



himaldhvani

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

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From the Provincial's Desk

Here is a story that came in a book called "Waves". Once a guru asked his disciples, 'Why do we shout in anger? Why do people shout at each other when they are upset? Why does one shout when the other person is just next to you? Isn't it possible to speak to the person in a soft voice?' The disciples gave some answers but none satisfied the guru. Finally he explained to them, 'When two people are angry with each other, their hearts stand apart and distance themselves from each other. To cover that distance they must shout to be able to hear each other. The angrier they are, the stronger they have to shout to hear each other through that great distance.' The disciples were happy. Then the guru asked them, 'What happens when two people fall in love? They don't shout at each other but talk softly because their hearts are very close to each other. The distance between them is non-existent for them. The world is made for them. That is how closeness is built and love is experienced.'



Hence, when we argue or upset with someone or something, let our hearts not get distant, let us not say words that distance each other, else there will come a day when the distance is so great that we will not find the path to return. Mary, our Mother, was angry when she bore her child into uncertain political, social and economic circumstances. She pondered over her pain and anger in her heart when other babies could not be saved from slaughter. She was angry when she had to flee as a refugee into a foreign land. But she lived through every pandemic and transformed every hopeless, joyless and sinful situation into moments of joy and happiness with her close relationship with her Son. During this pandemic, let us critique but not criticize in anger but translate our love in the given situation in humble service and on our knees to Jesus through Mary to heal every disease and illness we face today in the world.

ORDINATION OF OSHISH TIRKEY

The first ever ordination ceremony at St Francis Church, Hasimara, on 11th April was most colourful and spectacular. Spells of heavy rain and storm that almost blew away the ordination tent (*shamiana*) three times didn't deter the resilience of the parishioners. Deacon Oshish was ushered to the tent in a boat formed by children, accompanied by Bishop Clement Tirkey and Provincial Fr Wilfred Lobo, at the end of the long array of priests, sharp at 10.30 am. Subhashini tea workers swayed to the majestic beats of the drums as they welcomed the Royal Priesthood.



The family members of Deacon Oshish read the readings. Bishop Clement stressed the duties of the priest as the shepherd of the flock. The ordination ceremony went off smoothly. The choir brought grandeur to the occasion and made it memorable with melodious songs and lively music. Thanks to the parish choir assisted by the TOR Fathers from Kolkata and Xavier Sangeetanjali group led by Frs Kalyan Tirkey and Edward Arockiaraj.

Fr Oshish Tirkey, his parents and family were overwhelmed with the mega celebration and the huge turnout. The new priest was felicitated with programs by each of the major tea garden community of the parish. Delicious lunch was served to all. A large number of Jesuits, diocesan priests and religious participated in the ceremony ably organized by Fr Bijit Bage, Parish priest and assisted by Fr Wilson Lugun, Assistant Parish Priest. We are grateful to the TOR community and the Hasimara catholic community for the excellent conduct of the ordination, in the Golden Jubilee Year of the Parish!

Fr Joe Victor

THANKSGIVING MASS

On 12th April, I had my thanksgiving mass at the courtyard of our house in Bharnobari Tea Garden. Many people from different villages were present for the Mass. Some of my relatives from Jharkhand and Delhi had come. Around 25 priests and 12 sisters were also present from different congregations. The Mass began with the women of my village dancing for the entrance hymn.



Children of the village danced for the offertory hymn. The choir was well organized which really made the atmosphere prayerful. As soon as the Mass ended, a small cultural programme began with the washing of the hands, *aarti* (welcoming with light/lamp) and garlanding according to the tribal culture. It was followed by a felicitation song, cultural dance, prayer dance, and Assamese dance. I was so glad that my teacher from Primary School, Miss Martha Ekka, who taught me to read the Mass Readings, and Sr. Jyoti who encouraged me to be a priest, participated in the thanksgiving Mass. Many people, including me, had been waiting for the ordination and the thanksgiving Mass which went off very well. I am grateful to all who helped me to reach this stage. Thank you.

Fr Oshish Turkey

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING

For over a year, from admission to evaluation, everything has been online. The odd semester exams began on 08 March and ended on 21st March and online classes for the even semesters began on 25th March and their exams are expected to be in the last week of June. The entire community took active part and helped out in the Easter ministries in the main parish and as well in Soom and Lebong. **Fr Manu Mathew (NEP)**, after a yearlong pastoral ministry in Sacred Heart Church, left on 04th April for his new assignment in his region. **Fr Donatus Kujur** left on 05th April for Kodaikanal for 'Roots and Wings' and in his absence **Fr. Pascal Ekka** is holding fort as the acting superior. With the assembly elections, the campus had more than 300 BSF and CRPF personnel staying in and some will continue till the results are announced on 02nd May. The college also served as a polling station with five booths and almost 2000 people cast their votes. **Fr Binay Xavier Kandulna** was the Presiding Officer in Soreng, Takdah on 17th April and he came back with rich experiences. **Fr K. L. George** was with us for two weeks before returning to Mizoram on 19th April for his additional mission.

By Fr Pragasan

PREMANJALI, MATIGARA

The month began on a sacred note as the Premanjali community was absorbed in the Holy Week. The pre-novices and the regent were actively involved at the parish choir throughout. We had the Easter morning Mass on the basketball court celebrated by **Fr Zachus Dungdung**. The pre-novices had their assistancy-level exam. The community members exercised their franchise at their

respective places. At the end of April the pre-novices had their four-sheet exams followed by their meeting with Fr provincial and Fr PCF. The house welcomed Sch. Christ Rajan, the new regent and bid farewell to Sch. Evan Basnet and the Pre-novices of the historic 2020-2021 batch.

Sch. Evan Basnet

NORTH BENGAL ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

After a short recess following the Semester exams, the college is back to online teaching- learning. Our plan to begin offline classes for the final semesters has been put on hold due to the surge in Covid cases. With uncertainties about the plus two exams **Fr Lalit Turkey** and **Fr Bijay Kindo** had a brainstorming session with the Heads of Departments and members of Admissions Committee on how to steer the college in this scenario, including innovative publicity for new admissions. After the completion of the second building named *Loyola Block*, we have constructed a bridge linking the two buildings which will be used extensively during the rainy season.

During the Easter season, we helped in various places: **Fr Bijay** in Hatighisha Parish, **Fr Deven** in Gayaganga and **Fr Lalit** in Mongradangi Parish. Later in the month the entire community including three scholastics attended the ordination of Fr Oshish Turkey and his Thanksgiving Eucharist followed by three Jalpaiguri diocesan priests' ordination. Now only two scholastics are remaining of the original dozen who had stayed at our hostel; these two were to leave for a month-long internship but they are in a dilemma now with the second wave of the Covid 19 sweeping across the country. **Fr Lalit** took advantage of the pandemic situation and published two articles: 1) 'Livelihood Threats & Challenges: A Case of Tea Plantation Community in the Terai-Dooars Tea Belt of North Bengal' in the book 'Plantation Workers in India – Issues and Challenges' edited by Amit Bhowmik. 2) 'Church's Mission of Advocacy to Eradicate Human Trafficking' in the book 'Local Church in South Asia and Evangelization' edited by Felix Wilfred & John Romus.

Fr Lalit Turkey

LOYOLA NIWAS, UTTAR SALBARI

St Ignatius Church was the pilgrimage centre for many groups during this Lent. **Fr Peter Pappu** came with five hundred women from Gayaganga on the 14th of March; **Fr Benny Paul** arrived with 35 women from Sakyong on the 27th March and 70 women came from Banchukamari Parish on the 31st of March. A hundred parishioners from our parish went to Coochbehar for a Pilgrimage on the 21st of March as part of the Lenten program. The faithful in large numbers attended the Holy week and Easter celebrations this year.

The whole community attended the Ordination ceremony and the Thanksgiving Mass of **Fr Osish Turkey**. We were happy to accommodate ten Jesuits who came to attend the Ordination. After a month of preparation by **Sr Bertha SABS**, 33 children received the first Holy Communion on the 18th of April. **Fr Freddy Baraik** was the main celebrant. After the Ordination of **Fr Osish Turkey**, our community's strength increased by one as **Sch. Barnabas Hembrom** is in our community collecting material for his paper on effects of Corona on people. Since 20th April, schools have been closed indefinitely as directed by the government of West Bengal. As part of Covid-19 relief, tailoring training centers are being run at Dhonda Simla busty and at Uttar Salbari.

Fr Basil Toppo

GANDHI ASHRAM SCHOOL, KALIMPONG

On 27th March we had the Parents – students meeting in four different class groups. They were reminded of the various issues, expectations, roles and responsibilities as parents and students. Input on health and hygiene, and community development was also given. On 30th and 31st March we had a staff seminar on the use of communication and technological, curriculum planning, lesson planning, monitoring, continuous evaluation and constructive feedback. Resource persons for the staff seminar



were **Mr Adarsh Rai**, who previously worked with Kotak Education Foundation, Mumbai and currently a consultant at Hayden Hall Institute and **Mr Virgil Vihaan Sequeira**, Development officer of Gandhi Ashram School. **Ms Roshni Rai**, Marathoner and Lawyer from Pedong shared on her life's journey and the importance of physical fitness. On 10th April our standard 8 – 10 girls had a workshop by **Giacomo** and **Sulekha** on Self defense and Self Esteem.

Fr Binod Kerketta

ST PETER'S, GAYAGANGA

A good number of faithful had gathered for the Palm Sunday procession and Mass. The procession started from St Peter's High school and concluded with Mass in the parish *Bagicha*. The Holy Week celebrations were also held solemnly in the *Bagicha*. Fr Cherian, Fr Roshan, Sch. Sujit, and Sch. Anup went to Gungaram for the Easter vigil Mass. Fr Devan Yonzon and Sch. Anup from Rajanj community spent a few days in our community during the Holy Week.

The High School teachers who were assigned for election duty were administered the Covid vaccine. Fr Nabor and Br Robert were also assigned election duty. Mr. Francis Toppo, senior teacher of St Peter's Primary School retired on April 6 and a farewell program was held in his honour on April 14. Only the primary school staff were present for the occasion. We had a beautiful Mass said by Fr Cherian, concelebrated by Fr Simon and Fr Roshan. It was an emotional moment for the school to bid him farewell. The community is having plenty of visitors and guests these days as several priests from nearby dioceses and Jesuit communities are admitted in the hospital next door. Under the present alarming situation, the community has put in place some strict Covid -19 protocol for our visitors.

Sch. Sujit Minj

Human Life Development & Research Centre (HLDRC), MATIGARA

15 persons completed the Labour rights training at HLDRC for 10 days. We were enthused to see the young group that came forward to attend this community action program. **Fr. Pascal** and **Fr. Amid** developed this training module for our youth to address their own community level Provident Fund, Gratuity and pension issues of the workers. International women's Day was celebrated

at HLDRC on 8th of March 2021. The theme for this year was "**Choose to Challenge**". **Dr. Renuka Beck**, Asst. professor of Siliguri Women's College, was the chief guest and some other dignitaries were guests of honor. About 200 participants, mostly from tea gardens, attended the program. At the end meal was served to all.



Lok Manch was very active during the last few months in creating community awareness and active participation in exercising one's democratic rights. Seeing the present condition of **Covid 19 wave-2** in North Bengal, **HLDRC** has formed a crisis management core team including **LOK MANCH**, **RIGHT TO FOOD CAMPAIGN NETWORK** North Bengal unit, **UTTAR BANGAL CHAI MAZDOOR ADHIKAR MANCH (UBCMAM)**, **BHARTIYA TRIBAL PARTY (BTP)**, **TERAI DOOARS MAHILA WELFARE SOCIETY**, **DARJEELING MARY WARD SOCIAL CENTRE** and some selected community level leaders to respond to this pandemic effectively. Collective efforts can save so many lives and we hope to reach out to the maximum number of tea gardens and villages in this pandemic crisis.

Fr Pascal Xalxo

LOYOLA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, NAMCHI

The Holy week services were conducted in the Loyola House chapel for the community members and hostel students following the Covid-19 Protocol. The first semester B.Ed, MA Education and Third Semester B.Ed, MA Education students have successfully completed their Take Home Examination on 4th April 2021. The second and fourth semester classes were inaugurated on 22nd April 2021 online by welcoming the students to the new semesters and explaining the syllabus. All classes are held through online mode. The admission process is on for B.Ed and M.A. Education for the session 2021.

Fr Francis George

MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE, KALIMPONG

On 23rd March, a group of pilgrims, from St Anthony's Parish, Kilatar came to Manresa campus to make the Stations of the Cross. They also had Mass in the Novitiate chapel. On Palm Sunday, we had a procession with the palm branches and **Fr Roshan Kiro**, the Socius, celebrated the Mass. On Maundy Thursday, the sacrament of reconciliation was organised for the community. On Good Friday, the novices watched the movie "The Passion of Christ" to inculcate some of the values of suffering Christ in today's world. On Divine Mercy Sunday, 11th April, all the community members, except **Br Gabriel Gurung**, went to St Francis Church, Hasimara, Alipurduar, to attend the priestly ordination of **Deacon OshishTirkey, SJ**. **Fr Roshan Kiro** attended the Thanksgiving Mass too. On 16th April, **Br Gabriel Gurung** and **Fr Roshan Kiro** went to Darjeeling for voting and **Fr Shaji Joseph** to Matigara.

On 19th and 20th April, the First Year novices presented the declamation from the New Testament. It was really impressive to witness their oratory and rhetorical skills. On 22nd April, we celebrated the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Society of Jesus. **Sunit Minj**, first year novice, gave a short introduction during the Mass. On 23rd April, **Alex Hembrom**, first year novice, presented a brief history in the classroom on the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Society of Jesus. These small steps, among others, prepare ourselves to participate wholeheartedly in the upcoming Ignatius Year.

On 21st April, **Sch. Arbind Ekka** started his annual retreat under the direction of **Fr Roshan Kiro**. On 23rd April, **Deacon Dennis Lepcha**, Darjeeling Diocese, started his retreat under the direction of **Fr Shaji Joseph**, in preparation for his priestly ordination on April 30th.

Fr Roshan Kiro

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NORTH POINT

St Joseph's School has suspended the offline classes both for the day scholars and boarders. The boarders of classes IX, X & XII who had reported to the school for in-person classes, have left for their homes due to the unstable Covid situation. The School will carry on with the online live stream classes for all the students. The ICSE & ISC boys who had come to write the board exams have left for homes as well, as the ICSE exams are cancelled and the ISC exams are postponed till June. Two shifts of entrance tests for new CL – XI were conducted and their online classes will start from the first week of May.

The community went for a pilgrimage to St Xavier's Church, Maheshpur, Nepal, after Easter. The community had a day of outing too at Deonia as we went to drop **Fr Manu** and **Sch. David Donald** on their way back from their pastoral ministry and regency.



Fr K.J. Jose returned from home after visiting his sister who was suffering from cancer. She passed away a few days later. The community supported him with prayers. May she rest in peace! The community members went out to satellite units to help with the Holy Week services. **Fr John Banerjee** has joined the community as the new minister. He has taken over the responsibilities as the minister. **Fr Shiju** stayed back after the vote and he is making his annual retreat here.

Fr Anuranjan Ekka

ST VINCENT'S COMMUNITY, HATIGHISA

This Eastertide has been poignant in the aftermath of our office staff **Mr Roshan Kerketta's** untimely demise. The Holy Week was observed with special solemnity and optimism by all including Roshan but the following Monday Roshan was gone, leaving behind his bereaved wife and son.

The Bihar Armed police stayed in the school premises for poll duty from 11th to 18th April. Classes had barely resumed when the government announced early summer vacations from 20th April.

We were fortunate to finish the electrification of the primary section before the closure. With the first assessment of the online classes completed by all students, parents have been asked to turn in the answer scripts of their wards. All are anxious about the dicey nature of classes and evaluations hereafter. **Fr Lawrence Thanislaus** attended an online meeting of the JEA SA Core group on the 25th of April. Installation of CCTV cameras in the school is underway. Simultaneously, a project to set up the geography and composite science lab on the second floor has crystallized. Work will begin soon. We extend a heartfelt gratitude to all our donors who responded to the needs of the school with a sense of urgency. **Fr Alex Beck** and **Fr Alvin Minj**, were able to complete all the house blessings within this month. However, as per the guidelines from the Bishop's house all public gatherings, including Common Eucharistic celebration and activities have been suspended. The school too will remain closed until further notice.

Sch. Reuell Paul

CLIVES HOUSE, TRICHY

The Community was inspired by the way Mass was celebrated and the meaningful sermon given by **Fr Xavier Alangaram (PCF)** who had come here on 7th April for the annual visit to Clive's House, Trichy. It was a wonderful time to share and listen to him and also to come to know about our province. Our house had **Community Day celebration** from 3rd to 5th April which began with Eucharistic celebration where **Fr Alphonse Lepcha** was the main celebrant. It was time for relaxation and enjoyment after the hectic academic activities; more so as we are confined to our campus due to the pandemic. On 10th April we had **177th COLLEGE DAY** celebration and **Sch. Vinod Kerketta** was given a special award and medal by the college for holding the **First Rank** in the Department of Botany. It was really a proud moment for the Clives community. Congrats Vinod! We were happy to meet this month some of our province men **Fr Donatus Kujur**, **Fr David Ekka** and **Fr Sandeep Beck** who dropped in on their way to Kodaikanal for the 'Roots and Wings' programme.

Fr Alphonse Lepcha

JESUIT NIWAS, BANGALORE

On 22nd April, Jesuit Niwas community was grieved at the sad demise of its beloved young and dynamic member **Fr. Praveen Hrudayaraj SJ**, due to cancer. He was the Director of St. Joseph Law College. **Fr. Xavier**, our PCF, visited the scholastics studying in Bangalore from April 27th to 30th. The scholastics were happy to meet him and hear about the province. St. Joseph's college once again went back to online mode of classes due to the rising number of corona cases. All the community members of Jesuit Niwas underwent covid test and fortunately all tested negative. Now that the new appointments are announced the outgoing members are getting ready to go to their new destinations.

Sch. Roshan Gyan Topno

Ignatian Year May 20 - July 2022

