



St. Agatha: A Quiet Strength for Our Time

Every generation looks for people who can guide it not through power or fame, but through courage, truth, and integrity. St. Agatha is one such guide. Though she lived many centuries ago, her life continues to speak clearly to our world today. Her story is not distant history; it is a mirror that helps us understand our own struggles, choices, and faith.

St. Agatha was born in the third century in Sicily, into a noble and wealthy Christian family. From a young age, she freely chose to dedicate her life to God. This decision shaped everything about her. At a time when being Christian was dangerous and women were often treated as possessions, Agatha chose freedom of conscience. Her life reminds us that faith is not inherited automatically or imposed by force – it is chosen, often at great cost.

Her suffering began when Quintianus, a powerful Roman official, desired her and tried to force her into marriage. When Agatha refused and remained faithful to Christ, he attempted to break her spirit. She was imprisoned, humiliated, and subjected to severe torture. Even her body was mutilated in an effort to destroy her dignity and faith. Yet Agatha remained firm. She prayed calmly and trusted God rather than surrendering to fear or hatred. Tradition tells us that in prison she experienced healing through prayer and offered her pain to God with remarkable peace.

Eventually, after further suffering, Agatha gave her life as a martyr. Soon after her death, Mount Etna erupted, threatening the city of Catania. The people turned to her intercession, and the eruption stopped. From that moment, she was remembered not only as a martyr but also as a protector in times of danger. Her life became a sign that faithfulness is never powerless, even beyond death.

Today, we may not face the same pressures as

in the past, but the call to compromise remains real. Many people are urged to stay silent, to accept injustice, or to abandon their values for safety or success. In such moments, St. Agatha's life speaks gently but firmly: your dignity is precious, and it must never be traded away.

The world often tells us that strength means being loud, aggressive, or dominant. St. Agatha shows us another kind of strength. Her courage was quiet and steady. She did not curse those who harmed her or allow bitterness to grow in her heart. Even in suffering, she remained faithful and peaceful. In a world marked by anger and division, her life teaches us that true strength can be calm, patient, and rooted in trust in God.

St. Agatha is especially close to those who feel powerless today – women whose voices are ignored, young people uncertain about their future, workers treated unfairly, and believers mocked for their faith. Her life assures them that God sees every hidden struggle. Faithfulness, even when unnoticed by the world, has lasting value. What is offered to God in suffering is never lost.

Her story also reminds us that faith is lived in the body, not only in thoughts or words. Agatha's suffering draws our attention to the dignity of the human body. In a world where bodies are often exploited or disrespected, she calls us to protect human dignity. Every human body bears God's image and deserves reverence and care.

St. Agatha challenges our idea of success. Society often defines success as winning, surviving at any cost, or being admired. By these standards, Agatha lost everything – comfort, safety, and even her life. Yet the Church remembers her as victorious. Her life teaches us that success in God's eyes is faithfulness – choosing what is right even when the outcome is uncertain.

Lessons from the Life of St. Agatha

St. Agatha's life offers clear lessons for every age.

- **Faith is a personal choice, not a convenience.**
Born into comfort, Agatha chose Christ freely, knowing the cost.
- **Dignity is not negotiable.**
She refused to surrender her conscience or body to power or fear.
- **True freedom can exist even in chains.**
Though imprisoned, her soul remained free.
- **Strength does not require hatred.**
Agatha endured cruelty without bitterness or revenge.
- **The body is sacred.**
Her suffering witnesses to the holiness of every human body.
- **Faithfulness is true victory.**
Though she lost everything, her witness continues to shape lives.

St. Agatha invites us to pause, reflect, and pray with trust. She encourages us to live holiness through small, faithful actions – speaking truth gently, acting with integrity, and caring for others.

As our communities face uncertainty and change, St. Agatha walks with us as a gentle guide. She does not promise an easy life, but she assures us that no struggle is empty. Her life teaches us that faith can bring peace in suffering and courage in weakness.

To pray with St. Agatha today is to ask for a calm heart and a brave conscience the freedom to choose truth, love, and goodness each day. In that freedom, St. Agatha continues to live, not only in history, but in every faithful life.

+ Shyamal Bose

Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation, Bamanpukur



January 04, 2026, feast of Epiphany was a memorable day for the parishioners as 59 candidates young and adults were given the sacrament of Confirmation by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose. The entire parish assembled near Mother Teresa statue on the Basanti High Way and welcomed the Bishop with garlands and led him through procession accompanied by Kirton group and flower girls. During his homily the Bishop highlighted the importance of willingness to seek God by availing various sacraments. After the Solemn Mass each candidate was distributed certificates and gift packet.

- Mr. Sourav Naskar

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, Keorapukur

The Sacrament of Confirmation was solemnly conferred on 48 children at St. Anthony's Church, Keorapukur, on Sunday, January 11, 2026, by His Lordship Bishop Shyamal Bose. The Mass was celebrated prayerfully with the active participation of the confirmands, their parents and the parish community. In his homily, the Bishop encouraged the candidates to be true witnesses of Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit. The ceremony concluded with words of gratitude and the children received certificates, gifts and food packets, making the day a memorable and grace-filled occasion for the parish.

- Fr. Kanauj Roy



Strengthened by the Holy Spirit: Sacrament of Confirmation, Baruipur



The Sacrament of Confirmation was solemnly conferred by the Most Rev. Shyamal Bose on 37 candidates of Cathedral Church, Baruipur, on January 18, 2026. During the homily, the Bishop enlightened the faithful on the Corporal Works of Mercy, drawing inspiration from Matthew 25:35-40. He reminded the congregation that serving the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick and the imprisoned is not merely an act of charity, but a direct encounter with Christ Himself, calling all believers to live out their faith through concrete acts of love and compassion. The candidates were diligently prepared for this important occasion by Br. Subilash Bor and Mrs. Susmita Katwar. The parish community gratefully acknowledges and appreciates their dedicated efforts in guiding the candidates on their faith journey.

- Mr. Rakesh Makhai

Youth Orientation at Panchamkhanda Parish

An orientation programme for youth was organized by the Youth Commission of the Baruipur Diocese at Panchamkhanda Parish on January 25, 2026. The objective of the programme was to motivate young people to recognize their talents and to encourage their active participation in the life of the Church. Over 85 youth voluntarily took part in the programme.

Fr. Sarajit Das, Parish Priest, warmly welcomed the Youth Director, Fr. Rajen Singh, along with his team. The programme began with an informative session by Mr. Bapi Chakraborty, who spoke on leadership and its impact on daily life. He emphasized that "leadership is not a position to hold, but a service to others." Following this, Fr. Rajen Singh delivered an insightful talk on stress and its effects on young people. He later celebrated the Holy Mass for the youth and through his homily, encouraged them to remain strong, faithful and committed to their responsibilities in the Church and society. The programme concluded with the formation of a new youth team in the parish.



- Br. David Panja

Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph's Church, Raghampur



The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated on January 25, 2026, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Raghampur. Most Rev. Bishop Shyamal Bose of the Diocese of Baruipur presided over the Holy Eucharist and administered the sacrament to 112 children and adults. The candidates were well prepared by Sr. Mary DSA and Fr. Joseph Toppo, S.J. The confirmed faithful came from Keoradangi, Salpukur, Balrampur, Nurshirdarchak, Chak Rasun Mahmud, Debipur and Raghampur. Through this sacrament, the candidates received the gift of the Holy Spirit and were strengthened in faith to witness Christ and stand firm in the face of challenges.

- Fr. Joseph Toppo SJ

Dishari at a Glance

Children's Christmas Get-Together

The Children's Christmas Get-Together was joyfully celebrated in Dishari on January 04, 2026, commencing with the Holy Eucharist presided over by Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus of Baruipur, who also graciously served as the Chief Guest for the occasion. A total of 301 catechism children and altar servers representing various parishes and sub-stations participated with great enthusiasm in a short skit competition centered on the theme: "If Jesus were born in this era, how would He be born?" Through their creative presentations, the children reflected thoughtfully on the relevance of Christ's birth in today's world. The celebration concluded with the distribution of gifts, leaving the children with cherished memories of fellowship, faith and joy.



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BEC Christmas Get-Together

The BEC Christmas Get-Together was held in Dishari on the following day and began with the Holy Eucharist presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur. Following the Eucharistic celebration, the programme was formally inaugurated with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Kanauj Ray, Vicar General, in the presence of other dignitaries. A carol-singing competition involving 245 BEC members from different parishes and sub-stations enriched the festive atmosphere and fostered a spirit of unity and praise. The celebration concluded with the distribution of gifts, marking a meaningful and joyous Christmas gathering.



BEC Seminar

A BEC Seminar was organized on January 18, 2026, at Purbo Jota Sub-Station under Panchamkhanda Parish, aimed at strengthening faith and deepening biblical understanding among the members. The seminar commenced with a Bible procession and the veneration of the Holy Bible. Br. Subilash Bar warmly welcomed the 70 participants and the resource persons, Mr. Ajay Naskar and Mr. Dipankar Sardar, who conducted insightful sessions that encouraged reflection and active participation. The programme concluded with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Sarajit Das, Parish Priest of Panchamkhanda Parish, bringing the seminar to a prayerful and grace-filled close.

- Br. Subilash Bar

Paribar Jyoti

Paribar Jyoti successfully launched a new project and resumed activities with a series of trainings, workshops, meetings and interactive discussions focused on strengthening families and communities. Programmes included Marriage Preparation Training, Young Couples Workshop, Animators' Workshop, regular Family Cell Meetings and Family Cell Seminars held in Baidyapur and Ranigarh.

All sessions received enthusiastic participation and positive feedback, with participants finding them insightful, interactive and meaningful. A total of 151 participants (41 men and 110 women) took part, reflecting strong community engagement. These initiatives continue to foster stronger families, active participation and lasting positive change.

- Fr. Uttam Naskar



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY

02	Br. Sudip Chakraborty
05	Fr. Shishir Indwar SFX
06	Fr. Uttam Naskar
08	Fr. John Britto
13	Fr. Abonindro Das
14	Fr. Prolay Boidya
17	Br. Pritam Mondal
18	Fr. Molloy Mondal
24	Br. Hrittick Hazra

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers & Brothers

Priestly Ordination Anniversary

FEBRUARY

11	Fr. Sarojit Mandal
13	Fr. Goutam Naskar
24	Fr. Rajen Singh

Congratulations Dear Fathers

Memorable & Admirable

Month of February

05	Fr. Siluvai Francis S.J.
22	Fr. Abani Bagh
27	Bishop Linus Nirmal Gomes, S.J.

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of February 2026

For children with incurable diseases : Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Palli Unnayan Samiti (PUS), Baruipur

Visit of Conferenza Episcopale Italiana (CEI) to the Diocese

On January 22, 2026, Don Pipinato Gabriele, Director of the CEI Department for Projects and Don Claudio Francesconi, Economo General of the Italian Bishops' Conference, accompanied by Most Rev. Johannes Gorantla, OCD, Bishop of the Diocese of Kurnool, visited PUS Baruipur to review projects implemented with the support of the Italian Bishops' Conference (CEI).



As Most Rev. Shyamal Bose could not be present during the visit due to prior commitments and being out of station, Rev. Fr. Kanauj Roy, Vicar General of the Diocese, accompanied the delegation, and the Bishop met the visiting team the following day at Seva Kendra, Calcutta.

The delegation interacted with beneficiaries and toured various project facilities, including the Day Care Centre for children with disabilities, and the tailoring, beautician and computer training centres. The visiting team highly appreciated the impact of the projects and expressed their happiness, reaffirming the importance of continued support for such initiatives.

Certificate Award Ceremony

On January 30, 2026, PUS Baruipur conducted a Certificate Award Ceremony for Tailoring and Beautician Training Courses. A total of 56 young women from economically backward families successfully completed six months of training and received certificates along with practice kits to support self-employment and income generation.



- Fr. Saumen Malik

RIP – Sr. Agnes Thomas, SCC

Sr. Agnes Thomas, SCC, aged 95, entered into her eternal rest on January 25, 2026, at 3:15 p.m., after receiving the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Sr. Agnes rendered devoted service to the Diocese of Baruipur from 2005 to 2019. During these years, she faithfully carried out her mission in various capacities. She served as the Supervisor of the Kindergarten Section at Holy Cross School and also taught English to minor seminarians at the Seminary, contributing generously to the formation of young minds.

In October 2019, she was transferred from Baruipur to Holy Cross Convent, Mondalal. In her later years, due to advanced age, she remained bedridden for a few months, bearing her suffering with quiet faith and patience. On January 31, 2026 the funeral Mass of Sr. Agnes was presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose and she was lay buried in Mondalal cemetery. We thank God for Sr. Agnes' long life of dedicated service, commitment and love for the Church and the Congregation.

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

- Sr. Manjusha Thomas SCC



NOTICE BOARD

Paribar Jyoti

- Marriage Preparation Course from February 13-14, 2026.
- Young Couples Workshop from February 27-28, 2026.