

## Pastor's Corner



### The Pelicano – a floating parable

Did you know why was the Pelicano considered the most unwanted ship in the world? Because it was filled with garbage – fifteen thousand tons of it! The trash was the remnants of Philadelphia's long, hot summer of 1986, when a sanitation workers' strike left the city overflowing with waste. No one wanted the garbage because there was too much of it. Eventually, it became toxic. The ship's owners tried to incinerate the trash and sell the ashes, but no one was interested. The *Pelicano* became a floating parable—a symbol of what can happen to our hearts when we carry unfiltered emotional waste. Anger, guilt, bitterness, impatience – when left unchecked, accumulates and becomes toxic. Our hearts are not meant to store resentment. If we keep a detailed record of every slight, rejection, or offence, our imagination becomes poisoned. Hate, in fact, is what happens when our imagination – meant for beauty and goodness – is corrupted by unresolved pain. If God can completely erase the cord of our sins, how can we justify holding onto the lesser wrongs that others commit against us? The love we receive is meant to become the love we give. Forgiveness is not merely a moral duty; it is the overflow of a heart set free.

### Advent leading to Christmas

Just as the physical world prepares for the celebration of Christmas, Advent asks us to clear space in our hearts—removing the clutter of distractions, resentments, and anxieties—so there is room for Christ to dwell more fully. Before welcoming the Light, we are invited to acknowledge our own shadows—imbalances, habits, or wounds that need healing. Advent offers us the courage to bring these honestly before God and ask for His healing. Interior preparation includes softening our hearts toward others—seeking forgiveness where needed, offering mercy, and seeing Christ in those we often overlook.

In this season, the world around us often rushes ahead—into celebration, into noise, into lists and tasks. Advent asks us to pause, to breathe, to make space for the sacred in the midst of the ordinary. It calls us to listen to the still, small voice that whispers that even in the cold and barren places of our lives, God is preparing something new. Advent encourages us to reconnect with our deepest desires—for peace, meaning, reconciliation, and intimacy with the divine—and to offer those longings to God.

The Advent season is a gentle countercultural invitation to step out of the noise and haste of December. In the quiet, we can hear God's call, sense what is stirring within us, and rediscover the depth beneath familiar stories. Hope, in the Christian sense, is not naïve optimism. It emerges when we face the world's darkness honestly yet trust that God is acting. This spiritual posture prepares us to celebrate Christmas with deeper authenticity.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

+ Lumen, CSC



# Editorial

J. Pulinthanath, SDB



## Between 'Endings' and 'Beginnings'

It is a beautiful paradox that the Church invites us to 'begin anew' before the world announces its new year. While the general calendar year approaches its close, marked by reflection on what has passed—our joys, failures, surprises, and what-might-have-been—the Liturgical Year opens quietly and powerfully with the season of Advent.

Advent is a time of waiting, longing, and hope. It is the Church's gentle way of teaching us that God's beginnings do not depend on our endings. Even before we finish counting the days of the present year, the Lord whispers to us through the liturgy: "Behold, I make all things new."

This spiritual rhythm is profoundly meaningful. While the world ends the year by looking back, the Church begins by looking forward—toward the coming of Christ, the Light who breaks into our darkness. This reminds us that God always gives us a new start, even in seasons that feel unfinished or unclear. The liturgy places hope before closure, promise before conclusion. In the words of the English poet T. S. Eliot, "What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from." This poetic insight beautifully mirrors the Church's wisdom in starting the liturgical year amid the closing days of the calendar year.

This symbolism is even richer in a Jubilee Year, a year the Church calls us to renewal, reconciliation, and abundant grace. For our Diocese of Agartala, the year now ending has indeed been special. We witnessed the faithful participate joyfully and devoutly in various programs across multiple levels—village, parish, and diocesan. Pilgrimages to the two designated Jubilee churches - one at Agartala and one at Kumarghat - offered countless spiritual blessings. Programs, seminars, and moments of communal prayer deepened our union with Christ. Two diocesan events stand out as shining markers of this grace-filled year: The Diocesan Youth Convention, where our young people were energized with faith and mission; and the grand Eucharistic Procession, where thousands walked together in adoration, filling the streets with unity, reverence, and a powerful witness of love for the Eucharistic Lord.

As we enter Advent, these memories become part of our reflection—proof that God has been at work among us, drawing us closer to Him.

And then comes Christmas, the radiant point where ending and beginning meet. With the birth of Christ, the long night of waiting breaks open into day. Christmas transforms darkness into light, longing into fulfillment, endings into beginnings. It mirrors the cycle we see so often in literature and in life: endings that give rise to new birth, seasons closing only to open again with deeper meaning.

In this sacred pattern—the closing of the general year and the opening of the liturgical one—the Lord teaches us a simple but profound truth: every ending holds the seed of new hope, and every beginning carries the wisdom of what has been.

As we step into the new Liturgical Year, may the Lord who begins all things in hope lead us gently into the year ahead, renewing our hearts, our families, and our Diocese, today and always.

## Letting Go in the Season of Advent.



Let go of bitterness.  
Embrace forgiveness.

Let go of jealousy.  
Embrace gratitude.



Let go of anger & hate.  
Embrace charity.



Let go of pride.  
Embrace humility.



Let go of lust.  
Embrace purity.

Let go of sins.  
Embrace GOD.

### Khumulwng Parish

#### Parish Feast and Sacraments of Confirmation & Holy Communion



St. Alphonsa Parish, Khumulwng community, celebrated our Parish feast on 25-26 October 2025. On the 25th we gathered at 10.00 am for the Parish Sabha. The main focus of the Parish Sabha was on animation for the strengthening of SCC/BEC in our Parish. Fr. Ivan DSilva SVD, Parish Priest of Kamaranga was the resource person. The enriching session made the gathering aware of the need of strengthening the life in Christian faith in the community through SCCs. After the lunch we gathered together for the reporting from the village Mothas, Parish, Maria Sangha, Youth and SCC. Mr. Pradip Debbarma animated the reporting session with the concluding remarks by Fr. Maxim Rodrigues SVD, the Parish Priest. The evening session began with a short input on Mother Mary followed by Rosary and Eucharistic Benediction. After which there was Cultural program followed by dinner. The second day began with the Adoration led by Fr. Prem Prasad Nag SVD, Asst. Parish Priest, along with confessions followed by the Holy Eucharist presided over by our Bishop Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro. During the Holy Eucharist 19 children received the first Holy communion and 9 received the Sacrament of Confirmation. After the Holy Eucharist the Parish Secretary, Maria Sangha leaders, SCC leaders, Youth leaders & Motha leaders were felicitated along with the bishop and other dignitaries. The celebration concluded with the Feast Day meal with all the parishioners.

Fr. Maxim Rodrigues, SVD

### Kumarghat Parish

#### Parish Youth Convention 2025



St. Paul's Parish, Kumarghat, joyfully conducted a two-day Parish Youth

Convention at the Parish Centre on the 22nd and 23rd of November. A total of 113 enthusiastic Youth participated in the event, making it a vibrant and grace-filled gathering. Fr. Leenus VC served as the main Resource Person and led the participants through sessions of charismatic renewal, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist, inspiring the youth to deepen their faith and commitment to Christian living. Alongside the spiritual enrichment, the Convention also created space for recreation and fellowship through friendly volleyball and throwball matches. The Convention concluded with a guided group discussion led by the parish priest, Fr. Lancy D'Souza CSC, who encouraged the youth to prepare a concrete action plan for the coming six months. The two-day program proved to be a meaningful blend of prayer, learning, and community-building for all who attended.

Fr. Francis Xavier, CSC

### Maria Sangh Annual Sabha 25



From October 24-26, the Maria Sango Sabha was held at Twinaisa Village under the theme "Advocacy of Family Values." The event featured 189 mothers from 16 villages who gathered for prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Sessions were led by Sr. Geralda MC, Fr. Lancy D'Souza, CSC, and Mr. Roitua Darlong, focusing on topics such as the Seven Sacraments, Mothers of Hope, in this Jubilee year and Christian parenting. The program also included a rosary procession, adoration, confessions, and a cultural evening. The gathering concluded with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by the Parish Priest, followed by the election of new office bearers. Participants expressed deep satisfaction and spiritual renewal at the close of the three-day event.

Fr. Lancy CSC

### Moharpara Parish

#### Three Days Marriage Preparation Course



A three-day Marriage Preparation Course was organized in Moharpara Parish from 6th November to 8th November for the couples preparing to enter the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. The sessions were led by resource persons who offered valuable insights to help

the participants understand the sacredness, purpose, and responsibilities of Christian marriage.

Day 1 – Understanding Marriage as a Sacrament. A session by Fr. Ivan SVD, who spoke on the Sacrament of Marriage. He encouraged the couples to nurture their relationship daily so that their marital bond remains rooted in Christ.

Day 2 – Purpose of Holy Marriage. Fr. Arbok CSC addressed the participants on the true purpose of holy Matrimony.

Day 3 – Health Awareness and Family Wellbeing. The session was conducted by Dr. Chinarung Uchoi who focused on health awareness and the importance of caring for one's body. The participants were encouraged to adopt healthy habits and to support each other in maintaining overall well-being.

The three-day program concluded with positive feedback from the participants, who expressed gratitude to the parish for organizing such a meaningful and enriching preparation course.

Fr. Arbok, CSC

### Gondatwisa Parish

#### Tribhagya Para mondoli celebrates its Silver Jubilee



On 22nd and 23rd November, the community of Tribhagya Para under Gonda Twisa Parish gathered with joy and gratitude to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King and the Silver Jubilee of their motha. The celebration opened on the evening of the 22nd with a cultural night where elders shared memories and the children and youth presented traditional performances.

On the 23rd, the community blessed the Silver Jubilee Memorial Stone and celebrated the Holy Eucharist led by Fr. Ivan D'Silva SVD, with Fr. Lourdu SVD, Fr. Valentine Dungdung SVD, Fr. Praveen, and Fr. Sebin concelebrating. The faithful participated with devotion, offering prayers of thanksgiving for God's guidance since the community's beginning.

In his homily, Fr. Ivan reflected on Christ's kingship and encouraged the faithful to live their faith with courage and hope. After the Mass, the community shared a simple fellowship meal, concluding the celebration with gratitude and joy.

— Dn. Khakchang Uchoi

### Karbook Parish

#### School Annual Day celebrations



The Annual Day of Holy Cross Higher Secondary School, Karbook was held on 22nd November with great enthusiasm and creativity. This year's theme, "Seasons of Life: From the Tender Roots of Learning to the Soaring Wings of Dreams," beautifully guided the entire program, with each presentation artistically depicting the stages of growth, learning, and aspiration that shape the journey of life.

The event was graced by several distinguished dignitaries. The Chief Guest was Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, Bishop of Agartala, and the Guest of Honor was Shri Sanjomanik Tripura, Honorable MLA of Karbook. Other special guests included Shri Shamjoy Jamatia, SDM of Karbook, and Shri Pranab Tripura, Chairman of BAC, Karbook RD Block. Many Reverend Fathers, Sisters, SMC members, and parents also honored the occasion with their presence. The Principal, Fr. Antony Balan, along with the staff and students, warmly welcomed all the guests as the school band played melodious tunes. In their messages, the dignitaries encouraged the students to nurture their talents and pursue their dreams with dedication and confidence.

A major highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the maiden issue of the school magazine, SPROUT. Prepared under the leadership of Fr. Bala Showry, the Editor and Magazine In-charge, the first edition was dedicated to Bishop Lumen Monteiro. The Chief Guest released the magazine and presented copies to the dignitaries. Students who excelled academically and secured top ranks were honored with gold medals, celebrating their hard work and commitment. The cultural program that followed showcased the vibrant talents of the students through dances, skits, musical presentations, and thematic performances inspired by the Annual Day theme. The entire celebration was meticulously coordinated by Fr. Antony Balan, Sr. Rosita, and the dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff. The program concluded reverently with the National Anthem, bringing to a close a memorable and inspiring evening at Holy Cross Higher Secondary School, Karbook.

— Fr. Bala Showry

### Depacherra Parish

#### Parish Feast with Eucharistic Procession



The Parish Feast of Christ the King Parish, Depacherra, was celebrated on 19th Nov with the special Triduum and hoisting of the Parish flag. On 22nd Nov Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro CSC D.D., the Bishop of Agartala was the Chief Guest for the cultural program. It was graceful and joyful moment for the lay faithful in the parish to celebrate as one family.

On the feast of Christ the King, Bishop Lumen presided the Holy Eucharist during which he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 42 Candidates and First Holy Communion to 45 Candidates. After the Holy Mass, the Eucharistic procession was held and the faithful participated with great devotion. They walked devoutly from the Parish Church to the Mission Hathai and finally ended in the Parish Church where the final Benediction was given. Bishop lowered the Parish Flag after which all the faithful shared the fellowship meal.

Dn. James Kaipeng



## New chapter begins as Montfort School Agartala Inaugurates state-of-the-art Auditorium



Montfort School, Agartala witnessed a significant milestone on 31st October with the blessing of its new school auditorium by Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC. The ceremony, held at noon, brought together students, staff members, invited guests, and parents. The newly blessed auditorium is expected to become a vibrant center for cultural activities, academic events, and community programs.

Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and carried out the blessing with reverence. In his address, he highlighted the importance of dedicated spaces for nurturing young talents and supporting holistic growth. He also expressed his joy in witnessing the rapid development of Montfort School, noting that he has been closely associated with the school since its inception.

The blessing ceremony was made special with a short cultural program presented by the students. Rev. Bro. Director and Rev. Bro. Principal extended heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to making the auditorium a reality. Equipped with modern facilities, the auditorium will host a variety of competitions, celebrations, and assemblies, further strengthening Montfort School's commitment to providing quality education and enriching experiences beyond the classroom.

— Reported by Fr. Derrick

## Agartala Diocese holds 15th Diocese level Eucharistic Procession



The 15th Diocese Level Eucharistic Procession was held on November 9th, 2025, at the Khumpui Academy Grounds, TTAADC HQ, Khumlung. The event became a vibrant celebration of faith, drawing participants from across the Diocese. The Holy Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Joachim Walder, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Aizawl Diocese. Various parishes contributed hymns and prayers, adding spiritual depth to the gathering. The highlight of the day was the Eucharistic Procession, reverently organized by the

Catholic Laity of Tripura (CLT) with support from the Agartala Diocese Youth Commission and Khumlung Parish. After the procession, a time of Adoration continued until 2:30 pm, including Praise and Worship, Concluding Prayer, Benediction, and a Vote of Thanks. The event witnessed an impressive turnout of over 7,000 faithful, reflecting the deep devotion of the Catholic community in Tripura. The celebration successfully united parishes and communities in a memorable expression of faith.

— Fr. Derrick Augustin

## Silver Jubilee Bells Ring



The Solemnity of all Saints and the joyful celebration of the Silver Jubilee celebration of Sr. Sheeba MSMHC was solemnized by the presence of Rev. Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC, along with the relatives, Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Teachers, boarders, faithful, well-wishers and friends of Sr. Sheeba. The joyful day began with the holy Eucharist which is the highest form of thanksgiving. During the homily our bishop who was the main celebrant said that all of us called to lead a holy life as we live our day-to-day life in God's love, care, share and showing concern to everyone living around us. A short felicitation program by the boarding children and a sumptuous meal was served with love before the invited guests dispersed. Everyone at St. Mary's Home were so impressed and happy by the presence of all the invited guests including our dearest Bishop. "It was indeed a Day of Gratitude to God and one another" said Sr. Sheeba, in her vote of thanks.

Reported by Sr. Sini, MSMHC

## Aizawl-Agartala Zones BEC Training at ASHA Holy Cross Diocese



The BEC Second Level TOT (Training of Trainers) for the Dioceses of Aizawl and Agartala was held from 13th to 16th November at Holy Cross, ASHA Agartala, under the leadership of Fr. Lancy D'Souza CSC, the TOT AA Diocesan Coordinator. Fr. Clement Ekka and Sir Ajit from Tezpur served as the Resource Persons. A total of 17

participants—priests, religious, and lay faithful—from both dioceses took part in the program.

The training emphasized a pastoral approach, helping participants understand the relevance of BECs in today's Church. Key topics included the Seven Steps of Gospel Sharing, the Four Marks of BECs, and concepts from the DIIPA Text, covering BEC spirituality, leadership, animation skills, and ministries. Participants were also introduced to practices such as Bible enthronement and Bible procession.

The seminar offered meaningful insights into the functioning of BECs and equipped TOT members to serve as effective BEC animators in their parishes, fostering deeper love for the Word of God and for BECs—the new way of being Church.

— Fr. Sebin, Asst. BEC Coordinator

## Tripura Region celebrates Canonization of St. Maria Troncatti – A Beacon of Zeal & Peace



A spirit of missionary zeal and peace filled Auxilium, Agartala, as the FMA communities of the Tripura Region gathered on October 30, 2025, for a special Thanksgiving Holy Mass celebrating the canonization of St. Maria Troncatti by Pope Leo XIV. The 6:00 PM Mass, presided over by Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC, DD, also marked his 45 years of priestly ministry. Nine priests concelebrated the Eucharist. A short felicitation program followed, featuring a touching dance drama by the Sisters and children of Pathaliaghat and Auxilium students, while the Herma Pre-Novices captivated everyone with their song "Chosen One."

— Sr. Aquila Makri, FMA

## Inter-religious program: Birthday of Bab & Bahaullah



On 16th November 2025, the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) celebrated the birthdays of Bab and Baha'u'llah with deep religious fervor at Bhai School, Borjola. Leaders from various religions were present, and Fr. Nabin Roshan Lakra, SVD, represented the Catholic Church. Speaking on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," he connected the Christian call to walk together in synodality with the Bahá'í emphasis on active hope and the oneness of God, religion, and humanity. Speakers from Islam, Buddhism, and Sanatan Dharma also shared insights. The program ended with a vote of thanks and distribution of sweets.

— Fr. Nabin SVD

**Training on Climate-Resilient Agriculture**

A one-day training program on climate-resilient agriculture was successfully organized for Farmers in the Karbook Block of Gomati District. The session witnessed the participation of more than 90 Farmers from nearby villages, reflecting strong community interest in learning new and sustainable farming practices.

The training was led by Mr. Naresh Uchoi from the Department of Agriculture, who highlighted the urgent need for farmers to adapt to climate-resilient methods. He explained how unpredictable weather patterns, frequent droughts, sudden floods, and rising pest attacks are affecting traditional farming across the region. To address these challenges, Mr. Uchoi encouraged Farmers to shift toward farming practices that can withstand climate stress and ensure stable production. During the session, he briefed the participants on various government schemes, subsidies, and seed support options available to help farmers adopt improved technologies. He also introduced alternative crop varieties that are more tolerant to extreme conditions and require fewer external inputs. The Resource Person emphasized the importance of organic farming, soil health management, and the use of locally available resources to reduce costs and increase income. Farmers were motivated to diversify crops, adopt eco-friendly methods, and make use of government support systems.

**Children' s Day cum Annual Sports Day celebrations**

Children's Day cum Annual Sports Day were joyfully celebrated across ten educational centers in the Karbook Block, bringing together children, staff, and community members for a day filled with fun and learning.

The centers were decorated for the occasion, and the atmosphere was lively as children eagerly participated in the activities.

Staff members organized a variety of cultural performances, where children showcased songs and dances.

These performances not only entertained the audience but also helped the children build confidence and express their creativity.

Alongside the cultural events, several sports activities were conducted, giving children the opportunity to enjoy friendly competition and develop teamwork and physical fitness.

The celebration created a vibrant and memorable experience for all the children, many of whom rarely get such opportunities. The event concluded with the distribution of study materials and refreshments, adding to their joy and motivation.

The children happily received notebooks, pencils, and other basic learning supplies that would support their education.

Mr. Robert Lushai

**Our Distinguished Guests**

- Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthoniuis, Bishop of Gurgaon
- Frau Rose Mary Muller & Aruna Theel from Germany
- Most Rev. Jochim Walder, Auxiliary Bishop of Aizawl
- Dolly Reang EM of T.T.A.A.D.C from Natun Bazar
- Fr. Patrick Nikhalo, SDB, Rector of Vianney Home Chabua
- Fr. Clement Ekka from Tezpur Diocese
- Ajit Turkey from Tezpur Diocese
- Fr. Clement Halam, B.E.C. Commission from Barak Valley
- RNDM Srs. Relinda & Rose, B.E.C Members from Barak Valley
- Anjana Bongcher From Ambassa Parish
- Andrew Tangling, Moses Kongshel from Barak valley
- Henry Tongper & Hotis Paslein from Barak Valley
- Fr. Santhosh, MSFS, Bursar from Guwahati
- Sr. Juliana, UFS Provincial Superior from Dimapur
- UFS Srs. Reshma & Sunita Miranda from Dimapur

**Bishop's Program for December 2025**

- 01: Centenary celebrations, Aizawl
- 02: Clergy Meeting, Agartala
- 03: Meet Syro-Malabar Bishops  
Triduum Mass at SFX Cathedral, Agartala
- 06: Silver Jubilee of Sr. Jubi SJA
- 07: Ruby Jubilee, Moharpara Parish
- 14: Confirmations, Kamaranga Parish
- 18: Silver Jubilee, Kanthai Kobra under Mandwi Parish  
TCSGAM Inaugural @ Montfort School Belbari
- 21: Confirmations, Kumarghat Parish
- 22: JUST GB Meet & Xmas program @ Damdamia
- 24: Midnight Mass @ Nandanagar
- 25: Holy Mass with Confirmations @ SFX Cathedral
- 28: Closing of Jubilee Year of Hope, SFX Cathedral
- 29: Udaisinghpara Chapel blessing, Ganganagar
- 31: New Year's Eve service @ Kumarghat
- 01: Chapel blessing Garo III under Kumarghat Parish