

# Baruipur News

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January 2024

## Homage to St. Joseph Vaz, the Apostle of Ceylon

The editorial of January 2024, is dedicated to one of the Indian Saints who was born on April 21, 1651 at Benaulim, Goa. Eight days later, he was baptised in the Church of St. John the Baptist. He is Saint Joseph Vaz. He was the third son of Christopher Vaz and Maria de Miranda. As a high school student, young Joseph had set his heart to be a missionary. He grew up to be a tall, thin and good-looking boy. He was serious and earnest by nature, and devoted a lot of time in prayer. He is one of the greatest missionaries Asia has ever produced.

The family of Vaz is a family of vocations. Joseph, his two brothers and a cousin became Priests. All of them had a common call as they became missionaries in Sri Lanka, then known as Ceylon. He was affectionate, generous, disciplined and good in studies. Joseph began to show signs of a divine call in his early age and as a boy he expressed his desire to become a Priest. His father willingly did his best to give him a proper education. He studied his Philosophy and Theology at Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas, Goa. It was at the age of 25, in the year 1676, Joseph was ordained Priest at Old Goa by Mons Antonio Brandao, Archbishop of Goa. In March 1681 he set off for Kanara since then there was no turning back.

He was a great devotee of our Divine Mother. Immediately after his ordination he wrote a letter of Bondage stating, "Let it be known to all who see this 'letter of Bondage', angels, human beings and all creatures, that I, Fr. Joseph Vaz, sell and offer myself as a perpetual slave of the Virgin Mother of God."

As a young Priest he received the call to be an Apostle among the Catholics in Ceylon who were abandoned and persecuted. In 1686, he was sent to Ceylon. Since 1658 the Catholic Church was facing a severe crisis as the foreign

missionaries had to leave the island with no local Priests to fill up the gap. There were no Priests, no Sacraments and no Church. It was under these circumstances that Joseph Vaz reached Jaffna. With a Rosary on his neck, he moved from door to door at night as a mendicant. This helped him to identify the Catholics. However, within 3 years of his coming to Ceylon, the Dutch commander of Jaffna detected his presence on Christmas night in 1689. Many Christians were imprisoned, although, Fr. Joseph Vaz had a miraculous escape. To avoid further persecution to the Catholic population over there, he moved to Puttalam that was part of the Kingdom of Kandy which was not under the Dutch authority. However, King Vimaladharma II of Kandy suspected him for being a foreign spy and imprisoned him. Later he was released and was authorised to build a little chapel dedicated to Our Lady.

In 1691 there were chants of prolonged drought that brought everyone on his knees. So many prayers, chants and incantations of the Buddhist monks failed to bring rain. In despair, the King turned to Fr. Joseph Vaz to pray to his God and bring down the rain. Fr. Joseph with deep faith prayed to Lord Jesus in the public square. To everyone's amazement, there was a great downpour to relieve the suffering of the people. This also won the heart of the King who authorised him to bring missionaries from Goa. Many Priests came from Goa to Kandy. Hundreds of people were baptised and brought to the fold of Christ. In 1703, he was appointed Vicar Apostolate of Ceylon. By 1710 this zealous missionary was called back to heaven leaving behind 70,000 Catholics, 15 Churches and 400 Chapels. He was canonised by Pope Francis on January 14, 2015.

For the spread of the Kingdom Fr. Vaz was ready

to accept any type of hurdle and suffering, whether it was an opposition from the authorities of the Government or ecclesiastical or may it be natural disasters like sea storm, etc. Fr. Vaz and his servant John set sail from Tuticorin to Jaffna in Ceylon. The voyage was much troubled as a furious sea storm broke out which made their four days journey into twenty days. He adopted the local culture and customs; learnt the language of the people; moved from place to place like a beggar, with a stick in his hand and a small bundle in his back in which he carried vestments and the sacred vessel for the Holy Eucharist.

We need to imitate the life of Fr. Joseph Vaz. His life is one of the best lessons for us all. He gave his life, time, energy, money and everything. He dedicated his entire self to instruct the faithful, to build schools, to organise catechism classes, to administer the Sacraments, to visit the sick, to help the poor in order to prove himself as the faithful slave, to whom the Lord says, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master" (Mt 25:21). In his homily for the canonization of Saint Joseph Vaz, the Holy Father focussed on three points which makes the Saint an example and a teacher. First, he was an exemplary priest. Second, Saint Joseph shows us the importance of transcending religious divisions in the service of peace. Thirdly, he gives us an example of missionary zeal. Though he came to Ceylon to minister to the Catholic community, in his evangelical charity he reached out to everyone. Finally, Pope Francis gives a clarion call to imitate this saint. May St. Joseph Vaz intercede for our diocese and country.

+ Shyamal Bose



## PRIESTS UPDATED ON RECENT LITURGICAL TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

The Catholic Diocese of Baruipur had organized a seminar on Liturgy for all the diocesan and religious priests working in the diocese from December 5-7, 2023 in Dishari with the purpose of updating them with the recent liturgical teachings of the Church. It enabled them to make the celebration of the sacraments and sacramentals more edifying for the people. Fr. Arul Doss, a liturgist and visiting professor to Morning Star Regional Seminary, Barrackpore was the resource person. While his input sessions on the current teachings of the church based on the Directives for the Celebration of the Liturgy prepared by the Liturgical Commission of the CCBI were informative; the interactive sessions were much more interesting and useful. It was there many of the doubts were clarified and some of the practices which were not in consonance with the liturgical renewals were reformed. Although there was some reasonable resistance to accept the present liturgical rubrics; as a whole priest were very much receptive to comply with the teachings of the Church. It is hoped that the seminar would help to promote full, active, conscious and devout participation in the liturgy.



- Fr. Deepak Ekka

## PARIBAR JYOTI



The family enrichment workshops, training, seminars, orientations, meetings, get-together and recollections are resource programs which support families who may be at risk because of social, psychological or financial stress. It aims at strengthening their ability to deal with the issues of families affecting their life. Among all the programmes, the In-Laws Orientation at Keorapukur was a marvellous and inspiring, as the participants expressed their heartiest concern and well-being of family. They felt the need of establishing peace and solidarity in the family. The Recollection at Gangarampur for the Hospital Staff of M.C. Sisters and for the Parishioners of the Parish was enriching. They were all ready to prepare themselves to receive baby Jesus in their hearts at Christmas celebration.

- Fr. Uttam Naskar

## BLESSING OF THE RENOVATED CHURCH, KOCHPUKUR

The blessing of a church is a significant and rare event in the life of a Christian community. It involves more than merely setting a building for the celebration of sacred things since it signifies tangible unity of believers. The renovated church at Kochpukur, one of the substations of Cathedral Parish, was blessed by the Bishop of Baruipur, Most Rev. Shyamal Bose on December 17, 2023. The Bishop cut the ribbon at the entrance of the church followed by the prayer for the dedication of the church and consecration with the oil of Chrism the walls of the church and altar. He then blessed the cross, pictures of the Stations of the Cross, statues of Mother Mary and Divine Mercy. After the Mass, Fr. Deepak Ekka expressed thanks to Bishop for officiating the Mass. He acknowledged in gratitude the generous contribution of Propagatione Fidei, parishioners, contractor, Mr. Arup Gomes and well-wishers who extended their helping hand for the work of renovation.

- Mrs. Aloka Das



## CHRISTMAS GATHERING OF PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS



Christmas is the festival which inspires the spirit of sharing and caring. Christmas celebration for the priests and religious working in the Catholic Diocese of Baruipur was held on December 29, 2023, in Dishari, the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. The programme started with the concelebrated Eucharistic Celebration with all the priests; officiated by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose. A beautiful dance-drama by the candidates of Holy Cross Convent followed depicting the scenes of the nativity of Jesus Christ interspersed with melodious carols sung by Fr. Durlov Bor and Fr. Parimal Kanji. Group games and dance entwined the hearts and souls of all the participants. Christmas gifts were given to carry home the joy and peace of Christmas.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka

## PALLI UNNAYAN SAMITI BARUIPUR

Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruiapur endeavours to improve people's social, economic and educational conditions with special attention to the more distressed rural sector and to the children and women in particular. In pursuit of the same on December 8 & 9, 2023 nutritional food materials containing Rice, Pulses (lentils), Soyabeans, Sugar, Cooking oil and Sattu were distributed to 1000 beneficiaries in Namkhana and Patharpratima Blocks for the prevention of their malnutrition under Agro-Based Livelihood Project.

An Annual Sports and Cultural Program for the 350 children and their parents of Free Learning Centre were organized at Panchankhanda, Charavidya and Hotar from December 18 -20, 2023. Following it on December 19,



2023, Annual cultural program was conducted for 610 SAD Langalbaria sponsored children and their parents at Langalbaria Surath Smriti Vidya Mandir. Besides, on December 20, 2023, Annual get-together was held for 25 sponsored children with the support of Calcutta Sponsor Aid, VZW, Belgium. The children presented Songs, Recitation of poems, Dance and Skit. All of them received Mosquito Net and School Bag with study materials as project activities. The sponsored students conveyed their love and gratitude to Mr. Astere and Mrs. Marie Paul, the members of Belgium Sponsor Committee.

The World Disable Day was observed with the theme, "United in action to rescue and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, for, with and by persons with disabilities" on December 20, 2023 wherein 216 children and their mothers participated. Mrs. Chaina Guha, The Ex-ICDS Supervisor was invited as guest and shared the feature and importance of World Disable Day, Rights of Children with Disabilities in the fields of Health, Education, Livelihood, Sports & Culture. The Government Schemes related to the children with disabilities and its accessibilities were exposed to them.

As usual the joy of Christmas was shared with its neighbouring children on December 21, 2023. The Chief Guest, Most Rev. Shyamal Bose shared Christmas message and encouraged the children to enjoy the day and have a good education for their better future.



The Children contested in different sports and the winners were given prizes. At the end of the program, water bottle, pencil box and food packet were presented to all the participants as a token of Christmas gift. On the next day, December 22, 2023 the annual gathering of the staff was hosted with Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo as the Chief Guest. A total of 140 staff participated and exchanged their gifts with each other through an interesting game. They enjoyed the day with songs, dance and skit. Bishop applauded them in his speech for their dedicated service to the poor for past 45 years.

- Fr. Saumen Malik



## DIOCESAN YOUTH CHRISTMAS GATHERING

On December 30, 2023, more than 200 youth from all over the diocese gathered in Dishari for Christmas gathering. Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, presided over the Mass after which the programs began. Unlike other years, this year they had conducted a "Tableau Competition" on the theme: 'How does Christmas appear to you'. The youth were very innovative and creative in presenting the Christmas tableau wherein the significance of Christmas was highlighted. The delightful performances by the youth through tableau illustrating the birth of Jesus Christ were entertaining at the same time thought provoking to the audience. Kearapukur parish came as first and Sajnaberia and Thakurpukur parishes won the second and third prizes. Before presenting the prizes, Bishop in his

message said that it is not that the day is big, but the event which we celebrate on this day. The program ended with the melodious performance of the Disciples, the youth band.

- Mr. Raj Bagh

## RIP



**Mrs. Malati Das**, the beloved mother of Fr. Sarajit Das, went to eternal abode on December 15, 2023. She was 70 years of age. She left behind four children. Before breathing her last she was treated in the hospital for brain stroke since September. After three months of treatment there was not much improvement so she was brought back home where she passed away peacefully. She was laid buried in the Cemetery of Basanti parish on December 16, 2023.



Sr. Helen Senapati DSA, lost her brother, **Mr. Himansu Senapati** on December 15, 2023. He passed away at the age of 42. He was stricken with sickness for past few years. He was on medication for a long time before breathing his last. While we express our deepest condolences to the family members let us continue to pray for the repose of their souls. May God bless them with eternal peace.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka

## Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of January 2024

**For the gift of Diversity in the Church :** We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



# Happy Birthday

## JANUARY

03	Rev. Fr. Arup Bor
11	Rev. Fr. Sunny George Kunnel, S.J.
15	Rev. Br. Satyajit Naskar
16	Rev. Fr. Jonas Singha
17	Rev. Fr. Ramen Pailan
26	Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J.
26	Rev. Fr. Nirmaldo Fernandes, S.F.X.
27	Rev. Fr. Sarojit Mandal
28	Rev. Br. Nayan Bar

*Happy Birthday Dear Fathers*

# Ordination

## JANUARY

05	Rev. Fr. Amrit Ekka
06	Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J.
15	Rev. Fr. Sanjay Minj
15	Rev. Fr. Sunny George Kunnel, S.J.
16	Rev. Fr. Sarajit Das
16	Rev. Fr. Cornelius Lima, C.M.
17	Rev. Fr. Pradip Dari
19	Rev. Fr. Telesphor Aind, C.M.F.
19	Rev. Fr. Jinesh Sebastian, S.J.
22	Rev. Fr. Deepak Ekka
23	Rev. Fr. Ajay Kumar Lakra, C.M.

*Congratulations Dear Fathers*

# Episcopal Ordination

29th January

**Most Rev. Bishop Salvatore Lobo**

Catholic Diocese of Baruiapur

Congratulates His Lordship

Bishop Salvatore Lobo as he commemorates

26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Episcopal  
Consecration on January 29, 2024.

## Memorable & Admirable

Month of January

07	Rev. Fr. Polgar Stephen, S.J.
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## NOTICE BOARD

# A seminar on Canon Law has been arranged for the diocesan and religious clergy working in the diocese from February 5-7, 2024 in Dishari.

# Marriage Preparation Course from January 5-6, 2024.  
# Young Couples Programme from January 26-27, 2024.

## Transfers and New Arrivals of Religious in the Diocese

Name & Place	Arrival	Outgoing
St. Anne's Convent, Morapai	Sr. Sulekha DSA - Superior	
St. Anne's Convent, Morapai	Sr. Suchitra DSA	Sr. Salomi DSA
St. Anne's Convent, Morapai	Sr. Jolly DSA	Sr. Mary Clare DSA
St. Anne's Convent, Gobrachawk	Sr. Amala DSA	Sr. Bimala DSA
St. Anne's Convent, Khari	Sr. Debjani DSA	Sr. Ratna DSA
St. Anne's Convent, Khari	Sr. Ashima DSA	
St. Anne's Convent, Kalikanan, Baruiapur	Sr. Martha DSA	
St. Anne's Convent, Ranigarh	Sr. Sashi DSA	Sr. Sangeeta DSA

## Bishop Shyamal Bose's Programme for the Month of January 2024

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Mon	07.30 a.m.	Baruiapur	Holy Mass at Baruiapur Cathedral
04	Thu	10.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Mass and Christmas get-together for BEC Mothers
		06.00 p.m.	Holy Cross Convent, Baruiapur	Mass for Inauguration of Golden Jubilee year of Sr. Lincy Joseph and Sr. Cessy Scaria
06	Sat	06.30 p.m.	Dhyan Ashram, Konchowki	Mass
07	Sun	10.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Mass and Christmas get-together for Children
09-11	Tue-Thu		Krishnagar	BRBC Meeting
14	Sun	08.00 a.m.	Keorapukur	Mass and Confirmation
17	Wed	10.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Meeting of all the Secretaries of all Commissions
18	Thu	10.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Joint meeting of Diocesan Priests, Religious Priests and Sisters
19	Fri	03.00 p.m.	Kalyanpur	Annual programme of St. Mary's School
20	Sat			Mass and Bible convention in Kolkata
21	Sun	09.30 a.m.	Dishari, Baruiapur	Meeting with the Women Commission
23	Tue	08.00 a.m.	Sonarpur	Mass and Silver Jubilee Celebration of Holy Cross Church, Sonarpur
26	Fri	07.30 a.m.	Khari	Mass and Confirmation
29 Jan. - 9 Feb.	Mon - Fri			Goes to Bangaluru for CCBI and CBCI

## Bishop Salvatore Lobo's Programme for the Month of January 2024

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Mon	07.00 a.m.	Sajnaberia	Mass - New Year & Mother of God.
		02.30 p.m.	Sajnaberia	Inauguration of New Year Mela
07	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Morapai	Epiphany Sunday Mass
09-11	Tue-Thu		Krishnagar	BRBC Meeting
13	Sat			Goes to Ranigarh
14	Sun	06.30 a.m.	Ranigarh	Sunday Mass
18	Thu	11.30 a.m.	Kalahridaya	Release of auto-biography of Fr. Thottam SJ
26	Fri		Sankharipota (Thakurpukur)	Republic Day programme at St. Mary's School

**Bishop Shyamal Bose and all the Fathers at Bishop's House**  
wish all the readers of Baruiapur Newsletter  
**a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2024.**  
May the New Year hold new hopes, dreams  
and life's best for one and all.