MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA

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MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

"Strengthening Families, Strengthening Faith"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we usher in the month of May, a season of warmth and renewal, we are presented with a profound opportunity to reflect on the very core of our social and spiritual existence. In this issue of the North India Church Review, we turn our hearts toward a theme that is both timeless and urgently relevant: **"Strengthening Families, Strengthening Faith."**

This month, as the global community observes the **International Day of Families** on the 15th of May, we are reminded that the family is not merely a social convenience or a product of human tradition. Rather, the family is God's first institution. Before the establishment of the school, the state, or even the organized church, God created the family as the primary vessel for love, nurture, and the transmission of faith. The home is the first 'Church' a child ever attends. It is within the intimacy of the domestic circle that values are shaped, character is forged, and the foundations of faith are laid. When we speak of Strengthening Families," we are talking about reinforcing the spiritual infrastructure of our entire nation. If the family is strong, the Church is vibrant; if the family is rooted in Christ, the community flourishes. In the book of Joshua, we find a bold declaration that has echoed through the centuries: "But as for me and my household, we
will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15). This was not a passive observation; it was a radical choice made in the face of a culture that was drifting toward other gods. Today, we find ourselves in a remarkably similar position. We live in a world facing complex moral, social, and relational challenges. The pressures of modern life—materialism, digital isolation, and the erosion of traditional= values—often threaten to pull the fabric of the family apart. In such a world, the Christian family is called to be a living witness. We are not called to be perfect, but we are called to be purposeful. Our homes need to be places where the grace, unity, and compassion of God are visible to all. When a family practices forgiveness, they mirror God's mercy. When they show hospitality, they mirror God's welcome. When they pray together, they acknowledge that God is
the true Head of their household. Strengthening our families requires intentionality. It does not happen by accident. It happens when we:

- Prioritize Prayer: Transforming our homes into centers of prayer where we seek God's guidance for every decision.
- Uphold Mutual Respect: Recognizing the divine image in every family member—from our elders to our youngest children.

- Cultivate Love and Peace: Creating an atmosphere where love is not just a feeling, but a daily action of service and sacrifice

The International Day of Families invites us to cherish our loved ones and to work together to bridge the gaps that life's stresses may have created. It is a day to celebrate the bond of kinship and to renew our commitment to the spiritual health of our households.

As your Moderator, my prayer for you this month is that your homes would become sanctuaries of peace. May we move beyond the superficialities of modern existence and dive deep into the riches of a faith-centered family life. When we strengthen the family, we provide the world with the most convincing argument for the Gospel: a community of people who love one another as Christ has loved us.

Let us stand together with the resolve of Joshua. Let our homes be light-houses in a dark world, and let our faith be strengthened as we walk hand-in-hand with those God has placed in our care.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest upon your families, now and forevermore!

+ The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning
Moderator,
Church of North India
& Bishop, Diocese of Calcutta

International Days of Families

FROM THE DESK OF GENERAL SECRETARY

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The month of May brings before us a significant and timely reminder through the observance of the International Day of Families on May 15. This occasion calls us to reflect deeply on the divine institution of the family - established by God as the foundational unit of human society and the primary context in which faith is nurtured, values are imparted, and character is formed.

The declaration of Joshua, "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord," is not merely a personal commitment but a covenantal proclamation. It reflects a conscious decision to centre the life of the family on God. In a time when the Israelites were surrounded by competing loyalties and cultural pressures, Joshua's words stand as a bold affirmation that faith begins at home. Today, we too live in a world marked by rapid change, moral ambiguity, and relational strain. In such a context, Christian families are called to rediscover their identity as households of faith.

The family is God's first institution for love and nurture. It is within the family that children first encounter the language of faith, the practice of prayer, and the witness of Christian living. The home becomes the first church, where the Word of God is shared, where forgiveness is practiced, and where love is made visible in daily acts of care and sacrifice. Strengthening families, therefore, is not merely a social concern but a deeply spiritual responsibility.

However, we must also acknowledge that families today face numerous challenges - broken relationships, generational gaps, economic pressures, and the increasing influence of individualism. These challenges often weaken the bonds that hold families together and, in turn, affect the faith life of individuals. It is in this reality that the Church has a vital role to play.

The Church is called to support, guide, and strengthen families by creating spaces for dialogue, offering pastoral care, and equipping parents and children alike with the tools for faithful living. Family ministries, counselling services, and intentional teaching on Christian family values are essential in this regard. The Church must also model what it teaches by being a community of love, acceptance, and unity On this International Day of Families, we are invited not only to celebrate our families but also to renew our commitment to making our homes centres of prayer, love, and peace. Let every family strive to cultivate mutual respect, open communication, and a spirit of forgiveness. Let us encourage regular family prayer, reading of Scripture, and participation in the life of the Church.

At the same time, this is a call to the wider Church to take seriously its responsibility in strengthening family life. We must work towards promoting harmony, unity, and mutual love within families. This includes addressing issues such as domestic conflict, neglect, and the erosion of moral values with sensitivity and pastoral care. The Church must stand as a beacon of hope, guiding families towards healing and restoration.

As we reflect on the theme "Strengthening Families, Strengthening Faith," let us remember that strong families are the bedrock of a strong Church and a healthy society. When families are rooted in Christ, they become powerful witnesses of God's grace and instruments of His peace in the world.

May this month be a time of renewal for our families. May we, like Joshua, boldly affirm our commitment to serve the Lord in our homes. And may God strengthen every family with His love, wisdom, and abiding presence.

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." May this be our prayer and our practice. God bless you all.

Yours in His Mission

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

EDITORIAL

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, STRENGTHENING FAITH

Joshua said the words above, which we have now received through the biblical text. The context was the renewal of the covenant with the LORD by the assembly of the Israelite leaders at Shechem. In this place, Joshua recalled God's faithfulness to the Israelites from Abraham to the day he gave the land of Canaan to them. The people of Israel were now free to accept or reject the LORD. As for Joshua, he accepted the LORD and his privilege to serve him as his God, and no one else. Significantly, Joshua decided to believe, trust, and serve the LORD along with his household, i.e., family.

On May 1, the CNI celebrates Saint Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus and a carpenter, as the guardian of Christian families. On May 15, the world celebrates the International Day of Families, or the World Family Day, set by the United Nations. Taking our cue from the story of Joshua, and for clarity and convenience, let us rename the theme to a simple phrase, "Family and Faith." The family holds the faith, and the faith holds the family. This interlocks the Christian family and Christian faith inseparably. In other words, a Christian family cultivates, sustains, and nourishes the Christian faith; vice versa, the Christian faith holds the Christian family.

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Granted that every human body, like that of an animal, has a stomach that needs food to sustain and nourish the physical body. But every human being also has a mind that needs intellectual nourishment. We need information, knowledge, and education as intellectual nourishment. Individuals don't live in isolation; instead, we live in our families. It could be that each family member pursues distinct interests to feed their mind, but collectively, the family members share a common spiritual well to feed their faith. This well is the church that enables the family to nourish the faith of its members. It is to this well that we return regularly with our family for nourishing and refreshing ourselves with living water in daily prayers, grace before meals, Sunday services, observing days of fasting and penitence, and feasts for saints, Bible studies, and occasions of fellowship with the faithful. These practices of faith nourish a Christian family.

It is difficult for a person to sustain a fervent faith in isolation; however, the believing members of our family sustain the faith of every member.

As the saying goes, "family that prays together stays together." Granted that every human being has to sust a in he r body externally, she also has an interior will, which also has to be sustained.
another words, the family sustains the faith of its members. Just as the force of human will is significant to sustain life in the physical body, so is the force of faith, which sustains our will to do the right things in life.

Faith plays a significant role in sustaining the family as a distinct Christian entity because we behave as we believe.

May our families, which constitute the basic social unit of the church, flourish in faith, be established in wealth, and increase in numbers. May God, who blessed the families of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, bless our households too, and may Saint Joseph, who protected Mary and the infant Jesus, be the guardian of our family too.

Fr. Monodeep Daniel
(Ph.D Amsterdam)
Dean-Cathedral. New Delhi
& Member, NICR Editorial Board

DEVOTION

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, STRENGTHENING FAITH
FAMILY THAT EATS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER

Few years back Psychologists conducted a survey in USA to identify social groups with highest number of crime rates. It was found that the Jewish community had the lowest crime rate. Psychologists studied the communities with higher crime rates and also the Jewish community, having lowest crime rates. They concluded that communities with higher crime rates had most number of broken or disturbed families, so when the child or youngster went out from their homes for studies or any other activities they had the feelings of fear, insecurity, and anger and so on. And, so they easily would get caught up in criminal activities, which they thought, was their escape from their pathetic family life situation. On the other hand, the Jewish community, had the least number of broken families, and moreover they had the custom of praying by putting hand on their heads when they left homes. These children had calmness, peace and security in their life, and so they resisted being drawn into criminal activities. Health of a community and nation depends on the health of families, and therefore families are very important. But, we seldom spare time to think about our families, and worst we seldom spare time to take concrete steps that would build our families. The United Nations, acknowledging the crucial role a family plays for the development of humanity has proclaimed 15th May as Internal Day of Families. Actually, the entire concept and structure of family is provided by our creator God, and thus, family is a spiritual entity. Bible provides three very helpful insights about family that would help us individually and also as family.
First, God's very first blessing of the creation was to a family.

Genesis 1:28 reveals that God blessed Adam and Eve as a family. God has created us in a way that we love and require fellowship. One of the greatest issues faced by many in present times is the issue of loneliness. Few years back the British government appointed a minister of Loneliness! ! T h e government's step reflects the gravity of issue. Taking clue from the Bible, let us make efforts to strengthen our families, because God has created us in way that we need fellowship. The life is too fast, hectic and exhaustive for us all. Make extra efforts to find even a smallest excuse to have fellowship with the family. Second, in Deuteronomy chapter 6 Moses commanded Israelites to teach their children God's decrees while they are at sitting in home, walking on road or lying down. This means to teach children values of life during daily human activities. In present day's context formal or structured education system has to larger extent become centres of merely imparting some information, which does not actually help to built value based life. Families, particularly Christian families, are to follow God's command to imbibe life values in our Children. And, let us remember, that this is not to be done just by only giving out some instructions, but by setting example through our daily life activities.

The Revd. Sanjay Malaviya
Diocese of Gujarat

NEWS FROM CNI SBSS

OPPORTUNITY IN SCARCITY

Ravindra Shinde, a small farmer from Jamgaon village of Nasik Project Area, had long struggled to make ends meet. Living off just one acre of land, his livelihood depended heavily on uncertain rainfall. Although he owned a dug well, it would often dry up during the summer months, leaving him with little to no water for irrigation. With such limitations, he cultivated crops like wheat and cotton, choices that require somewhat less water but also brought in very limited income. Despite his hard work, his annual earnings remained around ₹30,000, barely enough to sustain his household.

The lack of reliable water sources was the biggest hurdle in Ravindra's farming journey. It restricted him from exploring better crop options and kept him trapped in a cycle of low productivity and income. Over time, this uncertainty began to affect not only his farm output but also his confidence in improving his situation.

CNI SBSS Nasik Project team visited his village during their interaction with Ravindra. They understood his challenges and introduced him to the possibility of installing a drip irrigation system through a government supported subsidy scheme. With the team's encouragement and guidance, Ravindra began to see a way forward that could help him make better use of his land and available water.

Motivated to improve his situation, Ravindra applied for the scheme to install drip irrigation system. After the necessary verification process, his loan was approved within a few months. The sanctioned amount of ₹1,00,000 included a subsidy of ₹35,000, making it feasible for him to install a drip irrigation system on his farm.

With the new system in place, Ravindra made a significant shift in his farming practices. Moving away from traditional crops, he started cultivating vegetables such as brinjal, okra, cluster beans, spinach, fenugreek, and pigeon pea. The drip irrigation system ensured efficient water usage, allowing him to grow crops even during periods of water scarcity. The results were encouraging. Within just five to six months and two cropping cycles, Ravindra earned over ₹1,00,000, which was more than three times his previous annual income. This increase not only

improved his financial condition but also brought stability and confidence into his life. He was now able to manage household expenses more comfortably and plan for the future. However, the journey was not without challenges. Adjusting to a new irrigation system and shifting to vegetable cultivation required learning and consistent effort. Initially, there were uncertainties about crop management, market access, and the system's maintenance. But with persistence and support, Ravindra gradually overcame these obstacles.

Ravindra's story stands as an example of how the right guidance and timely support can transform livelihoods. His experience has inspired other farmers in the village to explore modern irrigation techniques and make better use of available resources. What once seemed like a limitation has now become an opportunity not just for him, but for many around him.

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

/cnisbss

Communication and Documentation desk
CNI SBSS

Diocese of Amritsar

PASTORS' CONFERENCE

Deep Roots, Enduring Hope-Amritsar, is a city steeped in history, and rooted in spirituality. And the role of the Christian community in the city's spiritual and political history is particularly note worthy. A conscientious aura surrounded this metropolis yet again, when the spiritual warriors of the Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India – the presbyters of the diocese from Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir – congregated at St Christopher Chapel, Alexandra School, Amritsar.

Their aim: strengthening their own walk with Christ, as well as that of their colleagues, through the reading and exposition of The Holy Bible, and discussions on the message of the Gospel. The event: Pastor's Seminar, held from March 23rd to 25th.The air was electric with anticipation. The theme of the Pastor's Seminar, 'Growing in Christ', resonated deeply, a reminder that even as leaders, we must continually root ourselves in Christ to bear fruit. The chapel, adorned with vibrant flowers and warm lighting, became a heaven of reflection, learning, and fellowship.

The days unfolded like a beautifully woven tapestry, with devotion and reflection setting the tone. The words of The Rt. Revd. Manoj Charan, Bishop, Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India, "In Christ, we. find our identity, our purpose, our everything," set the stage for Revd. Hemanta Digal stirring message and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The communion service was a poignant reminder of the power of unity and surrender in Christ.

The Revd. Sanjay Malaviya's and Mr. Alwan Masih sessions on the first day were a highlight, guiding pastors on the intricacies of the Gospel, church administration, legal matters, and the essence of growing in Christ. Their conclusion, "A tree is only as strong as its roots," resonated deeply, urging leaders to prioritize their spiritual foundation. Practical insights on finance management and constitution were shared by Mr. Samuel Bhatti, equipping leaders for effective ministry

Revd. Rajni Bala led the evening devotion on the first day. The final day's events unfolded with morning devotion led by Revd. Raj Kumar (Dhauladar Regional Conference), and Reflection by Bishop Manoj Charan. Revd. Sanjay Malviya led the fourth and fifth sessions, besides a session titled 'Growing in Christ' on the second day. The second day of the Pastor's Seminar was marked by insights into the legal matters of the Diocese by Adv. Sushil Daniel the Amritsar Diocesan Trust Association , and Church Administration by Bishop Manoj Charan. As the seminar progressed, the atmosphere became increasingly intimate, with group discussions and shared meals fostering lasting bonds. The laughter and tears shared over meals; the prayers whispered in the chapel's quiet moments – would linger long after the seminar ended. Rev. Pawan Paul led the evening devotion on the second day. The final day's morning devotion, led by Revd. Asha Nand, and Revd. Ayub Daniel, was a fitting culmination, leaving attendees inspired and renewed. The Seventh Session of the Seminar conducted by Revd. Sanjay Malviya was followed by a lively group discussion. As the pastors dispersed post lunch, they carried with them the echoes of Amritsar's message: 'In Christ, we grow, we connect, and we thrive'.

PALM SUNDAY PEACE PROCESSION-A POWERFUL WITNESS TO PEACE - 29TH MARCH

On Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026, the Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India hosted a memorable Peace Procession, observed annually as 'Peace Day'. Amidst the ongoing West Asia crisis, our community came together to spread a message of hope, harmony, and unity. The procession, led by our Bishop, the Rt. Revd. Manoj Charan, began at St Paul's Church, Court Road, and passed through key boulevards in Amritsar leading to Christ Church Cathedral, before returning to St Paul's. The event, which was preceded by special worship services at churches of the diocese in various locations including Amritsar, Ajnala, Batala, Khem-Karan, Tarn Taran, Attari, and Bhindi Saidan, was a powerful reminder of our Christian duty to be agents of peace, spreading love and understanding wherever we go. We were reminded that peace is not just the absence of conflict, but a positive force that promotes justice, equality, and compassion. In his inspiring message, Bishop Charan emphasized, "In a world plagued by conflicts and uncertainties, we must strive for peace, just as Jesus Christ taught us. As peacemakers, we are called to be children of God, spreading brotherly love, harmony, and understanding." He urged us to continue working towards peace, saying, "Let us strive to be agents of peace, spreading love and understanding wherever we go." Bishop Charan also highlighted the importance of our diocesan initiatives, including the Socio-Economic Development Programme, which aims to uplift the marginalized and promote sustainable development. He encouraged us to support these efforts, saying, "Our welfare initiatives are a form of prayer in action, aimed at fostering peace in our communities." Mr Daniel B Das, Secretary, ADTA, echoed these sentiments, saying, "Our welfare initiatives, including the Socio-Economic Development Programme and other projects, are dedicated to the welfare of people, especially the marginalized, and are a form of prayer in action aimed at fostering peace in our communities." The event was preceded by special worship services at churches across the Diocese, where we reflected on the importance of peace and our role as Christians in promoting it. The presence and participation of the believers made this event a meaningful and uplifting experience. As we continue our journey as a Diocese, let us remain committed to promoting peace and harmony in our world. May we be inspired by the words of Bishop Charan, and strive to be agents of peace, spreading love and understanding wherever we go.

A YEAR OF GRACE: BISHOP MANOJ CHARAN'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY AS BISHOP, DIOCESE OF AMRITSAR, CNI

The Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India, gathered in gratitude to mark one year since The Rt. Revd. Manoj Charan was installed as its eighth Bishop. A special Thanksgiving Service was held at the historic Christ Church Cathedral, Amritsar — the same cathedral where he was installed a year ago on April 6, 2025. The service echoed that day's steady voice for the marginalized. Through social initiatives and outreach, the diocese has sought to embody Christ's compassion. Beyond the church walls, Bishop Charan has championed interfaith dialogue as a path to peace, insisting on harmonious coexistence in the region. A seasoned theologian and administrator, Bishop Manoj Charan is no stranger to leadership. Former Bishop of Bombay, Acting Deputy Moderator of the CNI, and the church's representative at the 2022 Lambeth Conference, he brings global vision paired with a sociologist's ear for culture. His mantra cuts through noise: 'Not conversion, but conversation.' The anniversary service brought together a wide fellowship: Executive Committee members, institution heads, school staff, and clergy with congregations from Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. Representatives from diocesan ministries — SEDP, ADTA, DMRC, Sunday School Ministry, Diocesan Youth Fellowship, Turning Point, Education Project staff, and DWFCS — joined in common thanks. Choirs from three local churches led praise and worship, their hymns adding depth and reverence to the evening. Moments were set aside to honour Bishop Manoj Charan's dedicated leadership and vision. Institutions voiced appreciation for the growth seen across the Diocese under his care. A video from the Department of Communication traced the year's journey — programs, milestones, and mission expanded. "My vision is to work collaboratively, to face our weaknesses and build on our strengths," he said. "Together, we can make a meaningful impact." The service concluded with a vote of thanks from Diocesan Secretary, Mr. Rahul Rex Kaul

SYNOD LEVEL YOUTH CONVENTION 2026, AMRITSAR
THEME: "DRY BONES LIVING AGAIN"

The Synod Level Youth Convention 2026 in Amritsar was a vibrant and spiritually enriching gathering that brought together youth from various dioceses under the inspiring theme, "Dry Bones Living Again." Over the course of two days, the convention beautifully blended worship, learning, fellowship, and leadership development, leaving a lasting impact on all participants.

Day 1- commenced with great joy and enthusiasm through an inspiring inaugural session filled with prayer, praise, and the Word of God, setting a strong spiritual foundation for the convention. The event was formally inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Manoj Charan, Bishop of the Diocese of Amritsar, who also led the Bible study and shared profound spiritual insights, encouraging the youth in their faith journey. Rev. Dr. Pulak Samantaroy further uplifted the gathering with a powerful and thought-provoking message, inspiring young hearts toward deeper faith and responsible leadership.

strategized, and encouraged one another. The activity served as a reminder of the importance of integrity and unity in the Christian walk. Further enriching the day were group discussions and presentations, where participants shared creative ideas and practical strategies to strengthen youth fellowships in their respective dioceses. These sessions reflected not only enthusiasm but also maturity, leadership potential, and a deep commitment to the future of the Church. The Bible study conducted by Mr. Yashab Charan added spiritual depth to the day, reinforcing key lessons and encouraging participants to remain rooted in God's Word.

The day was marked by uplifting worship sessions, enriching teachings, and meaningful fellowship among delegates. The presence of church leaders and dignitaries added grace and significance to the occasion. The evening concluded with a vibrant cultural night, where the youth showcased their talents, creating a joyful and memorable atmosphere. Day 2- brought a dynamic and interactive dimension to the convention. A specially organized 'Treasure Hunt' activity, led under the visionary leadership of Mr. Yashab Charan, President of the Synodical Youth Fellowship Committee (SYFC), CNI, provided both enjoyment and learning. What appeared to be a simple game became a meaningful experience, helping participants discover deeper Biblical knowledge in an engaging and practical way. The spirit of teamwork, fairness, and sportsmanship was clearly visible as young participants collaborated,

Overall, the Synod Level Youth Convention 2026 was not merely an event, but a transformative experience. It successfully combined fellowship, learning, leadership, and spiritual growth, inspiring young individuals to rise with renewed faith and purpose—truly embodying the theme, "Dry Bones Living Again."

HISTORIC VISIT OF THE DIOCESE OF BHOPAL TO THE DIOCESE OF AMRITSAR, CNI

Historic Visit of the Diocese of Bhopal to the Diocese of Amritsar Under the gracious leadership and guidance of the Rt. Revd. Manoj Charan, Bishop of the Diocese of Amritsar, a historic and memorable visit was hosted for the Diocese of Bhopal. The delegation from the Diocese of Bhopal, led by the Rt. Revd. Neena Charan, arrived in Amritsar marking a significant milestone, as this was the first-ever official visit of the Diocese of Bhopal to the Diocese of Amritsar. This moment stands as a landmark in the shared history of both dioceses, symbolizing unity, fellowship, and mutual encouragement in Christ. Upon their arrival in Amritsar, the delegation visited the diocesan office, where they were warmly welcomed with great joy and enthusiasm by the Rt. Revd. Manoj Charan, Bishop of the Diocese of Amritsar, along with the entire diocesan staff and local priests, including the Diocesan Secretary, Mr. Rahul Rex Kaul. A time of fellowship over lunch provided an opportunity for meaningful interaction, exchange of greetings, and strengthening of relationships between the two dioceses. The joy of this first-time exchange was deeply felt by all present. The visit also included local sightseeing and cultural experiences. The delegation visited the Golden Temple and the Wagah Border, gaining a deeper appreciation of the region's heritage.

Chamba, where the Bishop's Episcopal Visit marked another significant moment. The congregation warmly received them, and it was a joyful occasion of unity and shared faith. After attending the worship service at the CNI Church in Chamba, the delegation visited Chamera Dam, where they enjoyed a time of fellowship along with boating activities.

Throughout the visit, the delegation experienced heartfelt hospitality, meaningful fellowship, and spiritual enrichment. They expressed great joy and appreciation for the warm welcome extended by the Diocese of Amritsar. The exchange of greetings, shared worship, and mutual encouragement strengthened the bond between the two dioceses. This visit will be remembered as a historic and blessed occasion, marking the beginning of a new chapter of collaboration and fellowship between the Diocese of Amritsar and the Diocese of Bhopal.

Department of Communication
Diocese of Amritsar, CNI

Diocese of Barrackpore

BISHOP'S PRESENCE AT MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT KEORAPUKUR PASTORATE

On 2nd April, 2026 at St. Paul's Church in Keorapukur Pastorate, a solemn Maundy Thursday Service was held in the gracious presence of Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakarbarty. At the outset of the program, Revd. Dipendu Pramanik, the Priest-inCharge of the Keorapukur pastorate, welcomed the Bishop and Mrs. Florence Supriya Chakrabarty. with floral greetings on behalf of the congregation. This meaningful and reverent service of Foot Washing and the Lord's Supper was conducted by the Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakrabarty. Bishop of the Barrackpore Diocese, With the participation of all believers, the service was completed in a deeply spiritual atmosphere. The worship began with prayers, hymns, and Bible readings. In his message, the Bishop spoke about Christ's teachings of humility, service, and love. He then demonstrated Christ's example by washing the feet of the believers, symbolizing humility and selfless love. Through this act, he encouraged everyone to walk in the path of humility and love. The service concluded with a special prayer, and all present received blessings. This Maundy Thursday service became a profound spiritual experience for the faithful of Keorapukur Pastorate.

BISHOP'S PRESENCE AT GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT CHAPRA PASTORATE

On 3rd April, The Good Friday service was held at Chapra Pastorate. The solemn occasion was graced by the presence of the Bishop of Barrackpore Diocese, Rt. Rev. Subrata Chakrabarty, along with Reverend Kishore Mondal, Priest-in Charge. With the participation of all believers, the service was conducted in a deeply spiritual atmosphere. The worship began with prayers, hymns, and Bible readings. The Bishop highlighted the significance of Good Friday as a powerful example of love, forgiveness, and sacrifice for humanity. The Seven Last Words of Christ were recited and explained, emphasizing their spiritual meaning. The presence of the Bishop made this special service a deeply enriching and spiritual experience for the believers of Chapra.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES CONDUCTED BY THE BISHOP ACROSS VARIOUS PASTORATES

On the occasion of Holy Easter Sunday, the Rt. Revd . Subrata Chakrabarty, Bishop of Barrackpore Diocese conducted Resurrection services across various pastorates of the diocese. At midnight (12:00 noon), he led the Easter Vigil service at Jeadargot Pastorate, assisted by Revd. Dr. Surajit Sarkar, Priest-inCharge. The next service was held at 5:00 AM at St. Mary's Church in Raghabpur Pastorate. In the early morning service, through hymns, Bible readings, and his sermon, the Bishop spoke about the Resurrection, filling the hearts of believers with Christ's blessings. At 7:30 AM, another service was conducted at St. Peter's Church in Talpukur, Gangrai Pastorate. There, the Bishop shared messages of hope, peace, and love

based on the Resurrection and blessed all present. In each service, the Holy Communion was administered.These Easter services were celebrated with deep spirituality and joy, making the day truly memorable for all believers. The Bishop conveyed Easter greetings of peace, love, and hope to all members of the diocese

OFFICIAL VISIT OF MOST REVD. DR. PARITOSH CANNING, MODERATOR OF THE CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA, TO BARRACKPORE DIOCESE

On the 11th April, the Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator of the Church of North India, graced the Diocese of Barrackpore by his presence. The purpose of this official visit was to meet the Diocesan members, exchange views, and discuss future plans. During the visit, the Moderator participated in a joint meeting with the clergy, EC members, GBFB, BDTA members, and heads of all Bengali and English medium educational institutions under the diocese. The meeting was held in a warm and cordial atmosphere. The Moderator appreciated the diocese's work in education, spiritual development, and administration, and provided valuable guidance for implementing future plans. The Bishop of Barrackpore Diocese, Rt. Revd. Subrata Chakrabarty, Vice President Revd. Dr. Surajit Sarkar, and Mr. Sukalyan Haldar Secretary also shared their thoughts. Emphasis was placed on working together in unity across all institutions and congregations. The Moderator attentively listened and offered necessary guidance. The official visit of Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning to the Barrackpore Diocese was considered encouraging and fruitful. The meeting concluded with prayer.

Mr. Sukalyan Halder
Secretary, BDC
Diocese of Barrackpore, CNI

SISTER FLORENCE COLLEGE OF NURSING - 16TH LAMP LIGHTING AND GRADUATION CEREMONY, 2026

On 10 April 2026 Sister Florence College of Nursing held its 16th Lamp Lighting and Graduation Ceremony, 2026 at Behala Sarat Sadan. The Most Revd. Dr Paritosh Canning, Moderator, Church of North India and Bishop of Calcutta presided over the programme. He inaugurated the programme in the lighting of the lamp ceremony. Dr. R K Mitra, Managing Director, KRMC; Mr. Ritesh Sarkar, Hony. Secretary, Sister Florence College of Nursing along with Mr. Raghab Naik, Hony. Secretary,Calcutta Diocesan Trust Association (Pvt) was present on the occasion as special guests The college offers graduate nursing courses under the West Bengal University of Health Sciences, affiliated to INC & WBNC since 2006.A total of 44 graduates with their parents, newly admittedstudents, invitees, guests, students,

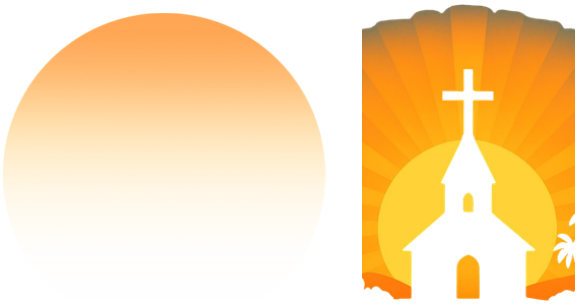
uphold the name of the Institution. The programme concluded with handing over of the certificates and prize distribution by The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator, CNI. Ms. Anindita Jana was awarded the all rounder prize in memory of Madam Reena Bose for her excellent performance throughout the academic session: 2021-2025 followed by the vote of thanks. The Principal, Teaching and Non teaching teachers were present. The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator, CNI in his address encouraged the students to work with dedication, sincerity and uphold the dignity of the nursing profession. Mr. Ritesh Sarkar and Mr. Raghab Naik encouraged students to work with discipline and staff expressed their gratitude to The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning for his valuable presence and blessings In-spite of his busy schedule.

Prof. Dr. Jharna Ghosh
Principal Sister Florence
College of Nursing

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY - EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP

On April 5, 2026 Easter Sunrise Worship of the Church of the Epiphany was held as is the tradition of the Church to have the Easter Holy Communion at 4:30am. The Most Revd. Moderator, Church of North India and Bishop of Calcutta shared God's Word and Celebrated the Holy Communion. The Moderator's message was on the power of Resurrection. The congregation was blessed by his message and expressed their wholehearted gratitude for his message, care and concern for the Church.

The Revd. Sandip Bisoi



BHAWANIPUR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH – 158TH FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 8th March 2026 Bhowanipur Congregational Church celebrated 158th Foundation Day in a Thanksgiving Worship . The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator, Church of North India and Bishop of Calcutta conducted the Worship . The Office Bearers and Clergy of the Diocese of Calcutta; invited guests and the congregation were present on the occasion. Among the guests, the Municipal Councilor of Ward No. 70 and Member of Mayoral Council, Mr. Ashim Kr. Bose was present

The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, thanked the Pastorate Committee and the congregation for their dedication and service to the Church. He encouraged all gathered to be strengthened and work on the theme for the coming three years "Growing in Christ" which he has envisioned for the Church of North India with Biblical examples from the Book of Joshua. Giving examples of the Israelites he exhorted how a believer should carry the Ten Commandments of God in daily life and to be obedient to Him in order to overcome obstacles and barriers. The Church choir presented special hymns to mark the occasion. The celebrations concluded with the traditional anniversary cake cutting ceremony followed by a time of fellowship and distribution of dinner boxes for all gathered.

The Revd. Sreeraj Mohanty
Presbyter in-Charge

UNITED CHRISTIANS OF KOLKATA - EASTER RALLY 2026

The 2026 Easter Rally in Kolkata, organized by the United Christians of Kolkata, was held on Easter Sunday April 5, 2026, starting at 4 pm from four different points viz. Bishop's College, Union Chapel, Sacred heart Church and Entally baptist Church; culminating in a Closing Worship at St. James' School grounds. The procession brought together various Resurrection, promoting themes of unity, peace, and hope. During the past few years Christians of different denominations in the city of Kolkata have never let go an opportunity to come together to be witnesses of Christian unity. Easter Rally has been one such occasion of true inter-denominational Christian denominations to celebrate the unity in the city. The Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator, Church of North India and Bishop of Calcutta, CNI took the lead in organising and making all the arrangements for the rally. Over an estimated 2,000 people witnessed for the Risen Lord Jesus Christ and took part in the Easter Rally and celebrations.

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH HOWRAH - EASTER RALLY 2026

On 5th April 2026 St. Thomas' Church organized the Easter Rally in association with all Churches in the district of Howrah drawing the faithful in big numbers under the leadership of The Most Revd. Paritosh Canning, Moderator, Church of North India, Bishop of Calcutta and President, Bengal Christian Council. The rally brought together members from the Diocese of Calcutta, the Roman Catholic Church, Baptist Congregations, NWGEL Church, Nutan Asha Mandali, Pentecostal Fellowships, Independent Churches and others who are part of Howrah District Christian Forum. The unprecedented gathering reflected a spirit of harmony and cooperation among diverse denominations. The procession took to the streets starting from St. Thomas' Church, Howrah, through the main streets of the town(M. G. Road, Rishi Bankim Chandra Road, Nityadhan Mukherjee Road, G.T. Road, Church Road) before returning to the Church premises.

Participants, ranging from children to senior citizens, actively took part in the rally through hymns, dances, skits, street plays, and colourful placards conveying messages of peace, love, and unity. The event was graced by the presence of The Most Reverend Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator of the Church of North India, Bishop of the Diocese of Calcutta, and President of the Bengal Christian Council. His encouragement and leadership were instrumental in inspiring the initiative. The Most Reverend Elias Frank, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Calcutta sent greetings and encouraged all who took part in the processions. This year's message was that of the teachings of Jesus to "Love one another." The rally concluded with a Gospel Evening along with Prayers, Greetings from participating Churches and cultural programme at St. Thomas' Church, Howrah.

The Revd. Amiya Das

THE SOUTH KOLKATA EASTER RALLY 2026

The South Kolkata Easter Rally on Sunday, 5th April, 2026 which began at St. Peter's Church culminated at the Church of the Epiphany was a significant and spiritually uplifting event that brought together the Christian community in large numbers to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The event was graced by the presence of the Moderator of the Church of North India, the Most Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, whose participation added great significance to the occasion. Alongside him, Rev. Asis Ebenezer, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in India, was also present, contributing to the spiritual encouragement of the gathering. A notable highlight of the rally was the formation of a joint Ecumenical Choir, which led the congregation in worship through hymns and songs, beautifully reflecting the unity of different denominations coming together in one voice. Churches participated in the programme that followed. Overall, the South Calcutta Easter Rally 2026 stood as a powerful testimony of faith, unity, and communal harmony, leaving a lasting spiritual impact on all who participated. We give thanks to God for our Moderator and Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning's efforts resulting in the Diocese of Calcutta, leading and nurturing the faithful in the Diocese of Calcutta in their spiritual and temporal journey of life.

The Revd. John Peter Makhal

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH - THIRD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Calcutta, Moderator of the Church of North India, and President of the Bengal Christian Council. His encouragement and leadership were instrumental in inspiring the initiative. The Most Reverend Elias Frank, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Calcutta sent greetings and encouraged all who took part in the processions. This year's message was that of the teachings of Jesus to "Love one another." The rally concluded with a Gospel Evening along with Prayers, Greetings from participating Churches and cultural programme at St. Thomas'Church, Howrah.

The Revd. Amiya Das

Diocese of Delhi

DIOCESE OF DELHI'S HARYANA CONVENTION, 2026

'Bless the Lord, O My Soul, And Forget None of His Benefits". (Psalm 103:2)

The Spiritual Convention in Haryana aligned with the Mission & Vision of our Bishop with the theme "Growing in Christ" was successfully conducted from 20th March 2026 to 22nd March 2026 at Jagadhri. The Rt. Rev. Ajay Umesh James (Bishop of Jabalpur C.N.I.)was the Chief Guest & Speaker. He powerfully shared the word of God with a lot of zeal and enthusiasm. The participants of the spiritual convention were the congregations of all the C.N.I. Churches of Haryana, as well as St. Thomas School Jagadhriand Philadelphia Hospital, Ambala. It was their prayers, energy and financial support that made this convention a huge success. Additionally, there were about 60 Pastors from other denominations from the neighboring areas who along with their congregations wholeheartedly participated to be a great witness of this revival meeting. The impressive gathering of around 1200 people was a true reflection of the UNITY, WITNESS AND SERVICE. The many energetic choirs'with their soulful songs were the spiritual preparation to hear and absorb the word of God.

DIOCESE OF DELHI'S ST. STEPHEN HOSPITAL'S COLLEGE OF NURSING AWARDED BEST NURSING COLLEGE

St. Stephen's Hospital College of Nursing (SSHCON) in Delhi has been honored as the "Top Nursing College of the Year 2025 - Clinical Training & Hospital Integration". This award recognizes the college's excellence in clinical training, supported by over 100 years of nursing education experience and its integration with the 500 plus bedded multi-specialty tertiary care hospital. St. Stephen's Hospital College of Nursing Established in 1908, it is one of the oldest nursing training institutions in India. St. Stephen's Hospital College of Nursing consistently secures 'A' Grade certification from the Joint Assessment Committee (JAC) and State Fee Regulatory Committee (SFRC).

Hospitals are always instrumental in not only offering treatment to the sick population but also goes an extra mile in fulfilling social responsibility, focusing on benefit of society, balancing economic growth with welfare, environmental protection, and social well-being. St. Stephen's Hospital College of Nursing was Awarded A+ (Gold) Grade in the DESC 2025 initiative for sustainability and social responsibility. Also it has ranked among the top nursing colleges in India in the Indian Institute Ranking Framework (IIRF) Nursing Ranking 2025.

Sunil Sannoo
Diocese of Delhi

XVIII DIOCESAN ORDINARY COUNCIL

The XVIII Ordinary Council of the Diocese of Durgapur (CNI) was held from 20th March to 22nd March 2026 in a spirit of unity, prayer, and thanksgiving. The Council began with a Holy Communion Service led by the Bishop, The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, setting a prayerful and thankful atmosphere for the gathering. During the sessions, reports from all Diocesan Ministries were presented, highlighting the ongoing work, mission, and growth of the Diocese. The Council also witnessed the election of a new Executive

Committee along with the formation of various Standing Committees. Ajoyful moment of the Council was the election of the new Diocesan Office Bearers: Revd. Swapan Darman,Vice President, Mr. Kamakhya Biswas, Secretary, Revd. Sudhir Hembrom, Treasurer. The newly elected Office Bearers and Executive Committee members were prayerfully installed and committed themselves to serve faithfully in the coming years. The outgoing Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer were warmly appreciated for their dedicated and sincere service. A significant highlight of the Council was the official launch of the new logo of the Diocese of Durgapur, marking a fresh identity and renewed vision.The Council concluded with a Holy Spiritfilled Holy Communion Service led by the Bishop, bringing the gathering to a meaningful close. The Diocese was encouraged to continue its mission under God's guidance with the theme: "Witnessing Christ: Jesus Glorified." Committee along with the formation of various Standing Committees. Ajoyful moment of the Council was the election of the new Diocesan Office Bearers: Revd. Swapan Darman,Vice President, Mr. Kamakhya Biswas, Secretary, Revd. Sudhir Hembrom, Treasurer. The newly elected Office Bearers and Executive Committee members were prayerfully installed and committed themselves to serve

REDEDICATION OF ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL OFFICES

The newly renovated offices of St. Michael's School, Raniganj, under the Diocese of Durgapur, were rededicated in a solemn and reverent service. The Bishop, Rt. Revd. Sameer Isaac Khimla invoked Divine Blessings through Prayer, accompanied by Diocesan Office Bearers, Clergy, Heads of Institutions, and the school family. This occasion reflects a renewed vision and steadfast commitment to nurturing young minds in faith, love, wisdom, and humility.

THE DIOCESE OF DURGAPUR CELEBRATED PRESBYTERIAL ORDINATION

The newly renovated offices of St. Michael's School, Raniganj, under the Diocese of Durgapur, were rededicated in a solemn and reverent service. The Bishop, Rt. Revd. Sameer Isaac Khimla invoked Divine Blessings through Prayer, accompanied by Diocesan Office Bearers, Clergy, Heads of Institutions, and the school family. This occasion reflects a renewed vision and steadfast commitment to nurturing young minds in faith, love, wisdom, and humility.

On 19th April with joyful hearts and deep thanksgiving, the Diocese of Durgapur CNI family celebrated the Presbyterial Ordination of Revd. Babul Sardar. The service was presided over by the Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur at St. Michael's and All Angels' Cathedral. On this special occasion, the Bishop delivered a powerful sermon based on Mark 10:35-45, reminding all present that true ministry is rooted not in power

CLERGY & SPOUSES' RETREAT 2026

Under the theme "Rest, Renewal, Shared Joy in Christ," the Diocese of Durgapur joyfully organized the "Clergy & Spouses Retreat" from 17th to 18th April 2026 at Diocesan Bhavan. The retreat was a meaningful time of spiritual growth, refreshment, and fellowship. Various sessions were led by the Bishop, Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, and
Mrs. Sarika G. Khimla, along with Revd. Dr. Amos Massey and Revd. Dr. Samuel Mall.

The program centered on worship, learning, and interactive sharing. Participants engaged in deep Biblical reflection, discovering true joy in Christ and renewal for their shared ministry. Fun-filled outdoor games brought laughter and strengthened unity among all. It was truly a refreshing and grace filled retreat for everyone who attended.

Communication Department
Diocese of Durgapur