

St. Joseph: Model of Every Father of Christian Family

In his apostolic Letter "Patris Corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), His Holiness Pope Francis has declared this year from December 08, 2020 to December 08, 2021 as the Year of St. Joseph in honour of the 150th Year of Pope Pius IX declaring St. Joseph on 8th of December 1870 in decree 'Quemadmodum Deus' as the "Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary" and the "Foster Father of Jesus Our Saviour", the "Patron of the Universal Catholic Church" and elevating the Feast of St. Joseph on 19th March to the rank of Solemnity. The person of St. Joseph is so important in the Catholic Church that he is remembered twice in the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church, namely, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the Husband of Mary, on March 19 and the Feast of St. Joseph, the Worker, on May 01. Moreover, Pope Leo XIII declared March to be the month of St. Joseph in his Encyclical Letter on devotion to St. Joseph 'Quamquam Pluries' on 15th August, 1889. Joseph is probably the greatest and most beloved of all the saints of the Catholic Church next to Mary. Therefore, it is very appropriate that I dedicate the News Letter of March to St. Joseph and invite all to meditate on his life. It is our privilege that during this year, Pope Francis has granted Plenary Indulgences to Catholics who recite any approved prayers or practice devotion in honour of St. Joseph.

Holy Father Pope Francis has beautifully described the personality of St. Joseph in his Apostolic Letter "Patris Corde", "With a Father's Heart". It depicts the way in which St. Joseph has loved his son Jesus. It will be proper if we have a brief knowledge of the document. All the four evangelists have presented the identity of Jesus as the son of Joseph. Joseph is the foster father of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. From the Gospels, we come to know Joseph about what sort of father he was and what sort of mission was entrusted to him by God's providence.

Pope Francis shares his personal reflection on St. Joseph found in the Scriptures. He attributes to St. Joseph seven fatherly qualities, describing him as 1) a beloved father, 2) a tender and loving father, 3) an obedient father, 4) an accepting father, 5) a creatively courageous father, 6) a working father and 7) a father in the shadows.

We do not hear much of St. Joseph in the Gospels. The first appearance of him in the Gospel was in the genealogy of Jesus recorded as the son of Jacob by Matthew (Mt 1:16) and son of Eli by Luke (Lk 3:23). The last time Joseph appears in person is during the Passover visit to the temple

in Jerusalem when Jesus in his Twelve years, was found in the temple sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions (Lk 3:46). Thereafter we do not hear of him. It has been reasonably inferred that he did not live to see the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Four reasons may be provided with that a) Joseph was absent at the Wedding at Cana. b) Nothing of Joseph was mentioned during the Passion, Death and Burial of Our Lord. c) According to the Jewish custom, it is expected that after the death of Our Lord, the body was supposed to be handed over to his father. But the role was taken by Joseph of Arimathea who laid his body in his own new tomb which he had hewn in the rock (Mt 27:60) and d) Moreover, at the last moment of Jesus' life, Our Lord would not have entrusted his mother to the care of John the Apostle if her husband had been alive. However, the date and place of his death, place of burial are unknown.

Pope notes that the evangelists made few references to St. Joseph in the Sacred Scripture. He is mentioned as a carpenter (Mt 13:55), betrothed to Mary (Mt 1:18; Lk 1:27) and a just and righteous man who faithfully lived up to God's law and observances of the religion (Mt 1:19). We do not hear any spoken words from St. Joseph but we find him through his actions, namely, listening to God's instructions attentively, and carrying them out immediately. It is the hidden life of St. Joseph and the Holy Father describes it as the life in shadows.

St. Joseph being an ordinary man, hidden yet fulfilled the duties of a father with the greatest love and thus became the greatest husband and father. He gave himself to the holy family; every moment of everyday; his love, his sacrifice, his concern, his protection and security and his labour. We need more protection from dangers, enemies, persecutors, civil and political unrest, suppression and oppression, tension, violence, sickness, economic crisis and self-isolation. The devotion to St. Joseph could save us. Pope Francis invites us to 'go to St. Joseph' to increase our devotion to him. Let us imitate his virtues of fidelity, dedication, constancy, love, gentleness, courage and faith. The Pope offers the example of St. Joseph to be followed by every father of Christian family as well as every faithful to strive for holiness and perfection of their particular state of life to put the Gospel into practice.

+ Shyamal Bose

Blessing of the New Church at Chak Rasul Mammud on Sunday, February 14th, 2021



It is no exaggeration to suggest that the blessing of the newly constructed Church in Chak Rasul Mammud, one of our oldest mission stations, was a significant milestone in the history of our Raghampur Jesuit Mission. The ceremony was meticulously prepared by the local Christian community, under the meticulous care and guidance of Fr. Salvatore. Twelve of our children also received their First Communion on this auspicious day. As expected, the Church was filled to capacity and a good number remained outside in full view of all the proceedings.

At precisely 10.00 a.m. Bishop Shyamal Bose was escorted in joyous and triumphal procession from the neighbouring football ground to the site of the new Church. The Church, the visible protruding Cross on its front wall, the new Altar, Church doors and windows were first blessed, and the Eucharistic celebration followed. The Bishop in his beautiful interactive homily explained to the children the meaning of their first reception of the Body and Blood of Christ. The mellifluous singing of the choir, which had practiced for many days with Fr. Salvatore, added to the sublimity of the occasion. Fr. Salvatore Murmu, in his own inimitable way, gave an energized Vote of Thanks as a fitting finale to this august ceremony. Bishop Shyamal Bose showed beyond any shadow of doubt that he is a Bishop of the people, for the people, with the people.

A specially prepared Reception for our guests (Bishop, Fathers, Sisters, Catechists, Parish Council members), on a specially prepared stage in the front space of the Church, followed by a wonderful Variety Entertainment of music, dance and song, and delicious noon Agape, provided the finishing touches to a truly memorable day.

- Fr. Patrick Walsh S.J.

Ruby Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination of Rev. Fr. Henry Crasta

The Sacerdotal Ruby Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination of Rev. Fr. Henry Crasta was celebrated with a solemn thanksgiving Holy Eucharist presided over by the Jubilarian himself on 6th February 2021, in Morning Star College, Barrackpore, at 10.30 a.m. The Jubilarian along with Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur, Fr. V. Lawrence, Provincial of CMF, Fr. George P., the Rector of MSC, superiors of the neighbouring religious houses and many other priests, religious and brothers thanked the good Lord for the numerous blessings he has received during the last 40 years of his priesthood. The Eucharist was followed by a felicitation program wherein his services to MSC and to the church at large were acknowledged and appreciated by the students and staff with elucidating speeches, entertaining dances, harmonious songs and music. Bishop Shyamal Bose, one of his students, applauded and acknowledged his dedicated service and on behalf of Baruipur diocese felicitated and honoured him with a shawl during the program.

Addressing the gathering, Rev. Fr. Henry Crasta gratefully remembered his days as a priest and thanked his family, friends and all gathered for playing their part in making him who he is. He concluded his Jubilee address with a short prayer, imploring the Lord to give him a Grateful Heart.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka



Sacerdotal Ruby Jubilee (1980 -2020)

Rev. Fr. Henry Crasta

**Morning Star Regional Seminary
Barrackpore, Kolkata**



Meeting of all Priests, Religious and Commission Secretaries

On February 25, 2021, the priests, religious and secretaries of various commissions of the Diocese came together for a meeting held in Dishari. In the meeting, it is decided to host a thanksgiving ceremony as a sign of gratitude to Most Rev. Salvatore Lobo, the Bishop Emeritus, as it could not be possible due to the restrictions laid by the Pandemic at and after the time of his retirement. It will be held on April 30, 2021 on his 76th birthday. Besides, on the same day we would felicitate all those priests of our diocese who have completed their silver and ruby jubilee of their priestly ordination. The three committees, liturgical, cultural and food, were formed in order to look into the nitty-gritty of the day's program.

News from Youth Commission

Thakurpukur



On the 31st of January, 2021, a youth orientation was organized by Sacred Heart Church Thakurpukur at St. Francis Xavier Church, Rasapunja. The day started at 10:00 a.m. with registration and breakfast. The program began with a warm welcome to the Diocesan Youth Director, Diocesan Youth President, Youth Animator, MC Sisters and the Catechists present there. The first session was conducted by our DYD, Fr. Ramen Pailan. It was a lovely session on "Who I AM" as a person and my role in the community. In the next part of the session we were divided into 6 groups where each one had to know the other. The first half of the orientation was then concluded with a Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Ramen and Fr. Pradip Dari, the Curate. We welcomed Fr. J. A. Santhanam, the Parish Priest and Fr. Sajeev Painunkal, SJ, the Novice Master of Dhyan Ashram, on their arrival after the Mass and then proceeded for lunch. The second part of the session started at 2:45 p.m. which was conducted by our DYP, Mr. Sarbeswar Chakrabarty. The action song headed by 2 of the DEXCO members at the beginning was a perfect power start to the session. Mr. Sarbeswar explained to us the Leadership Qualities and its Importance through a lot of interaction. The orientation program was then concluded with the vote of thanks by the Youth Animator of Thakurpukur Parish, Fr. Pradip Dari and Youth President of Sacred Heart Church, Ms. Susan Simon. A thanksgiving prayer was then offered after which everyone enjoyed their evening tea and departed for their home.

- Miss. Valeri Joseph

Baidyapur

The 7th of February, 2021, was a beautiful day for the youth of Baidyapur Parish. On that day, with the help of Parish Priest, the youth commission of Baruipur organized a one-day youth



orientation, where 70 youth happily took part. The Youth Director, Fr. Ramen Pailan offered the Holy Eucharist for the parishioners and the youth. In his homily, he explained the call of God and the way it comes to us. Mr. Debashis Baidya, the youth president of the parish, welcomed Fr. Pailan, Fr. Surajit Mitra, the Parish Priest, FC Sisters and Mr. Sarbeswar Chakrabarty, the diocesan youth president. The first session was taken by Mr. Sarbeswar on 'Leadership and Community Building'. He explained to them the positive and the negative qualities of a leader and their responsibility towards home and society. It was in view of helping them to understand the tenets of building community and leading it. In the second session, the topic, "Who Am I" was dealt with by Fr. Pailan in which he enlightened them to discover their personal identity as a youth. The discovery of personal identity would aid them to form themselves as an active member in the family and society.

A cultural program conducted after Lunch by the youth, in which more than twenty youth joyfully took part and showcased their talents with dancing, singing, recitation, jokes, etc. The orientation ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Rev. Fr. Mitra.

- Mr. Debashis Baidya

Panchamkhanda



On the 14th of February 2021, the Youth Commission of Baruipur organized a Youth Orientation program at Panchamkhanda Parish. The orientation began with Holy Eucharist celebrated by the youth director Rev. Fr. Ramen Pailan. In the beginning of the orientation, Fr. Ramen was welcomed by Mr. Purnendu Ghughu, the Catechist of the parish. During the Orientation, Mr. Ghughu and Fr. Abanindra Das, the Parish Priest, encouraged the youth by their words on career guidance. Fr. Ramen Pailan led the session on "Who Am I and Leadership". It worked like capsules in recognizing their true identity as youth. He explained to them the qualities of a good leader and his responsible ministry in the family and society. The orientation concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the parish priest.

- Mr. Sarbeswar Chakrabarty

Khari



The 21st of February, 2021, was a Joyful day for the youth of Khari Zone. On that day the Youth Commission of Baruipur Diocese organized a Zonal Youth Orientation at Khari Parish, where 170 youth from four Parishes, namely, Morapai, Panchamkhanda, Baidyapur and the host parish, Khari, joyfully took part. The orientation began with the Holy Eucharist offered by the newly ordained priest, Rev. Fr. Sanjay Minj and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Tushar A. Gomes, Rev. Fr. Panneer Selvam and Rev. Fr. Ramen Pailan. There was a warm welcome ceremony by Mr. Rohan Peyada and Ms. Anupama Peyada. Then the subject, "Diocesan Pastoral Plan" was introduced to the youth. Fr. Tushar A. Gomes, the resource person for the orientation, made the session very attractive. There was a group discussion regarding their own plan for the church and their life. The group discussion led the youth into introspection. At the end of the orientation, Fr. Ramen thanked Rev. Fr. Tushar for his beautiful presentation. He also thanked Rev. Fr. Molloy Mondal, the parish Priest of Khari, for giving the opportunity to host the orientation there and all the youth and parish priests of the respective parishes for encouraging and sending the youth. He applauded the youth of Khari for their hard work which led the program to a big success.

- Mr. Sarbeswar Chakrabarty.

Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur

Major Activities in the Month of February 2021

Rally as Mass Awareness Programme



Rallies against protection of adolescent girls from underage marriage was conducted as Mass awareness Campaign at Tilpi Shekhpara and Nikarighata village on 8th and 9th February, 2021, to reach out to the community as a whole.

Altogether 190 community women and adolescent boys and girls participated in these rallies to make the community aware of the awful effects of underage marriage, child labour, trafficking of women and children for commercial exploitation, sex, etc.

Local teacher, ASHA & ICDS worker and Adolescent girls and boys participated in these rallies. There was street play performed at the end of Rally where the people were made aware of underage marriage, school dropout, child labour and human trafficking. They raised slogan against Underage marriage.

Disabled People's Organization (DPO)

The objective of the Disabled People's Organization (DPO) is to form and strengthen groups among the children with disabilities and parents in project operational area to access Government schemes under community based rehabilitation to PWDs; so that they may develop themselves. On 2nd, 3rd and 18th February, 2021, DPOs conducted meetings at Puri Sitakunda, Khankarabazar and Shikharbali village.



The project staff facilitated the meeting about the purpose and benefits of formation of DPOs for the Children with disabilities and their parents. The project staff continues to encourage the Children with disabilities and their Parents to become the member of the DPOs to access CBR benefits.

Debate and Cultural Programme

On the 8th and 9th of February, 2021, Debates on under age marriage, trafficking, child labour and other social violence among women and children had been conducted at Anantampur village under Falta Block and Jagadishpur village under Mandibazar Block respectively.



The participants were divided into two groups. They performed folk dance to beautifully present the local culture. They also participated in the debates facilitated by the project personnel. At the end of the debate both, the champion and runners-up groups, were awarded prizes.



Dishari at a Glance

Dishari Pastoral Centre was full of activities in the Month of February 2021, namely SCC Core Team Meeting, SCC Seminars at different Parishes, Bible Class and Liturgical Hymn practice for the Children, Meeting of Laity commission, CRI meeting, Meeting of Priests and Religious, Meeting of Family Cell, Meetings of Pastors, etc.

SCC Seminar at Kochpukur



On the 10th of February, 2021, an SCC seminar was held at Kochpukur village under Cathedral Parish. Altogether 54 participants attended the seminar from far and near. The seminar began with the enthronement of the Holy Bible. Rev. Fr. Goutam Naskar was the resource person for this seminar. In his talk he emphasized the necessity of the Word of God in our day-to-day life. At the

end of the seminar people decided to continue with the SCC meeting at their own units, which were not regular due to Covid-19. The seminar ended with blessing from the Word of God.

SCC Core Team Meeting



An SCC core team meeting was held at Dishari Pastoral Centre on the 11th of February, 2021. Altogether 32 members, from different parishes, were present for this meeting. The main purpose of the meeting was to begin SCC units with full of zeal and enthusiasm after the wave of Covid-19 and the consequent lockdown. The planning and discussion were very enriching and all the members took initiative for the implementation of the plans in their respective places. Rev. Fr. Indrajit Sardar, the newly incorporated member of the Core team, concluded the meeting with blessing from the Word of God.

SCC Seminar at Ranigarh Parish

Dishari organized an SCC seminar at Ranigarh Parish on the 18th of February, 2021. Altogether 89 parishioners had come from the main parish and different substations namely, Nafargunj, Amlameti and Bharatgarh. Fr. Sirnus Topno, the parish priest, warmly welcomed

the gathering. Fr. Goutam Naskar, Fr. Sirnus Topno and Mr. Dipankar Sardar were the resource persons for the seminar. The main topic of the day was 'The Centre of Christian life is the Word of God'. They were deeply touched by the Word of God. They have taken a special interest to form the SCC units and spread Good News through it. The seminar ended with the Eucharistic Celebration and a Blessing from the Word of God.

SCC Seminar at Thakurpukur Parish



The main purpose of the Small Christian Community is to live by the Word of God and to carry the Word of God to others. A seminar cum meeting was held at Sacred Heart Church, Thakurpukur, on the 21st of February, 2021. At the beginning of the meeting, Rev. Fr. J. A. Santhanam, the Parish Priest, extended a hearty and warm welcome to each and every one present there. The main discussion of the meeting was to promote SCC in the parish as well as in the substations. The meeting was concluded with the blessing from the Word of God.

Bible Class and Liturgical Hymn Practice for the Children



'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (Psalm 119:105). The beginning and the end of Christian life is centered on the Word of God. To acquire more knowledge of the scripture is to know Christ more. A course was conducted at Dishari pastoral centre from February 24 to 26 to shed light on the subject. Altogether 45 children from different parishes took part in this course. Rev. Fr. Himangshu Poti was the resource person. He enlightened and enriched the children with his immense knowledge of scripture. Apart from imparting scriptural knowledge, the children were taught Liturgical Hymns. The children were very happy to attend the course.

News from Paribar Jyoti

Orientation for the Parish Family Cell members

The orientation for the Parish Family Cell members which began with Holy Mass and an inspiring sermon by Bishop Shyamal Bose and assisted by two priests was attended by 97 family cell members from 14 parishes. Besides, the Vicar General, Director of the Pastoral Centre and six Parish Priests came to encourage the family cell members; some after saying one or two Masses in their respective parishes. The members who participated exhibited ardent desire to learn the intricacies of the family apostolate which they described as very difficult.




What emerged from the report from the parishes was that before the pandemic lockdown many were working enthusiastically to promote peace in the families. But the lockdown with the restriction of movement and the impossibility to have meetings upset the whole process and the teams became scattered. With the efforts made by the parish priests after the lockdown to reorganize the teams and recruit new members in the place of those who left, now there is a new zeal to move ahead.

The focus of the discussion on the day was the role of the family cells. Citing the words of Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia*, preventive approach was emphasized over the curative. It was said that the family cells are not looking for problems. Family problems are like physical illness. By the time the problems become known outside the family circles these may have become very severe with many dimensions and beyond the competence of ordinary people. Most of the problems require trained persons to solve. Offering superficial solutions to family problems may do more harm than good because problems come back with greater force and then the frustrations too get deeper and the mutual animosity is reinforced. The family cells are called upon to accompany the young couples and help those who are living happily to deepen their relationship and insulate their bond against possible rupture.

The programme ended with the parish level teams making a plan of action for the coming months. The enthusiasm they exhibited gave the impression that they were determined to do what is within their capacity.

A Booklet on Parenting: Bishop Shyamal Bose released a booklet during the orientation for the Parish Family Cells on February 21, 2021. The booklet is named, "*Baba-Mayer Acharan Bidhi*" (Do's and don'ts for parents). Written by Fr Pradeep Roy in simple Bengali, it highlights how the parental interaction affects the children and their future and what parents need to do for the children's emotional development. Bishop Shyamal Bose appreciated the book and hoped that it will help the parents to bring up the children better with a healthy mindset.



কলাহৃদয়



কলা ও সংস্কৃতির এক বিশ্বভবন

১৪ ই মার্চ, ২০২১, রবিবার

রবীন্দ্র নৃত্য

(একক)

প্রতিযোগিতা

প্রথম পুরস্কার - ৭০০ টাকা, দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কার - ৬০০ টাকা,
তৃতীয় পুরস্কার - ৫০০ টাকা এবং সার্টিফিকেট

নিয়মাবলী:

১. বয়সানুযায়ী বিভাগ: জুনিয়ার - (৭-১২), ইন্টারমিডিয়েট - (১৩-১৮), সিনিয়ার - (১৯-২৫)
২. প্রতিযোগির বয়সের নমুনা অত্যন্ত জরুরি।
৩. প্রতিযোগীদের রবীন্দ্র নৃত্যের ধরনশৈলী ও পরিচ্ছদপ্রণালী অনুযায়ী নৃত্য পরিবেশন করতে হবে।
৪. প্রতিযোগিতার প্রারম্ভে নৃত্যের গানগুলি জমা দিতে হবে।
৫. সময়সীমা - ৫ মিনিট
৬. রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি - ৫০ টাকা মাত্র
৭. প্রতিযোগিতা আরম্ভ হওয়ার সময় : সকাল ৯টা

স্থান :
কলাহৃদয় অডিটোরিয়াম
বাকেশ্বর, ও. এন. জি. সি. মোড়,
নেপালগঞ্জ, কোল - ১০৩

যোগাযোগ
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Sad Demise of Most Rev. Linus Nirmal Gomes, S.J. The First Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Baruipur

Most Rev. Late Linus Nirmal Gomes S.J., the pioneering Bishop of the diocese of Baruipur, passed away early morning on Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 3.00 a.m. in the infirmary of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, where he was leading a retired life. He was the first Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Baruipur when this new diocese was created, bifurcating it from the Archdiocese of Calcutta in 1977.

The funeral Mass of Most Rev. Late Linus Nirmal Gomes, S.J. was held on Monday, March 01, 2021, at 08:30 a.m. for the faithful at St. Teresa's Church, Moulali. Thereafter, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Blessed Mother Teresa Baruipur, two Masses were held, presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, the Bishop of Baruipur in the presence of the regional Bishops, Provincial of Calcutta Jesuit Province, Rector of St. Xavier's College, relatives, priests and religious. The first Mass was for the faithful at 11.00 a.m. and the second was for the priests and religious at 3.00 p.m. followed by the rite of burial. The Mass at 3.00 p.m. was live streamed in the You Tube as there were many who could not be present due to the Covid protocol. He was laid buried in the Bishop's house cemetery.

Most Rev. Late Linus Nirmal Gomes S.J., born at Balidior village in Dacca district of East Bengal on September 7, 1921, did his schooling from Holy Cross High School, Bhandura, Bangladesh. In 1940 he came to Calcutta and after the Intermediate Arts examination in 1942 he responded to the call of Christ and to the influence, especially of late Fr. P. Turmes S.J., joined the Jesuit Novitiate. He was ordained a priest at St. Mary's College Kurseong by Rt. Rev. Dr. Ferdinand Perier S.J., the then Archbishop of Calcutta on November 21, 1954. Early in his priestly ministry, he went as a curate to St. Teresa's Parish, Calcutta and in 1957 started St. Peter's School there. He remained the school's headmaster till the end of 1966, when he was appointed parish priest at St. Teresa's Parish in 1967. He was the first Bengali Parish Priest at St. Teresa's Parish.

As parish priest, Fr. Linus was industrious and diligent. He saw to the needs of the parish community without discrimination. The Bengali liturgical services were gradually given its rightful prominence. Fr. Linus was in direct contact with the people of the parish and various organizations. People who went to meet and discuss matters with him, found a patient, considerate, cautious, yet humble parish priest who would refrain from being overbearing.

St. Teresa's lost Fr. Linus in November 1977 when Pope Paul VI appointed him as the Bishop of newly erected diocese named Baruipur on August 18, 1977. He was consecrated a Bishop by Cardinal Lawrence Picachy, Archbishop of Calcutta, on November 19, 1977 at St. Xavier's College ground.

On the occasion of the erection of the Diocese of Baruipur, Fr. J.



Watteyne S.J., said, "The creation of a new diocese has always proved to be the occasion of 'a great leap forward' for the area concerned. Our hope this time is full of faith that what God has initiated He will care for and perfect and that Baruipur diocese under the guidance of its bishop will find its original way to show the face of Christ to the world and so contribute to the catholicity of His Church".

18 years of leadership and animation of Most Rev. Late Linus Nirmal Gomes, S.J., in the diocese had proved the words of Fr. Watteyne, S.J.

When he was ordained a Bishop on the 19th of November, 1977 the diocese of Baruipur had 3 diocesan priests, 11 religious priests and 30 sisters spread out in the 9 parishes of Subdurbans. There were 20,000 Catholics. Today it has 48 diocesan priests, 31 religious priests, 20 religious brothers and 116 sisters.

The number of parishes has increased to 23 and the Catholics are 63553.

As a true shepherd he visited every nook and corner of the diocese, talked to the simple people and mixed with them as any one of them.

He was a father to the people of the diocese. His fatherly affection to the people broke barriers and brought him very close to the people of God.

18 years of his leadership has given the people of the diocese an example of simplicity, integrity and prayer. He believed in the power of prayers and spent almost 5-6 hours every day praying in the chapel. He lived a very simple life. His material needs were very few. Whenever there was public transport he made use of that for his visits to the parishes. Wherever and whenever some good was done by the fathers, brothers, sisters and lay people, he encouraged it and stood by those who initiated that.

Anyone who met him would come back with peace and joy, an experience of meeting a Spirit-filled person. His warm smile said it all about his interior joy and gratitude to God and to everyone he met.

After shouldering the pastoral leadership of the diocese for 18 years he retired on October 31, 1995. Following his retirement in 1997, he agreed to lead a Jesuit mission to Bangladesh. He stayed there for 17 years with a group of Jesuit from 1997-2014. He returned to St. Xavier's College Calcutta in 2014 where he spent his last 7 years before breathing his last on February 27, 2021, at 3.00 a.m.

May God grant him eternal peace.

The diocese expresses a sincere gratitude to the Archbishop, all the Regional Bishops of Bengal and Sikkim Region, priests, religious and faithful for their presence and contribution towards giving a fitting adieu to our beloved Bishop Late Linus Nirmal Gomes, S.J. on March 01, 2021, at Bishop's House, Baruipur.



MARCH

- 05 Br. Anshu Ghoroi
- 08 Br. Rajen Simon Singh
- 24 Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose
- 25 Fr. Kanauj Roy

Ordination

MARCH

- 19 Fr. Aloysius Carvalho, SJ
- 22 Fr. Kuruvilla Thottam, SJ
- 31 Fr. Uttam Naskar

Priestly Ord. of Bp.

- 19 Bp. Salvadore Lobo

Memorable and Admirable

- 01 Fr. Le Jeune Jean Pierre S.J.
- 05 Fr. Van Hove Joseph S.J.
- 15 Fr. Ernst Albert S.J.

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer, Month of March 2021

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

RIP of Agnes Champa Makhal



Mrs. Agnes Champa Makhal, the mother of Rev. Fr. Francis Makhal, 87, went to her eternal abode on February 14, 2021, at 7.15 a.m. She had been sick for quite some time before breathing her last at home. The funeral Mass offered by Rev. Fr. Kuruvilla Thottam, SJ, was held at St. Joseph's Church, Raghabpur, at 4:30 p.m. on the same day. While expressing our condolences to the grieved family members let us continue to pray for the Repose of her soul. May God grant her eternal bliss.

NOTICE BOARD

- # Recollection for the Catechists in Preparation for the Easter will be held at Dishari, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Baruipur, from 10th March 2021 at 4.00 p.m. to 11th March 2021 after noon.
- # Chrism Mass will be held on March 30, 2021 in Cathedral Church Baruipur at 2.30 P.M.
- # Programmes in Paribar Jyoti
The next Marriage Preparation course: March 19-20, 2021.
The next Marriage Rectification course: March 26-27, 2021
- # Both Partners need to come for the course. Even if one is non-Catholic or non-Christian, kindly explain to them the need of this instruction before marriage and advise them to attend the course.

Bishop S. Bose's Programme for the Month of March 2021

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Mon	03.00 p.m.	Baruipur	Funeral of Rt. Rev. L. N. Gomes S.J.
02-03	Tue- Wed	09.00 a.m.	Kolkata	Regional Pastoral Council Meeting
04	Thu	10.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruipur	G. B. Meeting of Dishari
06	Sat	11.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruipur	Meeting of Baruipur Gyan Deep
08	Mon	10.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruipur	Women's Day
13	Sat	Evening		Goes to Kumrokhali
14	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Kumrokhali	Mass & Confirmation
16	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Paribar Jyoti	G. B. Meeting of Paribar Jyoti
18	Thu	03.30 p.m.	PUS, Baruipur	G. B. Meeting of PUS
19	Fri	10.30 a.m.	Gosaba	Inauguration of the School of FC, Gosaba
21	Sun	10.00 a.m.	Khariberia	Inauguration of the Church at Khariberia
22	Mon	10.00 a.m. 04.00 p.m.	Baruipur Kolkata	Meeting of the Board of Consultors G. B. Meeting of Boys Town
23	Tue	03.00 p.m.	Baruipur	Finance Committee Meeting
28	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Baruipur Cathedral	Palm Sunday Mass
30	Tue	02.30 p.m.	Baruipur Cathedral	Chrism Mass