

GANGA LAHAR



OFFICIAL....

Fr. Provincial has appointed

With Effect from February

Pradeep N – Jeevan Sangham, Bodhgaya
Joseph Vetticatt – Pastoral Ministry, XTTI



With Effect from April

George Nedumattam – CL, Kaiserganj
Sudeep Chacko – Kaiserganj
Richard D'Souza – Principal, St. Xavier's, Bettiah

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

February 2020

30 JAN – 03: Shanti Sadan Visitation
11 – Ahmedabad Visitation
12 - 15 – Pune Visitation
21 – Delhi
23 – Mar 1 – JCSA (NEP)

March 2020

02 – Province Off.
03 – Jubilee St. Thomas, Ratanpurwa
04 – 07 – Budget Meetings
11 – Chennai Visitation
16 – Prov. Off.
19 – Asha Deep, Inauguration
23 – 26 – Danapur, Khaspur Visitation

CONGRATULATIONS

To Siji Varghese N., for successfully defending his doctoral thesis on 'Living with Katav: Experiences of the Musahar Community in the Gandak River Basin, Bihar' on 17 January 2020 at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PROVINCE DAYS 2020: Fr. Provincial has called the Province Days on 28, 29 and 30 May 2020 at XTTI, Patna, inaugurating the Centenary of the Patna Jesuit Mission. The theme of the Province Days will be "Apostolic Planning and Re-orientation for Mission"

The Diaconate Ordination of Sch. Rajesh Somepalli, SJ, along with other third year theologians of Vidyajyoti, will be held on Saturday, 22 February 2020 at 3.00 p.m. The Diaconate will be conferred by His Grace Anil J.T. Couto, D.D., Archbishop of Delhi, in the auditorium of St. Xavier's School, Delhi.

A Province level Meeting with representatives from different ministries/institutions is scheduled from 01 to 04 April, 2020, at Atmadarshan for the Province Apostolic Planning.

Silver Jubilee of St. Thomas School, Ratanpurwa, is scheduled on 03 March, 2020 at 10.00 am.

BUDGET PRESENTATION SCHEDULE: MARCH 2020

ZONE	-	DATE	-	TIME
K.R. Bettiah		04 March, 2020		09.00 am
St. Michael's		05 March, 2020		09.00 am
XTTI		05 March, 2020		03.00 pm
St. Xavier's		06 March, 2020		09.00 am
Aurangabad		07 March, 2020		09.00 am

Please note the communities/institutions of each zoneZONES

K.R., Bettiah
St. Michael's, Patna
XTTI, Patna
St. Xavier's, Patna
Aurangabad

-
-
-
-
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COMMUNITIES

K. R, READ, Gaunaha, Ratanpurwa
Sanjivan Niwas, Prabhat Prakashan, FMSK, Kurji, Ara, Sakri
XTTI- College, XISR, SAAP, Atmadarshan, Tarumitra, XB
St. Xavier's, Asha Deep, Barbigha, Manthan, Danapur, Khaspur
Bodhgaya, Chenari, Sasaram, Varanasi

SCHEDULE OF NORTH-ZONE RETREATS IN 2020
(BASED ON UNIVERSAL APOSTOLIC PREFERENCES)

PROPlaceDates excluding arrival/departure

PAT	-	Atmadarshan, Patna	-	Feb 21 (pm) - 29 (pm)
NEP	-	Godavari Ashram, Kathmandu	-	May01(pm)-09(pm)
KOH	-	Arrupe Retreat Centre, Shilong	-	June29(pm)-July07 (pm)
DAR	-	LPC, Matigara	-	Oct 18 (pm) - 26 (pm)
CCU	-	Dhyan Ashram, Calcutta	-	Oct.10 (pm) - 18 (pm)
DEL	-	NRC, Delhi	-	Nov 01 (pm)-09 (pm)

Pradeep N – Mob: 7321981774

Barbigha: We welcomed the New Year 2020 with a Holy Eucharist. Our hostel students returned on 05 January. The school re-opened on 06 January. We celebrated Republic day with a short cultural program in the school. We had the First Holy Communion in our parish on 26 January. There were sixty children who eagerly received Jesus for the first time through Holy Communion. On 30 January, forty hostel students, fathers and sisters went to Mokama to conduct the Novena. **Fr. Peter Ignatius** was the main celebrant and Fr. Raneesh preached the homily. We bade farewell to Mr. Dinesh, our school teacher on 31 January. **Fr. Vimal Kishore and Fr. Pradeep Kumar** spent a day with us.



- Prakash Antony

Gyanodaya, Juniorate: The New Year 2020 arrived for each one of us with new hopes, joys and opportunities. On 01 January, we celebrated New Year and community days joyfully. All of us, including the staff, took part in the community days' celebration and made it successful. These two days were unforgettable for us as it united the whole community. We shared our happiness and joys with one another through the community days. After the celebrations of Christmas and New Year, we dedicated ourselves to the academic curriculum from 03 January. Besides, we commenced the rehearsal of One Act Plays and began giving homilies in English. On 04 January, **Fr. Tony Mattapallil**, our Superior, left for Pune to attend a course on Ignatian spirituality for two months. On 11 January, we had the Assistancy level short story competition. The Provincial of Delhi, **Fr. Sebastian Jeerakassery, SJ**, visited our community and met the Delhi scholastics. On 17 January, the PCF of Dumka Province, Fr. Prakash Hansda, SJ, visited our community and met the Dumka scholastics. On 18 January, we had the Assistancy level Essay writing competition. On the same day, **Fr. Josey Mathias** had a successful vocal cord surgery. He has been advised complete rest for his vocal cords for the next ten days. We celebrated the birthday of Sch. Bikant Kullu of Jamshedpur Province. On Sunday, 26 January, we celebrated Republic Day enthusiastically in Danapur parish with our parishioners

- Sanjeev Nilam Tirkey

Bodhgaya Dialogue Ministry: The inter-religious celebration of Christmas-2019 was celebrated on 11 January 2020 with about 100 students from four schools. To make the celebration more joyous a Drama Competition on the Life and Teachings of the Lord Jesus was held during the celebration. Students belonging to different religions from the four schools participated in this colourful event with great enthusiasm and creativity. The Drama Competition was a feast for our senses and spirit. It was a pleasant surprise to see a Buddhist School (Maitreya Universal Education Cen-



tre) walking away with the first prize. The FR. SUMIT PEACE AWARDS, which were instituted on this very day, were distributed to the schools which won in the Drama Competition. Further in January, through the efforts of the Dialogue Ministry about 400 students from different schools were trained in Meditation to grow in concentration, inner peace and character-formation. On 29 January, we conducted a Youth Workshop for about 95 students of the Department of Psychology, Gaya College, Gaya. During the Workshop, **Fr. Eucharist Lawrence** gave leadership skills to the youth and many tips to develop their personality as well. At the end of the workshop, all the youth were taught to sing a song which invited them to respect all religions in India and to spread PEACE and UNITY in our society.

Youth, Laity, Priests, Religious men and women belonging to any region or diocese or congregation who are interested in getting some exposures and training in the Ministry of Inter-religious Dialogue, are most welcome to join the Jesuit Community in Bodhgaya for a few weeks or months. Those who join this program will be trained in the goals, means and ways of promoting Inter-religious Harmony through Pastoral, Social, Educational, Spiritual and Youth Ministries.

Those of you who are interested, kindly contact Fr. Eucharist Lawrence S.J.; Mobile no: 7294804182; E-mail: ujjwallawrence@gmail.com

- Lawrence

K R Campus, Bettiah: We welcomed the New Year full of expectations and cheerfulness. We had a New Year Eucharistic Celebration to mark this day. All the three schools of KR Campus reopened on 03 January after the Christmas and Winter holidays but soon the schools were closed due to severe winter. On 16 January, once again the school reopened after the harvest Festival (Makar Sakranti). The KR Non-Formal School conducted a prayer service in honour of the Late Mr. Cherubim Fidelis, who was the Assistant Headmaster of the school. On 17 January and 21 January, candidates Amit Tete and Rajesh Kumar celebrated their birthdays respectively. On 19 January, the schools in our campus, along with their Principals and staff, participated in forming a Human Chain. We celebrated Republic day in our schools with mesmerizing speeches and cultural programs. In the third week of January, St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School welcomed an inspection team from the CBSE Board. This was also a grace filled month as Fr. Donald Miranda, the Provincial, was here on his annual visitation.

- Ashish Paul

Prabhat, Sakri: We welcomed the New Year with hope. We celebrated the birthday of Fr. Anand Kerketta on 09 January. A month long residential programme was organized successfully. **Fr. Sebastian** and his team were in Sakri to give training on teaching methodology to our teachers. Our teachers were enthused and impressed with the new ways of teaching and believed that these methods will help the students to read and write fluently. We went to Asha Deep,



Muzaffarpur to bid farewell to Br. Joseph Ullattil on 18 January. A new staff, Miss Asha Tirkey, joined Prabhat. A new CRC (child Resource Center) was inaugurated on 24 January in Belam. Addressing the gathering, **Fr. Jose Vadassery** emphasized on the need for the education among saday and manjhi communities. Local Mukhiya and the school headmaster assured their support. Fr. Sudeep brought his staff from Buxar Diocese for an exposure programme to Sakri. They visited our CRC centers and interacted with the mata

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samiti members. They were inspired by the service of Prabhat in the villages. Under the jal-jivan-hariyali schemes of Bihar government, our staff who is working under Caritas project, conducted drawing competition in different schools and our centers. Kishori Training was arranged by **Fr. Anand Kerketta** on 22 January. We are now busy with planning and opening new Supplementary Education Centers in different villages under Manos project.

- Ravibhushan Kumar

READ, Bettiah: We had many programs in the months of December and January. In the beginning of December, we had the short term residential program for the students of class VI. The second-year novices successfully completed their village experiment and returned to READ on 07 December. They had a prayerful sharing of their enriching experiences with **Frs. Joyson Fernandes and Anil Minz**. They also visited some of our nearby Jesuit communities and returned to Lucknow on 10 December. Mr. Peter from



the Development Office, Patna, came to READ to inspect our CRC and SEC centers. On 23 December, we had a Christmas gathering with our children and staff. Most Rev. Peter Goveas, Bishop of Bettiah, was the chief guest at that gathering. Our children staged a colorful cultural program and the Bishop inspired our children with his Christmas message. On 26 January, **Fr. Joyson** left for a home visit. **Sch. Razeem Robert** participated in the Regents' recollection in Patna in January. As usual, we had the monthly meeting with our supervisors and animators in January in which we also gave them Christmas gifts. Fr. Joyson returned from his home visit and attended the young priests' meet in Atmadarshan. He returned to READ on 15 January. The short-term residential program for the students of Class VIII took place from 16 to 25 January. Sr. Sunita made a short visit to Banaras on 19 January and she along with Sr. Rajini returned to READ on 24 January. The much awaited Provincial's Annual Visitation was on 26 January. Our children put up a colorful cultural program on the eve of the Provincial's visitation. **Fr. Anil Minz** and Sr. Sunita

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conducted an awareness workshop about POCSO for our animators and supervisors on 31 January.

- Robert Razeem

St. Xavier's Colleges, XTTI: The new semester began on 02 January 2020. On 07 January, a skit was performed by students to celebrate National Youth Day. To mark this occasion, Mr. Ajay Kumar took students to Rajgir. Fr. Raj Kumar gave the keynote address on "Integrated Knowledge Towards An Enriched Society (IKTES



2020)" at an international conference at Loyola College, Chennai. On 19 January, the staff and students participated actively in the human chain for "Jal, Jivan aur Hariyaali". Along with placards and posters, they also performed street plays in Digha market. The annual visitation of the Provincial from 16 to 19 January was a grace-filled time for the Jesuit community at XTTI. On 21 January, an inter-departmental competition was conducted on the Academic Theme of the year "Gandhiji's India: Together, Towards the Well-being of All". NSS volunteers conducted a five day camp for children from the slums. Xavier Theatre Club took part in a street play competition held at IIT Kharagpur. **Fr. Sebastian Alphonse** published his research article in the book Smart Systems and I.T.: Innovations in Computing by Springer International. AAGAAZ – the First Intercollege Sports Fest of St. Xavier's College was conducted from 29 January to 02 February. Many colleges and Schools participated in the sports fest. St. Xavier's college secured the overall championship.

- Sebastian Alphonse

XISR: Fr. Jose Kalapura Coordinator of the Dialogue Commission organized an inter-religious Christmas Milan on 22 December 2019, at Navjyoti Niketan Hall, under the Patna Peace Mission. Messages of Christmas Peace were given by Gurus from various religious traditions (Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Jain) to some 120 participants. The program included carol singing by a few choir groups from Chakaram Minor Seminary, Students of the College of Nursing, Kurji, Novice Sisters of the CJ Convent. In late December, 28-30, **Fr. Jose Kalapura** present-

ed a paper at the Indian History Congress at Kannur University, on the "Globalization of Sanskrit by Jesuit Scholars". He also attended a Church Historians' meet at Bandra, Mumbai on 01 February.

-Jose Kalapura

Gesù, Rome: The month began with the good news that all the first years passed the test in Italian language. On 08 November, Father General celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the Church of the Gesù on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Social Secretariat of the Society. We had a community recollection on 23 November. The theme of the recollection was "The audacity of the impossible". This theme is taken from the letter of Father General on the Ignatian year 2021-2022 of 27 September 2019. Fr. Claudio Rajola, SJ, helped us to reflect over it. Some days later, we also had a training program in emotional maturity. The theme was "Taking care of yourself as a sign of maturity" and it was guided by Fr. Xavier Hwang, SJ. On 07 December, we had a Community Trip to Viterbo city (known for the palace of the popes). On 12 December, the community began our first Christmas celebration with house staff members. Like every year, the choir members of the community, participated in the Gregorian University Christmas carols and wished all the students and the professors. The community missed Fr. Orlando, SJ, our Rector, at Christmas because on 22 December, he fell down while exercising and broke his left arm. After surgery, he was bed ridden for one week in the infirmary of Canisius attached to the Curia. We sang carols for the senior fathers in Canisius on 24 December. In the evening, we participated in the Christmas Vigil mass in our Gesù Church and some of us went to St. Peter's Basilica. On 25 December, the community had a colourful Cultural Christmas Evening. The New Year was welcomed joyfully. On 06 January, we sang the last Christmas carols to the Gregorian community and from 07 January, we had regular classes. We had another training program on emotional maturity in January. The theme was: "Sex education, sexual orientation, attraction, falling in love". Fr Stanislaw Morgalla, SJ, shared his reflections with the community. We had our semester exams from 23 January 2020.

- Dinesh Toppo SJ

Vidyajyoti, Delhi: New Year 2020 began on a spiritual note as the first and second years had a Triduum and the third years had their Diaconate Retreat. From 05 January, **Rajeev and Jeevan** began their Immer-

sion Experience for a period of three months. This will help them contextualize their theology better. It will not only help them to get in touch with the poor, the neglected and marginalized communities within



the city, but also give them a sharper perspective as students of theology. The Indian Social Institute organized a three day seminar on 'International Consultation on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities' in collaboration with Vidyajyoti College of Theology. The second year students actively participated and helped the ISI to make this seminar successful. It was a challenging and learning process for all of us as we accompanied the visually impaired persons to take part in the seminar. Various panel discussions, fruits of these discussions and consultations were indeed very beneficial for all the participants especially for the persons with various disabilities. It helped them know and realize their fundamental rights. We had Pongal celebration in our college. The brothers and sisters from Tamil Nadu took special interest to make this celebration a memorable one. Some of the Scholastics got a special pass to watch first-hand the 71st Republic Day Parade at Rajpath Marg. It was a really thrilling experience for many of us. We stood by the JNU students and other people who are protesting against unconstitutional laws at different places in Delhi like Mandi House, Shaheen Baag and Jantar Mantar, etc. The third year students are busy with their preparation for Ad Auds exam.

- Jeevan Isaac

Xavier Nilaya, Bengaluru: We started the first month of the year 2020 on a pleasant note. Right at the beginning, we ventured into polishing our mission-tongue (Hindi) with Mrs. Francina, our Guru. Amidst our busy schedule, **Fr. Daniel Raj** had to rush home for the funeral service of Richard Raj- his cousin in Tamil Nadu. Besides the regular practice for our Annual play, we are equally keeping ourselves engaged in our coaching classes. Hence at present our life in Xavier Nilaya has been truly a disciplined one. We had

a few guests like Frs. Bernard, Jose Elampassery, Joe Kootinal, Selvin, Soosai (PCF, Delhi) and Fr. Kuldeep, MSFS, and parents of a few candidates. We actively



participated in the Mission Sunday Programme in our Parish. On 14 January, we went on a pilgrimage as a community to the Infant Jesus Shrine at Vivek Nagar, Bengaluru. The attack on the Church at Kengeri, Bengaluru, by unknown miscreants in January was a shock for us. Keeping this desecration in mind, as urged by the Archbishop Peter Machado, we had a well-organized adoration in our Chapel on 24 January. On the 71st Republic Day of India, we had holy Mass followed by flag hoisting. Candidate Sandeep delivered the speech. At the close of the month, we had cultural tour to Mysuru.

Candidates- Alfin & Devashish

Interreligious Prayer Meet to Condole the Death of Fr. Sumit Edwin Menezes SJ: Friend of Musahars & champion of their Culture

An interfaith prayer service and condolence meet was held in Jeevan Sangham, Bodh Gaya in honour of Fr. Edwin Sumit Menezes who died on 18 December 2019 from a cardiac arrest. Welcoming the large gath-



ering, Fr. Anto Joseph recollected his valuable contribution towards the development of Jeevan Sangham

with the twin objective of walking with the Bhuiya – Musahar community in their empowerment and promotion of interfaith dialogue and social harmony. Fr. Cyriac Poovakot, with a reading from the Holy Bible led representatives of various religious traditions to pray for the departed soul. Shri. Jitan Ram Manjhi, honorable former Chief Minister of Bihar highlighted the significance of the commitment of Fr. Sumit. He said, “There is no greater worship than sharing the pain of others and serving others.” Speaking on Fr. Sumit’s contribution to the social empowerment of Bhuiya – Musahar community, he lauded the services of the church

towards the educational empowerment of the community. Shrimati Jyoti Manjhi, former Member of Legislative Assembly, Bihar recollected his encouragement to her. “He always remained an inspiration, guide, and motivator in my life”, she said.

His passion was to search for and understand the history and culture of the community. He once wrote, “The culture of these groups who live their lives on the margins, is woven inextricably with their occupation, their everyday conflicts, their productive processes and their life styles. Hence, for me to work with and among these people meant an understanding of their world and world views, their culture and traditions, their folk religion, their economic relationships, their rites and rituals, their stories, their myths and mythology, their songs and dances...” Fr. Tony Herbert, SJ, and Shri Frank Krishner, his team members working on his dream project of creating a virtual museum of Bhuiya History and Culture, said that Fr. Sumit’s dream of the cultural museum shall be fulfilled soon.

Prem Mandal narrated how Fr. Sumit, following a very simple life style, walked around the villages, lived among the people, listened to their stories, participated in their dance and music and encouraged them. He described the journey of the community with Fr. Sumit in establishing an Ambedkar Study Centre from where about 25 children complete secondary education every year since 2017.

Venerable Pragya Deep, president, All India Bhikshu Sangh, recollected his association with him. Shri. A. H. Khan, the secretary of Inter Faith Forum, Bodh Gaya, informed the gathering that Fr. Sumit had been a founding member and secretary of the Forum. He recollected his commitment to inter faith dialogue and social harmony. Shri. Pradip Jain from

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the Interfaith Forum fondly remembered the contributions of Fr. Sumit for the cause of religious harmony and social justice.

Shri. Priye Ranjan, a personal friend and President, YMCA, Gaya, as well as the former president of Rotary Club, Gaya, recollected his fond memories of Fr. Sumit. He said, "Fr. Sumit had been personal guide to many people and he was a true friend of many. To all for whom he was a personal guide, he kept whispering in their heart 'when you start earning, no matter how much, you should share a part of it with the poor'". On this occasion, Venerable Sumati Sasana, sent his condolence message titled 'Father Sumit: My friend has departed'. Venerable Sumati Sasana wrote, "We shared so much, a respect for each other and our respective religious traditions as well as a concern for the state of society and the world. Father Sumit practiced what he believed; spending most of his working



days with the people he cared for and loved the dalit communities.

Rev. Fr. Donald Miranda, the Provincial, thanked the gathering for their affection towards Fr. Sumit. He said he feels fulfilled when his companion Jesuit is so fondly remembered by so many people. The values which Fr. Sumit believed in and lived out are close to the heart of every Jesuit. Jeevan Sangham which Fr. Sumit founded shall take forward the mission of walking with the poor and working for religious and social harmony. While **Fr. Lawrence Ujjwal**, the director of Inter-religious dialogue, Jeevan Sanham, gave the vote of thanks. **Fr. John Ravi**, the director of Social Ministry of Jeevan Sangham, led the gathering to sing in one voice as if a call to take forward the mission of **Fr. Sumit**, "Ham Honge Kamyab..."

-Anto Joseph

Young Priests' Meet: In the evening of 13 January, we, the nine young priests of the province, gathered in Atmadarshan for reflection and sharing. Fr. Susai Raj gave the introductory points after supper.

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The next morning, we spent time reflecting over the question: "How is my life as a young Jesuit Priest?"



After personal reflection, we shared our reflections with our companions. Then **Fr. Susai Raj** explained the four major ministries that constitute our life as Jesuit priests. "1. The ministry of the Eucharist, 2. The ministry of the Word, 3. The ministry of the Apostolates, 4. The ministry of witness through (personal) life." We spent personal time in prayer and reflection over every point and had sharing in the group. Many of us were inspired and challenged with the sharing and reflection. In the evening, we went to Xavier Bhawan for the birthday dinner of **Fr. Joe Njarakulam**. We continued with our reflection and sharing the following day. Then we concluded the meeting in the afternoon of 15 January with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by the new priests: Frs. Felix Marshal and Nicholas. We sincerely thank Fr. Susai Raj for meticulously planning the sessions and making these two days very inspiring and encouraging. We also thank the Atmadarshan Community for the accommodation and hospitality.

-A. Prakash

For the Sick:

Fr. Josey Mathias, had a successful minor surgery of his vocal cord. He is advised to give complete rest to his vocal cord for the next ten days

Bro. K. C., is admitted to KHFH with multi-organ problems. He has respiratory and kidney problems along with diabetes. He has been on and off the ventilator.

Fr. Paul Jackson is admitted into Ruben Hospital with breathing difficulties. He seems better now.

For the Departed:

Fr. Thomas Pullenkav, SJ (CCU 80/37) died on 20 January 2020.

Fr. Joachim D' Mello, SJ (GOA 68/46) expired on 21 January 2020 in Guyana.

Sr. Elsy Ann, SAL, the cousin of Fr. Joseph Kunnumpuram, SJ, died on 24 January in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

Mrs. Theresa (80's), the sister-in-law of Fr. Augustine Ambrose, SJ, died on 25 January

Fr. Prasad Lankapalli, SJ (AND, 34/53) passed away on 27 January 2020 in Papal Seminary, Pune.

Mrs. Mariamma (102), the mother of Fr. Mathew Chemplany, SJ, expired on 30 January 2020.

Fr. Xavier Varghese Kuruppamparambil of the Patna Archdiocese died in Kerala on 29 January 2020. After his ordination in 1959, Fr. Xavier served in Gulni, Sikandra, Itarhi, and Gaya. In 1999, he left for Kerala where he was doing spiritual ministry.

Br Thomas Rama, SJ (KAR, 69/41), passed away on 01 February, 2020 in Mallya Hospital, Bengaluru.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS BEFORE
THE 02ND OF EVERY MONTH.**

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