

C N I E NEWS

March, 2025

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

GENERAL SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

EDITORIAL

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Moderator's Message

*Dear Beloved in Christ,
Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ!*



As we enter the holy season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5, we are reminded of the solemn call to repentance and renewal. This sacred time invites us to reflect deeply on our lives, seeking forgiveness and turning our hearts back to God. The chosen verse for this month, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10), echoes the cry of a penitent soul longing for restoration. David's prayer is a powerful reminder that true repentance begins with a humble heart and an earnest desire for transformation. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a spiritual journey, leading us through self-examination, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time to confront our shortcomings and seek God's mercy. The ashes placed on our foreheads symbolize our mortality and need for God's grace. By the grace of God, the 115th Executive Committee meeting of the CNI Synod went on well on the 20th and 21st of February 2025. The Finance Committee meeting was also held on the 17th of last month. Several new and fruitful resolutions were taken for the glory of God and the dynamic growth of the Church. Additionally, the South East Asia Regional Forum, organized by the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS), one of the overseas partners of CNI, was held at CNI Bhavan from the 10th to the 12th of February. It was well attended by participants from PCK, ROK, CSI, CWM, and others. I extend special thanks to The Revd. Dr. Dieter Heidtmann, General Secretary of EMS, for sharing inspiring insights on fostering collaboration and mission across Southeast Asia. On February 15th, we witnessed the Holy Consecration Ceremony of the Rt. Revd. Manoj Devdan Kate, the newly elected Bishop of the CNI Kolhapur Diocese. May we continually pray for Bishop Manoj Devdan Kate as he begins his episcopal ministry. May God grant him wisdom, strength, and a servant's heart to lead the Diocese faithfully. As we embark on this Lenten journey, let us open our hearts to God's cleansing power. May we be renewed in spirit and strengthened in faith to walk closer with Christ. Let us embrace this season as an opportunity for spiritual growth, reconciliation, and deeper communion with God. May the Lord create in us clean hearts and renew steadfast spirits as we prepare to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection.

Wishing you a blessed and transformative Lenten season.

In Christ's service,

The Most Revd. Bijaya K. Nayak
Moderator, CNI Synod &
Bishop, Diocese of Agra



From The Desk of General Secretary

*Dear Members and Readers, Grace and peace to you
in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!*



As we step into the holy season of Lent, marked by Ash Wednesday on March 5, we are invited to begin a sacred journey of repentance, reflection, and renewal. On this day, the sign of ashes is placed on our foreheads, symbolizing our mortality and reminding us of the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This solemn ritual is not merely a reminder of our human frailty but a call to turn away from sin and draw closer to God.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a forty-day pilgrimage that leads us to the cross and the resurrection of Christ. It is a time of deep self-examination, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, guiding us to realign our lives according to God's will. The ashes we receive signify our repentance, humility, and dependence on God's mercy. The verse chosen for this month, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10), captures the essence of Lent. This heartfelt plea of King David reflects a longing for inner transformation and spiritual renewal. It echoes the theology of repentance, where true change begins with the cleansing of the heart and the renewal of the spirit.

Repentance is not merely about confessing sins; it is about genuine metanoia – a radical change of mind and heart. During this Lenten season, we are called to examine our lives, confess our shortcomings, and seek God's

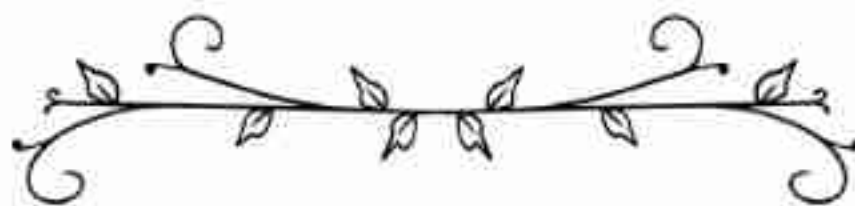
forgiveness. It is an invitation to turn away from the things that hinder our relationship with God and others. Lent is also a season of renewal. As we fast and pray, we empty ourselves of worldly distractions and make room for God's presence. We are renewed through scripture meditation, worship, and acts of compassion. This journey of repentance and renewal prepares us to experience the power of the Resurrection with hearts cleansed and spirits renewed.

May this Lent be a time of spiritual growth and transformation for each of us. Let us walk this journey with humility, seeking God's grace to create in us clean hearts and renew steadfast spirits.

As the Church of North India, let us journey together in faith and repentance, bearing witness to God's love and grace. May our congregations be places of healing, reconciliation, and renewal during this holy season. May God continue to strengthen our unity and mission as we prepare to celebrate the victory of Christ's resurrection. Wishing you a blessed and meaningful Lenten season.

In Christ's service,

The Revd. Dr. D. J. Ajith Kumar
General Secretary, CNI Synod



ASH WEDNESDAY*Lent: A season of Repentance and Renewal**Psalm 51:10- Create a clean heart, O God, and renew
a right spirit within me*

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten period and we are reminded of Christian discipleship on this day. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the forehead as a sign of repentance. These ashes are gathered after the Palm Crosses from the previous year are burned. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of who we are i.e. we are dust and will return to dust. The powerful image of Ashes further reminds us that without the spirit of God moving in us, we are insignificant. However, how do we contextualise Christian discipleship in the present context?

James Dunn, a New Testament theologian says that, the call to discipleship begins with the recognition of God's rule because it is Jesus who issues the call to discipleship. This call has other implications also, it presses on the fact that this was a call to recognize that God's rule is a reality now and his followers need to decide urgently to be a part of it. The recognition of the kingdom of God is the beginning of faith and inevitably requires repentance.

The Nazareth manifesto, or the mission statement of Jesus Luke 6: 18-20, shows us that the discipleship of Jesus begins with the poor and the text of the first beatitude describes the first characteristic of discipleship. The word poor has two dimensions to it, it is not only "poor in spirit" but the same word also denotes material poverty. Jesus did not envisage a discipleship that disowns society and separation from the real world. What was emphasized by Jesus was the social responsibility towards the poor and reaffirmed his warnings against the perils of wealth. This implies that the non-poor has a responsibility towards the poor. In Jesus's discipleship, it is the marginalized that will be vindicated rather than the affluent

showing an acceptable attitude towards the poor Jesus saw his life and work diversely. His mission was to invite the sinners and the marginalized to the banquet of God's

Kingdom. The contrast between the righteous and the sinners is brought in such a way that it highlights the preference of Jesus for the poor. It is because of this reason that the righteous are confident about their status and acceptability but on the contrary, the sinners are conscious of their social alienation. As a result, the righteous are unlikely to respond as they are satisfied with their needs whereas the sinners are more cautious of their needs. In the dominant worldview, sin is viewed as a failure to live according to rules defined by the so-called righteous of society. Jesus in his ministry questions these very boundaries. The discipleship to which Jesus called was discipleship for sinners, discipleship which is ready to accept and ready to serve rather than look to be served

Jesus' call to discipleship was also communitarian. Jesus called a larger group to follow him which included the poor, tax-collectors, sinners and women. He also chose a small group of twelve and encouraged them to live according to the principles of his message. Anyone could come to Jesus and even when the disciples intervened, they were rebuked. Jesus widened the circle of discipleship and thus it became one of the most challenging features of Jesus whole ministry.

The Revd. Samuel Mall
Assistant Professor,
Bishop's College, Kolkata



At a time when Jesus is not around, how his message and ministry becomes relevant today? The clue is in Good Friday and Easter Day but also not forgetting the Pentecost. After Jesus's resurrection, the disciples' message shifted from Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom of God to the disciples' proclamation of Jesus, his death and resurrection, and the consequent offer of the gift of Spirit. The discipleship, to which Jesus called us was practical and which could be lived out. This discipleship was social and not merely spiritual, corporate and not simply for individuals.

How do we reflect on Jesus's discipleship in the context of deaths spreading across the world due to wars and violence? How, we as a church can talk about the genocide that's going on in Gaza right now? To understand the nature of the genocide, we need to understand the theology of Zionism and Christian Zionism. Edward Said points out that Zionism is a practical system of accumulation of power, and land, and displacement of people. Zionism was a movement in the late nineteenth century for the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine and after the establishment of Israel in 1948, it refers to the protection of the state of Israel. Zionism has another much older form and it is called Christian Zionism. It is a Christian support of the Zionist movement. Zionism was never a Jewish idea to begin with, it was a Christian idea. Naim Ateek, a Palestinian Anglican priest and a Palestinian liberation theologian describes Christian Zionist "as any Christian whose biblical interpretation supports the gathering of all Jews to Israel and their claim to the whole land of Palestine" or any "Christian who adopts Zionist ideology and makes a doctrine out of it while working hard to achieve its goals."

The political Zionists use the Hebrew bible and the Christians use the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament to construct myths that divinely justify the colonization of Palestine.

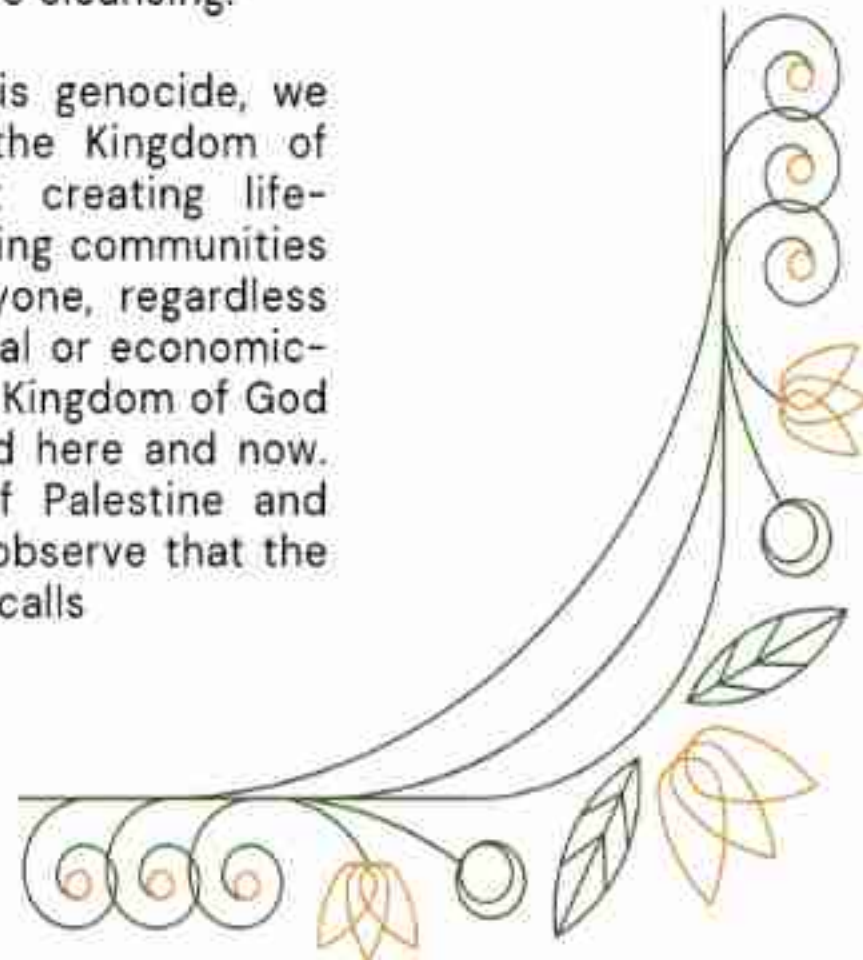
The religious language and theology of the Hebrew bible are used to form an ethnocentric nationalist 'myth' that provided the Jews with a 'title deed' to claim the land as a divine right. The concept of promised land chosen people is used to provide divine justification for the Zionist project. Zionist selectively picked up on texts and developed an understanding of an aggressive and merciless God. They used the Hebrew bible to demonize and ethnically cleanse Palestinians. Zionism aims at maintaining Jewish supremacy.

The Zionist theology shows that what's happening in Gaza is genocide. Since the attack by Hamas on Israel in October 2023, where over 1000 people were killed, Israeli forces have killed close to 46,000 people and injured 93,500 people. These deaths include 18,000 children (53 children killed every day). Not just this, Israel is killing Palestinians through starvation. Pregnant women have no place to give birth, doctors are killed, and hospitals are destroyed. Close to 700,000 people are starving because Israel is not allowing food supplies to go into Gaza. Most Christians think that the struggle between Israel and Gaza began as an aftermath 7th of October 2023. We fail to recognize that since 2007, Israel has imposed a total air, land and sea blockade on the Gaza Strip. The UN and human rights groups have condemned this blockade, and have described Gaza as "the world's largest open-air prison." What is happening in Gaza right now is genocide, collective punishment and ethnic cleansing.

In the context of this genocide, we are reminded that the Kingdom of God was aimed at creating life-affirming and flourishing communities that embraced everyone, regardless of their social-political or economic-religious stature. The Kingdom of God has to be established here and now. In the oppression of Palestine and Palestinians, we can observe that the discipleship of Jesus calls

us to stand with the Palestinians and repent of the complicity and allegiance to the theology of Zionism. Let me conclude this editorial by proclaiming what Palestinian theologians emphatically proclaim. They say that if Jesus were to be born today, he would be born on the Palestinian side of the wall as Jesus lived his life under occupation. This is where Jesus is to be located, amongst the weak and the vulnerable because the poor are the locus and creator of life flourish communities. It is where the discipleship of Jesus is located.

The Revd. Samuel Mall
Assistant Professor,
Bishop's College, Kolkata



Some studies claim that a typical normal person has 60,000 to 70,000 thoughts in a day!! These thoughts include positive and constructive thoughts. It includes negative and destructive thoughts. It even includes sinful un-godly thoughts of lust, revengefulness, devising plans to harm someone, greed, playing dirty politics, corruption, and so on. In fact we should be thankful to scientists for not able to invent a machine that would read and reveal our thoughts, otherwise it would have a devastating results on the human race. Just think, how would you feel if your thoughts were read by a machine and displayed on a screen? Well, you can very well imagine your reactions. But relax no such machine exists till now – thank God.

Psychologists argue that any incident happens twice – firstly in our thoughts and then in reality. But, we do not implement all our thoughts in real actions, because there are many thoughts which are sinful and ungodly. Incidentally we don't implement most of the sinful and ungodly thoughts only because we claim to be holy and godly person; we are much concerned about our impressions to others; "What other might think" or the fear of being caught. That means, many of our thoughts are sinful and unacceptable to God.

On 5th March we would enter Lenten days. These days provide us an opportunity to realign our relationship with God. We can use a very powerful and meaningful prayer offered by King David for realigning our relationship with God. David prayed in Psalm 51:10 *Create in me a clean heart o God; and renew a right spirit within me.* David was very honest and bold in his confession through this prayer. He urges God to help him to clean and purify his thoughts. This prayer was written after he got entangled into adulterous and sinful relationship with Bathsheba. David's sin began with his thoughts

The bible says that David watched Bathsheba bathing, and he had lustful thoughts, which ultimately led him to commit adultery with her. David was able to identify the root cause of his sin and broken relationship with God – thoughts. Let us pray to God this Lenten season to create clean and pure thoughts in our lives. Let us do away with thoughts that are ungodly; not just lustful thoughts but thoughts of revengefulness, bitterness, unforgiving heart, plans to harm others, playing dirty politics for personal gain, of corruption and so on.

King David then further prays to renew him with the right spirit within him. David is praying to God to fill his mind with positive, constructive, godly, pure and clean thoughts. We can understand this with an example of a glass filled with dirty and unclean water. The dirty unclean water can be replaced with clean and pure water if we continue to pour neat and clean water. Similarly, our unclean thoughts can be replaced by pure thoughts that come from God.

Let this Lenten season be the season of replacing ungodly, unclean and impure thoughts with godly, clean and pure thoughts. The moment you get ungodly thought simply remember David's prayer. If we continue to live with ungodly thoughts and still claim to follow Lenten season, it is nothing but height of hypocrisy. Achieving such height of hypocrisy would be a dubious achievement that I guess none of would like to boast about.

The Revd. Sanjay Malaviya
Diocese of Gujarat

CULTIVATION CHANGED

In the remote village of Kadaspata, Kandhamal, Odisha, Shri Ramakanta Pradhan faced relentless struggles as a traditional farmer. The land yielded little with financial struggles looming over his family. Just like light at the end of tunnel, hope arrived when he started attending training sessions on Organic farming by CNI SBSS Phulbani project area. Ramakanta listened intently, his mind racing with possibilities. "Natural farming. Organic compost. Multilayer cropping". These weren't just techniques; they were a new way of thinking

After attending all sessions on organic farming, he was given an electric water pump. "We're investing in your future," the staff said with a smile while Ramakanta was still processing everything. Ramakanta exhaled slowly. For the first time in years, he felt something stronger than struggle—he felt hope.



Guided by an experienced mentor from CNI SBSS, Ramakanta embraced sustainable farming with unwavering determination. With renewed vigor, he implemented organic composting and multi-layer farming techniques, nurturing his land with care and dedication. Months later, his barren fields turned into a thriving landscape of abundant crops.

His income soared beyond Rupees 70,000 per annum, alleviating his family's financial burdens. His success became a beacon of hope. As Ramakanta's fields thrived, the village took notice. Farmers who had once doubted him now stood at the edge of his land; eyes filled with curiosity.

"If his land can change, maybe ours can too," one of them murmured. And just like that, a movement began proving that with knowledge and support, resilience turns adversity into prosperity.

For more stories from the field, please visit www.cnisbss.org. You can also reach us at



HOLY CONSECRATION OF THE RT. REVD. MANOJ DEVDAN KATE AS THE BISHOP OF THE CNI KOLHAPUR DIOCESE, MAHARASHTRA.



We are grateful to Almighty Jesus Christ and greatly rejoice for the Holy Consecration of the Rt. Revd. Manoj Dedvan Kate solemnized as the Bishop of the Kolhapur Diocese, Maharashtra on 15th February, 2025, at the CNI Bhavan Chapel. The sacred service was led by the Most Revd. B.K. Nayak, the Moderator of the Church of North India (CNI). It was truly God's doing.

The Rt. Revd. Manoj Devdan Kate was born on February 18, 1966. He completed his Bachelor of Divinity (BD) from Leonard Theological College (LTC), Jabalpur in 2003 and holds a degree in Economics from the University of Pune. Ordained in the Pune Diocese in 2009, Bishop Manoj Kate has faithfully served in pastoral ministry for 15 years. His leadership journey includes serving as the Vice-President of the Diocese of Pune, CNI, and currently as the

Presbyter-in-charge at All Saints' Church, Khadki, Pune. He has also contributed significantly as the Principal of United Theological Seminary of Maharashtra (UTSM), Pune, and has a heart for social work among street children in the slums of Pune. Bishop Manoj Kate is blessed with a wonderful family – his wife, Mrs. Vandana Manoj Kate, daughter Maheema, and son Gaurav.



The Consecration Service witnessed the gracious presence of: The Rt. Revd. Manoj Charan, Deputy Moderator, CNI Synod The Revd. Dr. D.J. Ajith Kumar, General Secretary, CNI Synod Mr. Subrata Gorai, Treasurer, CNI Synod The Rt. Revd. Sameer Isaac Khimla, Bishop, Durgapur Diocese The Rt. Revd. Paul B. P. Dupare, Bishop, Nagpur Diocese The Rt. Revd. Silvans S. Christian, Bishop, Gujarat Diocese The Rt. Revd. Andrew B. Rathod, Director, SST, CNI Synod The Revd. Srinivas S. Chopade, Director, Mission and evangelism, CNI Synod.



Many pastors and office bearers from the Kolhapur Diocese also attended this blessed occasion, making it a memorable and spiritually uplifting event. The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati, Communication Secretary, CNI Synod offered the vote of thanks on this propitious occasion.

With great hope and prayer, we believe that under the dynamic and faithful leadership of Bishop Manoj Devdan Kate, the Diocese of Kolhapur will flourish in faith, service, and mission. May God's abundant blessings be upon him as he shepherds the flock entrusted to his care. Congratulations and Prayers for the Rt. Revd. Manoj Devdan Kate! May God continue to guide and empower him as he is engaged with this new responsibility for the holistic development of the church and the diocese.



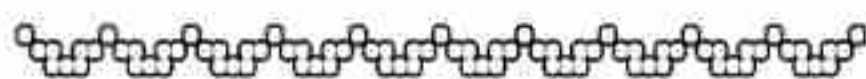
The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati
Communication Secretary,
CNI Synod

SOUTH EAST ASIA FORUM HOSTED BY THE CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA

The Church of North India (CNI) joyfully hosted the 'South East Asia Forum' organized by the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) from 10th to 12th February 2025 at CNI Bhavan, New Delhi. This significant gathering brought together esteemed church leaders and representatives

from partner organizations, including the Church of South India (CSI), Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK), Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), KORINTH, and Council for World Mission (CWM).

The event was inaugurated by The Most Revd. B.K. Nayak, Moderator of the Church of North India, with a spirit of fellowship and unity. The keynote address was delivered by The Revd. Dr. Dieter Heidtmann, General Secretary of EMS, who





shared inspiring insights on fostering collaboration and mission across Southeast Asia. We were blessed by the gracious presence of eminent Bishops, including: The Rt. Revd. Dr. Royce Manoj Victor (CSI) The Rt. Revd. Violet Nayak (CNI) The Rt. Revd. David Roy (CNI) The Rt. Revd. Prasad Rao (CSI) The CNI office bearers extended a warm welcome to all participants:

The Rt. Revd. Manoj Charan, Acting Deputy Moderator The Revd. Dr. D. J. Ajith Kumar, General Secretary Mr. Subrata Gorai, Treasurer The three-day forum was a time of meaningful discussions, worship, and reflection on mission partnerships, unity in diversity, and collective service in God's vineyard. It was a testament to the power of faith-driven collaboration and

solidarity among churches across the region. We thank God for His abundant blessings and pray for the continued strengthening of ties among the member churches as we strive together for His Kingdom work.

The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati
Communication Secretary,
CNI Synod



115TH CNI SYNOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



It was on 20th February, The Church of North India (CNI) Synod Executive Committee meeting held its 115th meeting at CNI Bhavan. Leaders from across the 28 Dioceses were gathered and the meeting began with morning devotion and the Word of God was delivered by The Most Revd. Bijaya Kumar Nayak, Moderator on the importance of mission and ministry as all are called to be the leaders facing the challenges

in ministry and to discern God's direction for the church's mission and ministry. And it was followed by The Holy Communion led and conducted by the Moderator, The Most Revd. Bijaya Kumar Nayak, and Acting Deputy Moderator, The Rt. Revd. Manoj Charan. It was a great time of prayer and fellowship. We thank Almighty Jesus Christ for granting wisdom and guidance as we

work together in strengthening the vision, mission of the Church of North India. May God continue to bless us with His abundant grace to lead us further in His service in unity and faith.

**The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati
Communication Secretary,
CNI Synod**



CLOSING CEREMONY OF GOSABA FAIR AND INAUGURATION OF GOSABA ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL

It was on 2nd January 2025, Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty graced the closing ceremony of the Christmas Fair held at Gosaba Pastorate and delivered a relevant speech and inaugurate the St. Stephen's School, Gosaba (English Medium). Reverend Dr. Surjit Sarkar, Vice President of the Diocese was present, Diocesan Secretary Mr. Sukalyan Halder, GBFB Secretary Mr. Manjur Halder were also present. Honorable Bishop and other guests were felicitated by Christmas Fair Committee.



NEW CHURCH BUILDING AT CHORADAKATIYA



Under the leadership of time the old church was Hon'ble Bishop Subrata demolished and the new chakrabarty and Diocesan construction of the church Secretary Sukalyan Halder, was completed with a new overall development is boundary wall by the joint going on at every level in Donation of Church the Diocese. Members and Diocese Choradakatiya Epiphany (Mostly). And on 7th Church under Basanti January, the newly built Pastorate: after its church was dedicated by establishment on 6th Bishop Subrata chakrabarty. January 1953, the number Bishop Dr. Parotosh of parishioners in this Canning, of Calcutta church increased, and to Diocese and Diocesan repair the dilapidated Secretary and other state of the church, at the leaders. request of the church members, third



3RD YEAR THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH TALPUKUR UNDER GANGRAI PASTORATE



A special thanksgiving service was organized on behalf of the Gangrai Pastorate Committee at Saint Peter's Church at Talpukur on the occasion of

the completion of 3rd year Bishopric of Hon'ble Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty on 23rd January. Diocesan Secretary Sukalyan Halder was present. It was a

blessed occasion everyone present in the service wished and greeted for the wellbeing of the Bishop and of the diocese.

3RD YEAR CHRISTIAN REVIVAL MEETING, AT KANCHRAPARA

It was on 28th and 29th January 2025, the third annual Christian revival meeting was held at Kanchrapara Dangapara Immanuel Church. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning and Bishop Subrata chakrabarty were present. Bishop Subrata chakrabarty offered the opening prayer and the two

bishops started the meeting by hoisting the flag. After this, Nagar Kirtan was and dance was also performed. All Bishops and Priests were honored by the organizing Committee. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning of Calcutta Diocese shared from the word of God. Pastor Vijay Nadar and Vijay Shaw, Diocesan

Secretary Suklyan Halder, Pastor Dilip Jana and many others were present. Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty conducted the Lord's Supper and Bishop David Roy of Dooars Diocese was also present.

ANNUAL SPORTS MEET AT ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL DUM DUM AND HABRA

The Diocese is blessed in many ways as Bishop Subrata chakrabarty is always active and physically present in the overall development of the schools of the Diocese. On the 27th January 2025, the annual sports day of Saint Stephen's School Dumdum was organized in the ground of Dumdum St. Stephen's School. The chief guest on this occasion was the Bishop of Calcutta Diocese, Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning, and was accompanied by the Bishop of our Diocese. Both hoisted the flag and then lighting the



ceremonial torch to inaugurate the sports. Diocesan Secretary Mr. Sukalyan Halder and other Diocese leaders were also present.



28th January was a memorable moment in the life of Habra St. Stephen's School as the school's Annual Sports Meet 2025 was held on

the grounds of the school compound. The sports competition was auspiciously started by lighting the ceremonial torch with prayers and blessings by Hon'ble Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty and he hoisted the flag and gave a very encouraging speech to encourage the contestants. The sports competition was completed successfully under the management of school principal HIRAK KUMAR MANDAL.

Sukalyan Halder
Secretary
Barrackpore Diocesan Council

NEWS FROM DIOCESE OF CALCUTTA

EMMANUEL CHURCH, KRISHNAPUR - WATCH NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE



It was 31st December 2024, Emmanuel Church organized a Watch Night Worship service. The Rt. Revd.

Dr. Paritosh Canning Bishop of Calcutta conducted the Worship Service and ushered in the new year in the presence of the Lord

Dr. Sudipta Singh, Deputy General Secretary of the Council for World Mission (CWM) in Singapore, was the guest speaker and brought profound insights from the scripture and encouraged the congregation. The Church choir led the praise and worship and set the tone for thanksgiving and reflection. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning in his message emphasized the importance of surrendering the past year to God's Grace and trusting in His plans for the coming year. His message resonated deeply within the hearts of those present.



At midnight, the Church was filled with prayers, praises, hymns and heartfelt gratitude as Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning led in the worship and celebrated the Holy Eucharist. The congregation offered prayer of dedication, committing 2025 into God's hands.

The Watch Night Worship Service at Emmanuel Church, Krishnapur which concluded with Lok Sangeet (Folksong) and Kirtan was a fitting end to a night filled with God's presence and grace. It was an evening

that left an indelible mark in the hearts of all who attended, reminding them of God's unwavering love and guidance as they stepped into a new year.

The Revd. Santanu Gayen
Presbyter in charge
Emmanuel Church Krishnapur

CHINSURAH CHURCH (1825 - 2025) GLORIOUS 200 YEARS CELEBRATION

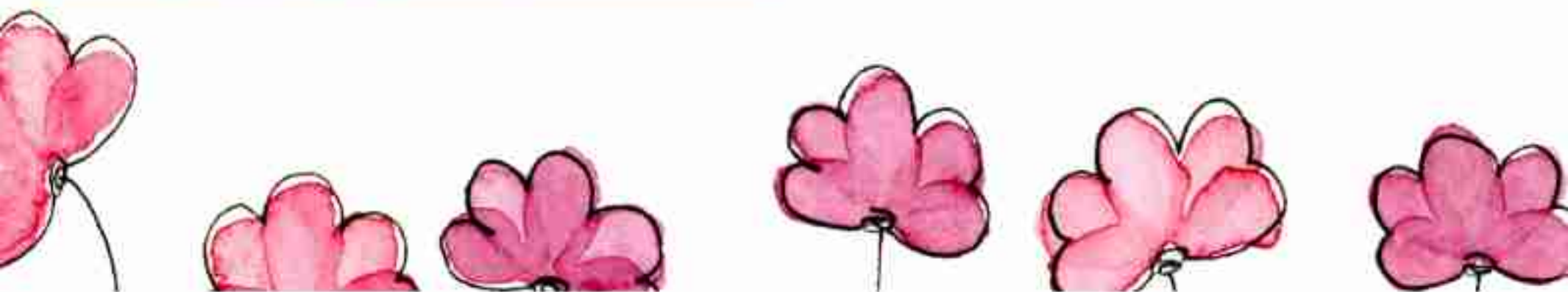
On 22nd December 2024, Chinsurah Church celebrated its 200th anniversary in a Thanksgiving Worship. The worship service was conducted by The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta and he delivered the anniversary message. The Clergy from the neighboring Churches, Mr. Raghab Naik, Secretary, CDTA (Pvt.) and invited guests blessed the congregation with their presence.

Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning shared the importance of the presence of the Lord in our lives. Sunday school and the Church Choir presented special songs to mark the occasion. Mr. Sanchay Sarkar, the Hony. Secretary, read out the history of the Church, followed by the cake cutting ceremony and felicitation of Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning



Mr. Raghab Naik, Secretary, CDTA(Pvt.), Revd. Anup Mondal and Revd. Subrata Mahapatra of Serampore-Johnnagar Church and other local Guests were specially invited to join in a Fellowship Breakfast for all.

The Rev. Sebastian Zeeba Hansda,
Presbyter-In-Charge



ST. THOMAS' DAY SCHOOL - CLASS 12 STUDENTS FAREWELL

On 31st January 2025, St. Thomas' Day School bid farewell to the outgoing students of class XII. The day was a fiesta devoted to the years spent together with friends and teachers, to reminisce joyous moments. The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta and Chairman, Board of Governors graced the occasion with his presence. The Revd. Asa Kiran Parichha and Revd. Daniel Chatterjee were also present. After the felicitation of the Bishop and Guests the class 12 students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the school. The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning enlightened the students with his inspirational speech and motivated and encouraged the students to live a happy and contented life ahead. He passed on the light of wisdom to all the students of class XII. The students were blessed and wished good luck for the future years. The mementoes were presented to all the outgoing students by the Chairman as a token of blessing. All students and staff relished the farewell food as the day came to an emotional close.



JEEBAN JYOTI UPASANALAY, KALAGACHIA – INAUGURATION OF BISHOP CANNING COMMUNITY HALL

On 5th January 2025, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta diocese inaugurated the Bishop Canning Community Hall at Jeeban Jyoti Upasana lay, KalagachHia. We thank God for this provision and the facility which will be used for social gatherings, community events, and outreach programmes. The programme was well attended by the Congregation and the Clergy. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning blessed the hall and emphasized the importance of community service and social responsibility. The Church had been leaking and lacking repairs. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning took the initiative to not only restore but to build this community hall. The new community hall will generate income for the Church and will be used for various spiritual activities, including youth programmes, health services, and cultural events.



CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



On 5th January 2025, the Church of The Epiphany Celebrated its 189th Anniversary on Epiphany Sunday with a Thanksgiving Worship Service. The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning conducted the worship service and shared the God's message. The worship service was well attended by the congregation, invited guests and dignitaries. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning in his

message to the gathering reflected on the Church's rich history, its contributions to the community, and its continued commitment in spreading the word of God and highlighted the Journey of Epiphany. The Women's Fellowship and Sunday school presented special songs and the youth performed in a worship dance. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning presented awards to long-

serving members and recognized the dedication of the Pastorate Committee towards holistic development of the Church. Thereafter, the Pastorate Committee joined the Bishop along with the Clergy in the cake cutting ceremony.

Charles William Ringrow
Programme Coordinator
Diocese of Calcutta

NEWS FROM DIOCESE OF DURGAPUR

MALDA-DINAJPUR ZONAL INTER PASTORATE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT "KOINONIA CUP -2025"



On January 24 2025, the Balashpur Football Ground hosted the highly anticipated Malda Dinajpur Zonal Inter Pastorate Football Tournament "Koinia Cup - 2025" was organised by the Diocese of Durgapur(CNI). The tournament kicked off with the first shot by our Bishop Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla. Eight teams participated enthusiastically in the tournament: Kochpara -1, Mostapur, Shibkrishnapur, Balaspur, Kaliyaganj-Mangalpur, Kochapra-2, Balurghat-Mokrampur, and Gangarampur. Distinguished guests attended the event, including Amoresh Sarkar, Asst. Chairman of Dakshin Dinajpur Zilla Parishad;

Tarun Saha, IC of Kushmandi Police Station, Dakshin Dinajpur; Dr. Nayana De, Block Development Officer of Kushmandi, Dakshin Dinajpur; and Mariyam Mardi, Chairman of Kushmandi Panchayat Samiti, Dakshin Dinajpur. This tournament was organised by the Anti-Human Trafficking Program under Diocese of Durgapur(CNI). The main purpose of this football tournament aimed to raise awareness against human trafficking, encourage community involvement, and encourage unity in the battle against this serious issue. Through sports and teamwork, the tournament highlighted the importance of unity and collective action in combating human trafficking. Various food stalls were set up to celebrate this game. On the occasion of this game, various food stalls were set up, which allowed all the spectators present on the field to enjoy food while watching the game. After a series of thrilling matches, Gangarampur Pastorate emerged as the champions, while Balashpur Church secured the runners-up position. The tournament celebrated sportsmanship, unity, and community spirit, leaving participants and spectators with cherished memories. We thank the pastors and the Anti Human Trafficking staff for making the arrangements.



HOLY CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT DURGAPUR UNITED CHURCH

On February 2nd 2025, Durgapur United Church held a Confirmation Service for seven candidates, including Bithika Sahu, Lalita Hansda, Shruti Tudu, Sweta Thapa, Sonamoni Hansda, Rabi Hansda, and Jisu Das. The service was presided over by Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, assisted by Revd

Pankaj Pande and Dn. Babul Sardar. The candidates received the sacrament of Confirmation, and the Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla delivered an inspiring sermon on the significance of Born again based on John 3:1-8, encouraging the newly confirmed members & whole congregation to live out their faith

with sincerity and dedication. The congregation joined in prayers of thanksgiving and committed to support the candidates in their spiritual journey. The service concluded with Holy Communion, and families and friends congratulated the newly confirmed members.



AWARENESS CAMPS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD PROTECTION HELD IN BANKURA AND UTTAR DINAJPUR

An awareness camp against human trafficking, child trafficking, child labor, child marriage, and illegal migrant labor was held in Raghunathpur village of Goalbari area under Sarenga block of Bankura district on January 29, 2025 by Anti Human Trafficking Program under the Diocese of Durgapur(CNI). The camp's goal was to educate the community about the risks and effects of these issues, as well as to encourage alertness and preventive actions. On January 30 2025, another human trafficking and child marriage awareness camp was organized specifically for women in Goalpara



village of Hemtabad block of Both the events witnessed active participation from local residents and community leaders, highlighting the importance of collective action in addressing these critical issues. The camps were part of a broader



initiative to raise awareness and foster community involvement in the fight against human trafficking and child exploitation.

**The Revd. Sandipan Sinha
Communication Department
Diocese of Durgapur**

NEWS FROM DIOCESE OF GUJARAT

THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL



serve the broader community, which is the mission our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has entrusted to us. Over 3,000 believers from the Ahmedabad churches participated in the thanksgiving festival, and afterward, they enjoyed the traditional Gujarati dance known as "Garba." The thanksgiving festival was truly blessed and magnificent.

Under the guidance of the Rt. Revd. Silvans S. Christian and the Gujarat Diocese Counsel, a thanksgiving festival was held for the churches of Ahmedabad on the Eve of the New Year 2025. The Rt. Revd. Silvans S. Christian began the festival by explaining the purpose of gathering the churches to express gratitude to God for all His doings and will continue to do. The Bishop also delivered a brief message, encouraging the congregation to

unite in bearing witness to the fact that Jesus came to offer salvation and



JOINT RALLY OF FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN AHMEDABAD

Fellowship of Christian Churches in Ahmedabad organized a joint rally on 5th January from Mt. Carmel Cathedral church to CNI Church

Ellisbridge to celebrate the occasion of Jubilee year of Jesus. The Bishops and all Heads from all the denominations led the rally and more

then 7000 people took part in the rally. At the CNI Church Ellisbridge the joint rally turned into thanksgiving meeting where the Rt. Revd. Silvans S. Christian led the meeting. The joint rally and thanksgiving meeting was truly blessed and fruitful. Praise God for all His doings.



PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

Under the CNI Gujarat Diocese and direction of the Rt. Revd. Silvans S. Christian Pastors conference was organized from 10-11 January 2025 at CNI Church Ellisbridge. This Pastors conference was organized for all the Pastors, Deacons, Evangelists and missionaries to motivate them and recall the pastors calling to be effective in pastoral ministry and be fruitful. The CNI Gujrat office bearers along with senior pastors gave teaching in the conference. There were more than 135 pastors attended the conference. The pastors were blessed by the sessions.



SENIOR CITIZEN “SNEH SAMELLAN”

Under the Gujarat Diocese Counsel and direction of the Rt. Revd. Silvans S. Christian, Senior Citizen board of CNI Gujarat Diocese had organized “Sneh Samellan” for Senior Citizens of all the Deaneries of Gujarat Diocese on 17th January at CNI Church Ellisbridge. The Rt. Revd. Silvans S. Christian lighted the candle and inaugurated the “Sneh Samellan”. Hon Bishop brought the encouraging message from the Psalm 71 saying God is our refuge, God is our Rock and God is our righteousness. President and Secretary of senior citizen board of



Gujarat Diocese took up the truly blessed time of reuniting practical sessions addressing with each other's. We praise God the challenges faced by the for all blessings in the diocese of senior citizen. Senior citizens Gujarat. from all over Gujarat Diocese took part in the "Sneh Samellan". The Sneh Samellan was

The Rt. Revd. Silvans S. Christian
Bishop, Diocese of Gujarat

NEWS FROM DIOCESE OF SAMBALPUR

THE THIRD DIOCESAN AND SIXTH DIOCESAN YOUTH FESTIVAL

We rejoice in the Lord and grateful to Almighty Jesus Christ for enabling us to have the 3rd diocesan and sixth diocesan youth festival organized at Kantabanji CNI church, diocese of Sambalpur from January 30th to 1st February 2025. This was a historic event where the youths were empowered and spiritually benefited through the spirit of sports and through the word of God. On the first day of the event, the Olympic and the festival was inaugurated by the Bishop Immanuel Dani. Also Mr. Sandeep Nag, the secretary and Mr. Pramod Barik the Treasurer of the diocese were present on this occasion. The whole programme was led by the by the Diocesan YFC president Mr. Pavan Kumar Nag and Mr. SB Itarson and all youth committee, diocese of Sambalpur. For these three days, the program started with morning devotion and then began the Olympic and ended with gospel preaching. It was scheduled for the three days. there are more than 250 delegates attended from different pastorate of diocese of Sambalpur.

It was a joy for the youth as they participated actively in the sports events such as 100 M (Boys & Girls), 200 M (Boys & Girls), 400 M (Boys & Girls), 800 M (Boys & Girls), High Jump (Boys & Girls), Long Jump (Boys & Girls), Discus Throw (Boys & Girls), Shot Put Throw (Boys & Girls), Javelin Throw (Boys & Girls), Cricket (Boys) - DCC Wise Badminton Double (Boys & Girls) Group Bible Quiz (Pastorate Wise) Kaun Banega 6th Diocesan Youth Festival - 2025 (Individual Bible Quiz). Grateful to Rev. Nakul Bagh Chairman, Committee host; Mr. Sunil Ch. Nag, Convenor, Mrs. Taruni Sahoo, Secretary, Kantabanji CNI church and all the DYFC members, arrangement committee and various committee members for their support and help rendered for the three days programme. Also thankful to Rev. Daniel Charan Calvin, the main Speaker for sharing God's Word in the meeting. Altogether it was a joyful and blessed three days meeting. All glory be to Almighty Jesus Christ.



The Rt. Revd. Immanuel Dani
Bishop, Diocese of Sambalpur