

447 Bishop's House, Baruipur P.O., Kolkata-700 144, India November 2026

A Life that Inspires Charity and Humility: St. Martin of Tours and the Call to Discipleship

Some people are remembered for what they achieved, while others are remembered for the lives they touched. St. Martin de Porres belongs to the latter. He held no position of great authority and enjoyed little recognition during his early years. Yet, through his simple life, deep faith and extraordinary care for the suffering, he became one of the most loved saints in the Church. His story reminds us that holiness is not measured by wealth, status or recognition, but by the love we bring into the lives of others.

Martin was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579. His father, Juan de Porres, was a Spanish nobleman, while his mother, Ana Velázquez, was a woman of African and Indigenous ancestry who had formerly been enslaved. His childhood was marked by rejection and hardship. Because of his family background, he experienced discrimination, and his father did not initially acknowledge him fully. These early experiences could have filled his heart with bitterness. Instead, they helped him understand the pain of those who were rejected and neglected.

As a young man, Martin learned the skills of a barber and surgeon, professions that also involved treating wounds and providing basic medical care. At the age of fifteen, he joined the Dominican community in Lima as a *donado*, undertaking humble duties. Because of the social restrictions of that period, he was initially not admitted as a full member of the religious order. He continued serving faithfully and was eventually accepted as a lay brother.

Life in the monastery gave Martin many opportunities to serve. He cared for the sick, distributed medicines, helped poor families and looked after abandoned children. During epidemics, he attended to those who had little access to medical treatment, sometimes putting his own health at risk. His concern extended even to animals. Nothing that suffered was outside the reach of his compassion.

One of the most striking aspects of Martin's life was his understanding of charity. He welcomed people whom others avoided and cared for those whose illness or poverty made them unwelcome. He did not consider service an additional religious activity; it was central to his relationship with God. Although some sayings attributed to him have been preserved through later biographies rather than his own writings, the message of his life is unmistakable: love becomes genuine when it takes the form of action.

Martin's spirituality was rooted in prayer and devotion to the Eucharist and the Passion of Christ. For him, prayer and service belonged together. His encounter with Christ in the Eucharist found expression in his care for those who were suffering. His life reflected the words of the First Letter of John: "Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action" (1 Jn 3:18).

Pope John XXIII canonised Martin on 6 May 1962. His familiar image holding a broom has become a lasting symbol of his humility and willingness to perform ordinary tasks. He found dignity in serving others without expecting praise or recognition.

The message of St. Martin has particular relevance in our times. Despite progress in education, healthcare and technology, poverty, unemployment, migration and social exclusion continue to affect millions. In India, domestic workers, daily-wage labourers, migrant families, elderly people living alone, disadvantaged children and persons with disabilities often face difficulties that remain unnoticed. Modern society has created many opportunities, but loneliness, inequality and human suffering remain realities. Martin's life reminds us that progress has little meaning if the needs of the vulnerable are forgotten.

His example also raises an important question for the Church: how effectively do our Christian communities reach those who need care and support? The life of a parish is expressed not only through its liturgies and activities, but also through the people it reaches. A visit to someone who is sick, assistance to a struggling family, support for a child's education or attention to an elderly person living alone can make faith tangible. These are expressions of the Church's mission.

For our Diocese, Martin's legacy offers an opportunity to strengthen this spirit of service across parishes, religious communities, educational institutions and charitable organisations. Cooperation in education, healthcare, family assistance and care for vulnerable people can turn individual acts of kindness into a lasting commitment. Those who receive help are not outsiders to the Church; they are fellow members whose experiences and contributions enrich the entire community.

St. Martin de Porres did not change the world through power or influence. He changed the lives of people who encountered him. His life challenges us to reconsider our understanding of greatness in a world that often celebrates success, wealth and recognition. Perhaps his most enduring lesson is that holiness is found not in how much attention we receive, but in how much love we give. **When compassion crosses every boundary and becomes a way of life, holiness becomes visible in the world.**

+ Shyamal Bose



Basanti Parish Celebrates the Feast of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus

Basanti Parish joyfully celebrated the Feast of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus on 4 October 2026. The celebration was preceded by a nine-day Novena, held from 25 September to 3 October, with meaningful daily themes. The solemn Feast Day Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur, who delivered an inspiring homily. Parish Priest Fr. Parimal Kanji, along with Assistant Priests, Fr. Sushad Baidya and Fr. Rajesh Bag, led the celebration. Hundreds of faithful participated with devotion. The celebration also included a welcome ceremony, Thanksgiving and fellowship over refreshments. On the occasion, the Parish Pastoral Council organized a football tournament, inaugurated by the Bishop. The feast concluded as a joyful expression of faith, unity and parish fellowship.

- Br. Subilash Bar

38th Death Anniversary of the Apostle of the Sundarbans



The 38th death anniversary of the Servant of God, Fr. Ante Gabric, SJ, fondly remembered as the *Apostle of the Sundarbans*, was solemnly observed on 20 October 2026, preceded by a Triduum of prayer and spiritual preparation. The celebration began with a prayerful entrance dance, followed by a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Gautam Naskar, Treasurer of the Diocese of Baruipur, along with seven other priests. In his homily, Fr. Naskar highlighted Fr. Gabric's missionary zeal in proclaiming Christ, establishing mission stations, and uplifting the poor through education and vocational initiatives. After Mass, a prayer service was held at Fr. Gabric's tomb, followed by a cultural programme. Around 470 faithful from Gosaba, Bamonpukur, Nazat, and all the substations of Mariapalli participated, renewing their commitment to carry forward his legacy of faith, education, and service to the poor.

- Fr. Abonindro Das

BEC Orientation at Rosopunji

A Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) Orientation Programme was held at St. Francis Xavier Church, Rosopunji, a substation of Sacred Heart Church, Thakurpukur, with 52 participants taking part in the initiative to strengthen community life and deepen faith. The resource persons, Fr. Tushar Augustine Gomes, Fr. Deepak Ekka, and Mr. Dipankar Sardar, highlighted the importance of establishing and maintaining active BEC units for the growth and betterment of the Church. They emphasized that vibrant BECs foster faith sharing, unity, mutual support, and active participation of the faithful in the mission of the Church. Inspired by the orientation, the participants resolved to collaborate actively in strengthening BEC activities and building a more committed and united Christian community.

- Mr. Jayanta Lobo





Confirmation at Panchamkhanda

On 18 October 2026, 66 children received the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation at the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Panchamkhanda. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose and concelebrated by Fr. Sarajit Das. In his homily, Bishop explained how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit bear fruit in our lives, guiding us to live according to God's will and become faithful witnesses of Christ. After the Holy Mass, the children were presented with their Confirmation certificates, rosaries and Divine Mercy pictures.

- Br. Kenedi K. Ghughu

Diocesan Youth Camp 2026: Rooted in Christ, Renewed in Faith



The Diocesan Youth Commission organized its three-day Diocesan Youth Camp from 21-23 October 2026 at Holy Cross School, Baruipur, with 170 young participants from 17 parishes. The camp was held under the theme "Rooted in Christ, Renewed in Faith" (Jn 15:4), aiming to deepen the faith and strengthen the Christian commitment of young people. The camp began with the inaugural Holy Mass presided over by Most Rev. Bishop Shyamal Bose and concelebrated by nine priests. Fr. Ramen Pailan delivered the keynote address, encouraging the youth to build their identity in Christ. The day concluded with a Taizé Prayer service, offering time for reflection, reconciliation, and spiritual renewal.

The second day focused on faith in the digital age, mental health, and practical discipleship. The Holy Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Bishop Salvadore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese. Fr. Tushar A. Gomes spoke on remaining rooted in Catholic faith amid digital challenges, while Miss Angela Perris, DYD of Kolkata, addressed anxiety, stress, and emotional struggles among young people. A Bible Quiz on the Gospel of St. Luke, conducted by Fr. Goutam Naskar, encouraged enthusiastic participation. Fr. Kanauj Roy, Vicar General, concluded the sessions with a reflection on "Digital Discipleship," encouraging youth to use social media for evangelization. The final day emphasized leadership and parish involvement through an interactive workshop conducted by DEXCO members.

- Ms. Julie Mondal

Palli Unnayan Samiti (PUS) Baruipur

Palli Unnayan Samiti (PUS), Baruipur, celebrated its 48th Foundation Day on 3 October 2026 with a Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, attended by priests, religious and staff members. This was followed by a cultural programme featuring 225 students who presented recitations, dances and dramas on the theme of Women Empowerment, highlighting love, peace, and equality. Fr. Kanauj Roy, Director of PUS, recalled the organization's 48-year journey and thanked former Directors, donors, and staff for their contributions.

There was inauguration of the 43rd Batch of Basic and Advanced Beautician Course on 14 October 2026, enrolling 15 women from economically disadvantaged families. The six-month vocational programme, inaugurated by Fr. Kanauj Roy, aims to equip rural women with practical skills for self-employment, income generation, and economic independence. On 29 October 2026, it organized a certificate distribution ceremony for 13 students who successfully completed the six-month 4th Batch of its Computer with Spoken English Course. The programme aims to enhance computer literacy, communication skills, and employment opportunities among young people from economically disadvantaged



families. On the same day there was online sharing meeting under the 'Indialogo' Programme, connecting 20 selected children from the SAD Langalberia Project with children from Italy. Held at the Baruli Centre, the two-hour interaction provided an opportunity for the children to exchange experiences, ask questions, and build friendships across cultures. Ms. Valeria Termolino and Ms. Samprita Sengupta facilitated the meeting.

- Fr. Kanauj Roy

Paribar Jyoti



The Paribar Jyoti of the Diocese of Baruipur aims to prevent domestic violence and foster a peaceful family environment, both within the Christian Community and the broader population. Through close collaboration with the church, Gram Panchayats, and local stakeholders, the Paribar Jyoti has successfully conducted 22 awareness programs in the month of October 2026. Among them there were 4 residentials and 18 were outreach programs. These programs covered some vitals and critical topics such as Children's Mental Health, Spousal Relationships, Positive Parenting for Adolescents, Guidance for In-Laws and other family members, Capacity Building Workshop for the members of 'Family Cells' and pre-marital Counselling for newlywed couples. A total of 589 individuals (117 men & 472 women) actively participated in these sessions and benefited profoundly.

- Fr. Sisir Khan

Dishari at a Glance

Faith Formation Seminar



A two-day Faith Formation Seminar for Youth was held from 3-4 October 2026, to help young people deepen their faith amid the growing influence of technology and entertainment. Fr. Ramen Pailan, the resource person, led the participants through interactive sessions, encouraging them to rediscover the richness of their Christian faith and remain rooted in Christ. The programme was enriched by the recitation of the Rosary and Eucharistic celebrations. The participants were encouraged to live their faith more consciously and become joyful witnesses of the Gospel in their families, the Church and society.

Annual Retreat of Catechists



Fifty-nine catechists of the Diocese of Baruipur gathered at Dishari Pastoral Centre from 7-9 October 2026, for their Annual Retreat, a three-day journey of prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal. Fr. Tushar Augustine Gomes preached the retreat, centring his reflections on the theme "Kingdom of God." The three-day spiritual journey invited the catechists to discover more deeply the meaning of the Kingdom of God and their mission to make it a living reality in the world. Through personal prayer, the Rosary, Gospel sharing, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, healing prayer, and daily Eucharistic celebrations, they were encouraged to encounter Christ, embrace His teachings, and reflect on the values of love, peace, justice, mercy, and forgiveness that mark God's Kingdom. The retreat reminded them that, as catechists, they are not merely teachers of the faith but sowers of the Kingdom's values, called to cultivate communities where love overcomes hatred, reconciliation heals divisions, and justice and compassion flourish. The reflections challenged them to move beyond words and become living signs of the Kingdom through their daily lives, relationships, and ministry.

- Mr. Dipankar Sardar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

NOVEMBER

04	Fr. Francis Makhal
09	Fr. Habil Minj, SFX
16	Fr. Amrit Ekka
20	Fr. Sushad Baidya
20	Fr. Leonray De Melo SFX
22	Fr. Kuruvilla Thottam, S.J.
27	Fr. Sylvester Xavier

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers



Ordination

04 November	Fr. Himangshu Poti
09 November	Fr. Durlov Bar
11 November	Fr. Stefan Kisku, S.J.
19 November	Fr. Sirnus Topno
24 November	Fr. Ujjwal Mondal
26 November	Fr. Bablu Sardar

Congratulations Dear Fathers

Memorable & Admirable

	Month of November
08	Fr. Abani Luis Das
11	Fr. Nicaise Edouard, S.J.
11	Fr. Chandan Gupta, S.J.
21	Fr. Bruylants Andre, S.J.
30	His Eminence Cardinal Lawrence T. Picachy, S.J.



RIP

Mr. Kishore Ekka, aged 50, the elder brother of Fr. Amrit Ekka, passed away tragically in a motorcycle accident on 2 October 2026. His sudden demise has brought deep sorrow to his family and loved ones. He is survived by his wife and two children. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Amrit Ekka and the bereaved family during this difficult time. May the Lord grant eternal rest to the departed soul and strength and consolation to the grieving family. May his soul rest in peace.

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of Nov. 2026

For the proper use of wealth : Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Published from Bishop's House, Baruipur, Kolkata - 700144
Printed at : Soumya Enterprise, Narendrapur Stn. Road, Sonarpur, Kolkata - 700150 • Ph. 9874298360 / 8017021099