

# Baruipur News

For Private Circulation Only



412

Bishop's House, Baruipur P.O., Kolkata - 700 144, India

December 2023

## 150<sup>th</sup> Year - First Seed Sown by Fr. Edmund Delplace, SJ

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we have once again entered the liturgical season of Advent to prepare for Christmas and for the second coming of our Lord. This Christmas becomes special to us, all the more, because we have solemnly inaugurated the preparation for the Ordinary Jubilee on the November 26, 2023, on the day of the Solemnity of Christ the King in the Cathedral Church Baruipur, in order to celebrate the 2025th Birth Anniversary of Jesus. The Holy Father has called for a two-year celebration, the first year being the Year of Council and the second year being the Year of Prayer. While the theme of the Jubilee is 'Pilgrims of Hope', the threefold purpose of the Jubilee is to celebrate Jesus, to celebrate the Church and to celebrate our Faith.

Christmas celebrates incarnation, through which our Lord became human to redeem all those who are human and make the glory of God shine through them. Therefore, the theology we follow is an incarnational theology, which in simple words means that we be the ambassadors of Christ and spread His fragrance among those we live and move and have our being. Consequently, the event of incarnation is carried out through history for thousands of years when men and women of God make God Emmanuel to grant a touch of the incarnate One. This Christmas issue of the Baruipur Newsletter is dedicated to one such great soul who made Jesus incarnate in our context in the Diocese of Baruipur. I mean, none other than, Fr. Edmund Delplace, SJ, the pioneering missionary to give birth to the Penta missions in Catholic Diocese of Baruipur, viz. Basanti, Khari, Baidyapur, Raghobpur and Morapai.

Fr. Edmund Delplace, SJ (1841-1927), was a

noble soul, who lived his vocation worthily by making the good Jesus known and loved by those who were yet to know Him. He was in pains of Childbirth for the children of God until Christ was formed in them (Cf. Gal 4: 19). His deep union with God made him reach the inaccessible regions with ease with the zeal of catechizing and baptizing to start new missions. Although a Professor at the renowned St. Xavier's College and Headmaster of the then newly started St. Anthony's Primary School, Market Street, his heart flew to the poor and the unreached residing in the rural corners of the Diocese of Baruipur.

Fr. Delplace was then in-charge of the pastoral care of the Tamil and Bengali People of God in St. Joseph's Chapel, Market Street, when on October 22, 1873, some Baptists from Basanti village came and requested him to send a catechist to instruct their families in Catholic faith. Immediately, without any delay, he reached Basanti with another catechist on the evening of October 23, 1873, not paying heed to the inconveniences of that time to reach such an inaccessible place. The very next day, a meeting was held with the heads of all the families of the place. On October 24, 1873, the members of the families whom Fr. Delplace met and instructed in faith, agreed to receive the Catholic faith. Therefore, October 22, 2023, marks the 150th year of Basanti Mission, when the first seed of Catholic faith was sown in the soil of Basanti.

Fr. Delplace was ordained a Priest on March 19, 1873, in St. Thomas Church. As a new Priest, he displayed great zeal and vitality to work in the vineyard of the Lord. In the month of January 1874, Fr. Delplace visited the people of

Basanti to stay with them for a month. It is during this time that a hundred people were baptized into Catholic faith. In just five years, from 1873-1877, penta missions were established, namely Basanti (1873), Khari (1874), Baidyapur (1875), Raghobpur (1876) and Morapai (1877).

Fr. Delplace was deeply interested in the lives of people. He spent hours visiting the families, listening to them and praying for them. His life resembles the life of the Good Shepherd who went out in giving his life for the sheepfold. He used to stay in a village for two to three months to instruct and baptize the people in Catholic faith, just to move into the next village to which he was called. He was highly revered and loved by people from all walks of life, irrespective of their religious inclinations. The Catholic Diocese of Baruipur owes a lot for his pioneering work in the vineyard of the Lord in Baruipur. We are still in the planning phase to dedicate the year in his honour.

As we are preparing to celebrate Christmas, the life of this chosen man of God has a lot to teach. His life calls us to be like Jesus incarnate with the people we live with; to live and die for Christ; and to offer our lives entirely for Him. The world is now full of violence and war, in need of Christ more than ever. At this juncture, each one of us are called to show the peaceful face Christ through our life, work and word. Experiencing Christ and giving Him to others brings out the meaning of Christmas to the fullest. In this Christmas, let us spread the message of hope, love, peace, joy and prosperity to the 'Pilgrims of Hope' sojourning with us. Wish you a merry Christmas. May baby Jesus bring peace, and prosperity in your lives.

+ Shyamal Bose



## CONFERRAL OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



The whole confirmation ceremony on 19 November, 2023 at St. Peter's Church Kalipur, a substation of Cathedral Church, Baruipur proceeded with receiving Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, the Bishop of Baruipur Diocese, with a bouquet and garland. He was then escorted in joyous procession from auto stand to the Church and the Eucharistic celebration followed. The two and half hour liturgy went on well with the melodious accompaniment of the choir.

The rite of confirmation started after the homily with reaffirmation of baptismal faith, laying on of hands and the anointing with chrism. There were sixty eight children sealed with the grace of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The candidates had been well prepared by the parish clergy and catechism teachers over the weekends for almost three

months. To mark the occasion they were presented a Divine Mercy souvenir, certificate and rosary.

- Mr. Philip Pramanik

## CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING CUM INAUGURATION OF JUBILEE 2025

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Baruipur resonated with prayers, devotion and a spirit of community as the faithful from neighbouring parishes joined to celebrate joyously the Feast of Christ the king on 26 November, 2023. Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, the Bishop of the diocese, presided over the Mass and concelebrated by many priests.

The celebration extended beyond the church walls as the faithful participated in a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. The rhythmic cadence of hymns and the fragrance of incense filled the air as the procession traversed the surroundings, symbolizing a collective journey of faith and devotion. As the echoes of prayers and hymns lingered, the Feast of Christ the King left an indelible mark on the hearts of the worshippers, reinforcing the spiritual bonds within the community.

Besides, in compliance with the Universal Church, the Catholic Diocese of Baruipur has set the stage for the upcoming Jubilee 2025, commemorating 2025 years of the Birth of Jesus Christ, with a ceremonious inauguration on the same day.

The inauguration witnessed the unfurling of the Jubilee Logo through flag hoisting, marking the beginning of preparations for the Jubilee themed 'Pilgrims of Hope'. In his address, Bishop emphasized the importance of the Jubilee 2025 elucidating the significance of the Logo and its symbolism. He outlined the two year preparatory roadmap: 2023 as the year of the council (year of learning) and 2024 as the year of prayer. It was followed by the recitation of dedicated Jubilee prayer. All the catholic churches across Baruipur diocese would henceforth participate in the recitation of dedicated jubilee prayer after the Mass and prayer services as a part of its preparation.



- Fr. Deepak Ekka

## DISHARI AT A GLANCE

### Retreats

"And he said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat" (Mark-6:31).

Dishari had conducted three retreats; for parents from 4-5 and for youth from 18-19 November, 2023. It was followed by catechist's retreat from 29 November, 2023 to 1 December 2023. In addition, there was a day of praise and worship at Morapai Parish. Fr. George S.J., Fr. Tushar Augustin Gomes, Fr. Ramen Pailan, Fr. Goutam Naskar and Fr. Sorojit Mondal were the resource persons of the abovementioned programs. Altogether there were 443 participants. They were led to have God's experience through prayer and the edifying preaching of the Word of God.



### BEC Regional Council Meeting

BEC/SCC regional Council Meeting was held at Progalaya from 28 to 30 November, 2023. A total of 42 representatives from 8 dioceses were present which included 4 bishops, fathers, sisters and lay people. On the first day diocesan SCC Director, Fr. Goutam Naskar, presented the SCC report of Baruipur diocese from January 2023 to October 2023. The theme of this 3 days meeting was "Enlarge your tent" (Isaiah 54:2). Sr. Christine and Fr. IP Sarto enlightened the participants on the theme, whose foundation was "*Gaudium et Spes*" meaning hope and joy.



- Mr. Manas Pramanik

## PALLI UNNAYAN SAMITI BARUIPUR

The social service wing of the diocese has been successfully rendering its service in the spheres of health, education and charity to the underprivileged and marginalized communities. A medical checkup with Dr. Gour Hari Mondal was held on 3 November, 2023 for the 54 differently able children and youth. They were also provided with prescribed medicines.

A research study on "Voluntary labour, adaptation and climate crisis in Indian Sundarban" had been facilitated by Jadavpur University, Kolkata with the support of Northumbria University, UK. On 6 November, 2023 the Jadavpur University awarded certificates to some of our volunteers as appreciation for their hard work in collecting field level data for the research work.

It collaborates with government and non-government organizations to work for the DRR resilience in Sundarban. On 9 November, 2023, a State Level Consultancy Workshop was jointly conducted by PUS Baruiপুর and SPADE for 60 representatives from different NGOs. The aim of the workshop was to share Stakeholder's

knowledge and experience to integrate DRR resilience issue.

With the help of Manos Unidas, Spain on 10 November, 2023, Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruiপুর conducted the "Light the Flame 2023" in its 14-project operational areas. It is to show solidarity and reflect the problems suffered by developing countries and solve hunger and poverty.



On 14 November, 2023, there was Children's Day celebration to promote the well-being, rights and happiness of children. Altogether 225 Children and their parents from 5 Free Learning Centres and SAD Langalberia project participated in this program. The children expressed their happiness with the

performances of dance, song and games. Following this on 20 November, 2023, 329 students of Langalberia were supplied with Nutritional food, educational aid and toiletries.



Electrician Course for Skill Enhancement of Migrant Workers towards Self-Reliant Work Force was launched on 27 November, 2023. This program is supported by Caritas India. After completion of the Electrician Course, the learners can be linked with job market towards better earning opportunity to add some income to their families. Altogether 34 disadvantaged rural youth enrolled their names for this Electrician Course. All the participants would be awarded with certificate on the successful completion of the course.

- Fr. Saumen Malik



## PARIBAR JYOTI

The animators and volunteers made a painstaking effort in organizing trainings, seminars and orientations pertaining to the affairs of the family. There are two, to be talked about among the different trainings and programmes. The first being a seminar on children's mental health for ICDS mothers. It was ushered by the health supervisor, ASHA and ICDS workers under Basanti Gram Panchyat. It was geared towards enlightening the mothers to help their children build an informed conscience. The other seminar was for married couples of Ranigarh Parish. It was in consonance with the call of our Holy Father, Pope Francis who urges to accompany the married couples through the seminars and trainings. They get the confidence to share their difficulties and problems as well as develop the attitude of acceptance of who they are rather than expecting some unreal characteristic traits from each other. The ardent interest and attention shown by the participants during the programs have been very encouraging for the organizers, to explore deeper into the subject.

- Fr. Uttam Naskar

## ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLESSING OF CATHEDRAL BARUIPUR AND CHILDREN'S DAY

12 November, 2023 marked the dual celebrations, commemoration of the blessing of Cathedral Church Baruiপুর and children's day in anticipation. It was a day of gratefulness to God for His manifold blessings for these many years through the dedicated and committed service of many clergy, religious and lay faithful. A thanksgiving Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Deepak Ekka and concelebrated by Fr. Pradeep Roy, Fr. Francis Makhal, Fr. Henry Crasta, Fr. Rajen Singh, Fr. Saumen Malik and Fr. Tushar Augustine Gomes with a great number of parishioners. The Cathedral's 15th anniversary and children's day was celebrated with varied program including two felicitation songs by choir, a recapitulation of the history of the cathedral and a dance performed by youth. It was followed by breakfast symbolizing communion.

- Mr. Jiban Biswas







## DECEMBER

02	Fr. Pierre Jacob, SJ
09	Fr. Indrajit Sardar
11	Br. Pabitra Sardar
15	Fr. Faustine Brank
15	Fr. Irineu Diniz, SFX

**Happy Birthday Dear Fathers**



## DECEMBER

06	Fr. Arup Bor
07	Fr. Henry Crasta
27	Fr. Sandip Mondal
28	Fr. Sunil Lakra SDB
29	Fr. Parimal Kanji
29	Fr. Peter Pradhan, CM
31	Fr. Joseph Toppo, SJ

**Congratulations Dear Fathers**

## Memorable & Admirable

### Month of December

03	Fr. Mathew Jayanth S.J.
16	Br. Shanilal Kumar, HF
30	Fr. Ponkaj Kr. Poti

## Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of Dec. 2023

**For persons with disabilities :** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

## NOTICE BOARD

- Priests' Seminar will be held from 5 December, 2023 to 7 December, 2023 at Dishari Pastoral Centre, Baruiapur.
- The Christmas Gathering for the Priests, Brothers and Religious working in the Diocese will be held on 29 December, 2023 at 10.00 a.m. in Dishari Pastoral Centre, Baruiapur.
- The Christmas Gathering for the Diocesan Youth will be held on 30 December, 2023 at 10.00 a.m. at Dishari Pastoral Centre, Baruiapur

### Paribar Jyoti:

- Marriage Preparation Course from 1 December, to 2 December, 2023
- Young Couples Programme from 15 December, to 16 December, 2023

## Bishop Shyamal Bose's Programme for the Month of December 2023

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Fri	11.30 a.m.	Dishari - Baruiapur	Mass for Catechist Recollection
05-07	Tue - Thu			Seminar for Priests
11	Mon	10.00 a.m. 03.30 p.m.	Paribar Jyoti Dishari, Baruiapur	G. B. Meeting of Paribar Jyoti Meeting of the Proclamation Commission
12	Tue	10.30 a.m. 03.00 p.m.	PUS Baruiapur Dishari, Baruiapur	G. B. Meeting of Dishari Pastoral Commission G. B. Meeting of PUS
13	Wed	03.00 p.m.	Bishop's House, Baruiapur	Meeting of the Finance Committee of CDB
14	Thu	10.00 a.m.	Bishop's House, Baruiapur	Meeting of the Board of Consultors
16	Sat		Basanti	Foundation day of Basanti St. Xavier's School
17	Sun	07.30 a.m.	Kochpukur	Mass and Inauguration of Kochpukur Church
20	Wed	04.00 p.m.	Jayanpur	Annual Day of De Paul School, Jayanpur
21	Thu	09.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	PUS, Baruiapur Amtala	Christmas Programme for the Neighbouring Children Christmas Celebration at K. E. Carmel School, Amtala
24	Sun	11.00 p.m.	Baruiapur Cathedral	Christmas Eve
25	Mon	07.00 a.m.	R. B. Nagar, Baruiapur	Christmas Day Mass
29	Fri	10.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Mass and Christmas Get-together for Priests, Brothers and the Religious
30	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Mass and Christmas gathering for the diocesan youth

## Bishop Salvadore Lobo's Programme for the Month of December 2023

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
02	Sat	05.30 a.m.	Palasi & Murshidabad	
03	Sun	05.00 p.m.	Kala Hriday, Bakeswar	Dance Programme
04	Mon	05.55 a.m.	Darjeeling	Some work for Darjeeling Diocese
08	Fri	10.45 p.m.		Returns from Darjeeling
10	Sun	04.00 p.m.	Nazrul Mancha	Annual Day Celebration of De Paul School, Tollygunge
16	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Budge Budge	School Annual Programme
19	Tue	05.00 p.m.	Hogalkuria	Holy Mass for the anniversary of the Grotto
21	Thu	08.30 a.m. 04.00 p.m.	Khasmallick St. Theresa's Ch., Kol.	Christmas Programme at Holy Cross School, Baruiapur Mass for 75th Anniversary of Mother Teresa on Streets
24	Sun	10.00 p.m.	Kumrokhali	Midnight Mass for Christmas
25	Mon	08.00 a.m.	Jeliakhali	Christmas Day Mass
29	Fri	10.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Mass and Christmas Get-together for Priests, Brothers and the Religious

**Bishop Shyamal Bose and all the Priests, Religious and people of Baruiapur Diocese wishes all the readers**

**a Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year 2024.**

বারুইপুর ধর্মপ্রদেশের সকল খ্রীষ্টভক্ত, পুরোহিত, সিস্টার, ব্রাদার, ধর্মপ্রচারক এবং শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষীদের জানাই বড়দিনের প্রীতি, শুভেচ্ছা, অভিনন্দন এবং আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ।

বিশপ শ্যামল বোস  
বারুইপুর ধর্মপ্রদেশ