

## Pastor's Corner



### The Teacher - Guru Brahma, Guru Vishnu, Guru Devo Maheshwara

Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on 5<sup>th</sup> September, marking the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a great teacher, philosopher, and the second President of India. When his students wanted to celebrate his birthday, he humbly suggested, "Instead of celebrating my birthday, it would be my proud privilege if September 5 is observed as Teachers' Day." Since then, this day has become a heartfelt tribute to the dedication, wisdom, and selfless service of teachers across the country.

Teachers' Day is a day dedicated in honor of teachers and is celebrated every year around the world to acknowledge and recognize the significance of teachers in lives of students. Hence, teachers being one of the most important parts of society, molding young minds and thus the future of the country are honored and appreciated on Teachers' Day.

In Indian culture, teachers are revered as "Guru", which means one who dispels darkness and leads toward light. The ancient Sanskrit saying "Guru Brahma, Guru Vishnu, Guru Devo Maheshwara" = "The teacher (Guru) is like the Creator who gives us knowledge, like the Protector who helps us grow, and like the Transformer who removes our ignorance. The teacher is like God Himself, and we respectfully bow to our teachers." This reflects the divine status given to teachers in our tradition.

Teachers are often like second parents—guiding us, nurturing us, and shaping our lives beyond the classroom. Just as parents teach us our first words and values at home, teachers continue that journey in school, helping us grow into confident, responsible individuals.

Teachers are the foundation of every great nation. They shape not just minds, but the character and values of future citizens. By guiding students with knowledge, discipline, and inspiration, they lay the groundwork for all professions and generations to come. Many great leaders, scientists, and artists of our country have been inspired by their teachers. They are often called the "builders of the nation" because the future of any country depends on the education and values given to its young generation by teachers. Despite facing many challenges like lack of resources and large classrooms, teachers in our country remain dedicated and passionate. They work tirelessly to ensure that every child gets a chance to learn and grow.

William Arthur Ward is the author of this famous phrase: "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." Through their dedication, teachers promote equality, unity,

and lifelong learning—fostering a society that grows with purpose and strength. Teachers are not just educators; they are mentors, motivators, and second parents. They spark curiosity, build confidence, and help us dream bigger. With patience and passion, they shape minds and hearts, one lesson at a time.

Dear Teachers, on this special day, we express our deepest gratitude for the knowledge you share, the care you show, and the difference you make every day. Your impact goes far beyond the classroom—it lasts a lifetime. As Malala Yousafzai says, "One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

### Pope Leo XIV addresses the largest crowd of his pontificate



Pope Leo XIV addressed the largest crowd of his pontificate in Rome's outskirts on August 2, telling an estimated 1 million young adults to "study, work, and love according to the example of Jesus" and to pray: "Stay with us, Lord." The pontiff was greeted on Aug. 2 by joyous crowds on the 237-acre grounds of the University of Rome Tor Vergata, 10 miles east of Rome, where teenagers and young adults stayed all night in anticipation of the closing Mass of the Jubilee of Youth.

+ Lumen, CSC



LINK Wishes all Our Teachers  
A Happy Teachers' Day



# Editorial

J. Pulinthanath, SDB



## Decades to Go before I rise!

One of the premier institutions of the Salesians in the region - Don Bosco Technical School in Shillong currently offers about 64 technical courses, some of them short courses, others of a longer duration, some of them totally free, others with an appreciable fee of 40K+ for a year. Although that is something admirable surely, the truly astonishing thing is the number of young people who make a beeline to get admission to these courses. The impossibility of absorbing all applicants prompted the management to start evening batches for a number of courses. When even that proved insufficient to accommodate all the aspiring applicants, one of their sister institutions 65 kms away, in Jowai, was asked to offer some of the courses and to take in those who could not get admission in to the Shillong institution.

In this respect, the Shillong scenario is in total contrast to the Tripura scenario. Here in Tripura, however good a program, takers are few and far between. The trend is reflected in the unemployment ratio of these States too. Tripura's unemployment rate is 16.5%, which is higher than the national average and way more than that of its North-eastern counterparts. Meghalaya is among States that have the least percentage of unemployment, with the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) saying it's a mere 2.8% which honestly feels a tad unrealistic.

Those who have worked for decades in that part of Meghalaya say the interest of the youth of Shillong for skill learning is a recent phenomenon. It seems the vast majority of the youth out there have come to realize, in the recent years, that for them to be successful in life, they need to be proficient in some income-bringing skill or other. That this interest has not yet adequately translated into entrepreneurship is a different matter; but surely, that does not take away the credit they deserve for this new-found realization.

Here in Tripura, the youth are either still fantasizing about government jobs or do not believe enough in acquiring skills for want of role models who have successfully turned these skills into means of livelihood. Or it could be connected to Tripura's relatively smaller market, lack an industrial base or geographical isolation. As for Meghalaya, it has been making significant strides in recent years in making in the Tourism sector.

The New Education Policy of the Government of India has the wherewithal to tackle this warped mindset of the youth but it hasn't been implemented yet. Skill-based education is still considered 'inferior' or 'second-class' to bookish academic pursuits.

The danger for Tripura's youth is that it could be too late when they step out of slumber into the realization that they need to fend for themselves and that easy government jobs are a thing of the past.

The Church, as an entity hugely engaged both in education and youth empowerment enterprises, can surely help to hasten this awakening process among the youth and society in general.



## Events in September 2025 for the Diocese of Agartala in the Jubilee Year 2025

### Journey of the Jubilee Cross

September 8 : Jubilee of Girl children:  
(Women Commission)  
September 28: Jubilee of Catechists  
(Catechetics Commission)

01.09.2025 to 10.09.2025  
St. Arnold Parish, Gandatwisa  
10.09.2025 to 19.09.2025  
St. Joseph Vaz Parish, Amarpur  
19.09.2025 to 30.09.2025  
Christ the King Parish, Depacherra  
30.09.2025 to 08.10.2025  
Our Lady of Good Health Parish, Karbook



### Kamaranga Parish

#### Growing in Faith, Fellowship and Community Visit



Kamranga (Tripura) 27 July, 2025: St. Raphael Parish Kamranga organized a half day Seminar on Basic Ecclesial community in the Parish Centre. There were around 60 people from different substations of the Parish. Fr. Ivan DSilva, SVD the BEC coordinator for the North Tripura zone and the parish priest of Kamranga Parish was the resource person. He explained the basic question, 'what is Church?' holding placards of 'I am the Church', 'Family the Church', 'BEC unit the Church', 'Local Community the Church', 'Parish the Church', 'Diocese the Church' and finally 'Universal Church'. The resource person asked the parishioners how their local community functions and got very interesting responses. Fr. DSilva closed the session saying, "BECs are often seen as extensions of basic human communities, seeking to build up the Kingdom of God in the context of everyday life". At the end of the Seminar the participants promised that they would form new BEC groups and strengthen the existing groups.

#### Grandparents Day Celebrated



On July 27, 2025, St. Raphael Parish, Kamranga, celebrated Grandparents' Day with the theme "Blessed are those who have not lost hope" (Sir 14:2). Around 38 grandparents participated in the program, which began with the Holy Eucharist, followed by floral tributes and the gift of umbrellas. During the homily, Fr. Ivan reminded the faithful not to sideline the elderly in today's technology-driven world. He urged the youth to offer them love, care, and attention, while encouraging parish leaders to honour all elderly, regardless of faith.

One of the participants, Mr. Bikha Khon Halam, expressed gratitude, saying, "I never thought the Catholic Church would honour me though I don't belong to your religion." The program concluded with snacks and warm wishes for all.

Ivan D'Silva, SVD

### Tuikarmaw Parish

#### Installation of the new Parish Priest



On 3rd August 2025, St. Mary's Parish Tuikarmaw, joyfully welcomed Rev. Fr. Jerome Cherei, CSC as the new Parish Priest. The Installation took place during the Holy Eucharist presided over by Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC. During the Mass, Bishop Lumen formally installed Fr. Jerome into his new pastoral responsibility, entrusting him with the care and spiritual guidance of the parish. The occasion was further blessed by the presence of Fr. Alfred D'Souza, CSC, the Administrator of the Holy Cross NE Province, along with other priests, sisters, and parishioners who joined the parish community in witnessing this meaningful event. After the Mass, a short welcoming program was organized to express our gratitude to Bishop Lumen and Fr. Jerome as he begins his ministry at St. Mary's Parish.

Fr. Vicky, CSC

### Gondatwisa Parish

#### Pilgrimage to Kumarghat



In celebration of the Universal Catholic Church's Jubilee Year, parishioners from St. Arnold Catholic Parish, Gondatwisa, made a pilgrimage to St. Paul's Catholic Church, Kumarghat, on August 17. Led by their parish priest, Fr. Amal Raj, a group of 50 pilgrims representing all 13 monoliths of the parish came together as "pilgrims of hope," journeying with the Lord in prayer and worship. The pilgrims expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Lancy, the PP of Kumarghat, and all who helped him. The community returned home spiritually renewed and thankful for the opportunity to take part in the Jubilee Year in such a powerful and spiritual way. They also resolved to live their Christian faith more deeply in their families and communities.

This pilgrimage strengthened the bonds of unity and fellowship within the parish.

### Vestition and Chapel Blessing at Bagirath motha

The 29th of July was indeed a memorable day. The Gondatwisa Parish community experienced God's abundant grace. The day was filled with a series of meaningful events. During the morning Holy Eucharist, Bro. Jubilee James Sangma from Ambassa Parish and Bro. Monojoy Reang from Gandacherra Parish were vested in the cassock by Bishop Lumen Monteiro. Later in the day there was the inauguration and blessing of St. Paul Church Chapel at Bagirath Para, under Gondatwisa Parish. The chapel was built in loving memory of Mr. Pascoal J. Monteiro. During the Holy Eucharist, 13 persons received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The joyful occasion concluded with a short felicitation program and a fellowship meal.

**Dn. Khakchang Uchoi**

### SFX Cathedral Parish

#### Training Program for Zonal Leaders at Pilgrimage



The St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Parish, Durjoy Nagar, organized a day of Leadership Training for Zonal Leaders on 19th August, at the Parish Hall. The program, conducted with the guidance of the Parish Priest and Parish Pastoral Council, aimed at equipping zonal leaders with knowledge, skills, and spiritual formation to serve effectively. The Resource Person was Fr. Amal Raj, PP of Ganda Twisa, who spoke on pastoral leadership, collaboration with the PP, and the importance of being servant leaders in the model of Christ. He highlighted the role of Zonal leaders in fostering prayer life, strengthening family participation, promoting tithe contributions, and reaching out to the sick and irregular members.

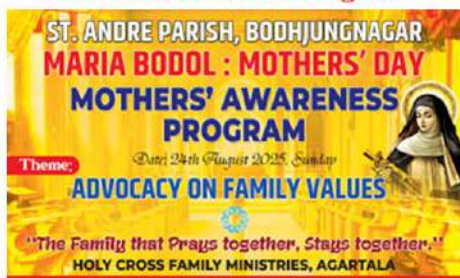
The Sessions included interactive discussions and practical guidance on building strong faith communities in the Zones. The training also underlined the importance of unity, responsibility, and accountability in pastoral service. Participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn and share experiences. Mrs. Jaba Debbarma proposed the vote of thanks. Fr. George also thanked the Resource Person and asked the participants to work closely with the PP and others. The program concluded with a prayer of blessing and the leaders' renewed commitment to serve faithfully.

**Mr. Vinod Debbarma, Secretary, SFXC**



## Bodhjunnagar Parish

### Maria Bodol: Mothers Awareness Program



A Parish-level Maria Sango Day was observed on 24th August 2025. A convenient day for the mothers to honor St. Monica, the Patroness of all mothers. As a preparation for this mega-gathering a mini-preliminary meeting was held at Barkathal. The Catechists and the Parish Pastoral Council were behind the curtain, extending every required support.

Fr. Joe Paul csc and Mr. Ananda Debbarma were the Resource persons of this auspicious Day. Fr. Mariaraj, the Parish Priest, presided over the Solemn Eucharist. Fr. Joe Paul, in his message, focused on family-values, which women, by the virtue of being mothers, possess. Morning Prayer, Singing Hymns, Holy Eucharist, Input Sessions, Cultural-game, Photo-session and festive meal, kept the mothers fully occupied the entire morning. In addition to 125 mothers who participated, the faithful of the local motha attended the same. The activities of the day significantly enhanced their bond of unity as members of the Maria Bodol and loving mothers at home.

**Fr. Mariaraj CSC**

### Health Awareness Program



As a response to the call made by the Women's Commission of the Diocese, the Women Group of our Parish, collectively decided to have a Health Care Program in the Parish, exclusively for the Members of the Maria Sango. It was held in Barkathal on 8th August 2025. Sr. Juby and Sr. Prasanti SJA from St. Joseph Hospital were the Resource Persons. Covering every health-aspect related to women, the Sisters conversed directly and personally with the participants. The women found it very informative and enriching. 43 married women of Maria Sango, from different sub-centres attended and benefitted from the health-Seminar. Sr. Renukha CSC, was the translator. Prayer, Input Sessions, Question Hour, and sharing of snack, marked the entire morning. What next? We pray that the women may care for themselves as well.

**Parish Chronicler**

## National Youth Sunday

After having celebrated the National Youth Sunday at the Diocesan Level in Agartala on 3rd August, the Parish Youth of Bodhjunnagar celebrated the same at the Parish level on the 10th August. It was a well-planned and systematically prepared celebration at Barkathal by our enthusiastic Youth Group. Over 120 youths from all over our Parish actively participated. Fr. Alfred D'Souza csc was the Resource Person and the main celebrant of the Youth Sunday Eucharist. Fathers from St. Andre Minor Seminary and Sisters from SABS, Holy Cross and Fatima Convent delightfully attended the celebration. The Eucharist, input session, cultural program and the community meal marked the day. What next? We pray that such celebrations may enhance the collaborative spirit of our Parish Youth.

**Parish Chronicler**

## Ambassa Parish

### Leadership Empowerment Program



A leadership empowerment program for men in the parish on 3rd August. There were about 80 men leaders participated the program from different villages. The resource persons, Fr. Arun Minj SVD and Dr. Ashok Debbarma, emphasized on the duty and responsibility of the leaders in the family, society and the Church. Their commitment, dedication and active participation will greatly enhance the growth of the community. The leaders need to be sensitive and understanding towards the community members. The awareness program ended with a prayer at 3pm.

On 17th of August, we organized women resource team training program in the parish. There were about 60 women from four parishes. The Resource team of Ambassa Deanery Mrs. Nayanmati Debbarma, Mrs. Sabita Reang along with Sr. Veronica Fernandes, F.S., the women commission Secretary conducted the training program. The focus of the program was to bring awareness on the important role and position of women in the family, society and the Church. The importance of women participation and involvement in life-supporting activities and spreading the Gospel. The training program concluded at 2:30pm with lunch.

**Fr. Arun Minj SVD**

## Kumarghat Parish

### Village Leaders Training



St. Paul Parish in Kumarghat organized a two-day Village Chalok (Leaders training) from July 26th to 27th, 2025. This event aimed to provide proper knowledge and training for the newly elected village leaders and Chaloks. There were 79 participants from 16 villages within the parish. The Seminar began with a Bible enthronement. Various topics were discussed by different resource persons, including how to be an effective leader in the village, how to conduct a Sunday prayer service in the absence of a priest, how to give a Sunday sermon, and how to motivate village faithful. There was also a session on how to keep village accounts. These sessions were highly interactive, with many participants actively engaging. The resource persons included Mr. Piangluma Darlong, Mr. Lala Darlong, Mr. Roitua Darlong, Sr. Gerald MC, Sr. Margret FS, and Fr. Lancy CSC. During the evaluation, participants expressed their satisfaction with the seminar and requested the P.P. to conduct such a Seminar in the future as well.

### Couples Day in the Parish



St. Paul Parish – Kumarghat celebrated Couples Day in the parish on 3rd August 2025. Ninety-two couples registered. The Parish Priest, Fr. Lancy CSC, celebrated the Holy Eucharist. During the introduction, he welcomed the couples for joining the celebration in such large numbers. During the homily, Fr. Alwin discussed the importance of families in the village church. He highlighted faith and prayer as essential to family life. Before the offertory, all couples renewed their marriage vows, creating a touching moment for everyone. Although some were shy, they all took part in the ritual. After the Holy Eucharist, couples gathered for an interactive session. Fr. Alwin led these sessions. All the couples actively participated in the activity. They had one-on-one interactive sessions and expressed that this was their first time experiencing such interactions. Parish Council secretary Mr. Roitua Darlong thanked Fr. Alwin for visiting our Parish to inspire the couples' day. At 2:00 PM, a fellowship meal was served.

**Fr. Lancy, CSC**



## Agartala Diocese celebrates Diocesan Youth Sunday



The Diocesan Youth Sunday celebration held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Agartala on 3rd August 2025 brought together around 500 youths and YCS students from various parishes and schools was a resounding success. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Maxim Rodrigues, S.V.D., the Parish Priest of Khumlwng and was attended by Chief Guest, Honourable Shri. Babha Ranjan Reang, Executive Member of TTADC. The event provided a unique opportunity for young people to gather, worship, and celebrate their faith together. The gathering was a memorable day for the youths, who came from different parishes to share in the spirit of unity and fellowship. The celebration was marked by a sense of joy, enthusiasm, and devotion, as the young people participated in the Holy Eucharist, cultural program and Youth speak to a Youth by Mr. Biswajit Tripura. It was a day of spiritual renewal and rejuvenation, and a reminder of the important role that young people play in the life of the Church.

*Fr. Derrick Augustine, Chaplain*

## Colloquium on 'Pilgrims of Hope on the Synodal Journey'



A one-day Colloquium on "Pilgrims of Hope on the Synodal Journey" was held on 5th August at St. Joseph's Hall, Agartala, as part of the Jubilee Year 2025 and World Mission Sunday. The event brought together priests, religious, and lay leaders for a time of reflection and renewal. The program was animated by Fr. Antony Samy, National Coordinator for Jubilee 2025 and Associate Secretary General of the Pontifical Mission Organizations, Bangalore. He spoke on "Spes Non Confundit", highlighting it as a time of spiritual renewal rooted in God's love and sustained by hope.

In his second session, Fr. Antony presented the Pope's Message for World Mission Sunday, centered on the theme "Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples." Bishop Lumen was present throughout and addressed the gathering encouraging everyone to reflect deeply on the Jubilee and the synodal path, and to become living signs of hope in their communities. The Colloquium was attended by Priests, Religious and Lay Leaders of the Diocese.

*Fr. Bala Showry*

## Spes Unica 2025 - A celebration of Hope



Agartala witnessed the vibrant gathering of young minds and hearts as Spes Unica 2025 was held from 16-18 August 2025 at Holy Cross School. Organized by the Holy Cross Educational Foundation (HCEF), this annual youth festival brought together 300 Catholic students and their animators from 10 Holy Cross schools in Tripura. The theme for this year, "Crossing Borders, Carrying Hope," inspired the participants to rise above divisions of culture, language, and background, and to foster unity, friendship, and shared responsibility as Catholic students in today's world.

The program was solemnly inaugurated on 16th August and concluded on 18th August in the presence of Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, and Fr. K. J. Abraham, CSC, Provincial Superior. During the inaugural function, several Catholic government officers and educators from Agartala were felicitated for their inspiring witness to Gospel values in public life and society.

*Fr. George Jacob, CSC*

## News Bytes from all over



## World's Largest Mural Honoring Pope Francis Unveiled

Argentina, August 6, 2025 — The world's largest mural dedicated to a pope was officially inaugurated on July 26, in the city of La Plata, Argentina, paying tribute to the nation's most prominent religious figure—Pope Francis. Painted by renowned muralist Martin Ron, the hyper-realistic artwork spans an impressive 50 meters in height and adorns a building at the intersection of 14th and 54th Streets in Plaza Moreno, the heart of Buenos Aires Province's capital. The mural captures a moving moment from 2013, shortly after Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected Pope.

In the image, Pope Francis is shown smiling warmly and extending his arm, a white dove flapping its wings at his fingertips, evoking the symbolism of peace and the Holy Spirit. The scene is based on a real encounter in Rome, where pilgrims had handed the Pope a dove that lingered on his hand, refusing to fly away.

Local authorities highlighted the significance of the artwork, recognizing it as not only the largest mural in the world dedicated to Pope Francis, but also a celebration of his Argentine roots and global impact.

*Source: Zenit*



## 28th Annual General Body Meeting



Jana Unnayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) held its 28th Annual General Body Meeting on 17th July 2024 at the JUST Hall in Damdamia. A total of 25 participants joined the meeting, along with the office staff of JUST. The meeting was an important event to discuss the progress, achievements, and future plans of the organization. It was presided over by the Chairman of JUST, Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, and was conducted with the support of the Director-cum-Secretary, Fr. Lathees S.

During the meeting, the members shared their thoughts and reviewed the work done over the past year. They also discussed new ideas and ways to improve their ongoing projects in areas such as education, livelihood, women empowerment, youth development, and sustainable agriculture. Special emphasis was placed on strengthening community-based programs and continuing to reach out to the most vulnerable and marginalized families of Tripura.

The AGBM was not only a platform for reviewing activities but also a moment of encouragement and renewed commitment. Members appreciated the dedication of the JUST staff and recognized the collective efforts that have helped bring about positive changes in society. The Chairman reminded everyone of the vision and mission of JUST, encouraging all to remain faithful to the spirit of service and to work hand-in-hand with local communities. The 28th AGBM reaffirmed the importance of unity, collaboration, and faith in carrying forward the mission of JUST. The meeting ended with words of gratitude to all the members, supporters, and well-wishers who continuously contribute towards the growth and impact of the organization.

## Peace Club Alumni Meet



The Jana Unayan Samiti Tripura (JUST) held a successful Alumni Meet with its Peace Club members at the JUST Agartala Office. The event, which ran from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., brought together 33 participants — 22 male and 11 female — comprising both current and former Peace Club members. The gathering began with a warm welcome address by Mr. Anik Das, followed by program facilitation from Mr. Newton Debbarma. A self-introduction session set a friendly tone for the day, encouraging open dialogue and shared experiences. Participants enthusiastically took part in a memory-sharing segment, reflecting on their journey and personal growth within the Peace Club. The meet also provided opportunities for informal networking, allowing alumni to reconnect and explore potential future collaborations with JUST. A shared lunch rounded off the event, fostering further bonding in a relaxed setting. The meet successfully rekindled a sense of community among attendees, celebrating their collective commitment to peace, unity, and social development. It highlighted the lasting impact of the Peace Club and reaffirmed the importance of continued engagement in grassroots peacebuilding efforts.

*Robert Lushai*

## Our Distinguished Guests

Fr. Antony Samy, Asst Director of PMO Bangalore  
Bro. Santosh, CSC Brothers Provincial from Bangalore  
Sr. Pavitra, CMC Provincial Superior from Bhopal  
Sr. Binaya, CMC V. Provincial from Bhopal  
OLG Sisters from MP, CG and Manipur  
VC Councilors Fr. George & Tony from Kerala  
Fr. George Arackal, VC, from West Bengal  
Sr. Angela Nazary SCC Provincial Superior  
Sr. Alice Mathew, SCC Province Economist  
Malankara Fathers Scaria, Joseph & Aby from Delhi  
Fr. Allwin's family members from Chennai



## Bishop's Program for September 2025

01-04: NERPC @ Guwahati  
04-06: NE Bishops Meet, Shillong  
06-07: Parish Feast, Karbook  
10-12: Standing Committee Meeting, Delhi  
St. John's General Body Meeting, Delhi  
13: CLT Leadership Seminar @ Pastoral Centre  
14: Parish Feast, Bagbasa  
15: CSC Feast, Agartala  
17: Holy Cross Convent, Tuithampui  
20: Golden Jubilee of Sr. Mercy MSMHC, Nandannagar  
21: Blessing of Jubilee Memorial Hall, Moharpara  
22: Meet SJ Provincial  
23-24: CHAI Board Meeting @ Bhubaneswar, Odisha  
25-27: CHAI AGBM @ Bhubaneswar, Odisha  
28-30: Silver Jubilee of Gachirampara Parish