

Baruipur News

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

Each year, as the Church celebrates the feast of St. Martin of Tours, we are reminded not only of a great saint of the past but of a timeless model for Christian discipleship. St. Martin's life, lived more than 1,600 years ago, continues to speak to our modern world a world still longing for compassion, humility and hope. His story is not merely a tale of ancient holiness; it is a living invitation to rediscover what it means to love as Christ loved.

St. Martin was born in 316 in what is now Hungary, the son of a Roman officer. Though raised in a non-Christian family, he was drawn to the faith from an early age. At fifteen, he was conscripted into the Roman army, yet even as a soldier he lived a life of prayer, charity and kindness. One freezing winter day, while riding through the city of Amiens, he met a beggar shivering in the cold. With no money to give, he took his sword, cut his soldier's cloak in half and wrapped one portion around the poor man. That night, Martin saw in a dream Jesus Himself clothed in the very half of the cloak he had given away. He heard Christ say to the angels, "Martin, who is still only a catechumen, has clothed me with this garment."

That encounter changed everything. Moved by the vision, Martin was baptized, left the army and dedicated his life to God and to serving the poor. His act of compassion became the symbol of a deeper conversion a heart that saw Christ in every suffering person. In a society divided by class, privilege, and power, Martin's generosity and humility shone like a light in the darkness.

After his baptism, Martin sought a life of prayer and solitude. With the encouragement of Bishop Hilary of Poitiers, he founded a small hermitage at Ligugé in France, one of the earliest monasteries in Western Europe. Others soon joined him, drawn by his holiness and simplicity. But God had greater plans. When the bishop of Tours died in 371, the people insisted that Martin succeed him. He resisted, hiding to avoid the honour, but the faithful found him and acclaimed him as their bishop.

Even as bishop, Martin remained the same humble servant. He lived simply, wore plain clothing and often slept on the floor. He refused luxury, choosing instead to be close to the poor. His residence at Marmoutier, outside the city, became both a place of prayer and a center for missionary work. From there, Martin and his companions evangelized the rural regions of Gaul (modern-day France), preaching not with force but with gentleness, patience and example. He converted many not through argument, but through the holiness of his life.

His episcopal ministry was marked by compassion and courage. He defended the truth of the faith but never condemned sinners; he sought reconciliation rather than division. When conflicts arose, Martin responded not with anger, but with mercy. His leadership was rooted in service a model of what true authority in the Church should be.

What, then, does St. Martin's life say to us today? In every age, the Gospel

calls believers to see Christ in the face of the poor and suffering. The story of the beggar and the cloak captures the essence of that call. It reminds us that acts of compassion, however small, are never insignificant. In a world where people are often reduced to statistics or stereotypes, St. Martin teaches us to see with the eyes of the heart to notice, to care and to act.

Today's "beggars" may not always stand by the roadside. They may be the homeless in our cities, the lonely elderly, the unemployed struggling to survive, or the migrants seeking refuge. They may also be those clothed outwardly but inwardly wounded people stripped of dignity, peace, or purpose. To "clothe the naked" today is to restore hope to those who feel exposed and forgotten. It is to bring comfort to the anxious, dignity to the marginalized and healing to the broken.

Martin's humility also challenges the modern pursuit of power and prestige. He reminds us that greatness is found not in status, but in service. In an age that often values success over sacrifice, his example calls us back to the heart of Christian leadership servant leadership. Whether in the Church, in our workplaces, or within our families, we are called to lead through love, not authority; through compassion, not control.

Moreover, Martin's decision to renounce wealth and live simply offers a message for our consumer-driven world. His life shows that joy and freedom do not come from possessions but from detachment. By choosing poverty of spirit, he was able to give generously and love freely. Our culture, often enslaved by excess and competition, needs this reminder: we are richest when we share and most fulfilled when we serve.

The monasteries founded by St. Martin became centres of prayer, learning and renewal for a world in transition. They remind us that faith, when lived authentically, can transform society from the ground up. Likewise, each of us can build small "monasteries" of love in our homes, parishes and communities places where compassion, hospitality and prayer renew the human spirit.

St. Martin of Tours stands before us not as a distant figure of history but as a living teacher of the Gospel. His charity, humility and courage offer a pattern for our own discipleship. He teaches us that holiness is not reserved for the few but is possible for all who open their hearts to God and to their neighbour.

As we honour him today, let us allow his example to shape our response to the needs around us. May we learn, like him, to recognize Christ in every person, to serve with humility and to give with joy. May we have the courage to "cut our cloak" of comfort and share it with those who lack warmth and hope. In doing so, we too will discover what St. Martin discovered that in serving the least, we serve Christ Himself and in giving, we receive a love that never ends.

+ Shyamal Bose

Filled with the Spirit: 21 Young Faithful Confirmed at Rakhaskhali



The joy of faith filled the community of Rakhaskhali, a substation of Assumption Church, Baidyapur, as 21 young parishioners received the Sacrament of Confirmation on November 05, 2025. The solemn Eucharistic celebration, during which the sacrament was conferred by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, was attended by a large gathering of faithful who came together to witness this important step in the spiritual lives of the young candidates. The candidates had undergone thorough catechetical preparation under the guidance of Br. Rohit Sharma, regent, who accompanied them in their journey toward full Christian maturity. During the homily, the Bishop encouraged the newly confirmed to remain steadfast in their faith, to cultivate the gifts of the Spirit in their daily lives and to be courageous disciples in their families and communities. His words inspired not only the confirmands but also the gathered faithful to renew their own commitment to Christ and the Church.

As the newly confirmed received the anointing with sacred chrism, their faces reflected both joy and devotion, a visible sign of God's grace working in their lives. The celebration concluded with heartfelt thanksgiving and expressions of gratitude to the Bishop, Parish Priest, Brother, Catechist and all those who contributed to the faith formation of the young parishioners.

- Br. Rohit Sharma

Silver Jubilee Celebration: Infant Jesus Church, Gangarampur

Infant Jesus Church, Gangarampur, joyfully celebrated its Silver Jubilee on October 12, 2025, marking twenty-five glorious years of faith, unity, and dedicated service to the people of God. The milestone occasion was a time of deep gratitude and renewed commitment to the mission and values that have shaped the parish since its humble beginnings. The celebration began with a solemn Thanksgiving Holy Mass presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur Diocese, who graced the event as the Chief Guest. A large number of priests, religious sisters, and parishioners gathered in joyful communion to praise God for His abundant blessings upon the parish community. Among the distinguished guests present were Rev. Fr. Victor Rebello SFX, Provincial Superior of the Pilar Fathers, Rev. Fr. Moloy D'Costa, the newly appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Calcutta and Fr. Sunil Ray, who shared a special bond with the parish. Their presence added warmth and significance to the celebration, recalling the many ways in which the Church has touched lives through faith and service. The event also coincided with the Feast of Our Lady of Pilar, bringing an additional dimension of spiritual grace to the day. The parish community gratefully remembered the Pilar Fathers, whose dedicated missionary work and pastoral care have been instrumental in nurturing and strengthening the faith of the people in Gangarampur over the years. Following the Holy Mass, a vibrant cultural programme showcased the talents of parish youth and children, reflecting the unity, diversity and joy of the community. The event concluded with a fellowship lunch, where everyone came together in a spirit of love, gratitude, and togetherness, making the Silver Jubilee celebration a truly memorable and grace-filled occasion. As Infant Jesus Church looks ahead to the future, the Silver Jubilee stands as a testimony of faith, perseverance, and God's abiding presence, inspiring the parish to continue its journey of evangelization and service with renewed zeal and hope.



- Fr. Habil Minj SFX

The Christian Life Community (CLC)



The Christian Life Community (CLC) of Baruipur Diocese organized a special program on October 25, 2025, at Baruipur Dishari. The event was marked by both joy and gratitude as members gathered to welcome the newly appointed Director, Fr. Joseph Toppo, SJ and to bid farewell to the outgoing Director, Fr. Aloke Kanji.

The program began with a prayer and words of welcome, followed by the presentation of reports from all CLC units of the diocese, highlighting the current state, activities, achievements and challenges of their respective communities. A significant part of the day was the election of new President. The outgoing President was warmly felicitated and thanked for her dedicated service and valuable contributions to the growth and mission of CLC. The newly elected President was congratulated and wished every success in carrying forward the spirit and mission of the community.

In total, 78 members participated in the program, making it a memorable and meaningful program of faith, fellowship and commitment to CLC ideals.

- Mrs. Kalpana D'Cruz

Blessing of St. Anthony's Church, Beralia-Mograhat



The blessing of the newly built St. Anthony Church, Beralia, took place on October 19, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., and was joyfully witnessed by nearly 1,000 faithful from different substations of Morapai Parish. The solemn celebration was presided over by His Lordship, Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur and concelebrated by five diocesan priests.

During his inspiring homily, His Lordship emphasized the importance of becoming living witnesses of the Gospel in today's challenging world. The choir's melodious singing and devout participation of the faithful made the Eucharistic celebration deeply prayerful. The church, adorned with colorful lights and decorations, radiated joy and gratitude as the community celebrated this significant milestone in faith. After the Mass, a short thanksgiving programme was held to acknowledge the generous prayers, efforts and contributions of all who made the new church possible. The celebration concluded with the serving of a festive meal and sweets, leaving everyone with hearts full of joy and gratitude.

- Fr. Sanjay Minj

Palli Unnayan Samiti (PUS) Baruipur

In October 2025, Palli Unnayan Samiti (PUS) Baruipur joyfully celebrated its 47th Foundation Day on 3rd October. There was a cultural programme featuring recitations, dances and skits presented by staff and students on the theme "Save the Mother Earth." Fr. Saumen Malik, Director of PUS, shared the organization's 47 year journey of service and expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who have contributed to its growth. Bishop appreciated the dedicated work of PUS over the years and inaugurated the new Strategic Plan and seven policies (2025–2030) to guide its future mission. The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks and a fellowship lunch.

On October 08, 2025, PUS inaugurated the 7th Batch of the Tailoring Training Course, a six-month programme for 26 underprivileged women. The course aims to provide vocational skills and create income-generating opportunities for rural women. Participants completing the course successfully will receive certificates.

- Fr. Saumen Malik



Marriage Preparation Course and Workshop



In October 2025, Baruipur Paribar Jyoti, Family Commission, organized a Marriage Preparation Course and Workshop for 19 young couples at the Diocese's Pastoral Centre, Dishari. Despite their busy schedules, all participants attended the sessions with great enthusiasm and expressed that the program was deeply touching, meaningful and relevant to real life.

The digitally savvy young couples were vibrant and interactive, asking and answering numerous questions about conjugal life and intimacy. They also reflected that many of their peers today tend to seek only personal satisfaction, rather than understanding the sacredness of holy married life and the sacramental grace of marriage.

Participants emphasized the importance of learning about effective parenting, a vital skill that should begin early in a child's life, to foster healthy family relationships and a nurturing home environment. Their reflections on how parents can learn new ways to raise children for a fruitful future were truly impressive. Heartfelt thanks to Dishari for their cooperation and for providing the venue to conduct this enriching program.

- Fr. Uttam Naskar

DISHARI AT A GLANCE



In the spirit of renewal and togetherness, Dishari, Pastoral Centre organized a Parents' Retreat from October 12-13, 2025. The retreat was animated by Fr. Ramen Pailan, who guided the participants through two days of spiritual reflection and growth. Fr. Pailan, in his sessions, emphasized the vital role of parents as the first

educators of faith and the importance of nurturing Christian values at home. His reflections encouraged families to make their homes "domestic churches" where love, forgiveness and prayer become part of daily life. More than 75 parents from various parishes came together to pause from their busy schedules and spend time in the presence of the Lord. Through inspiring talks, moments of silent prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, participants rediscovered the grace of God at work in their lives and families.

Following this grace-filled event, there was an Orientation on October 22, 2025, at Bonmogra, St. Francis Xavier Church. The gathering sought to deepen the faithful's understanding of the Church's sacraments and to inspire active participation in parish life. Mr. Deepankar Sardar introduced the participants to the Seven Sacraments, explaining their spiritual significance and how they accompany a Christian through every stage of life. Br. Subilash Bar continued by highlighting the centrality of the Holy Eucharist as the heart of Christian worship and the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a channel of God's mercy and peace. Over 50 participants attended the program with enthusiasm and openness, actively engaging in discussions and reflections. Both events reflected the mission of Dishari Pastoral Centre, to accompany, form and strengthen families in their spiritual journey, helping them become witnesses of faith and love in their communities.

Appointment of New Director to Dishari



On November 01, 2025 Fr. Abonindro Das, newly appointed director, officially took charge as the Director of Dishari, the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Baruipur. In addition to this new responsibility, Fr. Abonindro will also serve as the Animator of the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC), Secretary of the Catechetical Commission and Secretary of the Proclamation Commission.

We congratulate Fr. Abonindro Das on his new appointments and assure him of our prayers and support as he undertakes these important ministries in the service of the Diocese. May the Lord guide and bless his ministry so that Dishari continues to serve as a centre of spiritual renewal, pastoral formation and community animation for the Diocese of Baruipur.

At the same time, we express our sincere gratitude to Fr. Goutam Naskar, the outgoing Director, for his tireless efforts, dedicated service and valuable contributions to the growth and mission of Dishari during his tenure. Let us keep both Fr. Abonindro and Fr. Goutam in our prayers as they continue to serve the Lord in their respective ministries.

- Br. Subilash Bar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

NOVEMBER

04	Fr. Francis Makhal
09	Fr. HabilMinj, 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
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.

NOTICE BOARD

Recollection of priests from November 19-20, 2025

Paribar Jyoti

- # Marriage Preparation Course from November, 07-08, 2025
- # Young Couples Workshop from November, 21-22, 2025

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of Nov. 2025

For the prevention of suicide : Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.