

# Baruipur News

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## St. Joseph Vaz: A Quiet Light for a Confused World

We live in a world that speaks loudly but listens very little. Opinions are shared instantly, reactions are quick, and worth is often measured by visibility. In such a climate, the life of St. Joseph Vaz does not arrive with drama or display. It comes quietly. Yet history reminds us that quiet lives, when lived with conviction, often shape the world more deeply than loud ones.

St. Joseph Vaz was a Catholic priest born in seventeenth-century Goa. He lived at a time when travel was dangerous, communication slow, and faith demanded real sacrifice. He is best known for his mission to Sri Lanka, where the practice of Catholicism was banned under Dutch rule. Churches were destroyed, priests were expelled, and believers were punished for practicing their faith. Knowing this, Vaz still chose to go. Disguised as a poor man, without protection and without certainty of return, he entered a land where discovery could cost him his freedom or his life.

This choice alone sets him apart from our modern instincts. Today, we are trained to calculate risk. We ask what we will gain, how safe we will be, and whether the effort is worth it. St. Joseph Vaz asked a different question: where am I needed? His decision was not dramatic, but deliberate. He did not go to prove a point or to seek recognition. He went because people were suffering without spiritual care, and he believed responsibility mattered more than comfort.

Once in Sri Lanka, Vaz did not act like a conqueror or reformer. He lived among the people. He learned their languages, respected their customs, and shared their daily struggles. He did not lead from a distance. He led through presence. In a world where leadership often means status, authority, and separation, St.

Joseph Vaz shows us a simpler truth: people trust those who walk with them.

Our age celebrates confidence, but often lacks conviction. We speak strongly when it costs little, but step back when standing firm becomes uncomfortable. St. Joseph Vaz lived with moral clarity. He knew what he believed and why it mattered, and he did not abandon those beliefs when they brought suffering. He was arrested, imprisoned, and suspected, yet he never responded with bitterness or hatred. He remained patient and dignified. His life shows us that strength does not require aggression, and conviction does not need cruelty.

St. Joseph Vaz also challenges our relationship with comfort. Modern life encourages us to avoid inconvenience and withdraw from difficulty. Vaz chose the opposite. During times of disease and crisis, when fear drove many into hiding, he stayed to care for the sick and the poor. He did not see suffering as an interruption to his mission. He understood that suffering was the place where his mission mattered most. His example forces us to ask whether we step forward when help is needed, or step away when it becomes difficult.

Much of what St. Joseph Vaz achieved went unnoticed. There were no crowds, no applause, and no immediate results. Yet his quiet work rebuilt faith communities and restored hope. In a culture that values attention over sincerity, his life reminds us that meaningful work is often invisible. Real impact, he teaches, grows slowly through patience, consistency, and faithfulness.

Years of hardship eventually weakened his body. After decades of constant travel, poverty, illness, and selfless service, St. Joseph Vaz's health slowly declined. On 16 January 1711, in Kandy, Sri Lanka, he died peacefully, worn out

by a life given entirely to others. His death reflected his life: quiet, humble, and faithful to the end.

For young people today, his life offers clarity in a world of confusion. Success no longer has to mean approval. Influence does not have to mean popularity. Vaz measured life by faithfulness to duty and care for others. His example makes one thing clear: doing the right thing matters, even when no one is watching.

His life also speaks to everyday choices that seem small but shape character. Honesty when lying is easier. Kindness when impatience feels justified. Commitment when quitting seems reasonable. St. Joseph Vaz did not change history through one dramatic act, but through steady goodness repeated daily. He reminds us that we are not powerless. We influence the world first by shaping our character, then by serving faithfully where we are placed.

When St. Joseph Vaz was canonized in 2015 as the first saint of Sri Lanka, it was not simply an honour. It was a reminder that courage can be quiet, service can be hidden, and faith can be lived without applause.

Remembering St. Joseph Vaz is not about admiration alone. It is about action. His life asks us simple but demanding questions. Where are we choosing comfort over responsibility? Where are we silent when we should be faithful? Who needs our presence rather than our opinion?

In a world driven by noise, speed, and self-promotion, St. Joseph Vaz invites us to slow down, stand firm, and serve faithfully. His life does not give easy answers. It gives direction. And perhaps that is exactly what our time needs most.

+ Shyamal Bose

## Closing Ceremony of the ordinary Jubilee 2025



The Diocese of Baruipur joyfully concluded the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025, themed "Pilgrims of Hope," on December 28, 2025 with a solemn and grace-filled celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Baruipur. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur and brought together priests, religious and lay faithful in a spirit of thanksgiving, prayer and unity.

The liturgy was marked by special prayers and reflections that beautifully highlighted the Jubilee theme of hope, renewal and deepening faith in Christ. The atmosphere of reverence and gratitude reflected the spiritual fruits borne throughout the Jubilee Year.

One of the most significant features of the Jubilee Year was the Pilgrimage of the Jubilee Cross, which was taken to all 23 parishes and to most of the substations under each parish of the Diocese. In every parish and substation, the Cross was welcomed with profound devotion and reverence, becoming a powerful symbol of faith, unity and communion. The faithful carried the jubilee Cross in solemn

procession with deep devotion, accompanied by hymns, Kirtan and traditional dances. In each place, the Cross was kept for three to four days, with continuous overnight prayers and adoration. Once their time of devotion was completed, the people lovingly accompanied the faithful of the next village, who came to receive the Jubilee Cross and carry it onward to their own village. Many testified to the deep spiritual experiences and renewal they encountered during the Cross's presence in their parishes and substations.

In his homily, Bishop Shyamal Bose reminded the faithful that the closing ceremony was not merely the conclusion of a year-long celebration, but the beginning of a renewed mission. He exhorted all to continue living as true Pilgrims of Hope, witnessing to faith, love and unity in their daily lives and becoming bearers of Christ's hope in the world.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka

## Parish Feast Celebration, Budge Budge

The Parish Feast was celebrated with great devotion and joy on Sunday, December 07, 2025, with a large gathering of the faithful. The presence of Most Rev. Shyamal Bose as the main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist added special grace and solemnity to the occasion. He was joined by Fr. J. R. Dejus, Fr. Amrit Ekka and Fr. Sirnus Topno as concelebrants, creating a deeply prayerful and uplifting atmosphere.

In his homily, the Bishop reflected on Mother Mary, highlighting her faith, humility and obedience to God, which deeply inspired the congregation. At the conclusion of the Mass, the parish priest expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the celebration. The Bishop then cut the feastday cake, followed by a tea fellowship, fostering joy, unity and togetherness among the parishioners.

- Fr. Sirnus Topno



## Blessing of the Grotto, Bibirchawk



December 14, 2025, will be cherished as a memorable and grace-filled day for the faithful of Bibirchawk. On this auspicious occasion, the newly constructed grotto, built with the generous financial contributions of the faithful themselves, was solemnly blessed by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose.

The celebration began with a warm and respectful welcome accorded to the Bishop, followed by a prayerful procession carrying the statue of Our Lady of Vellankini. Amid deep reverence and devotion, the statue was ceremoniously installed in the grotto.

For many years, the faithful had cherished the dream of having a dedicated and dignified place to honour Our Lady of Vellankini. With the blessing of the grotto, this long-awaited dream has now become a reality. The grotto stands as a powerful symbol of faith, unity and gratitude, offering a sacred space where the faithful can gather in prayer and seek her loving intercession in their daily lives.

- Mr. Mithun Das

## St. Mary's School Annual Sports Meet: Where Talents Meet

St. Mary's School, Kalyanpur, celebrated its Annual Sports Meet on 19 December, 2025 with great enthusiasm and festive spirit. The programme featured a grand march past, torch lighting and oath-taking ceremony, highlighting discipline and sportsmanship. Most Rev. Shyamal Bose presided



over the event, encouraging students to strive for excellence and teamwork, while Rev. Fr. Kanauj Roy inspired the gathering as Guest of Honour.

Students from all sections participated enthusiastically. Pre-primary events brought joy and innocence, while primary and senior students displayed skill and determination in various track and field events, culminating in an exciting tug-of-war. Special attractions included drill and aerobic displays, karate, yoga and pyramid formations, along with engaging events for parents, staff, and guests. The day concluded with prize distribution, Christmas greetings and a vote of thanks, making the Sports Meet a joyful celebration of talent, unity and values.

- Fr. John Britto

## A Symphony of Talent: The Annual Concert

St. Montfort's Senior Secondary School celebrated its Annual Day Programme 2025 on December 20, 2025 with great enthusiasm. The theme, "Heritage of India," was beautifully brought to life through vibrant performances by the Montessori and Primary students. The programme began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a prayer song and a graceful welcome dance.

The school had the honour of welcoming Shri Chitradip Sen, S.D.O. of Baruiapur, as Chief Guest, along with Rev. Bro. Satheesh K. Don, Provincial Superior of Ranchi Province and Rev. Bro. James T. K., Founder Principal. The young performers captivated the audience with their confidence, creativity and stage presence, while the orchestra and grand finale added a memorable highlight. Academic toppers were also honoured during the programme. The Annual Concert was a joyful celebration of talent, teamwork and dedication, strengthening the bond between students, teachers, parents and leaving everyone with cherished memories.

- Br. Jayapal Reddy, SG



## Annual Day Celebration 2025-26: The Light Within



Holy Cross School, Baruiapur celebrated its Annual Day 2025-26 with prayerful solemnity and joyful performances, centred on the theme "The Light Within." The programme began with the ceremonial escort of guests, lighting of the lamp and devotional presentations that reflected Christ as the Light of the world.

Highlights included the nativity presentation "Night at Bethlehem," a serene yoga performance, a value-based skit inspired by Frozen and a dramatic presentation of "Macbeth: The Fallen King." Students were honoured for their achievements and the Annual School Report was presented by Sr. Letha, the Principal. Inspirational messages by Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus and Shri Rupendra Sengupta, ASP, encouraged students to nurture inner light through integrity and service.

The celebration concluded with joyful Christmas performances, festive dances and the National Anthem, reaffirming the school's commitment to forming young minds rooted in faith, values and love.

- Sr. Letha Joseph, SCC

## Golden Jubilee of St. Peter's Catholic Church, Noongola

St. Peter's Catholic Church, Noongola celebrated its Golden Jubilee on December 21, 2025, joyfully marking fifty years of faith and community. Founded in 1975 through the faith and dedication of the early Christian families, the church has grown under the guidance of various parishes and, since 1999, the Salesian Society of Don Bosco.

The jubilee celebration was graced by Bishop Shyamal Bose DD, Bishop Emeritus Salvadore Lobo, clergy, religious and faithful from different substations. The day featured a solemn Eucharistic celebration, cultural programme and fellowship meal. With grateful hearts, the parish thanked Almighty God for His blessings and prayed for continued unity and growth.

- Fr. Sunil Lakra, SDB



## Feast of St. John the Apostle, Kalyanpur



On December 27, 2025, the Feast of St. John the Apostle, St. Stephen's Church in Kalyanpur marked Christmas with a special Eucharist for Catholic patients near the church premises, continuing a cherished tradition. Fr. Meghnad Singh offered the Eucharist as the main celebrant. The attendees received the anointing of Oleum Infirmorum on their foreheads, accompanied by heartfelt prayers for the sick.

After the Eucharist, 50 elderly and ailing individuals were provided with essential food items, courtesy of the generous donation by Mrs. Baby Chakraborty. St. Stephen's Church extends its sincere gratitude to her for her kindness.

- Mr. Ashim J. Campoo

## Happy Birthday

### JANUARY

03	Rev. Fr. Arup Bor
05	Rev. Fr. Francis David Raj S.J.
15	Rev. Br. Satyajit Naskar
16	Rev. Fr. Jonas Singha
17	Rev. Fr. Ramen Pailan
26	Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J.
27	Rev. Fr. Sarojit Mandal

**Congratulations Dear Fathers & Brother**



### JANUARY

05	Rev. Fr. Amrit Ekka
04	Rev. Fr. Bijendra Raita C.M.
06	Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J.
15	Rev. Fr. Sanjay Minj
16	Rev. Fr. Sarajit Das
17	Rev. Fr. Pradip Dari
22	Rev. Fr. Deepak Ekka
23	Rev. Fr. Sanjit Lakra C.M.

**Congratulations Dear Fathers**

## Episcopal Ordination

29th January: **Most Rev. Bishop Salvadore Lobo**

Catholic Diocese of Baruipur Congratulates His Lordship Bishop Salvadore Lobo as he commemorates 28th Anniversary of his Episcopal Consecration on January 29, 2026.

## Memorable & Admirable

7th Jan. - Rev. Fr. Polgar Stephen, S.J.

### NOTICE BOARD

#### Paribar Jyoti

- # Marriage Preparation Course from 9th January to 10th January 2026.
- # Young Couples Workshop from 30th January to 31st January 2026.

#### Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of January 2026

**For prayer with the Word of God :** Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

## December 2025 Highlights – Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur



On December 03, 2025, Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur observed World Disabled Day as part of the Chetana Disability Campaign 2025–2026 with the theme “Journey of Hope; Share to Serve.” A total of 158 children with disabilities participated along with their parents. Cultural performances by children highlighted their physical and mental development. Blankets, dry food packets and 40+ assistive orthopaedic appliances were distributed, spreading joy and inclusion among the children and families.

On December 22, 2025, it organized the Annual Sports Meet for neighbouring children, with participation from over 300 children and parents. The program was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Kanauj Roy, Vicar General of the Catholic Diocese of Baruipur. Children took part in various sports events, received prizes and were served food packets.

On the same day, as part of its winter relief initiative, 145 blankets were distributed to poor and needy individuals, extending warmth and care during the cold season.

- Fr. Saumen Malik

## Marriage Preparation Course: A Journey of Hope and Companionship

On December 12, 2025, Paribar Jyoti conducted a Marriage Preparation Course for 27 participants - 13 men and 14 women. The programme guided engaged couples in building strong companionship and nurturing emotional support within their relationships. During the sharing sessions, many couples expressed



concern that media consumption and digital gadgets often dominate their daily lives, leaving little space for meaningful interaction. Addressing these modern challenges, the course emphasized responsible digital use, moral values, effective communication and shared responsibilities in married life.

Participants reflected deeply on the importance of understanding one another's concerns, emotional needs and family-related stresses. Many couples offered heartfelt testimonies, sharing how the programme transformed anxiety into hope, misunderstandings into trust and emotional distance into deeper connection. The course helped couples recognize personal blind spots and cultivate empathy, equipping them to enter married life with greater clarity, confidence and faith.

- Fr. Uttam Naskar

## TRANSFERS AND NEW ARRIVALS OF RELIGIOUS IN THE DIOCESE

Place	Arrival	Outgoing
Missionaries of Charity, Nirmal Hriday, Kirtankhola	Sr. Mary Allan M.C.	Sr. John Paul M.C.
Missionaries of Charity, Shishu Bhavan, Kacharibazar, Baruipur	Sr. M. Rose Priya M.C.	Sr. Marianne M.C.

## Bishop Shyamal Bose and all the Fathers at Bishop's House

wish all the readers of Baruipur Newsletter

a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2026.

May the New Year hold new hopes, dreams and life's best for one and all.