hear that a *sipahi* was sent to enquire, and Phalsa was told to return to Jashpurnagar where he was forced to sign a "*rajinama*" giving up not only the field in question but also two other *dands*. I am informed that the same is being done to dispossess other *rayats* also. May I ask you, Sir, to let me know what these poor people have to do to obtain justice?"

Compiled by Fr. Agapit Tirkey, S.J.

BIRTHDAYS

Date	APRIL	Date	MAY
1	Lakra Anmol	2	Kujur Amrit Kr.
3	Toppo Donald	2	Xalxo Santosh
4	Kujur Placidius	3	Beck Gulshan
4	Panna Amarjeet	3	Lakra Sandeep (S)
6	Lakra Ashwin	4	Kujur Fulchandra
7	Ekka Fedrick Vivek	5	Lakra Pawan
7	Kerketta Zacharias	5	Tigga Sushil (D)
10	Kujur Pranay Wilson	6	Kerketta Kamal
11	Ekka Marcel	8	Kujur Gyan Prakash
13	Tirkey Juan Deepak Maria	15	Minj Tej Kumar
14	Toppo Alok Kumar	18	Xess Anjay
14	Toppo Sunil Kumar	30	Minj Theodore
15	Lakra John Crus	31	Toppo Deobhushan
19	Minj Elphiz		
20	TIGGA RANJIT		
27	Kujur Akash		
22	Barwa Prabodh		
23	Toppo Vinay		
24	Kerketta Ajay		
25	Kujur Arvind		
25	Minj Kalyanus		
27	Lakra Aemilianus		
29	Lakra Sebastian		
30	Kujur Justin		



- † Fr. Savarimuthu Xavier (CEN, 83/59) passed away on 03.03.2021 at Dindigul, TN
- † Fr. Edward Kerketta (RAN), 69/46, at Samford Hospital, Ranchi on 8 March.
- † Mr. Amarsai Alois Tigga (88) father of Fr. Ranjit Tigga, Provincial died on 09 March.
- † Br. Victor Campos SJ, (GOA), 87/20, in Goa on 10 March.
- † Mr. Alexander Tirkey (62) brother of Fr. Oscar Tirkey passed away on 20 March
- † Fr. Arul Jeevan SJ, (MDU), 73/50, at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul on 22 March.
- † Fr. Jerome Toppo (Jashpur Diocese) uncle of Fr. Eugene Toppo died on 26 March.
- † Fr. Anil Tirkey SJ, (RAN), 67/47, in Ranchi on 27 March.

S.N.	Name	Death	Birth
01	Fr. Bernard Bara	19 Apr 2018	26 Jan 1937
02	Fr. Maurice Claeys	23 Apr 2005	19 Jul 1922
03	Fr. Francis Daniels	24 Apr 1979	08 Jul 1896
04	Fr. Godfried Meeus	24 Apr 1990	28 Mar 1907
05	Fr. Louis Berge	29 Apr 2001	25 Oct 1907

Death Anniversary In April



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