



Pastor's Corner

Remembering our Teachers on Teachers Day

We celebrate Teachers' Day on 5 September because it is the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's second President, a renowned philosopher, and above all a

teacher who spent decades in the classroom. When some of his students and admirers asked to mark his birthday, he suggested instead that the day be observed as Teachers' Day — a tribute to the whole profession rather than to one man. That gesture is exactly what the day is about: putting teachers, not yourself, at the center! Teachers' Day is an opportunity to pause and recognize the people who have quietly shaped our minds, our character, and often our direction in life. While we celebrate teachers on a particular day, the influence of a good teacher extends far beyond the classroom and continues long after a lesson has ended.

This Teachers' Day, let us remember that we celebrate not just those who teach us subjects, but those who teach us how to face challenges, believe in ourselves, and become better human beings. To see teaching as a vocation is to recognize the responsibility that comes with influencing young lives. Every student is different, with unique experiences, abilities, challenges, and dreams. A dedicated teacher looks beyond marks and examinations and tries to understand the individual behind the learner. Sometimes, a few words of encouragement or a teacher's faith in a student can make a lasting difference. A teacher may never know how deeply a particular lesson, conversation, or gesture has influenced a student. Years later, however, students may remember the teacher who believed in them, encouraged them, or helped them overcome self-doubt.

Teachers invest in the future by helping young people become thoughtful, capable, and compassionate individuals. Their greatest achievement may not be the knowledge students remember, but the confidence, values, and love of learning they carry with them. This is what makes teaching not merely a job, but a meaningful vocation and a profound form of service.

What makes teaching unique is the human connection at its heart. Teachers do not simply teach subjects; they teach students how to think, how to question, how to handle failure, and how to keep learning. Teachers' Day therefore invites us not only to say "thank you," but also to reflect on the responsibility and privilege of being a teacher. The impact of teaching cannot always be measured in grades or achievements. Often, its greatest evidence is found years later—in the confidence of a former student, in a choice they make, or in the way they contribute to the lives of others. **HAPPY TEACHERS DAY.**



Celebrating St. Mother Teresa on September 5

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta's feast day is September 5. It is the anniversary of her death in 1997 and is celebrated in the Catholic Church as the Memorial of Saint Teresa of Calcutta. In 1950, she founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious congregation devoted to caring for people in need. Her life emphasized love, compassion, humility, and seeing the dignity of every human being, especially those society often overlooked. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her humanitarian work. She died on September 5, 1997, and was canonized by Pope Francis on September 4, 2016, becoming Saint Teresa of Calcutta. One of her most famous teachings was: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

Celebrating the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated on September 8. The feast celebrates the birth of the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. Although the Bible does not give the exact date of Mary's birth, the Church has traditionally celebrated her Nativity on September 8. Mary became the mother of Jesus through the Annunciation, when she responded to God with her famous words, "Let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) When the angel announced God's plan, Mary did not know how her future would unfold. Yet she said, "Let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) For us who often worry about our future—family, studies, work, relationships, and difficult decisions—Mary teaches us that faith does not mean having every answer; it means trusting God one step at a time.

+ **Lumen, CSC**

Celebrating St. Mother Teresa
on September 5

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

Let us follow her example of love, compassion and selfless service.

Celebrating the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
on September 8

Let us honor Mary, our Mother, and seek her intercession in our lives.

May God bless our Teachers, inspire us through St. Mother Teresa, and bless us through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



EDITORIAL

J. Pulinthanath, SDB

Let Children Be Children

'Child abuse' is something that evokes strong emotions in everyone. Rightly so, because children are innocent and unsuspecting and any crime done against them is doubly heinous and monstrous. And yet, it is a pity that most adults are unconcerned about a widespread abuse of children happening quietly in many of our homes. Parents rob little children of their childhood by inflicting on them a tedious thing called 'tuition'.

Our tiny tots are being made to study for long hours, often from early morning until late at night. School is preceded by tuition, followed by tuition, one tuition by another tuition. By the time the child goes to bed late at night, he is zapped of all energy and strength. When there is hardly time to finish all tuition, it is anathema to talk about play, laughter, leisure or free time for the child. What is this if not 'child abuse'!

Theoretically we might all agree that there is no period of life like childhood. It is the time when children should be encouraged to play, run, explore, imagine, make friends, make little mistakes, ask endless questions, listen to stories, enjoy nature and spend time with their parents and grandparents. That is what makes childhood a special and precious period of life.

Unfortunately, those who deprive them of the joys of childhood are the very persons who are most concerned about the child's wellbeing; in fact, they are convinced that they are doing it, of course, for the good of the child!

The deep-seated belief that if their child does not attend extra classes, he or she will fall behind others is what makes the parents impose this burden on their child. And the belief that education means examination marks. They are oblivious to the fact that a child also needs to learn kindness, sharing, responsibility, creativity, courage, friendship, prayer and respect for others. These lessons are often learned not in tuition centres but on the playground, at home, in the neighborhood and through ordinary experiences of life.

Parents naturally want the best for their children. They naively think that "the best" means more classes, more books and more marks. They forget that sometimes the best thing we can give a child is time—time to sleep peacefully, time to play freely, time to talk to Mummy and Papa, time to laugh with brothers and sisters or other children, and time simply to be a child.

There is a simple question every parent must ask: Does my child have enough time to be a child?

As a Church, we must also remind ourselves of Jesus' special tenderness towards children. The words of Jesus, "Let the little children come to me" (Mat 19:14) show that in the mind of Jesus, children have a dignity and a place of their own in God's plan. Childhood comes only once. Robbing them of it is a social evil like slavery and sati that must be fought against collectively.

J. Pulinthanath, SDB



HOLY CROSS PARISH BAGBASA

Two-day Village Leadership Workshop



The Village Leaders Training Program at Holy Cross Parish in Bagbasa was held on August 25-26, 2026, with 95 leaders from 14 villages in attendance. The workshop aimed to educate leaders on Catholic leadership, faith, traditions, liturgy, Sacraments, and Church rules. Mr Roitua Darlong discussed the Christian faith, while Mr Paul Sangma explained the Seven Sacraments. Sr. Pushpa BS spoke on faith and family prayers. Fr. Lancy CSC covered the Holy Liturgy, the importance of the Holy Rosary, and Sunday prayer procedures without a priest. Participants clarified doubts about the Eucharist, Sacraments, and Marriage. The workshop broadened their understanding of Sacraments and Faith. To be good leaders and Catholics, they should regularly attend the Eucharist and recite the Family Rosary, serving as role models. The seminar was highly interactive, and feedback was positive.

Couples Day celebration



On 2nd August, Couples Day was observed at the Parish Centre, with 106 couples in attendance. The day commenced with a brief Praise and Worship session led by Fr. Ivan D. Silva, SVD, who also served as the principal celebrant of the Holy Eucharist. Following the homily, all participating couples and single parents renewed their marriage vows. The moment was deeply moving for many attendees, with some couples visibly shedding tears.

After the Holy Mass, Fr. Ivan addressed spousal relationships, highlighting a notable trust deficit within families. He noted that social media has permeated private spaces, including homes and bedrooms, contributing to the breakdown of marriages, even after having many children. Parenting was described as a formidable challenge, and family prayers have become increasingly rare.

The seminar helped clarify numerous doubts, and many shared their family success stories, making it highly interactive. The celebration of Couples Day was widely appreciated. A community lunch was subsequently served to all attendees.

Fr. Lancy CSC

ST. RAPHAEL PARISH KAMARANGA

Honouring our Elders



Kamranga (Tripura) July 26, 2026: St. Raphael Parish, Kamranga, gathered 29 elderly persons in the church to celebrate Grandparents Day. Fr. Ivan D'Silva, SVD, presided over the Holy Eucharist and offered prayers for the seniors present. Following Mass, the elderly guests were especially honored. In his homily, Fr. Ivan lamented that elderly parents are increasingly neglected—when they are sick, denied food, or left without safe shelter. Addressing the parishioners, he urged them to remember how their grandparents once cared for them as children and cautioned against now treating them as a burden or nuisance, or failing even to greet them with respect.

Pope Francis instituted the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021. He established this day to highlight the vital role of grandparents and older people in families, society, and the Church, and to combat a "culture of waste" that treats the elderly as useless or burdensome. The 2026 theme, chosen by Pope Leo XIV, is "I Will Never Forget You," echoing God's promise to remain faithful even in old age. Mr. Bikakhon Halam, a respected village leader from the EFCI denomination, commended the Catholic Church's longstanding tradition of showing deep respect to elders.

Through this celebration, Kamranga Parish joined the universal Church in affirming the dignity of the elderly and encouraging younger generations to honor and care for their grandparents.

Ivan D'Silva

CHRIST THE KING PARISH DEPACHERRA

Depacherra Deanery

organizes Maria Sango Animation



The Depacherra Deanery organized a Maria Sango Animation Program on the theme, "Mary Arose and Went with Haste: Maria Sango as Pilgrims of Hope and Mission" (Luke 1:39) at St. Joseph Vaz Parish, Amarpur, on 26th August 2026. The program brought together 240 delegates from various parishes of the deanery for a day of prayer, reflection, learning, and fellowship. The first session, conducted in Bengali by Fr. Alouis, Parish Priest of Amarpur, focused on "The Role of Maria Sango in the Mission and Life of the Catholic Church." The session highlighted the importance of women's participation in the life and mission of the Church. The second session was conducted in Kokborok by Fr. Sunny, Parish Priest of Pitra, on "Mary, the Model of Faith, Service, and Christian Leadership for Maria Sango." Drawing inspiration from the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the session encouraged the participants to grow in faith, selfless service, and leadership. The participants were then divided into groups for discussion and reflection on the themes presented. The program concluded with Holy Mass on the Feast of St. Monica, followed by the vote of thanks.

Fr. Derrick, Depacherra Deanery Secretary

Pope's Intention

September 2026



For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network
INDIA

Diocese celebrates Youth Sunday 2026 with Great Enthusiasm



The Diocese of Agartala celebrated Diocesan Youth Sunday 2026 with great fervor at SFX Cathedral Parish Agartala, bringing together 650 young people from different parishes across the diocese. The celebration was centered on the theme, "Take Courage, I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33), inspiring the youth to remain steadfast in faith and hope.

The day began with the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Fr. George Jacob, C.S.C., Director of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation. Youth from various parishes actively participated in the liturgy. A vibrant cultural program followed, featuring colourful dances, songs, the presentation of the Youth Commission activities report. There were also inspiring messages from Shri Sujoy Uchoi, Hon'ble M.D.C., T.T.A.A.D.C., and Rev. Fr. George Jacob. A special youth-to-youth message was delivered by Mr. Jeremy Darlong, the former Diocesan Youth President, who encouraged participants to become courageous witnesses of Christ. The celebration concluded in an atmosphere of joy, fellowship, and thanksgiving.

Fr. Derrick Augustin, Asst. Diocesan Youth Director

Retreat for Catechists



Two days Retreat for the full-time catechists of the Diocese of Agartala was held on 5-6 August at Pastoral Centre, Champak Nagar, with 26 Catechists participating. Fr. Harry D'Silva, C.S.C served as the main preacher and resource person. The retreat focused on the Eucharist and its importance in Christian life and ministry. Through prayer, reflection, discussion, sharing and interaction, the participants were encouraged to connect their faith with their pastoral responsibilities. The retreat was a meaningful time of spiritual renewal, learning and pastoral strengthening.

We sincerely thank Fr. Clement Quadras SVD, the Director, Pastoral Centre, Champak Nagar for organizing this enriching retreat.

Mr. Khetro Simon Munda, Catechist – Baijalbari Parish

Diocesan Priests celebrate Vianney Day at Depacherra



The Diocesan Fraternity of Agartala joyfully celebrated Vianney Day, Patron of Priests, at Christ the King Church, Depacherra. The annual gathering brought together 13 diocesan priests in a spirit of prayer, thanksgiving, and priestly fraternity. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist during which the priests renewed their commitment to their sacred vocation, drawing inspiration from the life and ministry of St. John Marie Vianney, the humble Curé of Ars, renowned for his holiness, pastoral zeal, and unwavering dedication to God's people.

The faithful of the Parish warmly welcomed the diocesan priests with traditional rishas, floral bouquets, and heartfelt hospitality. The vibrant participation of the faithful reflected the strong bond between the shepherds and their people. The celebration provided the priests with an opportunity to come together in unity and strengthen their fraternity. It also served as a reminder of the inspiring witness of St. John Marie Vianney, whose life of humility, prayer, and selfless service continues to guide priests throughout the world.

Fr. Derrick Augustin

Seminarians Recollection



A half day recollection for the seminarians was organized on 19th August at Jeevadhara Diocesan Seminary, Champak Nagar, under the guidance of Fr. Praveen, the vocation promoter. The recollection focused on "Sin and its Effect on our Relationship with God", inviting the seminarians to examine their lives, seek reconciliation and renew their commitment to grow in a deeper relationship with the Lord. Fr. Valentine SVD helped with confessions. After Lunch, we had an enriching interaction with Fr. Praveen. He helped us to reflect on the qualities of a good seminarian and the attitudes needed for faithful and fruitful formation. The sharing encouraged us to grow in responsibility, humility, prayer and commitment to our vocation. The day was a meaningful experience of reflection, reconciliation, prayer and fellowship, helping us to renew our relationship with Christ and strengthen our journey towards faithful service.

Johnson Reang, Class XII

National Youth Sunday Across the Diocese



The Diocese of Agartala joined the National Church in celebrating National Youth Sunday, with parishes across the diocese organizing special programmes to celebrate, encourage and strengthen the faith of young people. Youth participated enthusiastically in Holy Masses, prayer gatherings, faith-sharing sessions, cultural programmes and sports activities, according to local circumstances. The celebrations highlighted the important role of young people in the life and mission of the Church and encouraged them to place their talents, energy and faith at the service of God and the community.

A special Deanery-level celebration was held at Kathalcheria, where parishes of the Kumarghat Deanery gathered with around 350 young people for prayer, fellowship and activities promoting faith and unity. The celebrations reflected the enthusiasm and commitment of the youth, reminding everyone that they are not only the future but an active part of the Church's mission today.

Mr. Sachlang Jamatia
Asst. Media Secretary, ADYC

Pope Leo XIV appoints

Sr. Nirmalini as Vatican Dicastery Consultor



Pope Leo XIV has appointed Sr Maria Nirmalini, A.C., as a Consultor of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, entrusting her with a five-year term of service to the universal Church. The appointment was formally communicated in a Vatican document issued on June 18, 2026, by the Secretariat of State. The decree, addressed to the Consultors of the Dicastery, states that Sr Maria Nirmalini has

been appointed to the position for five years. The appointment places Sr Nirmalini among those called to assist the Vatican Dicastery in its work concerning institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life across the Catholic Church. The Dicastery is responsible for matters relating to religious institutes, consecrated life and societies of apostolic life, accompanying communities in their life, governance and mission. Her five-year appointment also brings an Indian religious perspective to the Dicastery's international consultations at a time when religious congregations worldwide are responding to changing pastoral realities, new forms of mission and the evolving needs of consecrated life.

Catholic Connect Reporter

Bishop of Miao Appointed to Vatican' s

International Council for Catechesis



Pope Leo has appointed Most Rev. George Pallipparambil SDB, Bishop of Miao in India's Arunachal Pradesh State, as a member of the International Council for Catechesis. The appointment, for a five-year term (ad quinquennium), was confirmed in a letter from the Dicastery's Pro-Prefect, Archbishop Rino Fisichella. The Council is a consultative body that supports the Dicastery for

Evangelization's Section for Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelization in the World, offering guidance and reflection on catechetical initiatives across the global Church. The appointment adds an Indian voice with direct pastoral experience in a frontier missionary diocese to a Vatican council tasked with shaping catechetical policy for the universal Church.

The people of Miao have expressed joy over the appointment of their Bishop by the Holy See and assured their prayerful support as he takes up his duty with an important International Council of the Holy See.

Catholic Connect Reporter

News Bytes from JUST

**Single Headed Women Farmers trained
on Pest Management & Climate-Resilient Agriculture**



On 5th August an Exposure-cum-Training Program on pest management and climate-resilient agriculture was organized by Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) for single women farmers at the College of Agriculture, Lembucherra. The program aimed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of women farmers in managing crop-related challenges and adopting safer and more sustainable farming practices. A total of 65 progressive women farmers from Dhalai, Gomati and West Tripura districts participated in the training and exposure session. The participants learned about non-chemical pest management, biological control of weeds, pest management in horticultural crops and other practical methods for protecting crops. The training provided the farmers with an opportunity to learn improved agricultural practices and understand how different pest and weed management techniques can be applied in their own fields. The sessions also highlighted practices that can help farmers respond better to changing climatic conditions.

The knowledge gained during the program is expected to help women farmers identify and manage pests and weeds more effectively, reduce crop losses and minimize unnecessary expenditure on agricultural inputs. The exposure also encouraged the participants to adopt environmentally friendly and climate-resilient farming practices, helping them improve crop production, reduce farming risks and strengthen their livelihoods.

**Observation of Independence Day
at Non-Formal Coaching Centers under Karbook**



The 80th Independence Day was celebrated in all the 10 JUST coaching centers under Karbook with enthusiasm by singing the national anthem and hoisting the national flag. The children were told of the importance of National Day and the past contribution done by the freedom fighters. Students learned to respect the national flag and recognized the significance as symbols of unity and democratic principles by organizing such event in the centre.

The teacher's and the coordinator organized a drawing competition on the particular day, the children are asked to draw the national flag, India Map and freedom fighters. all the children participated in the drawing competition and did very well. 3 students were selected for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd position. The winners were awarded with prizes. The competition is all about encouraging the children to participate and show their creativity and drawing skills. After the drawing competition the teachers organized local games competition for the boys and girls separately and the 1st 2nd and 3rd winners were also awarded with the prizes.

Robert Lushai

Bishop's Program for September 2026

- 01: Clergy Meet @ Agartala
- 04 - 06: Pastoral Conference @ Guwahati
- 07- 09: NE Bishops Meet @ Guwahati/Shillong
- 12: Panchakumar Para Chapel blessing under Karbook Parish
- 13: Parish Feast of Our Lady of Good Health @ Karbook
- 14: Blessing of Holy Cross School Building, Tuikarmaw
- 15: Holy Cross Congregational Feast Mass @ Agartala
Meet SRA Superior General
- 19: Tirthomoni Chapel Blessing under Twithampui Parish
- 20: Confirmations @ Mariamnagar Parish
11th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 24: Meet Fr. Valerian Vaz
- 26: Rasiabari Chapel Blessing under Gandatwisa Parish
- 27: Parish Mass @ Depacherra