

CNI NEWS

APRIL, 2025

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

GENERAL SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

EDITORIAL

DEVOTION

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DIOCESAN NEWS



Moderator's Message

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

"He is not here, for He has been raised, as He said."

Matthew 28:6



As we enter the blessed month of April, our hearts are filled with the joy and hope of Easter. The Lenten season, a time of prayer, fasting, and reflection, now gives way to the glorious celebration of Christ's resurrection. Easter is the victory of life over death, hope over despair, and love over sin. The empty tomb is not a sign of loss but of fulfilment - Christ has risen, just as He promised! The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith. It assures us that no darkness can overcome the light of Christ. In a world often marked by suffering and uncertainty, Easter reminds us that God's power is greater than death, and His love is victorious. The risen Christ calls us to be witnesses of this Good News, to live as people of hope, and to proclaim His life-giving presence in our communities.

In the midst of this Easter season of hope and resurrection, my family and I have walked through a time of deep sorrow with the passing of my beloved son, Bibhas, earlier last month. Though our hearts grieve, we are comforted by the love and prayers we have received from so many of you. Your messages, visits, and words of encouragement have been a great source of strength. We are deeply grateful for your kindness. Even in our sorrow, we hold on to the promise of Christ's resurrection. Easter reminds us that death is not the end, but a doorway to eternal life in God's presence. Though Bibhas is no longer with us, we trust that he rests in the arms of our Risen Lord. May this Easter hope continue to strengthen all who mourn, knowing that in Christ, we shall meet again.

Easter is a time of renewal and mission, and the Church of North India continues to be a witness to the resurrection of Christ through its various ministries. Across our 28 dioceses, churches will celebrate Easter with worship services, processions, and outreach programs. Our educational institutions, mission hospitals, and social service initiatives reflect the hope of the Risen Christ. As we celebrate Easter, let us recommit ourselves to the mission of proclaiming the Gospel, serving the marginalized and fostering unity. May the power of Christ's resurrection inspire us to be the light and salt in our communities. As the Bishop of the Agra Diocese, I rejoice in the work of our clergy, congregations, and institutions in spreading Christ's love. Our diocese remains committed to evangelism, education, and social service. May we continue to be faithful stewards of the Gospel, bringing the light of Easter to all. As we conclude the Lenten journey, let us not leave behind the spirit of repentance and renewal. Instead, let the lessons of this sacred season shape our lives. May the resurrection inspire us to be agents of peace, justice, and reconciliation, reflecting the love of the Risen Lord in all that we do.

May the joy of Easter fill your hearts and homes. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

In Christ's Victory

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

From The Desk of General Secretary

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Easter is the foundation of our Christian faith, declaring the ultimate victory of life over death and truth over falsehood. The resurrection of Jesus assures us that the power of God, who raised Christ from the dead, also gives life to us. As Romans 8:11 reminds us, "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you." Easter proclaims that death is not the end - there is life beyond the grave, a promise of eternal hope.

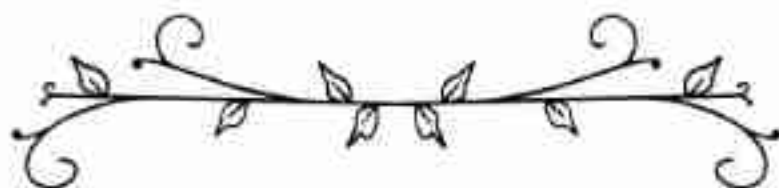
During His earthly ministry, Jesus spoke of His resurrection, but many doubted. His crucifixion seemed to silence Him, yet the truth could not be buried forever. On the third day, the stone was rolled away, and Christ emerged victorious. This reminds us that truth, no matter how suppressed, will always rise. The world may try to silence righteousness, but God's truth prevails. "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32). Easter is a call to stand for truth and justice in our communities, knowing that God's purposes will always triumph. The resurrection is not just a historical event but a future promise. The risen Christ will come again in glory, as He said (Acts 1:11). As we celebrate Easter, we await His return, living in the hope of His promise. Until then, we are called to be His hands and feet in the world, sharing His love and proclaiming His Gospel.

This Easter season also marks the end of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and spiritual renewal. Lent prepares us to experience the fullness of Easter's joy. As we move from the solemnity of the cross to the joy of the resurrection, let us not forget the lessons of humility, self-denial, and compassion that Lent has taught us. As the Church of North India, with our all dioceses, let this Easter be a time of renewed commitment to the mission of Christ. Let us work towards uplifting the poor, strengthening our congregations, promoting education, and standing for justice and peace. Our faith calls us not only to believe in the resurrection but to live as people of the resurrection - bringing hope where there is despair, love where there is hatred, and light where there is darkness. May the risen Christ fill our hearts with peace and purpose. Let us go forth as Easter people, proclaiming with joy: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! "He is not here, for He has been raised, as He said," - Matthew 28:6



In His Risen Glory,

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



This is at once a troubling and a reassuring statement made by an angel radiant of dress and of countenance to Mary Magdalene and her companion as they come to visit the sepulcher on the third day after the crucifixion of our Lord. An earthquake ensues, following which the angel descends. He terrifies his onlookers by rolling away the boulder at the mouth of the cave and perching a top the stone before he makes this remark. To begin with, the angel details a remarkable plan of action to the women who came to mourn Jesus. 'Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead and behold, there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.' (Mt 28:7) Both at the Annunciation (Lk 1:26) and here, at the Resurrection, a clear-speaking angel makes an opening statement that signals a moment of significant departure.

Next, the comment carries a twofold charge. There is the continuing disturbance to authority that the Jesus of the Resurrection presents, just as the Jesus of the Crucifixion does. The keepers of the tomb know that its emptiness will not only suggest their incompetence punishable possibly by death but lend credence to the teachings of Jesus in this connection. There is also the continuing reassurance that the Resurrection is part of a progressive journey. The belief that the prophet of salvation extends, 'After two days will he revive us, in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight,' (Hosea 6:2) is now playing out before the eyes of an ever-widening community. Moreover, the continuities and discontinuities with Biblical narrative draw attention to unusual consequences. In itself, the act of raising a person from the dead is one to which both Old and New Testaments frequently return. Elijah brings back the son of the widow in Zarephath to life (1 Kings 17:17). Elisha restores the son of the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:18). Subsequently a dead man thrown into Elisha's tomb revives miraculously (2 Kings 2:9). Jesus brings back the daughter of Jairus from the dead (Luke 8:40), as he does Lazarus (John 11:1). Peter recalls Dorcas to life (Acts 9:36).

Paul does likewise with Eutychus (Acts 20:7) However, the narrative of the empty tomb is the cornerstone of our Christian faith because of three unique features. The first is that all the others recalled to life settle into their former routines. In the case of Jesus however, the episode of the empty tomb marks the conclusion of His earthly ministry and the commencement of the ministry of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16) Secondly, Jesus when the Jews ask for a sign of his Sonship after he cleanses the temple of its hawkers draws a parallel between the reconstructed temple of Solomon and his body. 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' (John 2:21) This is yet another aggravation to the Jews of the time who believe that Jesus speaks of a worship-place that was forty-six years in the building. To those who try to do the Christian thing however, it is empowering to know that the one they follow leaves behind an empty tomb precisely because He is not made with hands but needs to be worshipped in spirit and in truth. When the angel rolls aside the boulder to reveal an empty tomb, he redefines the relationship between location and holiness to liberate those who come after. The second distinguishing feature is that the angel highlights the onward movement of our Lord toward another kind of dominion. It is a kingdom-statement that caps the explanation that Jesus gives Pilate (John 18:36) that His ruler-ship is over souls, and not over territory. Additionally, it is difficult to think about the way in which the material and the non-material come together at the Resurrection moment, but it is essential to do so. The Creed whether Nicene or Apostolic always precedes Holy Communion and requires an affirmation of faith in the resurrection of the body by all who participate. This is a marker of Christian belief. Even to a post-creedal world, therefore, the empty tomb is not the end of the story. The reassurance in the angel's statement is that the disciples are to meet Jesus in Galilee, and that they will be able to recognize Him. The encounter with Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9), the Emmaus moment (Luke 24:13) and the meeting with Thomas (John 20:24) — among others — establish that Jesus means to be recognized after His resurrection and that He is recognizable. The victory over death that the empty tomb signifies carries this context of hope for people of the promise, the Easter people who recognize their risen Lord and hope to recognize their loved ones in the life to come.

Christel R. Devadawson Professor,
Deptt. of English University of Delhi
 &
member, North Indian Church
Review Editorial Board

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT GALILEE?

During the Second World War badly devastated Europe lost hope for the future. In midst of such hopelessness Jurgen Moltmann presented Theology of Hope which helped Europe to a large extent to rebuild itself. Jurgen Moltmann, a German, who fought in Second World War at a very young age was captured as prisoner by the British forces. Though born in a Christian family, he didn't have personal encounter with God. While in prison he read bible, which changed his life, and he accepted Jesus. Being in prison he was distressed by the devastation of war and concluded that there is no future left for him. Similarly, other prisoners thought the same. But, Moltmann, experienced hope in the resurrection of Jesus. Death is the most hopelessness of all hope situations but Jesus' resurrection brings hope as he conquers the death. He thus wrote the Theology of Hope, which helped Europe to bounce back. Similarly, Victor Frankl, a Jewish psychiatrist and neurologist, was put in Nazi concentration camp. In his book Man's Search for Meaning he describes the horrors of the inhumane atrocities of Nazis. He mentions that it used to happen that all of a sudden some physically strong looking prisoner would suddenly stop working and sit down in a corner. No amount of threat and beating by the Nazi soldiers would change his mind, and eventually a physically strong person would die in few days. Being a psychologist, after the observations, he concluded that those men who thought that there is no future left and everything has come to an end, lost the strength to live life and eventually die. He testifies that even after knowing that his entire family was killed, he survived the horrible concentration camp with the thought of publishing his findings. He thus, concludes that we survive in life if we have a meaning in our life. Frankl observed that it is the sense of meaning in the life that keeps us alive. Moltmann, too concluded, it is the hope that gives us strength to live. Moltmann being a theologian was able to point out that it is the resurrection

of Jesus that gives us the hope for life in midst of all the hopelessness. How this hope does become personal and real and not just remain a philosophy? The resurrection story itself helps us to understand the personal significance of resurrection. Mathew notes in 28: 6-7, He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. After giving the good news of Jesus' resurrection the angel commanded the women to share the news with the disciples and also ask them to go to Galilee. Now the question is why Galilee. If we study Luke chapter 4 it talks about Jesus beginning his ministry in Nazareth of Galilee. He proclaimed using the text of Isaiah that the purpose of his ministry is to bring hope and meaning for the people who have lost all hope, are broken hearted and discarded by the world. Jesus again asks his disciples to visit Galilee so that it can be proclaimed that the resurrection of Jesus is the victory over the death. Death is the most hopelessness of hope situation, but that situation has been changed now. Many a times depression, loneliness, broken heartedness, being victim of injustice and abuse, being neglected by the society, humiliation, financial crisis, and such experience of life gives us feeling of death like situation even while physically alive. Galilee reminds us that Jesus' ministry is to heal us. Today, apart from us, there are many around us who needs healing and hope in life. Let us visit Galilee once again, where there are people who have lost hope and meaning, with the good news that Jesus has overcome all hopelessness. In our ever busyness many a times we forget to visit Galilee individually and as a church proclaim the good news. Let's visit Galilee.

The Revd. Sanjay Malaviya
Diocese of Gujarat

CNI LMCC WRITERS WORKSHOP

We are grateful to God for the impactful and fruitful CNI LMCC WRITERS WORKSHOP held from 13th -15th March, 2025 at CNI Programme Centre, Nagpur.



The program was begun with a Welcome note and word of greetings by Ms. Sushma Ramaswami LMCC secretary. As the workshop began, on behalf of the LMCC and representatives from all dioceses present in the workshop extended the deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the Most Revd. B. K. Nayak, his dear wife, and the entire bereaved family on the sad and untimely demise of their beloved son Mr. Bibhas Kumar Nayak with few moments of silent. It was so shocking to know that Mr. Bibhas was also supposed to be one of the participants of the workshop. The condolence prayer was offered by Bishop Paul. B. P. Dupare, diocese of Nagpur. The inaugural session began with worship led by Bishop Paul Dupare Diocese of Nagpur, alongside Bishop Francis Hansda Diocese of Patna, The Rt. Revd Denzal Peoples Director, CNI Programme and The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati, Communication Secretary, CNI Synod. And thereafter, Keynote address was delivered by Bishop Francis Hansda. Mrs. Archana Singh, President of Synodical Women's Fellowship for Christian Services (SWFCS), and Revd. Asir Ebenezer, NCCI, the General Secretary also were invited and facilitated in the workshop. The first session was led by The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati on "Christian Writings", who provided deep insights into the essentiality of writings and practical aspects of Christian writings in today's context. It was lively session with interactions, discussion and theological reflections on the importance of writings. He also led another session in these three days' workshop on the topic, "Writings Devotional and sermons" and emphasised the importance of homiletics in writings. The need of preparing sermons in Christian worship/ and its relevance today. There were another two other resource person, Ms. Amelia Andrews and Mrs. Jessica Richard who have highlighted the importance of Storytelling Techniques for Christian writers from Biblical Perspective and the significance of drafting, proof readings, copy editing, which are very vital in writings. The workshop ended with Valedictory service led by Bishop Paul B. P. Dupare alongside Bishop Francis Hansda, Bishop Denzal Peoples and The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati. As discussed together, hope and deliberate this workshop will create a supportive environment where church workers can develop their writings skills, share their faith and become more effective communicators in their ministry especially for the growth of the church in fulfilling God's mission in different aspects of the Church of North India. All glory be to Almighty Jesus Christ. Amen!!! The Revd. Dr. Binod Peter Senapati Communication Secretary, CNI Synod



A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

Rojlin Gudiya, a 58-year-old woman from Berda village in Khunti district, Jharkhand, lives with her family of five. Farming is her main source of income, supported by a small cloth shop that her husband runs. This combination of work has allowed her to not only support her family but also enabled her provide her children with professional education. Her son is now a practicing lawyer, and her daughter is a trained nurse working in Jamshedpur.

Rojlin's experience and enthusiasm for farming caught the attention of the SBSS Chotanagpur team, who selected her to participate in an organic farming training program. The training was thorough, covering everything from organic farming techniques to fertilizer production. Initially, the program focused on enhancing her farming practices, and as she gained more knowledge, she began cultivating organic vegetables to increase her income. One significant opportunity that came through the program was the provision of 50 chicks by SBSS, which Rojlin successfully raised. From this venture, she earned a profit of Rs. 10,000. Encouraged by this success, she expanded poultry farming and now rears 100 chicks, expecting even higher profits in the next few months. Her success story has inspired other local farmers to consider similar ventures.

Apart from her agricultural work, Rojlin is also a leader of a Self-Help Group (SHG) consisting of 10 women from her community. The group runs a small shop at the weekly market, earning additional monthly income to supplement their family income. Rojlin is also active in contributing to the social development activities of her community.

Rojlin attributes much of her success to the support of SBSS Chotanagpur team, who identified her potential and facilitated her participation in the training programs. With this support, Rojlin and her family have been able to improve their economic situation, and their efforts are beginning to positively impact others in their community. Together, they are not only transforming their own lives but also inspiring change and growth in their surroundings.



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*Communication and
Documentation Desk*

CNI SBSS



CORDIAL WELCOME OF THE MODERATOR'S EPISCOPAL COMMISSARY THE. RT. REVD. MANOJ CHARAN

The Diocese of Amritsar is delighted to share with you all that The Rt. Rev. Manoj Charan, Bishop of Bombay Diocese and the deputy moderator of Church of North India, CNI, has taken over the charge of the Diocese of Amritsar, CNI. As per provisions in the CNI Constitution, when a bishopric falls vacant, the total care and charge of the Diocese devolves upon The Moderator. Exercising his constitutional authority, The Most Revd. B.K Nayak, Moderator of the CNI Synod, has appointed The Rt. Revd. Manoj Charan, as his Episcopal Commissary for the Diocese of Amritsar, CNI. Bishop Charan will be looking after the full charge and care of the Diocese.

This development follows the superannuation of The Most Revd. Dr. P.K Samantaroy, Bishop, Diocese of Amritsar, CNI, who having served the diocese for more than 25 years, as the longest serving bishop in a single Diocese laid down his office on 1st March, 2025. Bishop Samantaroy has also served as the Deputy Moderator, the Moderator, and the General Secretary of the CNI, besides serving on many international forums.

As a bishop in the diocese, Bishop Manoj Charan will oversee the spiritual and administrative affairs of the Diocese of Amritsar. With his rich experience and leadership, Bishop Charan is well-equipped to guide the Diocese in its mission to spread the message of love, compassion, peace and service. Bishop Manoj Charan reiterated his commitment to prioritizing evangelism, education, environmental initiatives, and social outreach programmes of the Diocese.

He emphasized the importance of promoting interfaith dialogue to maintain peace and harmony in the region. "I am humbled and honoured to take over the additional charge of the Diocese of Amritsar, CNI" he further said Bishop Manoj Charan, while addressing the media. "I look forward to working with the clergy, laity, and community leaders to build a more erudite, committed, just and compassionate society."



The Diocese of Amritsar, CNI, serves a diverse population and is committed to promoting unity, peace, and social justice. Under Bishop Charan's leadership, the diocese is expected to continue its mission of serving the marginalized and the vulnerable sections of the society. The office bearers, executive committee members, heads of institutions, presbyters, lay leaders, and functionaries of the Diocese were also present on this occasion.

**The Department of Communications,
Diocese of Amritsar**



131 BLESSED WEDNESDAY MAHASABHA



The procession then proceeded to the grotto of the adjacent Catholic Church campus, where the bishops and the parish priest lit candles and welcomed the guests. The procession then circled the village and returned to the main meeting stage, where the meeting began. Songs, prayers, testimonies and kirtans were performed. The Bishop Dr. Canning preached the word of the Lord and conducted the Lord's Supper on Wednesday morning. The meeting ended with a Nagar Kirtan in the afternoon. Eight thousand Christian devotees from all over India attended the meeting

Under the good management and planning of Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty, the development of spiritual services, along with the physical aspects, is continuously underway in the life of the diocese. On

CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT KHARI PASTORATE

Under the good management and planning of Bishop Subrata Chakrabarty, the development of spiritual services, along with the physical aspects, is continuously underway in the life of the diocese. On February 16, the 35-year-old boundary issue of the Mahamaya St. James Church compound in Khari Pastorate was resolved and the construction of new wall was completed. And it was blessed and inaugurated by the Bishop. On this occasion, the Bishop and Diocesan Secretary Mr. Sukalyan Halder were felicitated. Bishop Conducted Holy Communion and Confirmation Service on that day.



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE HELD AT RAMJI MEMORIAL CHURCH



On February 15, 2025, a one-day women's conference was held at Ramji Memorial Church, part of the Jeadergote Pastorate, with 9 pastorates participating. At the conference, the Bishop inaugurated the conference by lighting the lamp and was honoured and felicitated by the members of the Women's Association. The Bishop inspired the women through Amos 4:12 and his personal life experiences.

The conference featured songs, drama, and Bible quizzes. DWFCS President Florence Supriya Chakrabarty and Secretary Smt. Atreyi Mondal and Treasurer Seema Sarkar, Vice President Smt. Mita Mondal were present and they all gave short speeches and greetings. The conference ended with a prayer by the in-charge priest, Revd. Dr. Surajit Sarkar. The entire conference was conducted by Smt. Bimala Mondal.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM GANGASAGAR, KAKDWIP

By the grace of God and under the leadership of the Stewardship Committee led by His Excellency the Bishop of Barrackpore Diocese, a stewardship program was held on February 19 and 20, 2025 at Gangasagar and Kakdwip, South 24 Parganas. About 200 families, the priests and bishops of the diocese, divided into 20 groups, went to their homes with the local people and sang choruses and prayed. Their enthusiasm and hospitality at home are unparalleled. It is truly memorable to be greeted with flowers and feet washed with great devotion while entering every home. At the end of the day, it was a great time of praying together and preaching the Word of God as everyone was blessed.



THE FIRST CHRISTIAN REVIVAL MEETING WAS HELD AT BAMANPUKUR.

On 25th and 26th of February, 2025 with the encouragement and advice of the Bishop, the first Christian revival meeting was held at the Bamanpukur Emmanuel Church under the Canning Pastorate. On the 25th February, 2025 the meeting was inaugurated by the Bishop and Diocesan Secretary Sri Sukalyan Halder. The Bishop and other priests came to the meeting venue and the meetings was began with a procession. The Bishop gave an inspiring sermon and the devotees were spiritually imbued. On the 26th February, 2025 the Lord's Supper was conducted by the Bishop and the Uddipana Sabha ended with a Nagarkirtan. A large congregation of devotees were present.

Sukalyan Halder
Secretary, BDC
Diocese of Barrackpore

NEWS FROM DIOCESE OF CALCUTTA

UNITED MISSIONARY GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL - VISIT OF THE HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER OF WEST BENGAL, MS. MAMATA BANERJEE

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee paid a surprise visit to United Missionary Girls' High School on February 18, 2025 as part of her visit to a Madhyamik Venue. During her visit, the Chief Minister interacted with guardians, the Headmistress, and staff, inquiring about the school's colour wash as it was looking shabby. She consequently instructed that the school be painted immediately, along with developmental work, considering its 192-year old glorious history. The Headmistress was also asked to prepare estimates and submit them to the Chief Minister's officials within a week. On a lighter note she shared that her niece Ms. Arpita Bandopadhyay is an exstudent of UMGHS. On February 25, 2025, the OSD to the Chief Minister, Mr. Soumya Halder, along with his team and Mr Chinmay Sarkar, Deputy Director of the School Education Department, visited the school. They handed over the administrative approval and financial



works and painting of the school building. This development is significant for the school. The Headmistress sought guidance and advice from our Bishop, The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta, in carrying out this task. The school is thankful to the Lord Almighty for His abundant and continued blessings on this institution.

Leena George
Headmistress

CATHEDRAL MISSION HIGH SCHOOL – CENTENARY CELEBRATION

On 25 January 2025, Cathedral Mission High School, celebrated Centenary with a Thanksgiving Worship Service. The school is managed and governed by the Diocese of Calcutta. The school is impacting the young mind in the process of imparting quality and value education. The motto of the school "Purity - Humility and Truth" is truly reflected in its course of life changing initiatives in the minds of learners. The school was established by Revd. Canon Aghorenath Banerjee, a missionary with a pioneer objective to impart education through the medium of English following State Board curriculum. Assessing the socio-economic conditions of the people and to ease the financial burden, he envisioned to promote education through the medium of English so that the students might get the opportunity to fulfill their dream to study in a State Board English medium school.

The centenary celebration reminds the importance of the founder's values and visions which had guided the establishment of the school, amalgamating St Mary's School and Bishop's Collegiate School in the premises of St. Mary's Church. The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta and President of the School Managing Committee, in his message expressed his joy and satisfaction as the Institution continues to follow the same vision which was the driving force for the school. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning was felicitated by Revd. Biswajit Biswas, Secretary of the Managing Committee and Mr Simson Molla the Head Master. The cake cutting ceremony, was led by Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning in the presence of Mr Asim Basu, Councillor, Ward No. 70 and Mayor-in-Council of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, teachers and students. In the second part of the programme, students performed a medley, recitation, dance and drama in, English, Bengali and Hindi. The students staged an English version of the drama 'Kadambini', written by Rabindranath Tagore creating a magical environment, reflecting the talents and enthusiasm of the present and past students. The notable film director Mr Goutam Ghosh and many more alumni attended the Centenary celebration



Mr. Simson Molla felicitated the School Cricket team as they reached the final of the Mayor's Cup-2024 and got the opportunity to participate in the Dattu Phadkar Tournament - organised by Cricket Association of Bengal. With the limited resources in terms of infrastructure, human resources and finance, the school continues to nurture young minds for their holistic development and committed to do the same for years to come .

Simson Molla.
Head master,
Cathedral Mission High School.



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH: "BEST OUT OF WASTE" A GATHERING OF CREATIVITY AND FELLOWSHIP



On 5 January 2025, the Church of the Epiphany Celebrated its 189 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 continuation. On 1st February, 2025 the Women's Fellowship of St. George's Church organized a programme "Best Out of Waste", bringing together the Women's Fellowship Women from the Pastorates of the Diocese of Calcutta. The programme was well attended. The programme focused on creativity, community, and faith, revolving around the Biblical theme: "God makes everything beautiful in His time." (Ecclesiastic 3:11) The programme began with the opening prayer by Revd. Gouranga Haldar, Presbyterian-in-charge of St. George's Church and followed by the praise and worship, led by the Women Fellowship and Youth Fellowship of the Church. Games like "Building the Pyramid", "Pairing Up", Quiz and dance performance by a youth member, set the tone for an enjoyable beginning. This part of the programme was conducted by Mrs. Rose Mary Biswas. The presence of The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta, was of great encouragement to the Church. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning inaugurated the newly renovated pathway, which was made possible by the contributions of the Women's Fellowship of the Church. The ceremony of cutting the ribbon and unveiling of the Tablet marked a milestone for the Church community. The highlight of the programme was the "Best Out of Waste" Competition, where the Women's Fellowship women from the Churches of the Diocese of Calcutta showcased their creativity by transforming household waste into useful and artistic items. In this competition St. James' Church, Kolkata; Jibon Jyoti Upasanalaya, Kalagachhia and St. Thomas' Church, Free School Street won 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively. The programme concluded with giving away plants to each Church, Guests and the Clergy present on the occasion. Mrs. Mariam Haldar, president of the Women's Fellowship proposed vote of thanks. This was followed by fellowship lunch for all. Justin Jabesh Biswas 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



ST. JOHN'S DIOCESAN GIRLS' HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL ANNUAL SENIOR SCHOOL SPORTS

On 7 February, 2025, Diocesan St. John's Girls' Higher Secondary School had their annual senior sports with great enthusiasm and participation. The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta and President of the School Managing Committee, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, along with other distinguished dignitaries. The school ground was filled with excitement as students, teachers, and parents gathered to celebrate the spirit of sportswoman ship and teamwork. The Sports commenced with a grand March Past, where all the four houses displayed impeccable coordination and discipline, led by the track events. This was followed by the theme events. This year, theme was based on the rich cultural and geographical diversity of West Bengal. The events creatively depicted aspects of the State—from picking tea leaves in Darjeeling to the obstacle race titled "The North Bengal Trek", capturing the essence of Bengal's landscape and traditions. Adding to the cultural vibrancy of the event, the shuttle race highlighted the diverse cultural elements of West Bengal, making it a delightful spectacle for the audience. The drill display was another major attraction, as students showcased four ethnic dance forms of Bengal, blending rhythm and movement with athleticism. The parents, alumni, and staff races added an extra layer of excitement to the event. Their enthusiastic participation alongside the students created a spirit of unity and joy, making the event a resounding success. The audience cheered wholeheartedly, fostering a lively and encouraging atmosphere.



ST. THOMAS' BOYS' SCHOOL INTER-HOUSE ATHLETIC MEET



On 1st February, 2025 St. Thomas Boys' School had their Inter House Athletic Meet. On behalf of the Principal, Mr. Suman Biswas, Staff and Students, Mrs. Moushumi Andrews, Head of the Junior department warmly welcomed The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta and Chairman, vDiocesan News v vIn Touch v The North India Church Review April, 2025 17 Board of Governors. Shri. Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Mayor of Kolkata and Cabinet Minister for Urban Development and Municipal Affairs and Housing, Government of West Bengal, graciously accepted the invitation to be present as the Chief Guest for the athletic meet. Mr. Alvito D'Cunha, Ex Indian team Football Player who represented India in the 2002 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and Mr. Douglas Silva, Technical Director, Bishop Canning Sports Academy were the Guests of Honour. On 1st February, 2025 St. Thomas Boys' School had their Inter House Athletic Meet. On behalf of the Principal, Mr. Suman Biswas, Staff and Students, Mrs. Moushumi Andrews, Head of the Junior department warmly welcomed The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta and Chairman, Board of Governors. Shri. Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Mayor of Kolkata and Cabinet Minister for Urban Development and Municipal Affairs and Housing, Government of West Bengal, graciously accepted the invitation to be present as the Chief Guest for the athletic meet. Mr. Alvito D'Cunha, Ex Indian team Football Player who represented India in the 2002 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and Mr. Douglas Silva, Technical Director, Bishop Canning Sports Academy were the Guests of Honour. Among other dignitaries present were Mr. John A. K. Ghosh, Secretary of St. Thomas' Schools, Principal, Mrs. Rachel Elias and Vice Principal Mrs. Melody D'rosario of St.Thomas' Girls' School, Kidderpore. The meet began with the opening prayer, led by Mrs. Melody D'rosario, Vice Principal, St. Thomas' Girls' School, followed by the unfurling of the School Flag by the His Grace, Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning; Mr. Alvito D'Cunha, Ex Indian Football Player and declaring the Inter-House Athletic Meet Open. The official declaration of the commencement of the Inter-House



DIOCESE OF CHHATTISGARH

By the grace of God, the diocese of Chhattisgarh could celebrate Christmas and New year festivals with great joy and happily ended the year 2024 with many achievements. We wish lots of blessings and God's protection for the churches of North

India and in the life of all the dignitaries specially for The Most Revd. Bijaya Kumar Nayak our Moderator Sir. From the very beginning of new year 2025 our Diocese is progressing rapidly in the life and work of Christ's Church and

His mission. Though there are so many obstacles which tries to pull us back but we are continuously overcoming from all kinds of challenges through prayer and fasting.

FASTING AND PRAYER

In the month of January we received threatening against the people of Emmanuel Church. C. N. I. Vishrampur. It was really terrifying to all the Christian community of Chhattisgarh but we did not lose hope in God and went for three days prayer and fasting in different churches. In first day at Emmanuel Church C. N. I., Vishrampur, second day at St. Matthew Church C. N. I., Raipur and third day at St. Paul's Cathedral C. N. I. Raipur, when the Churches were engaged praying to God, our leaders organized a dialogue with Chhattisgarh leaders of Gau Sevak Mr. Omesh Bishen and Vishwa Hindu Parishad Mr. Abhishek Tiwari. After the healthy talk in presence of Village People Vishwa Hindu Parishad Mr. Abhishek Tiwari. After the healthy talk in presence of Village People and lay- leaders we found wonderful solution by God's grace. Finally we got the victory through prayer and fasting as well as by the efforts of our Bishop The Rt. Revd. Sushma Kumar, Revd. Sameer Franklin, Vice President, Mr. Nitin Lawrence, Secretary, Mr. Jaydeep Robinson, Treasure, all presbyter incharges and local congregation of Vishrampur. Thanks to God,



REDEDICATION OF GASS MEMORIAL CENTRE'S CHAPEL

A wonderful memorable moment of rededication of Gass Memorial Centre's chapel was held by the prayer of honorable bishop The Right Revd. Sushma Kumar, along with Revd. Subodh Kumar, Revd. Hemant Timothy, Revd. Asim Vikram, Revd. Sunil kumar, Revd. Shushil Masih Revd. Abraham Das. Dn. Jivan Masih and director of Gass Memorial Centre Mr. Aman William It was a trending a joyous occassion.



PASTOR'S RETREAT



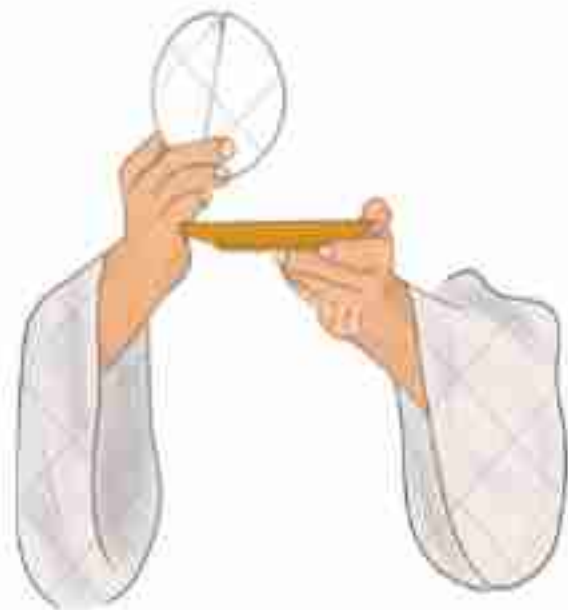
It was on February 26, 2025 we had pastor's retreat and workshop regarding 40 days lent prayer and fasting. The Bishop encouraged everyone through God's word to observe a true fasting and prayer in these Lenten days.

Nitin Lawrence
Secretary,
Diocese of Chhattisgarh



CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH, RANIGANJ

On 2nd March 2025, the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Raniganj conducted Confirmation Service, marking a spiritual milestone for 18 candidates. The service was led by the Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, assisted by Revd. Sumanta Das (Priest in charge). The candidates publicly affirmed their faith and committed to the teachings of the deepened relationship with God. On this occasion they all partook of the Church. The candidates, who had undergone preparatory classes, took an important step in their spiritual journey by receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, a rite that signifies a deepened relationship with God. On this occasion they all partook of the Lord's Supper as recipients. The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, in his Biblical address on John 3:1-8, spoke about the significance of Confirmation as a renewal of one's commitment to live according to Christ's teachings. He encouraged the newly confirmed individuals to remain steadfast in their faith and to serve as examples to others in the community. This service not only marked a personal moment for each of the 18 candidates but also reaffirmed the strength and unity of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. It was a day of great spiritual significance for the church and its members, strengthening their faith and commitment to their Christian journey



SYNOCDICAL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE (SWFCS)

On 18th February 2025, the Synodical Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (SWFCS) conducted a significant visit to the Diocese of Durgapur. The office bearers of SWFCS- Mrs. Archana Singh (President), Mrs. Sucheta Mohanty (Secretary), Mrs Bliss Kharadi (Treasurer), Mrs. Ruby Sen and Dr. Alka Suna (Convener) were present on the occasion. This gathering aimed to strengthen the bonds among women in faith and enhance their roles in community service. The event saw enthusiastic participation from office bearers of local churches, fostering a spirit of unity and collaboration. The day commenced with a prayer service, emphasizing the importance of women's contributions to the church and society. Various sessions included inspiring testimonies, workshops on community outreach, and discussions on addressing social issues faced by women in the region. The members of WFCS shared their experiences and strategies for effective service, highlighting initiatives in education, health, and empowerment. The fellowship concluded with a commitment to work together for the betterment of the communities, reinforcing the message of love and service central to their faith. The SWFCS visit not only uplifted the attendees but also ignited a renewed passion for Christian service among women in the Diocese of Durgapur. This event marked a pivotal moment in fostering leadership and active participation of women in church activities.



THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (URC) PARTNERS VISIT TO DURGAPUR DIOCESE

Bishop Sameer Khimla along with URC partners made a significant visit to St. Michael School on 12th February 2025. The visit provided an opportunity for meaningful interaction and strengthening of ties. The day included a tour of the school, followed by a delightful lunch, where guests had the chance to engage in conversations with the Principal, staff and students. This visit highlighted the ongoing friendship with the URC. On the same day in the evening an informal gathering was held with the diocesan family at St. Michael School Conference Hall to honour and felicitate the URC partners. Children of Durgapur Hostel organized a beautiful program in singing, dancing, reciting poems and playing instrumental pieces. The event aimed to celebrate the strong partnership and shared efforts in the mission of faith and service. On 13th February 2025, the URC Partners from the United Kingdom, along with Bishop Sameer Khimla visited the slum children of Durgapur, to gain first-hand insight into the living conditions and challenges faced by the local communities. Following the slum visit, they visited Durgapur United Church, where they spent quality time with the local church members. Afterward, they visited St. Peter School in Durgapur, interacting with the principal, students and staff to learn more about the educational initiatives and the impact on the local community. The day concluded with lunch. On 14th, February 2025, URC Partners visited Sarenga Central Church and engaged with the community, and they also inaugurated a new Beautician Training Centre, Micro-Finance Project under the Anti-Human Trafficking Program. This initiative aims to empower local individuals with vocational skills to improve their livelihood. The centre is expected to be a hub for women and young people in the area. The URC team also visited KSN Hospital under the Diocese of Durgapur. URC partners visited Bankura Children's Hostel, schools, and Christian College, under the Diocese of Durgapur to strengthen community ties and explore collaboration in education and child welfare. The visit highlights the importance of supporting vulnerable children, addressing educational challenges, and promoting higher education and skill development which reflects URC's commitment to supporting children, youth, and education in Bankura.



2025 SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP



Each year Uniting World, Australia brings the partners together to share their journey of learning, build deeper connections with each other and discuss the responses to the shared challenges. This year Diocese of Durgapur, Church of North India got the privilege to co-host the Annual South Asia Regional Workshop from 17th to 21st February 2025 where the Uniting World church partners from across South Asia (Methodist Church of Sri Lanka, Diocese of Eastern Himalayas, Diocese of Amritsar) gathered in Durgapur. We also got the presence of our Bishop, Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla along with our first lady of the Diocese, Mrs. Sarika Khimla and the Diocesan Office Bearers. The workshop began with a wonderful morning devotion led by our Diocesan Priests followed by an inspiring sermon by our Bishop which emphasized in "loving your neighbour as yourself", a principle found in Leviticus 19:18 and Mark 12:31 that teaches us to extend compassion, kindness and practical help to everyone irrespective of background or circumstances, reflecting God's love and care. This message was a reminder for each of us that our love for one another should be unconditional just like the love of God has for us. After the devotion the sessions were handed over to the Uniting World Team who led rest of the workshop which included project reflections from the past year, technical and interactive sessions on Climate Change, being the main agenda of the workshop and other shared inclusive approaches on Gender, Disability and Safeguarding alongside adapting the tools to address them and bring positive impacts in our respective communities. The discussions also focused on development and implementation of various policies which strengthens the organization by establishing a framework for consistency, clear expectations and compliance, leading to improved efficiency, reduced risks and more positive work environment. Altogether the workshop was very impactful and will be contributory in creating sustainable spaces and connecting with the communities extensively in the coming years.



BAMBOO CRAFT TRAINING CENTRE: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN MANGALPUR, DAKSHIN DINAJPUR



Inauguration and Objective: The Anti-Human Trafficking Program of the Diocese of Durgapur inaugurated the Bamboo Craft Training Centre at Mangalpur, Dakshin Dinajpur on March 7, 2025. This microfinance training initiative aims to empower vulnerable communities by providing sustainable livelihood opportunities. **Training and Skills Development:** Participants are trained to create household bamboo products such as baskets, hand fans, mats, and decorative items. The program enhances economic self-sufficiency and offers alternative income sources to prevent human trafficking. **Impact and Outcomes:** This initiative helps people gain practical skills and start their own businesses. It boosts the local economy, strengthens the community, and preserves traditional crafts. It shows the Diocese of Durgapur's dedication to helping people and supporting economic and social development.

The Revd. Sandipan Sinha
Communication Department
Diocese of Durgapur

NEWS FROM DIOCESE OF PATNA

STRENGTHENING FAITH & FELLOWSHIP: DIOCESE OF PATNA CELEBRATES CATECHIST TRAINING & WORLD PRAYER DAY





Women, across the Diocese, supported by local leaders like Revd. Daniel Murmu, Revd. Bijay Kisku, and Revd. Emanuwel Malto. Theological students and members of the Barharwa Pastorate also contributed significantly. The Graduation Day on 1 March 2025 was a joyous occasion, with diplomas awarded by Bishop Hansda and Revd. Kaiser Dignitaries including Revd. Kono Kisku and Revd. Pradip Kumar Hansdak, attended the ceremony, followed by a fellowship lunch that celebrated the participants' achievements and strengthened community bonds. The program highlights the Diocese's commitment to nurturing leaders and fostering spiritual growth, a vibrant and united faith community. On 7th March 2025, the Diocese of Patna, Church of North India (CNI), marked World Prayer Day with in strengthening families and not only deepened spiritual heartfelt celebrations across its pastorates. Organized by the Women's Fellowship under the guidance of the Diocesan Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (DWFCS), the day was a powerful testament to the unity and faith of the community. The celebrations began with special prayer services, where women from various congregations gathered to pray for global peace, healing, and spiritual renewal. At Barhait Pastorate, the service was led by local women leaders, who emphasized the importance of prayer in strengthening families and communities. Similarly, at Dumka Pastorate, the prayer service featured hymns scripture readings, and intercessory prayers, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere. The Rt. Revd. Francis Hansda, Bishop of the Diocese of Patna commended the DWFCS for their dedication and leadership in organizing the event. He highlighted the vital role of women in the Church and society, encouraging them to continue being pillars of faith and service. The celebrations also included cultural programs, where women showcased their talents through songs, dances, and skits, reflecting the theme of unity and hope. The World Prayer Day celebrations connections but also reinforced the Empowering Catechists, Strengthening Faith Diocese's commitment to empowering women and fostering a culture of prayer and service. Through such initiatives, the Diocese continues to inspire its members to live out their faith in meaningful and impactful ways. On 22nd-23rd February 2025, Bishop Francis Hansda spent time with Sunday School children from remote village churches under the Pathra Pastorate. Engaging them through Bible stories, songs, and activities, the Bishop inspired the young participants, emphasizing the importance of faith and values for the next generation.

Mukul Mrinal Hembrom
Communication Department
Diocese of Patna

