



Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick

On February 11, 1859, Our Lady had appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes in the French Pyrenees in a grotto of Massabelle, for the first time. The appearance was repeated 18 times till July 16.

People began to flock the place and soon it became a renowned pilgrimage centre. Ever since many miracles are reported from the place. With the appearance of Mary a new spring began to flow at that place. There are thousands of people who claim that they are healed through their visit to Lourdes. Yes, those who approach this shrine with faith, miracles have taken place. Fr. Pedro Arrupe SJ 19 years old, former general of the Jesuits, a brilliant but unbelieving medical student who had accompanied his parents to the shrine as a volunteer, and witnessed a miracle at the light procession in October 1926. A 26 years old polio victim, whose body crippled and completely deformed, was pushed in a wheel chair by his mother. His mother kept intoning "Holy Virgin, come to our aid. Then the bishop came with the Blessed Sacrament, and made the Sign of the Cross with it over the boy. At that instant the boy leapt from his chair completely cured. It was a turning point in his life and he had decided to give up medical studies and join religious life. "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary; for those who do not believe in God, no explanation is possible." (John La Farge SJ)

On October 12, 2002, I had paid my first visit to Lourdes. Swarms of tourists, lots Italians, Spaniards, Germans, Portuguese, even Japanese were there. What touched me was the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is at the foot of a rock as high as hundred feet. Thousands of pilgrims who come to the Grotto perform three actions: touch the rock, wash

themselves with the water of the spring, light a candle. There are many sanctuaries. The Basilica of Immaculate Conception being the main. For me it was not a visit, it was an encounter with the Triune God and Divine Mother. Most of the people who come here with routine faith, go back with fortified faith not only in the Divine Mother but in God the creator of that Divine Mother.

The World Day of the Sick was instituted on 13 May 1992 by St. Pope John Paul II. Beginning on 11 February 1993, it is celebrated every year on the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes, for all believers seeks to be "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering".

St. Pope John Paul II had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease as early as 1991, an illness which was only disclosed later, and it is significant that he decided to create a World Day of the Sick only one year after his diagnosis. The Pope had written a great deal on the topic of suffering and believed that it was very much a salvific and redeeming process through Christ, as he indicated in his apostolic letter *Salvifici Doloris*.

The feast of O.L. Lourdes was chosen because many pilgrims and visitors to Lourdes have been healed by intercessions of the Blessed Virgin.

In 2005, the World Day of the Sick had a special significance since it was the year Pope John Paul died from a sepsis. Many people had gathered around him as he lay dying.

The work and presence of St. Teresa of Kolkata has brought the celebration of World Sick Day to Kolkata this year.

+ **Salvadore Lobo**

News from Raghobpur

Our Jesuit Raghobpur mission gave birth to the new Parish of St. Teresa of Kolkata, Hogulkuria on December 19th, 2018. The Fathers of the Congregation of Mission (CM), already working in the neighbouring de Paul School, Jayanpur, after systematic collaboration with us, were entrusted with the Pastoral responsibility of the nascent Parish. The Raghobpur Mission Superior along with the Parish Priest and the members of our Community, were meticulously engaged in the preparation, transition, and birth of the new Parish. Earlier, **Fr. Amulya, S.J.** had done all the spade work. The people of Hogulkuria were happy to have a new Parish Priest **Fr. Joseph K.C. (CM)** who was installed by our **Bishop Salvatore Lobo**. Three Provincials graced the occasion, namely Fr. Raphael Hyde S.J., Fr. Vijay Kumar Nayak C.M., Sr. Cessy Scaria S.C.C. The day ended with an Agape and cultural function.

The Raghobpur Campus is truly a center of attraction at Christmas time. Christmas is marked by the presence of many well wishers and *Khrist bhakts* coming from all over the area. The main attraction is the Midnight mass and the annual *Ananda Mela* on the school grounds. This year's Main Celebrant **Fr. T.J. Thomas, S.J.** gave a stirring homily. He said, "Christmas is a *Dikh theke Digonto*" (a direction for salvation). On Christmas day, people from all walks of life thronged to the Church throughout the day and proceeded from there to the *Ananda Mela*. Parents brought their children to be blessed by the new-born Child Jesus kept in his cradle in the beautifully decorated Church. It is truly an Evangelizing moment.

On 28th December, the feast day of the Holy Innocents, a solemn Mass was celebrated for our children. We prayed for all children and gave them a special blessing, a gift and some refreshments after the Celebration. The church was filled to its capacity on both the evening of December 31st for the Thanksgiving Mass and the celebration of the Feast of the Mother of God on New Years' Day.

Our Road race in preparation for our Annual Sports was held on January 12th. About 150 boys and 50 girls participated and nearly all completed the race, another mega event.

On Sunday January 20th a Medical camp was organized in the College premises, where 650 people were given a sugar and lipid profile and Eye tests. Many will now proceed for free Eye operations. This was organized by SVP and managed by the College Alumni. It was a unique example of perfect collaboration between the Parish and the College. Fr. Principal, **Dominic Savio** said, "Every year a medical camp will be held in Raghobpur."

- Fr. Salvatore Murmu, S.J.

A Unique Counselling Course

"Nowhere in India you will find a counselling course which enables trainees to do actual counselling with only four days of training," said a person who understands the difference between ordinary counselling and psychological counselling.

In fact, thanks to the simplified counselling model developed by Fr. Pradeep Roy and the Baruiipur Paribar Jyoti team and the methodology followed, the participants were able to grasp in two days the basic concepts such as empathy, concreteness, personalisation, reframing etc., and were able to apply these as they counselled their peers on a one-to-one basis in small groups during the remaining days. All the 30 trainees got a chance to function as counsellor while the trainers and others remained as observers.

Paribar Jyoti's counselling model, called **Emotionally Liberative Counselling model (ELC)** is based on the following three models:

1. The 'Eagen's model' followed in the Christian Counselling Centre, Vellore,
2. The 'Carcuff model' outlined in the books, "Barefoot Counselor" by Joe Curry and "Personal Counselling" by J. M. Funster,
3. The 'Micro-Skill model' followed in Anugraha Counselling Institute, Dindigul and the Fountain College Krishnagiri, TN.

The recent training on January 06-10, 2019 was conducted at the request of the organisation, Krishnanagr Society for Social Reconstruction whose inspiration is from Fr. Robin Mondol. The four days of training does not make the trainees professional counsellors. But they are able to do basic counselling and perfect their skills before they attend the second phase of training of another four days.



A Crowded Marriage Preparation Course

62 was a large number for the facilities in Paribar Jyoti. With so many participants, many arriving without prior information, the class room, the dormitories etc. were crowded. But they were very accommodating thanks to the family spirit generated and it did not make much difference for the person-centered methodology followed in Paribar Jyoti.

There were Catholics mostly sent by parish priests and also Hindus and Muslims who came as they understood the usefulness of this course. All were happy to see that Paribar Jyoti is a place where people of all communities can come together and remain like a family. They could also see that there is no difference between communities when they frankly discuss their attitudes towards the opposite sex, differential needs of men and women, challenges faced by husbands and wives etc. The men were particularly taken up by the separate session on their role and responsibility to create due space for their new family within the parents' family and ensure that the new member is well integrated. Meanwhile the women had a discussion on how to find their place in the new family keeping a balance between relationships and their personal needs. The participants irrespective of religion were happy to learn that marriage is a call to a life of immense joy and peace as two persons become intimately and inseparably united in the love of God who supplements their love with his own infinite love.

Dishari at a Glance



On 5th of January, 2019 Dishari organized a Charismas Get-together for the SCC members. Altogether 390 people participated from 15 parishes, namely Rishi Bankim Nagar, Sonarpur, Ranigarh, Morapai, Thakurpukur, Budge-Budge, Gangarampur, Cathedral, Kumrokhali, Canning, Raghobpur, Kalyanpur, Gosaba, Bamanpukur and Sajneberia. Fr. Ramen Pailan, Fr. Uttam Naskar, Fr. Sirnus Tapno Fr. Ramey D'Sa sfx had come with the parishioners as a pastor to encourage and share their joy. Christmas gathering began with Holy Eucharist presided by Rev. Bishop Salvatore Lobo who was the chief guest of the day. All the parishes participated for the Carol competition with joyful heart. At the end of the gathering, Christmas gifts were given to all of them. It

was a memorable experience for the people who participated.

On 6th January 2019 Dishari organized a Christmas get together for Sunday School Children. Altogether 311 children attended the gathering from 9 parishes, namely Cathedral, Morapai, Sonarpur, Canning, Gangarampur, Kumrokhali, Raghobpur, Kalyanpur and Sajneberia. Programme began with Holy Eucharist presided by the Fr. Jonas Singha. The chief guest for the programme was Fr. Deepak Ekka. All the children participated the skit on nativity, parish wise carol singing. At the end of the gathering all of them were given a Christmas gift.

On 14th of January, 2019 Dishari organized SCC seminar at Balarampur substation under Morapai parish. Altogether 68 participants attended the seminar. All of them actively attended the programme and promised to continue Gospel Sharing in their respective places.

A three days Regional SCC youth Seminar organized by Fr. I. P. Sartho, the regional SCC coordinator from 18th to 20th January-2019 was held at Dishari Pastoral center. Altogether 58 participants from five dioceses namely, Asansol, Baruiipur, Kolkata, Krishnagar and Raiganj attended the seminar. The resource persons for this seminar were Fr. I. P. Sartho, Fr. Rajesh Paul Kujur, Fr. Raju from Morning Star College, Barrackpore, Mr. Micheal Jyortimoy Saha and Bishop Salvatore Lobo. The main theme of the seminar was Prophetic role of youth, "Gaudete Exsultate" or "On call to holiness in today's world" and Joy of the Gospel. All of them were very keen to learn and promised to promote SCC in our Bengal Sikkim Region.

Holy Angels' School, Kalyanpur



After the diocese of Baruiপুর decided to convert St. Mary's School Kalyanpur into English Medium, many poor children from Kalyanpur and its surrounding villages approached the RNDM sisters to open a Bengali medium school so that those who are unable to send their children to English medium school could also receive good education. After much reflection and discernment, the Leadership Team of India Central Province decided to open a Bengali Medium Primary School, (Nursery to Class IV) by renovating the unused spaces in the dispensary.

Saturday 12 January 2019 was a day of special joy for the sisters as Fr. Jonas Singha, the Vicar General of the diocese blessed the school while Sr. Joicy Madassery, the Provincial Superior inaugurated it. We were very privileged to have the presence of several RNDM sisters, Rev. Fr. John Britto, the Parish Priest, Fr. Uttam Naskar, Fr. Tushar Gomes, Deacon Bablu Sardar, the first batch of 35 children and their parents. We had a meaningful prayer service to bless our little ones as they begin their first step to education. We also welcomed our teachers Mrs. Shilpi Makhal, Mrs. Snehalata Roy and Miss Somashree Sardar to be a part of this institution and wished them blessings so that they may be committed to their duties.

Fr. Tushar Gomes gave an orientation to the parents on good parenting and the importance of education. On 14 January we also welcomed three children into our boarding. We hope to receive many more students from far away villages as we have seats available both in the school and boarding.

We thank our sisters for taking this great step to care for the poor and we appreciate the wonderful support and cooperation extended by the diocese and the parish. The prayer and dream of Euphrase Barbier, our foundress "our students become valiant men and women worthy of God and of the praise of humanity" may come true.

Sr. Jessy D' Souza RNDM

Annual CCBI meeting

The 31st Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) held at the Joe Beach Animation Centre, Mahabalipuram, Chennai was attended by Bp. Salvatore Lobo from January 07-14, 2019. The Assembly deliberated on the theme "The Joy of the Gospel" and chalked out detailed programmes and action plans to revitalize the ministry of love and compassion of the Church at the diocesan and parish levels. In the course of the meeting new office bearers, Most Rev. Dr. Filipe Neri Fer-rão, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, was elected as the new President of the Conference. He will replace His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay who served the Conference as its President for three terms of two years each from 2013 to 2019. Most Rev. Dr. George Antonysamy Archbishop of Madras - Mylapore and Most Rev. Dr. Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, the Archbishop of Delhi were re-elected CCBI Vice president and Secretary General respectively.

Gleanings from De Paul School Jayanpur (DPSJ) Diary



With immense joy and gratitude to God, De Paul School Jayanpur celebrated its third annual day cum 70th Republic day of India on 26th January, 2019. Fr. Naresh Chandra Nayak, C.M., Principal of De Paul School, Bansdroni, Fr. Deepak Ekka, Fathers, Sisters, Parishioners of St. Teresa of Kolkata Catholic Church, Hogalkuria, inmates of the New Age Society for all, Baruiপুর and all staff, students and parents of DPSJ participated in this celebration to witness the motto of the school 'To give roots and wings. The celebration was marked upon by the programme performed by students of Play Class to Class-V. All the buds of DPSJ tried their best to convey the message that 'to teach is to touch lives

forever'. Chief Guest Fr. Naresh Chandra Nayak and the Guest of Honour Fr. Deepak Ekka exalted the gathering with the value of education that education in life should be with the components of Responsibility, Integrity etc. The school magazine- PLUS ULTRA was released and the first copy was handed over to the Chief Guest. RED/SCIENCE CLUB was awarded the first position in the inter-house competitions held in the school in the academic year 2018-19. Swastika Banerjee of Red house of Class V (Girls section) and Rishav Sarkar of Yellow House of Class-IV (Boys section) were awarded the individual champions in the field of Indoor events held in school in the year 2018-19. Dedicated service of the teachers and perfect management paves the way for the success of this institution. We aspire that De Paul continues to be a powerhouse of knowledge and experience. We thank God for all that He is doing for this institution and all the blessings showered by Him.

- Fr. K.C. Joseph, CM

Joy of the First Profession of Six Loreto Sisters

"I have called you by name you are mine." IS. 43:1



There was great joy recently for the Institute of Blessed Virgin Mary in Loreto Novitiate, Abhilasha, Thakurpukur. Six sisters (Rosita Tirkey, Rajni Lugung, Priyanka Soreng, Preeti Pratima Minj, Priyanka M. Dungdung and Priyanka Dungdung) responded generously to the call of God and professed their first vows on January 23, 2019.

Bishop Salvatore Lobo was joined by other five priests in celebrating the Holy Eucharist and the congregation enjoyed his inspiring homily. The newly professed sisters were joined by their parents, relatives and many IBVM sisters from different communities. After the mass, the congregation congratulated them. The day ended with a delicious meal together and much dancing and celebrations.

- Sr. Nirmala IBVM

Confirmations at Kulpi



Bishop Salvatore Lobo administered the sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation on January 20, 2019 at Kulpi Church one of the sub-centres of Diamond Harbour parish. There were seven boys and girls who received the Sacrament of Confirmation, five from Kulpi and two from Sagar Island. Bishop gave first Holy Communion to two boys and girls from Kulpi itself. Fr. James SDB, Missionaries of Charity Sisters and Catechist prepared the candidates for the reception of the Sacraments.

The Fathers, Sisters and the faithful gathered together to welcome Bishop at the road. Bishop was welcomed with a garland at the beginning of the Holy Eucharist. It was really a Holy Spirit-filled day for the candidates, parents and faithful.

- Fr. Sudhir Barwa SDB

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY 2019

02 Br. Johon Anup Pore

06 Fr. Uttam Naskar

08 Fr. John Britto

13 Fr. Abonindro Das

14 Fr. Prolay Boidya

17 Br. Pritam Mondal

18 Fr. Molloy Mondal

NOTICE BOARD

Priests recollection will be held at Dishari Pastoral Centre, Baruipur from February 5, 2019 at 5.30 p.m. to February 6, 2019 till lunch.
Diocesan Pastoral Plan

- February 05, 2019: Meeting of leaders of associations (CLC, SVP etc) and Women's Commission
- February 07, 2019: Meeting of all the priests (other than parish priests and commission secretaries)

Programmes in Paribar Jyoti:

- February 08-09: Marriage Preparation Course.
- February 18-20: Personality Development Course for students of Class IX-X
- February 22-23: Young Couples seminar (Also meant for those whose marriage is to be regularised)

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer, Month of February 2019

Human Trafficking

For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

ANNOUNCEMENT

- This is to inform that the Tribunal of the Supreme Apostolic Signatura, Rome, has, by its decree dated 3rd December 2018, Prot. N. 3206/B/18 SAT, erected The Diocesan Ecclesiastical Tribunal of Baruipur.
- Fr. Deepak Ekka has been duly authorised to grant Marriage Dispensation for Catholic Diocese of Baruipur, since January 23, 2019.

Annual Sports Meet of St. Mary's School: An Event to Treasure



It was a spectacular sight to see six to eight year olds doing march past to beats of drums with music. And again it was a sheer wonder to witness still younger children of just four to six year olds doing the drills in unison to the accompaniment of music. Yes. The event was the Annual Sports of St. Mary's School, Kalyanpur. The children also performed a formation of pyramids. Each class had two individual games and one group game for the competition. There were also some interesting games for guests, parents, teachers and past pupils. The event was an occasion for the little children to show case their non-academic talents which also help them to grow as integral persons.

The programme that started at exactly 2.00 pm on January 22, 2019 had the privilege of having Bishop Salvatore Lobo as the chief guest and other guests that included Fr. Pradeep Roy, Sr. Anita Dung Dung, RNDM, many priests, Brothers, Sisters and well-wishers. The success of the programme especially with little children only goes to prove the meticulous planning and hardwork put up by the administration and the staff. The programme had a unique and extraordinary emcee in the person of Fr. Tushar Augustine Gomes. He along with his host of seminarians played a great role in the event's success.

Bishop Lobo, in his message, congratulated the staff and children for the wonderful show put up by them. Fr. John Britto, secretary of the school, in his address, sought the cooperation of one and all for the future development of the school. He also said that the school's history is not just four years but 39 years and the school will be celebrating its ruby jubilee next year. He also called upon the ex-students of the school to come together and form an association to stand by the development of the school.

St. Mary's School at Kalyanpur, after the administration's decision to change the medium from Bengali to English in 2015, has grown upto class II. The last batch of the Bengali medium left the school in December 2018 and the present strength of 180 children are of classes from Nursery to Class II. All kudos to Fr. John Britto, Sr. Kiran, Sr. Pushpa, Fr. Uttam, the staff and volunteers.

- Dn. Bablu Sardar



A New Pastor for Panchamkhanda Parish

The parishioner of Panchamkhanda whole heartedly thanked the Lord for they have a new shepherd Fr. Abonindro Das to lead them onward on their journey of faith.

Fr. Meghnad Singha concelebrated the Holy Eucharist along with Fr. Abonindro Das and Fr. Saumen Malik. After the Holy Mass Fr. Abonindro Das was introduced to the faithful by Fr. Meghnad Singha, as the new shepherd of the parish. He promised to be faithful to his task of shepherding his flock.

On behalf of the parishioners Mr. Purnandu Ghughu assured their full support to Fr. Abonindro and in return Fr. Abonindro Das also thanked the faithful for their whole hearted cooperation.

- Fr. Jonas Singha

Bishop Lobo's Programme for February 2019

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
04	Mon	09.00 a.m.	Seva Kendra, Kolkata	Fatima Apostolate
05	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruipur	Pastoral Planning - Meeting of leaders of associations (CLC, SVP etc) and Women's Commission
		06.00 p.m.		Priests recollection
06	Wed	05.00 p.m.		Priests recollection
07	Thu	10.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruipur	Pastoral Planning - Meeting of all the priests
09	Sat	09.00 a.m.	Abp's House, Kol.	World Sick Day
10-11	Sun-Mon	09.00 a.m.	Abp's House, Kol.	World Sick Day
12	Tue	06.00 p.m.	Dhyan Ashram	Mass for the Annual Priests gathering of Asansol Diocese
13	Wed	03.00 p.m.	Baruipur	Finance committee meeting
14	Thu	09.00 a.m.	MSC- Barrackpore	Symposium on Evangelization in South Asia since Maximum Illud
15	Fri		MSC- Barrackpore	Symposium on Evangelization in South Asia since Maximum Illud
16	Sat		Thakurpukur	Centenary celebration of Bethany Fathers - OIC
18	Mon		Amghata	Visit to Regional Propaedeutic Seminary
21	Thu	10.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruipur	Governing Board Meeting of Dishari Pastoral Centre
26	Tue	06.30 a.m.		Sundarbans