



The Assumption: Heaven is Our Future

Every age has searched for happiness. Yet every age has also wrestled with the same questions: *What lies beyond death? Is human life ultimately meaningful? Is there anything that lasts forever?* The answers offered by our world are often uncertain. While science has transformed the way we live and technology has connected us in unimaginable ways, neither can answer the deepest longing of the human heart the longing for eternity.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary speaks directly to this longing. It is not merely a feast about Mary; it is a feast about our destiny. By proclaiming that Mary, "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory," the Church points beyond the limits of this world and reminds us that heaven is not an idea but our true homeland. Pope Pius XII solemnly affirmed this truth in *Munificentissimus Deus* (1950), while the Second Vatican Council presents Mary as "a sign of certain hope and comfort to the pilgrim People of God" (*Lumen Gentium*, 68).

The Assumption is therefore a feast of hope. Mary has already reached the destination towards which the whole Church journeys. In her, we see the fulfilment of God's promise that life, lived in faith, ends not in the grave but in glory.

This message could not be more relevant today. Our generation is remarkably connected, yet many people feel profoundly alone. We are surrounded by opportunities, yet countless young people struggle to find purpose. Success is often measured by marks, salaries, careers, possessions, or the number of followers on social media. Without realizing it, we begin to believe that this life is everything. The horizon of eternity slowly disappears.

The Assumption gently but firmly corrects this vision. It reminds us that life is more than achievements and possessions. The greatest success is not becoming famous but becoming holy. Mary's life was outwardly simple. She possessed neither wealth nor influence. She lived quietly in Nazareth, served her family faithfully, stood courageously at the foot of the Cross, and remained with the disciples in prayer. Yet her life became the most beautiful example of holiness because she belonged completely to God.

The Assumption also proclaims the dignity of the human body. In a culture where the body is frequently treated as an object to exploit, alter, commercialize, or discard, Mary reminds us that our bodies are destined for resurrection and glory. God does not save only our souls; He redeems the whole person. The glorified body of Mary points us towards the resurrection promised by Christ. This Christian vision calls us to respect every human life from the unborn child to the elderly, from the healthy to the sick for every person is created for eternal communion with God.

Another important message of the Assumption is that holiness is possible in ordinary life. Mary performed no spectacular miracles recorded in Scripture. She preached no public sermons. She governed no kingdom. Yet she became the first among the saints because she allowed God to shape every moment of her life. In an age fascinated by extraordinary achievements, Mary reminds us that greatness is found in ordinary faithfulness in prayer, obedience, kindness, forgiveness, and quiet perseverance.

For young people especially, Mary offers a compelling alternative to a culture of comparison. Social media often tempts us to compare our

appearance, success, and popularity with others. Such comparisons easily produce anxiety and dissatisfaction. Mary's joy did not come from comparing herself with anyone else. Her joy flowed from knowing that God loved her and had entrusted her with a unique mission. Every young person needs to rediscover this truth: your value does not depend on public approval but on your identity as a beloved child of God.

The Assumption also invites us to lift our eyes beyond the immediate. We often invest enormous energy in building successful careers, comfortable homes, and secure futures. These are good and necessary. Yet Jesus repeatedly reminds us not to store up treasures that perish but treasures that endure forever. Mary's Assumption asks each of us a simple but searching question: *Am I preparing only for tomorrow, or am I preparing for eternity?* For us in India, the Solemnity of the Assumption has a special significance, as it is celebrated every year on our Independence Day. While our nation rejoices in the gift of political freedom, Mary reminds us of a deeper freedom the freedom to choose God. Her wholehearted "Yes" was the fullest expression of true freedom. In a world that often confuses freedom with doing whatever we want, Mary teaches us that real freedom is found in choosing truth, love, and God's will. A nation grows strong through responsible citizens; a Christian grows holy by living in the freedom of God's children.

May the Assumption remind us that our lives find their true meaning not in what we possess, but in whom we follow. Like Mary, may we walk each day with faith, so that one day we may share in the glory that God has prepared for all who love Him.

+ Shyamal Bose

Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Budge Budge



The Sisters of Carmel House, Budge Budge, joyfully celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on 16 July 2026. The Holy Eucharist was solemnly presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose and Fr. Sirnus Topno as the concelebrant. During his homily, the Bishop reflected on the Carmelite way of life and emphasized the role of Carmelites in the Church and in society, inspiring everyone to remain faithful to their vocation. After the Holy Mass, a festive meal was shared with all. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Shyamal Bose and Fr. Sirnus Topno for their gracious presence and for making the celebration a memorable one.

- Fr. Sirnus Topno

Installation of New Parish Priest

On 05 July, Sunday, 2026 Basanti Catholic Church witnessed a truly remarkable day with the installation of its new Parish Priest. The celebration began with a Holy Mass at 6:00 am, which opened with a beautiful introduction that set a prayerful and joyful tone for the day. This was followed by a solemn entrance procession. The highlight of the ceremony was when Fr. Parimal Kanji took the oath in the presence of His Lordship Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, promising to faithfully take charge of the Church and the people of God and to carry out with dedication whatever responsibilities would be entrusted to him. Soon after the Eucharist, a short felicitation program was held to honour the occasion. The entire community gathered in faith and gratitude, welcoming their new shepherd with hope and prayers.

- Br. Subilash Bar



Installation of the New Parish Priest and Grandparents' Day at Diamond Harbour Parish



Diamond Harbour Parish joyfully celebrated the installation of Fr. Mani Manuel, SDB as the new Parish Priest during the Holy Eucharist on 26 July 2026. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Bishop Shyamol Bose, Bishop of Baruipur Diocese and concelebrated by Fr. Sunil Lakra, Fr. Amit Xess and Fr. Francis, along with other priests.

The solemn celebration was attended by religious, parishioners and well-wishers, who gathered in prayer to invoke God's abundant blessings upon Fr. Mani Manuel as he began his pastoral ministry. The parish community extended a warm welcome to their new shepherd and assured him of their prayers, support and cooperation.

On the same occasion, the parish also observed Grandparents' Day, honouring the invaluable contribution of grandparents in nurturing faith, preserving Christian values and strengthening family life. Special prayers and blessings were offered for all grandparents in gratitude for their love, wisdom, sacrifice and steadfast witness to the faith. The twin celebrations were marked by prayer, thanksgiving and joyful fellowship, making the day a memorable occasion for the entire parish community.

- Fr. Amit Xess SDB

RIP: Fr. Daniel Makhal

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). Fr. Daniel Makhal peacefully passed away on 31 July 2026 at 9:00 p.m. at Asha, Baruipur, where he had been residing due to age and illness. Born on 29 April 1947 at Basanti to Late Sarat Makhal and Late Aladi Makhal, he was ordained a priest on 27 April 1980. During his 46 years of priestly ministry, Fr. Daniel served in several parishes and institutions of the Diocese, including Morapai, Kalyanpur, Khari, Budge-Budge, Kumrokhali, Baidyapur, Noorpur, Gosaba, Baruipur, Sonarpur and Ranigarh. He also served as a Consultor of the Diocese, Confessor and Teacher at Samarpan and in various pastoral and diocesan responsibilities.

From July 2020, he resided at Asha, Baruipur, as a senior priest. Throughout his priestly life, he was known for his simplicity, humility, gentle spirit, pastoral dedication and fidelity to the Church. His quiet and devoted service touched the lives of many priests, religious and lay faithful. As we mourn his passing, we thank God for the gift of his priestly vocation and commend his soul to the loving mercy of God. May the Lord grant him eternal rest and welcome him into the joy of His heavenly kingdom. His funeral mass was presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose in the presence of Most Rev. Salvatore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus, Priests, religious and faithful of the diocese. Thereafter, his mortal remains were laid to rest in the priests' cemetery.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

- Fr. Ramen Pailan



RIP : Mrs. Rosaliya Lakra

Mrs. Rosaliya Lakra, beloved mother of Mr. Sanjay Minj, passed away on 22 July 2026 at the age of 65. Mrs. Rosaliya was remembered as a loving mother and a caring person who touched the lives of those around her through her simple and gentle presence. Her passing is a deep loss to her family, relatives, friends and all who knew and loved her. The Christian community joins the bereaved family in prayer and expresses heartfelt sympathy to them in this moment of grief. May the Lord, in His infinite mercy, grant her eternal rest and welcome her into the joy of His heavenly kingdom. May He also grant strength, consolation, and peace to the bereaved family.



- Fr. Deepak Ekka

Palli Unnayan Samiti, Baruipur

Palli Unnayan Samiti (PUS), Baruipur carried out several significant activities during July 2026 focusing on education, skill development and health awareness.

Visit to St. Savio Boys' Hostel, Panchamkhanda: On 10 July 2026, the PUS office team, led by Fr. Kanauj Roy, visited St. Savio Boys' Hostel, Panchamkhanda. The team interacted with the students and teachers, reviewed the hostel's administrative and management systems and discussed ways to strengthen discipline, efficiency and a student-friendly environment.

Career Counselling Programme: On 22 July 2026, it organized a career counselling programme for 80 current and former trainees of its Tailoring, Beautician and Computer with Spoken English courses. Fr. Kanauj Roy highlighted the importance of vocational skills in building confidence and improving livelihood opportunities. The sessions, conducted by Mrs. Anita Das, focused on career planning, employability and self-employment.

Health and Hygiene Training for Mothers: On 02 July 2026, there was one-day training on Health, Hygiene and Urinary Safety for 65 mothers of children with disabilities enrolled at the Day Care Centre. Facilitated by Mrs. Anita Das, the programme covered personal hygiene, nutrition, urinary health, infection prevention and early identification of health concerns. The participants actively engaged in the sessions and appreciated their practical and informative nature.



- Fr. Kanauj Roy

Baruipur Paribar Jyoti

July, 2026 was an active month for our Regional Family initiatives. A Regional Family Commission Meeting cum Training of Trainers was held at Proggalay, Barasat, with a strong focus on accompanying families. The session aimed to equip members with skills and perspectives to better support families in our communities.

Alongside this, our Animators' Workshop showcased the ground-level work being done. During the month, animators engaged with specially the vulnerable couples for mental support. Through house visits and meetings with youths, parents of adolescents, husband-wife groups, elderly and influential persons they have planned for seminars at different areas and with different groups. They also encountered several challenges in the field, but most were addressed promptly through timely intervention and teamwork. The commitment and dedication of our animators continue to strengthen family bonds and community well-being. The total number of staff and animators attended these two programmes are 164, out of which were 16 males and 148 females.

- Fr. Sisir Khan



Strengthening Faith through BEC

During the month of July 2026, eleven parish-level BEC programmes were conducted in different parishes, along with two diocese-level TOT programmes at Dishari. Altogether, these programmes brought 1181 participants. The program aimed at deepening faith and strengthen the unity of the Catholic faithful through the Basic Ecclesial Community movement. Through Bible Procession and Veneration, Gospel Sharing, prayer, spiritual fellowship and mutual support, the participants were encouraged to live their faith more actively within their communities. As a new way of Being church, BEC enabled members to grow together in faith through prayer, worship, service and mutual assistance. Through these Basic Ecclesial Communities, the participants seek to embody the values of love, justice, mercy, service and unity reflecting the compassion and mission of Jesus Christ. The programmes provided an opportunity for the faithful to review their commitment to BEC and to become more active witnesses of the Gospel in their families, communities and parishes.



- Mr. Dipankar Sardar

Youth Orientation Programmes



The Baruipur Diocesan Youth Commission successfully organized a series of Youth Orientation Programmes at St. Francis Xavier's Church, Budge Budge (5 July 2026), Morapai Parish (12 July 2026), Basanti Zone (19 July 2026) and Hogulkuria Parish (2 August 2026). The programmes aimed to strengthen the faith,

leadership, fellowship and active participation of young people in the Church and society.

The programmes included prayer, animation, spiritual and leadership sessions, games, cultural activities and interactive sessions. The youth were encouraged to deepen their relationship with Jesus, develop leadership qualities, take responsibility and actively contribute to the mission of the Church. The sessions and activities created a joyful and engaging atmosphere while promoting unity, teamwork, friendship and spiritual growth among the participants. The programmes concluded with thanksgiving and fellowship, leaving the young people inspired and motivated to live their faith and serve the Church and society with renewed enthusiasm.

- Miss. Julie Mondal



August

03	Br. Kenedi Kabi Ghughu
14	Br. David Panja
19	Fr. Pradip Dari
21	Fr. Soosaiappan Y.
25	Fr. Alexcius Kindo, S.F.X
27	Fr. Joseph Toppo, S.J.

Happy Birthday
Dear Fathers and Brothers

Memorable & Admirable

Month of August

05	Fr. S. Chinnappan
29	Fr. Jean Henrichs, S.J.

Celebration of the Feast of St. John Mary Vianney



The Diocese of Baruipur celebrated the Feast of St. John Mary Vianney, the Patron Saint of Priests, in anticipation on 30 July 2026. The celebration began with the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist and concluded with a short gathering followed by a fellowship meal. The day was both meaningful and enriching for all the priests. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur. In his homily, he emphasized that St. John Mary Vianney brought countless souls to God through his faithful ministry of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He encouraged the priests to give renewed importance to this sacrament and reminded them that, like the Curé of Ars, they too would bear abundant fruit by remaining united with the Lord through prayer, Eucharistic adoration and deep faith in the Holy Eucharist.

The celebration was graced by the presence of Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus of Baruipur, who encouraged the priests to embrace the spirituality of St. John Mary Vianney in their daily ministry. The gathering was made lively and enjoyable by Deacons Uday Mondal and Satyajit Naskar, who conducted the programme with creative compering and engaging games. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal, strengthening the spirit of fraternity among the clergy.

- Fr. Goutam Naskar

NOTICE BOARD

Annual Retreat

Priests' Annual Retreat will be held from the evening of September 20, 2026 Sunday to the Evening of September 25, 2026 Friday at Bandel Retreat House. You are requested to give your names to Fr. Himangshu Poti, the Secretary of the Priests' Council.

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer Month of August 2026

For evangelization in the city: Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.