

# Baruipur News

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## Pope Francis: A Personal Encounter with a Servant Leader



Pope Francis is a special person in my life not just because he is the head of the Catholic Church, but because he changed my destiny. It was Pope Francis who appointed me first as the Coadjutor Bishop

and later as the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Baruipur. His decision led me on a path I never imagined, one that brought me closer to the heart of the Church and to the man who leads it with humility and grace.

My name was officially announced as Coadjutor Bishop on May 17, 2019. Soon after, I was asked to prepare quickly for my Episcopal ordination so that I could take part in the upcoming Ad Limina visit to Rome. This is a special visit where Bishops from around the world meet the Pope and present reports about their dioceses. I was part of the last group of bishops from India, and our visit was scheduled for September 18 to 27, 2019. By then, three other Indian groups had already completed their visits.

I was ordained a Bishop on June 24, 2019. Just a few months later, I found myself traveling to Rome. I felt like a dream. I never thought I would one day visit the very center of the Catholic world the Vatican.

In Rome, I stayed at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, the same guesthouse where Pope Francis lives. He stayed on the second floor, just above us. Each evening, we saw him from about 20 feet away, dining simply with others. He wore a plain white cassock and always had a kind smile. I once saw him putting food into the microwave an image that deeply touched me. It was hard to believe that the Pope, the leader of more than 1.4 billion Catholics, was so simple in

his daily life.

Sometimes we saw him coming out of the elevator. I was fortunate to exchanged greetings twice or thrice on such occasions. Once I saw him standing at the entrance of the hall where we Bishops had gathered. He welcomed each of us personally, shaking hands one by one. That moment standing face-to-face with Pope Francis was one of the greatest blessings of my life.

On the day of audience on September 26, 2019, he spent over an hour and a half speaking with us. He answered questions freely and kindly, like a father speaking to his children. One Bishop asked when he would come to India. The Pope replied that he was waiting for an invitation from the Indian government and was eager to visit. At the end of the meeting, he once again shook hands with each of us and gave us small rosaries as gifts.

To understand Pope Francis fully, it helps to know his story. He was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1936. His parents were Italian immigrants, and he grew up in a working-class neighborhood. Before joining the seminary, he worked several jobs, including as a janitor and nightclub bouncer. These experiences gave him a deep understanding of everyday struggles.

Later, he joined the Society of Jesus the Jesuits who are known for their focus on education and service. As a Jesuit priest, he lived simply and served the poor. Even as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he chose to live in a small apartment, cooked his own meals, and used public transportation. When he became Pope in 2013 the first from Latin America and the first Jesuit to do so he took the name "Francis," inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, who is known for his love of the poor and nature.

As pope, Francis has focused on three main messages: care for the poor, care for the mother

Earth and love for one another. He has written important letters to the Church, called encyclicals. In *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), he encourages the Church to go out and meet people where they are, especially those who feel left out. In *Laudato Si'* (Praise Be to You), he speaks about climate change and says caring for the planet is a moral duty. In *Fratelli Tutti* (All Brothers), he calls for peace, friendship, and unity across all religions and nations.

Pope Francis led by example. On Holy Thursday, he washed the feet of prisoners, including women and non-Christians. He had opened parts of the Vatican to shelter the homeless. He regularly visited refugee camps and places affected by war. He reminded Bishops and Priests to stay close to their people and to serve with love.

What makes Pope Francis truly special is that he practiced what he preached. He chose not to live in the grand papal apartment, but in a modest guesthouse. He uses a small car. He had even foregone his due monthly honorarium of USD 32,000.00. He used to call the ordinary people who wrote to him. His famous words, "Who am I to judge?" show his gentle and inclusive approach to people who may feel rejected by the Church.

While some may find his ways different, many around the world see him as a light of hope. He brings the Church closer to the people and shows that faith is not about power, but about service. Even people who are not Catholic respect his leadership and values.

For me, Pope Francis is more than a global leader. He remains a model of a Good Shepherd to my people. Pope Francis teaches us that the greatest kind of leadership is found not in authority, but in love and humility. And that, I believe, is his greatest gift to the world.

+ Shyamal Bose

## Inauguration and Blessing of Renovated Cathedral Church, Baruipur

On April 06, 2025, Most Rev. Shyamal Bose blessed the renovated Cathedral Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Baruipur, within a Eucharistic celebration. The ceremony, attended by priests, sisters, brothers and parishioners, commenced with a ribbon-cutting, followed by a prayer of blessing, invoking divine grace upon the sacred space. The Bishop then consecrated the renovated church's walls with the anointing of holy oil and sprinkling of holy water, imbuing it with spiritual significance. Appreciation and acknowledgement were extended to Opus Propaganda Fide, Communio India and contractor Mr. Arup Gomes for their generous contributions, which enabled the renovation.



- Mrs. Susmita Katwar

## Baruipur Diocese Unites in Chrism Mass Celebration at St. Stephen's Church, Kalyanpur

Baruipur Diocese came together in a meaningful celebration of the Chrism Mass at St. Stephen's Church, Kalyanpur, on April 15, 2025. Presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, the event marked the beginning of Holy Week, bringing together 70 clergy working in the diocese, along with religious and 900 faithful. The Chrism Mass was preceded by a spiritual preparation for clergy, featuring recollection, confession and adoration guided by Fr. George Panthanmackel, MSFS on the theme,



"Hope of Salvation amidst Challenges in Priestly Ministry." During the homily, Bishop emphasized the importance of embracing the three evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience as a way to live a life aligned with the Gospel. He also highlighted Pope Francis' words on the three temptations facing priests: compromise, surrogate

and discouragement. Following this, the clergy renewed their priestly promises, reaffirming their vows to serve Christ and the Church. The Bishop blessed the sacred oils of the Sick, Catechumens and the Sacred Chrism. At the conclusion of the Mass, two priests, Fr. Arup Bor and Fr. Sisir Khan, were honoured for their 25 years of dedicated service. A booklet on the "Synodal Process and Jubilee 2025" was also unveiled and handed over to Fr. Pradeep Roy, the eldest priest in the Diocese. The event's success was attributed to the efforts of Fr. Himangshu Poti, Fr. John Britto and the Parish Pastoral Council Members of the host parish, Kalyanpur.

- Mr. Ashim Campoo

## Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur



Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur conducted a 2-day meeting from April 03-04, 2025 with priests, institutional heads and NGOs to discuss its Strategic Development Plan. Resource persons, Mr. Anthony Chhetri and Mrs. Anita Boral from IGSSS Foundation, facilitated the discussion, focusing on strengthening PUS's 5 thematic areas: Education, Health, Livelihood, Environment and Social Justice. NGOs representatives highlighted PUS's impactful initiatives, including Disaster Relief, Food-in-Aid programs, Day Care for

children with disabilities, Vocational Skill Training, Free Learning Centres and Social Justice programs against gender-based violence, early marriage, child labour and trafficking, which have gained recognition in South 24 Parganas district. The discussion aimed at wholistic community development for the next 5 years, aligning with PUS's vision and mission.

- Fr. Saumen Malik

## Silver Jubilee of Sr. Johncy CMC



Sr. Johncy's life is a testament to dedication and service. Born in Kerala. She joined the CMC Hazaribagh Province and professed in 2000. She pursued her studies and went on to teach in Jharkhand. In 2019 she joined in Carmel School in Budge Budge and became its Principal in 2022.

Her Silver Jubilee was celebrated on April 21, 2025 with Bishop Shyamal Bose as the main celebrant and our Parish Priest Fr. Simus Topno as co-celebrant. The family gathering was a beautiful re-union of CMC Sisters, with Sisters from Behala.

- Sr. Della CMC

## Golden Jubilee of Br. Ambrose Minj MC

On April 24, 2025, the Missionaries of Charity Brothers at Noorpur joyfully commemorated a milestone in the life of Br. Ambrose Minj - the Golden Jubilee of his religious profession.



The occasion was marked with a thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose and concelebrated by neighboring priests. The ceremony was attended by a gathering of brothers, sisters and well-wishers, who came together to pay tribute to Br. Ambrose's five decades of selfless service to the humanity. In his felicitation, he reflected on the significance of his vocation, acknowledging the guiding presence of God's grace throughout his life and ministry. The celebration was a poignant reminder of Br. Ambrose's enduring commitment to his calling.

- Br. Barnabas Xalxo MC

## CONGRATULATION

We extend heartfelt congratulations to Most Rev. Shyamal Bose on the anniversaries of significant milestones in his ministry:

- Canonical Possession (May 04, 2020)
- Priestly Ordination Anniversary (May 05, 1991)
- Election as Coadjutor Bishop (May 17, 2019)

May his dedication and service continue to inspire and guide the faithful.

### Transfers and Appointments of the Priests 2025 (Circular No: 02/2025)

Sl.	Name	Place Form	Former Designation	To Place	New Designation
1.	Fr. Tushar A. Gomes	Bishop's House	Treasurer	Thakurpukur	Parish Priest
2.	Fr. Soosaiappan Y.	Bamanpukur	Parish Priest	Kalyanpur	Parish Priest
3.	Fr. J. Pathinathan	R. B. Nagar	Parish Priest	Samarpan	Chaplain to MC, Kirtankhola
4.	Fr. Himangshu Poti	Kalyanpur	Parish Priest	Morapai	Parish Priest
5.	Fr. Durlav Bar	Morapai	Parish Priest	Sajnaberia	Parish Priest
6.	Fr. Ujjwal Mondal	Sajnaberia	Parish Priest	Khari	Parish Priest
7.	Fr. J. A. Santhanam	Thakurpukur	Parish Priest	Bamanpukur	Parish Priest
8.	Fr. Panneer Selvam	Khari	Parish Priest	R. B. Nagar	Parish Priest
9.	Fr. Pradip Dari	Kumrokhali	Curate	Gosaba	Parish Administrator
10.	Fr. Goutam Naskar	Dishari	Director	Bishop's House	Treasurer of CDB along with the existing former responsibilities
11.	Fr. Bablu Sardar	Asha	-	Sonarapur	Curate
12.	Fr. Abonindro Das	-	-	Keorapurkur	Curate

Fr. Abonindro Das has already been appointed as the Curate of St. Anthony's Church, Keorapurkur w.e.f. 21-03-2025.

Fr. Pradip Dari has already been appointed as the Parish Administrator of Gosaba w.e.f. 04-03-2025.

The above transfers for the Priests will take place by May 31, 2025, by the mutual agreement of the outgoing and incoming Priests / In-Charges with due intimation to the Bishop and in presence of his delegate.

The Guidelines (Circular dated 11-02-2002, Page No. 113 in the Directory 2021 of Catholic Diocese of Baruipur) is to be followed for Handover.

### Regency of Brothers 2025 - 26

Sl.	Name	Ministry	Year	Place of Regency	Residence
1.	Bro. Pritam Mondal	Regency	Year 2	Panchamkhanda	Basanti
2.	Bro. Rajesh Naskar	Regency	Year 2	Cathedral Baruipur	Gosaba
3.	Bro. Soumik Mondal	Regency	Year 2	Morapai	Panchamkhanda
4.	Bro. David Panja	Regency	Year 2	Gosaba	Kumrokhali
5.	Bro. Nayan Bor	Regency	Year 2	Thakurpukur	Morapai
6.	Bro. Rohit Sharma	Regency	Year 2	Keorapurkur	Baidyapur
7.	Bro. Kenedy Kabi Ghughu	Regency	Year 1	MSRS	Cathedral Baruipur, residence in Cathedral and meals in Dishari
8.	Bro. Subilash Bar	Regency	Year 1	St. Charles Seminary	Dishari Pastoral Centre

Brothers should reach their place of regency by June 01, 2025

### Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of May 2025

**For working conditions:** Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

## RIP

### The Passing Away of His Holiness Pope Francis

His Holiness Pope Francis, the 266<sup>th</sup> successor of St. Peter, the Apostle, was called by God to his Eternal abode on the Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at 07:35 CEST at the age of 88 at Domus Sanctae Marthae in Vatican City. His death was



announced by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the Camerlengo, in a broadcast by Vatican Media and in a video statement at 09:45 on the same day. He had served as Pope, the head of the Catholic Church, for twelve years since his election on March 13, 2013. He was the second pope to die in office in the 21st century, after John Paul II in 2005.

On receiving the news of the demise of Pope, Most Rev. Shyamal Bose officially informed all the priests, religious and laity asking to toll the church's bell, offer masses for the repose of his soul, observe nine days mourning and lowered flags during this period.

Following the announcement of The Holy See that Pope Francis' funeral to take place on Saturday April 26, 2025 at 10AM (1:30 pm IST) in St. Peter's Square, the priests, religious and faithful were directed by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose to close all the diocesan institutions to honour the life and legacy of the Supreme Pontiff. It was made obligatory for each parish to celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 7:00 AM or 6 PM or at another suitable time on the day of burial, offering prayers for the eternal repose of the soul of Pope Francis. In reverence and solidarity with the Universal Church the Bishop himself with the faithful offered the Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Teresa of Calcutta, Baruipur.

**Mr. Alope (Montu) Mondal**, the elder brother of Fr. Molloy Mondal and former Catechist of Jeliakhali under Kumrokhali Parish, passed away at the age of 79 on April 21, 2025. His funeral Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose on April 22, 2025, attended by priests, sisters, relatives and well-wishers, paying their final respects to a life of dedication and service. May his soul find eternal rest.

**Sr. Fulgentia FC**, a dedicated servant of God, passed away on April 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM, at the age of 86. With a lifetime of selfless service, she ministered in various capacities, notably in Basanti and Gosaba within Baruipur Diocese. She was laid to rest on April 28, 2025. Her legacy of love, compassion and commitment will be remembered for years to come. May her soul rest in eternal peace.



- Fr. Deepak Ekka

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**MAY**

04	Fr. Saju George, S.J.
06	Fr. Rajesh Bag
08	Fr. Panneer Selvam
18	Fr. Jansingh Subir Sobhapati, C.M.
19	Fr. Sanjay Minj
21	Fr. Parimal Kanji
26	Fr. Robert R., C.M.F.

## Priestly Ordination Anniversary

**MAY**

01	Fr. Jackson Lawrence, sfx
02	Fr. Agnelo Nirmaldo Fernandes, sfx
03	Fr. Silvester Xavier
04	Fr. Subrata Kanji
04	Fr. J. R. Dejus
05	Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose
07	Fr. J. Pathinathan
10	Fr. Sisir Khan
12	Fr. Saju George, S.J.
15	Fr. Saumen Malik
18	Fr. Meghnad Singha
19	Fr. Abonindro Das
19	Fr. Charles Montu Kanji
19	Fr. Kanauj Roy
20	Fr. Augustine E.
21	Fr. Ramen Pailan
22	Fr. Rajesh Bag
23	Fr. Alexcius Kindo, sfx
24	Fr. Alope Anthony Kanji
25	Fr. Molloy Mondal
25	Fr. Soosaiappan Y.
26	Fr. Panneer Selvam
28	Fr. Francis Makhal

## Memorable & Admirable Month of May

01	Fr. Bronckers Pierre, S.J.
22	Fr. Tapan Gomes, S.J.
27	Fr. Mario Shivaji d'Aquino Henriques, S.F.X.
29	Fr. George D'Campo, S.J.

## PARIBAR JYOTI



Twelve participants, comprising 6 males and 6 females, attended the marriage preparation classes in Dishari on April 04 & 25, 2025. They sought to understand God's unconditional love and grace, aiming to build peaceful marital relationships and create holy families. They were led to recognize their role as God's children, and thereby acknowledge the bigger responsibility ahead and commit to

forgiveness, adjustment and nurturing a happy family environment for their children's emotional and mental well-being.

- Fr. Uttam Naskar

## DISHARI

Dishari Pastoral Center organized a series of spiritual programs in April 2025 to foster the spiritual well-being of the faithful in the Catholic Diocese of Baruiapur.

On April 09-10, 2025 a two-day recollection was held for the 48 catechists from various parishes. Fr. Tushar A. Gomes served as the resource person

for the event. In his sessions, Fr. Tushar guided the participants to reflect deeply on the Passion of Christ and the true meaning of forgiveness. The catechists returned home spiritually renewed and strengthened in their commitment to serve the Lord in His vineyard.

Following this, on April 11, 2025, a day of recollection was conducted at Gosaba Parish. The event saw the active participation of 78 faithful. The sessions were led by Fr. Goutam Naskar and Fr. Pradeep Roy. The participants were deeply moved and enriched by reflections on the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary for the salvation of humanity. It was a day marked by joy, grace and spiritual growth.

- Fr. Goutam Naskar



## Bishop Shyamal Bose's Programme for the Month of May 2025

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Thu		Jalpaiguri	Episcopal Ordination of Rt. Rev. Fabian Toppo
02	Fri			Returns to Baruiapur
03	Sat	11.00 a.m.	Balarampur	Feast day Mass of St. Montfort's Brothers
04	Sun	08.00 a.m.	R. B. Nagar, Baruiapur	Mass and Confirmation
		04.00 p.m.	Antara, Gobindapur	Programme at Antara
06	Tue	11.00 a.m.	Bishop's House, Baruiapur	Meeting of the Board of Consultors
11	Sun	07.00 .am.	Gangarampur	Mass and Confirmation
12	Mon	06.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Mass for Vocation Camp
13	Tue	07.00 p.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Mass for the BEC Regional Council Meeting

## Bishop Salvatore Lobo's Programme for the Month of May 2025

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Thu		Jalpaiguri	Episcopal Ordination of Rt. Rev. Fabian Toppo
02-06	Fri-Tue		Darjeeling	