

Baruipur News

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CHRISTMAS 2025: WHEN GOD STEPS INTO OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

Christmas today is celebrated across the world with rich diversity liturgies, family gatherings, charity, decorations, lights, music, picnics, *melas*, and countless cultural expressions. Customs may differ, but the message remains the same and ever new: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" (Jn 3:16).

In a world that often feels rushed, divided, anxious, and overwhelmed, Christmas arrives not as a holiday alone, but as a reminder: God is near. He steps into our joys, fears, burdens, and hopes. He comes as Emmanuel God with us.

For centuries, the Birth of Christ has been a treasured celebration. His coming changed human history so profoundly that time itself is marked around His birth BC and AD. Yet the deeper meaning of Christmas is not in the marking of time but in the transforming of hearts.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke give us the narrative: the Annunciation to Mary, Joseph's quiet courage, the journey to Bethlehem, the humble manger, the shepherds, and the Magi. Scripture does not record the exact date of His birth, though it gives clues He was born during the time of Herod, during a census, and when shepherds watched their flocks by night.

By the 4th century, the early Church chose December 25, transforming a Roman festival of the Unconquered Sun into the celebration of Christ, the true Light of the world. Some Christians believed He was conceived on March 25, making December 25 a natural date.

In the first centuries, Easter was the primary feast because the Resurrection is the core of Christian faith. Yet gradually, the Church also recognized the profound mystery of the Incarnation God becoming human. By the 5th century, Christmas was firmly established, and over time beloved traditions developed: the Crib of St Francis (1223), Christmas carols, and the evergreen tree symbolizing hope and eternal life.

Every tradition, in its own way, proclaims the same truth: God's love enters the world gently and humbly.

But what does Christmas mean for us today in 2025?

We live in a world filled with contradiction. Technology connects us instantly, yet many feel isolated. Families share homes but sometimes not hearts. Many young people face pressure from studies, social media comparison, and uncertainty about the future. Financial stress affects numerous families. Others quietly battle anxiety, loneliness, or broken relationships. Our world is fast-paced, yet inner peace often feels slow to arrive.

It is into this very world that Christmas must speak.

The birth of Jesus is not only a memory to admire; it is God entering the complexity of human life's messiness and its beauty. Jesus was born into a world of conflict, insecurity, and uncertainty. That same world exists today, and the same hope is offered to us now.

A Christmas that speaks to real life

1. Christmas invites us to slow down.

Amid shopping, cooking, traveling, and planning, Christ calls us to pause. A few minutes each day in quiet prayer or reflection can bring more calm than hours of constant activity.

2. Christmas calls us to rebuild relationships.

Many families carry wounds that have lasted for years. Christmas gently invites us to make the first move a phone call, a message, a forgiving word. Reconciliation is one of the most beautiful ways to welcome Christ.

3. Christmas urges us to notice the forgotten.

There are neighbours living alone, elderly people who rarely receive visitors, struggling families, and young people silently fighting

anxiety. A simple gesture a meal, a visit, an encouraging word can become someone's Christmas miracle.

4. Christmas challenges us to live simply.

Jesus was born in a manger. He teaches us that joy is found not in abundance but in gratitude and compassion. This year, perhaps we can shift our focus from the number of gifts to the quality of our love.

5. Christmas strengthens the tired and anxious.

If you feel weary, worried, or uncertain about the future, remember: Jesus came not into a perfect world but into a troubled one. He comes today with the same message "Do not be afraid."

Christmas is the celebration of Emmanuel God with us. Not far away, not unreachable, not watching from a distance with us.

Christmas reminds us that God chooses the "mangers" of our lives the imperfect places, the hidden places, the broken places as the very spaces where He wishes to dwell.

A Christmas lived, not only celebrated

This Christmas, let us not only decorate our homes, but also our hearts with kindness, patience, generosity, and forgiveness. Let us not only exchange gifts, but also become a gift to our families, to our communities, to our world.

Christmas 2025 invites us to choose hope over despair, peace over anger, compassion over indifference. It invites us to lift our eyes from the noise of the world to the quiet manger where God becomes small enough for us to draw close.

May this Christmas bring healing where there is hurt, unity where there is division, courage where there is fear, and joy where there is heaviness.

May Emmanuel God with us walk beside us in every moment of the coming year.

Merry Christmas!

+ Shyamal Bose

A NEW BEGINNING: FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR THE NEW PROVINCIALATE AT KHAMALLICK



A moment of joy and gratitude filled the hearts of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, Kolkata Province, as the foundation stone for the new Provincial Administrative House was laid in a solemn and grace-filled ceremony. The ceremony was presided over and blessed by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruiipur. His inspiring words and blessing marked the beginning of a new chapter in the province's journey of faith and service.

Our Provincial, Sr. Lissy Joseph, together with her team, joyfully led the occasion, joined by many sisters from across the province. Their presence and prayers added warmth and strength to this historic day. We were also blessed by the participation of Fr. Rajen Singh from our diocese and we express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Ghosh and Mr. Niladri, the contractor and engineer, along with their dedicated team, for their tireless work and support. A special word of thanks goes to the staff of Holy Cross School, whose cooperation and assistance made this event possible.

This new venture is an intrinsic part of our ongoing vision and hope to respond to the growing needs and aspirations of our Province. The laying of this foundation stone marks not just the beginning of a building, but the start of a transformative journey toward enhanced accessibility, service and commitment to our mission and community.

- Sr. Manjusha Thomas

ALL SOULS' DAY OBSERVED AT BARUIPUR CATHEDRAL

As in every year, this year too, on November 02, 2025, Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruiipur, offered the Holy Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Baruiipur, on the occasion of All Souls' Day.

In his homily, Bishop Shyamal reflected on the Last Judgement, reminding the faithful that each of us will one day stand before God. He called upon everyone to pray earnestly for the departed souls, as they can no longer act on their own behalf. It is, he emphasized, the sacred duty of believers to entrust them to God's mercy and loving kindness.

After the Mass, the congregation processed to the cemetery, where the Bishop led prayers of blessing and blessed the graves, invoking God's peace upon all who rest there.



- Br. Kenedi Ghughu

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL, BARUIPUR, ORGANISES, INTERSCHOOL MEET



Holy Cross School, Baruiipur, took the initiative to organise an interschool singing and dance competition, named, "CRESCENDO 2025," for the nearby schools. Previously interschool events were held for games. This was the first time such an event with a cultural dimension was organised. Invitations were sent to ten schools for this programme held on November 08, 2025. Seven schools responded with active collaboration. Among them were schools such as Vivekananda Mission School, Welkin International School, St. Thomas Marthoma School, Lion's Calcutta (Greater) Vidya Mandir and H.P. Ghosh Memorial School. The children were divided into three groups of Classes III-V, VI-VIII and IX-XII. They performed with such dexterous skills that made the spectators feel as if they were watching a TV programme of professional artists. The quality of their presentations was a tribute to the highly placed personalities who were invited to be the judges. The proficiency with which the children exhibited their talents made it difficult for the judges to evaluate their performance and revealed the

hard work of the teachers who prepared them. Sr. Letha, Principal and Sr. Lincy, the Secretary, said that next year they have plans to invite more schools and broaden the scope of the event with more items such as drawing for the nursery level children and may other things.

- Fr. Pradeep Roy

A GRACE-FILLED DAY AT SACRED HEART CHURCH, THAKURPUKUR

On November 09, 2025, Sacred Heart Church, Thakurpukur, rejoiced as 42 young hearts stepped forward to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal, Bose, whose gentle words and blessing filled the sanctuary with a spirit of joy and renewal. The Church, beautifully adorned with fresh flowers, became a vibrant sign of God's presence. Fr. Tushar Augustine Gomes, Parish Priest and Fr. Amrit Ekka, Curate, concelebrated the Mass, joining the children and their families in thanksgiving. The choir's melodious singing added grace and warmth to the sacred celebration. After the ceremony, the newly confirmed children were felicitated with certificates, gifts and a food packet, making the day even more memorable for them and their families. Heartfelt appreciation goes to the Catechism teachers, whose dedication and patient guidance prepared the children for this milestone in faith.

- Mrs. Agnes John



RECOLLECTION OF PRIESTS

The priests' recollection was held at Dishari from November 19-20, 2025, with 36 priests serving in the Diocese in attendance. The recollection was led by Rev. Fr. Peter Lingdamoo, Principal of Morning Star College, a deeply spiritual man of God, whose presence and prayerful disposition enriched the entire gathering. Rev. Fr. Peter Lingdamoo shared from the depths of his own priestly journey, expressing that the greatest joy of his life has been the gift of the priesthood itself. He spoke of how this gift continually draws him closer to holiness and nurtures within him a spirit of profound prayer. His words resonated deeply as he emphasized the importance of humility and a docile heart, qualities that allow a priest to remain open to the transforming grace of the Holy Spirit. The priests were deeply moved by his heartfelt sharing and spiritual insights. As the recollection concluded, they returned to their parishes renewed in spirit, filled with zeal and enthusiasm. Strengthened by grace, they recommitted themselves to becoming more holy and prayerful shepherds priests whose lives can draw the hearts of the faithful closer to God.



- Fr. Abonindro Das

CHRIST REIGNS IN OUR HEARTS: BARUIPUR DIOCESE CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING



The Diocese of Baruiপুর joyfully celebrated the Feast of Christ the King at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Baruiপুর on November 23, 2025. The solemn Mass was presided over by His Lordship Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, with neighbouring priests concelebrating, drawing a large congregation of the faithful. In his homily, the Bishop reflected on the true kingship of Christ Jesus, emphasizing His reign of truth, love, justice and peace. A large gathering of faithful participated prayerfully in the celebration. After the Eucharistic celebration, the faithful joined a reverent and vibrant procession, offering a visible testimony of Christian faith to people of all religions. Throughout the procession, the congregation participated devoutly in the recitation of the Rosary, singing hymns and dancing, creating a joyful yet prayerful atmosphere. The celebration concluded with Benediction at Palli Unnayan Samiti, Baruiপুর, bringing the day to a spiritually enriching and grace-filled close.

- Br. Kenedi Ghughu

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SAJNABERIA

The Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Sajnaberia was a joyful and faith-filled milestone, celebrated on November 30, 2025 with gratitude for God's abundant blessings over the past twenty-five years. The day began with a solemn Thanksgiving Mass, presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, whose inspiring homily and gracious presence brought spiritual depth to the occasion. A brief felicitation ceremony after the Mass, honoured the Bishop, priests and Sisters for their spiritual guidance and valuable contributions to the parish community. This was followed by vibrant cultural performances by various church groups, adding festive colour and youthful energy to the celebration. The highlight of the day was a soul-stirring musical performance by the Pragma Gospel Band, uplifting the entire gathering. The celebration concluded with a grand community lunch shared by nearly 1,500 parishioners, reflecting unity, fellowship, and a strong parish bond. The Silver Jubilee was a beautiful reminder of the parish's journey of faith and an inspiration to continue its mission with renewed hope and commitment. The programme continued under the dedicated leadership of Parish Priest, Fr. Philip Durlov Bor, whose tireless efforts ensured a smooth and meaningful event.



- Mr. Soumya Pramanik



CHILDREN'S DAY & JUBILEE CROSS - BAMANPUKUR

Children's Day was joyfully celebrated on November 16, 2025 with a procession led by the children carrying the Jubilee Cross, followed by the Holy Eucharist. After Mass, a vibrant cultural programme, organized by Srs. Suchitra DSA and Jaya DSA with support from the parish youth felicitated around 58 children for their talents and active participation in parish activities. The parish received the Diocesan Jubilee Cross on November 15, 2025 and over the following days parishioners carried it prayerfully to different *Para*, accompanied by *kirton* singing. The parish priest encouraged the faithful throughout the journey, highlighting the Jubilee Year's call to hope and renewal. The Jubilee Cross strengthened unity and brought abundant blessings to the Bamanpukur community. The Christ the King procession set out from the church with flower girls, *kirton* and prayers, proclaiming the universal Kingship of Jesus. It travelled along Basanti Highway to Majherpara, concluding with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament under a tent prepared by the local faithful.

- Saurav Naskar

PARIBAR JYOTI

This month's Preparing for a Successful Marriage Course offered engaged couples a rich, faith-filled journey toward building strong, Christ-centred marriages. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, couples explored the essential foundations of a lifelong partnership. Key sessions focused on healthy communication, conflict resolution and active listening, helping couples form new patterns of understanding. Exploring personality differences and attachment styles brought clarity to past misunderstandings, while learning about love languages deepened emotional connection. The course also addressed financial unity, roles and expectations, marital intimacy and the importance of shared spiritual values, encouraging couples to approach marriage as a sacred covenant rather than a simple contract. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. One couple shared, "We feel significantly more prepared and confident. We now have a toolbox for handling disagreements and a clearer picture of each other's needs and responsibilities."



- Fr. Uttam Naskar

Happy Birthday

DECEMBER

- 02 Fr. Pierre Jacob, SJ
 09 Fr. Indrajit Sardar
 11 Br. Pabitra Sardar
 15 Fr. Faustine Brank
 25 Fr. Sanjit Lakra, CM

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers & Brothers

Ordination

DECEMBER

- 06 Fr. Arup Bor
 07 Fr. Henry Crasta
 16 Fr. Tushar Gomes, SDB
 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

NOTICE BOARD

December 28, 2025: Solemn conclusion of the Ordinary Jubilee 2025 in Cathedral, Baruipur at 2:30 p.m.

January 06, 2026: Christmas gathering of priests, religious and brothers in Dishari.

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

For Christians in areas of conflict : Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

PALLI UNNAYAN SAMITI, BARUIPUR

PUS Baruipur conducted several key activities in November 2025, beginning with the distribution of Educational Materials and Health Kits to 332 students of the SAD Langalberia Education Project on November 12-13, where Fr. Saumen Malik delivered a motivational speech in the presence of SAD personnel and 4 FADV volunteers from Italy. On November 14, Children's Day was celebrated with 140 children with disabilities and their parents at the Day Care Centre, attended by Guest Ms. Moumita Roy Chowdhury and FADV volunteers, featuring an inaugural song, floral felicitation, performances of dance, song, recitation and gymnastics, followed by tiffin distribution. On November 22, a Medical Camp was organized in collaboration with FADV Italy and Neotia Bhagirathi Woman and Child Care Centre, where 90 children with disabilities and 40 SAD Langalberia students received medical check-ups and medicines; the event opened with the Tagore song "AgunerParashmoni" and concluded with a folk-dance performance by SAD students.



- Fr. Saumen Malik

GLIMPSE FROM DISHARI

The annual retreat for 55 catechists of the Diocese of Baruipur was held at Dishari Pastoral Centre from November 04-09, 2025. Fr. Benjamin, MC guided the participants with deep spiritual reflections, inviting them to renew their relationship with God. The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the anointing and healing prayer were powerful moments of grace, bringing peace, inner healing and a renewed sense of God's loving presence.



The BEC Core Committee met at Dishari on November 10, 2025, with 13 members present. Led by Fr. Abonindro Das, the group reviewed the status of BEC units across the Diocese and emphasized the need to revive inactive units through spiritual accompaniment. The meeting ended with renewed commitment to strengthen and spread the BEC movement throughout the Diocese.

A Catechism Teachers' Training program for 50 children was held in Gosaba Parish on November 30, 2025. Fr. Abonindro Das helped the children understand Jesus as their true friend, while Fr. Pradip Dari explained the Triune God and the sacraments in simple, engaging ways. The children participated enthusiastically, making the program spiritually enriching and joyful.

- Fr. Abonindro Das

Transfers and New Arrivals of Religious in the Diocese

Place	Arrival	Outgoing
Daughters of the Cross, Sacred Heart Convent Baidyapur	Sr. Manisha Thirkey FC	Sr. Priya Ekka FC

Most. Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur,
Most. Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus of Baruipur,
all the Priests, Religious and people of Baruipur Diocese,
wishes all the readers A Merry Christmas
and A Happy Prosperous New Year 2026.

যীশু খ্রীষ্টের জন্ম উপলক্ষে শুভ বড়দিন উৎসব,
 বারুইপুর ধর্মপ্রদেশের সকল খ্রীষ্টভক্ত, পুরোহিত, সিস্টার, ব্রাদার,
 ধর্মপ্রচারক, শিক্ষক-শিক্ষিকা এবং শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষীদের জানাই
 বড়দিনের আন্তরিক প্রীতি, শুভেচ্ছা, অভিনন্দন এবং আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ।

বিশপ শ্যামল বোস
 বারুইপুর ধর্মপ্রদেশ