



RICE COAL

ASANSOL DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021



St. Joseph, The Man of Dreams



The solemnity of St. Joseph takes a special place this year as our Holy Father has declared it as the Year of St. Joseph. In September 2019, I was quite amused to see statutes of Sleeping St. Joseph in the souvenir shops of Rome. I had purchased a few to give to some of my friends just as a novelty. It is only when Pope Francis announced December 08, 2020 to December 08, 2021 as the Year of St. Joseph, I began to study the meaning of sleeping St. Joseph.

It was in a dream that Joseph accepted his role as foster father of Jesus. St. Joseph is attentive and tender guardian of the Holy Family, a just man who accepts and guards the mysteries of God as willingly chose to accept and protect Mary, the woman chosen by God to be the most Holy and Immaculate Mother of his only Son.

While asleep St. Joseph received messages from God, warning him of danger posed by King Herod and entrusting him to love and protect Mary and Baby Jesus. During Joseph's slumber, God revealed to him His plan regarding him and Mary. God spoke to Joseph in a particular way when he was the most silent. In dreams, God told Joseph to take Mary as his wife; to flee to Egypt in order to escape Herod; and then to return to Nazareth when the threat ceased.

In times of anxiety and difficult problems, Joseph was peaceful, trusting in God and doing His will faithfully. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph several times in his sleep, in his dreams, and conveyed God's message to him. Why should we pray to the sleeping St. Joseph? Bible teaches that the prayer of the upright man has great power (James 5:16). And the Gospel very clearly defines that Joseph was "an upright man". (Mt.1:19).

Pope Francis has a special devotion to St. Joseph. It was in the church of St. Joseph in Buenos Aires that 17 year old Jorge Mario Bergoglio discovered his vocation in 1953, and decided to dedicate his life to God and his fellow humans. Many years later, it was on the feast of St. Joseph, 19th March 2013, would inaugurate his ministry as the Pontiff and head of the Church.

+Salvadore Lobo

Notice

On 21 Feb 2021, Sunday, Pope Francis proclaimed an upcoming year dedicated to the family as he doubled down on one of his papal priorities and urged renewed attention to his controversial 2016 document on family life.

Francis announced the upcoming **Year on the Family** would begin on March 19, the fifth anniversary of his document "The Joy of Love." Francis penned the document after summoning bishops from around the world to debate how the Catholic Church can better minister to families. While the divorce-remarriage issue dominated headlines during the back-to-back synods.

In making the announcement, Francis offered some friendly papal advice to bickering families, reminding them to say "pardon me, thank you and sorry" and never end the day without making peace.

FROM MY MEMORY

After finishing my philosophical studies, I went for one month home holidays. As I came back from home, though I was posted at Sacred Heart Church, Kharagpur for my regency, Late Archbishop Henry D'Souza asked me to stay at Vianney House, 50, Park Circus and to report every day at Arch-Bishop's House.

The second day, when I went to the archbishop's house to report Arch-Bishop told me, that I have to help all volunteers of Salt lake refugee camp, where the Refugees from Bangladesh were staying. So every day I used to take volunteers to Salt Lake in the morning and bring them back in the evening. After returning, I used to go for marketing to purchase various things like medicine, utensils and clothes for the refugees, Doctors and volunteers, from whole-sale market at Bagree market. We used to distribute them to all other refugee camps situated at different places like Bamundanga, Gobradanga, Barackpore- Nilgange. Salt lake camp was the biggest, over 1 Lakh people. when I went to purchase things, the owner used to ask me, how much commission shall I add. I said, no commission to be added. I need exact price bill. Thus I was involved with refugee relief camps for six months from June to December.

Then I was sent next 6 months to Howrah Parish under Fr. Michael Bhaju and Fr. Merywin Carapiet, the Head Master of the School, I was given 36 periods per week, more than regular teachers. I was also boarding in-charge. I used take the inmates to the ground for exercise for half an hour at 5.30 a.m. Then I was giving introduction on Sunday Holy Mass. Every Sunday, in the afternoon, I was asked to take moral science classes to non-Christian boys. Besides teaching, I had correction of answer papers about 60 to 65 students daily. There was no free time at all. After 4 months, the Head Master told me, you need some relaxation, gave me some money and told me to go for a movie. And the noise of bus and train was terrible because the parish was situated next to the bus stand and railway station. Nearly one month I could not get proper sleep, after that I got used to the noise. Thus I spent my 6 months toughest Regency under 2 priests. That experiences are still fresh in my memory.

(To be continued...)

+Bishop Cyprian Monis

Blood Donation Camp

On 30th January 2021, blood donation camp was organized in-collaboration with Burnpur Blood Donors Welfare Association at St John's Church, Chellidanga. Blood donation camp was inaugurated jointly by the donor of blood donation movement's Mr. Praveer Dhar and Fr Dolphy Mathias, Parish Priest of St John's Church. And the certificates were given to all the blood donors. Special thanks to Fr Dolphy for organising the blood donation camp at St. John's Church. The camp was a success and received a very positive response from the parishioners.

Mr. Thomas Bunty



Valentine's Day Celebration



On 14th Feb 2021, a group of 25 Couples volunteered to celebrate the valentine's day with the Tribal Children at Chetana Tribal Hostel, Talit. Couples were an inspiration for the future young couples. They Acknowledged that the valentine's day is meant to spread love to all. As a token of their love, they donated the sports articles and study materials to all the children in the Hostel. May God bless these young couples.

Br Jijo

Holy-Childhood Day Celebration

On 14th Feb 2021, Holy-Childhood day was celebrated at St John's Church. About 150 children participated in the Holy Eucharist. They generously gave their contribution for this cause. The meaning of Holy-Childhood Day was beautifully explained by Fr Dolphy during the Holy Eucharist. He also encouraged them to have concern for the needy and vulnerable children in the society.

Mr Thomas Bounty



Blessing of Matha Florence's statue

On 22nd Feb 2021, on third death anniversary of Matha, The statue of Matha Florence was blessed and garlanded. Her two nieces were present for the function. His Lordship Bp Monis blessed the statue and presided over the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Sunil Rozario gave a speech on the mission of Mata Florence. He donated the statue. Few priests from Asansol vicinity part-took in the function. After the tea break a short cultural program was performed by 'dance & drama artists' from Kolkata. Program ended with a delicious lunch..

Fr Peter



Priests' Recollection



On 8th Feb 2021, the priests of our diocese gathered at Chetana for the recollection. Fr Bernard Murmu SJ guided the recollection based on the theme 'touched by God'. He shared the touch of God throughout his life journey as neo-catechumen, as a seminarian and as a priest. About 30 to 40 Priests were present. Recollection concluded with the Holy Eucharist presided by Bishop Cyprian Monis and other priests concelebrated the holy Eucharist.

Young Clergy Gathering

On 9th Feb 2021, young clergy of our diocese gathered at Chetana. 7 young priests were present. Fr Sebastine Rodrigues, Fr Sarto and Fr Bernard Murmu SJ accompanied their gathering through their life experiences as priests. All the Priests shared their joys and difficulties experienced in their pastoral ministries in the gathering. The gathering was concluded with the holy Eucharist presided by Fr Gnan Murmu.



Handicraft Exhibition



To bring out the talents of the village children GNANAM SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE [GSSC] Kurmun organized Handicraft Exhibition in the village Coaching Centre. The programme was held on 10th, 16th & 23rd Feb 2021 in three villages at kherur, Kubachpur & Chotobelun. Children exhibited their handworks and parents admired the creativity of their children. They felt happy about it. Sr. Merlin the Coordinator appreciated the children, selected best three items and provided gifts to them.

Sr Merlin SAC

Annual Retreat at Ahmedpur Mission

On 25th Feb 2021, Annual Retreat was organized at three different village areas of , Nirmal Hriday Church, Ahmedpur to prepare the people for the great Pascal festival. The retreats will be till March 6, for three days in each village area. Sr Mary Tudu and team, is guiding the people. In each Area, Village leaders and people made all the arrangements for the retreat.



Festival at Saltora

After many years of mission, On 11.02.21 we had first time a Solemn High Mass with different neighbourhood communities came to celebrate the feast of our lady of Lourdes at Friends of Jesus Convent, Saltora which is dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. Two FJ sisters from Jhantphady, Fr.E.V.Joseph, Fr.Alphonse, Fr.Sebastian Nalael from Bankura Community, Fr. Henry Rodrigues from Hatikunder, Srs. Cecilia and Monica from Raniganj, Fr.Rahul and Fr. Kolandai from Burnpur and Bp. Cyprian Monis, made the festival very solemn with their presence. Fr.Harsha along with Srs. Veronica and Carolina made necessary arrangements.

While thanking all priests and Sisters, Fr. Harsha said that for the 1st time we had a solemn festival of our lady of Lourdes at Saltora Mission. He was very happy as the neighboring community responded to his invitation. Bishop in his homily expressed that the need to intercede with our Lady and Jesus to bring more Family towards Christ.

Fr. Harsha

Faith formation classes

Faith formation class conducted for 90 catholic children from 11th to 17th February at kamarpara mission. Simultaneously classes for the Communion & confirmation also conducted. Children orientation, social responsibility of cleaning village road and cultural aspects were highlighted.

Fr Brito



Polio Vaccine



Polio vaccine was administered to all catholic children in the age group of 0-5 years at kamarpara mission on 7.2.2021 Sunday after the Mass. Mrs. Manoshi Ghosh, AWW, ICDS In-charge along with local Ashadidi Mrs. Kolpana Besra gave awareness program and gave Polio drops to children. Kamarpara mission thanks them.

Fr Brito

BIBLE QUIZ



On 31.1.2021, BIBLE QUIZ on LUKE'S GOSPEL was conducted at St. Paul's Church's Kulti immediately after the Holy Mass. Srs. Priyanka and Christina CSST were the Chief Guest and guest of honour. Frs Arockia and Peter made all the arrangements...The participants and audience enjoyed the event...

Fr Peter

News around the Diocese

- On 1 Feb 21, Bishop Lobo, Fr Sarto and others visited CSST Provincialate to congratulate the new Provincial Sr Divya CSST and discussed about the mission of CSST in our diocese.
- On 3 Feb 21, the general body meeting of ABSK was held at ABSK. Fr Aravind Tirky read the report and Bishop Lobo and other general body members were present in the meeting.
- On 4 Feb 21, Asansol Christian cemetery committee meeting was held in Asansol, Bishop lobo and all other pastors were present. The pastors welcomed Bp.Lobo. He invited them to form a ecumenical committee to spread the unity among the Christian denominations at Asansol.
- On 5 Feb 21, a meeting was held at St Xavier's College, Asansol to discuss about the future of the college.
- On 6 Feb 21, Management committee meeting was held at St Joseph's School, Chittaranjan. Fr Sarto welcomed all the members. In this Meeting the Management committee was re-constituted. The CLW officials were present in the meeting.
- On 24 Feb 21, a get together was held at Hatikunda to wish Fr Henry Rodrigues on his birthday.

Fr I P Sarto

YOUTH ANIMATION PROGRAM AT EKPERE



On **REPUBLIC DAY** 26th January 2021, EKPERE mission organized an animation program for the youth. 40 youth were present for the animation programme. The youth animation program was started with the Holy Mass and followed by the flag hosting by the chief guests Fr. SARTO and Sr. CHRISTINE, HC. Frs. Alex Tudu and Irudaya Joseph joined the animation team. After the flag hosting, short input session to introduce the purpose of the animation program facilitated by Fr. Sarto & Sr. Christine. They told the role of youth in the needs of time, in the building and leading the community and the society.

Youth prepared the Chart papers for the protest in solidarity with the farmers fight for the rights. The protest march started from the mission and went around the highway. Children also joined the youth for the protest march. After the protest the youth were asked to share their feelings of the protest march. Many youth felt very happy, some felt that they were one with the farmers. They were actively involved and gave their support for the farmers.

After the short evaluation, program continued with some video clips of the various parishes Youth involvement in the farmers protest; which inspired the youth to do something for the betterment of the mission and society. Fr. Alex engaged the youth with the group games and activities.

The youth were actively involved in the group work and gave their valuable ideas, thoughts and suggestions; and planned to work for the building of the families, villages, communities and the societies. Their active participation made the Day memorable one. The meeting came to an end at 5:00pm with the tea and the group photo.

Fr. Christopher, OMI

INAUGURATION AND BLESSING



January 18, 2018 was a remarkable day for Infant Jesus Parish, Bolpur as the huge and beautiful Church was inaugurated, blessed and dedicated for worship. Yet another remarkable work is completed in the form of Stations of the Cross and a Grotto dedicated to our Lady of Lourdes at the campus of Infant Jesus Church, Makrampur (Bolpur). The inauguration and blessing of the same was done on February 2, 2021 on the feast day of the "Presentation of Our Lord".

The life size statues remembering the journey of Jesus towards Calvary carrying the cross were installed in front of the Church. The place looks very beautiful and creates an atmosphere of peace for the visitors. Bishop Salvadore Lobo blessed and inaugurated these statues invoking God's blessings on all those who venerate these statues devoutly. The Grotto dedicated to our Lady of Lourdes was blessed by Bishop Cyprian Monis, the Bishop Emeritus of Asansol.

After the inauguration and blessings the solemn Eucharist was celebrated. Bishop Cyprian Monis presided over the Eucharist concelebrated by Bishop Salvadore Lobo, the Apostolic Administrator of Asansol with around 30 priests from different dioceses.

At the end of the mass Fr. Anthony Raj, the Parish Priest thanked the donors who generously contributed towards this cause. Bishop Lobo appreciated the hard work of the Parish Priest and asked the people to make use of the Stations of the Cross and the grotto to deepen our faith. There were about two thousand people who participated in the inauguration and at Eucharist from different parishes. They were all given sumptuous lunch to end the celebration.

-Fr Gnan Murmu

Diocesan Service Team (DST) Meeting and Orientation

DST Meeting was held on 27th -29th January 2021 at Chetana Ashram, Burdwan. The resource person were Sr. Christin Joseph HC and Fr. Sarto. There were 40 participants including priests, religious sisters, Catechists, village leaders and youth for the meeting.

The agenda of meeting was to strengthen the DST as well as to improve the Basic Ecclesial community (BEC) in our diocese and in the Parish level. Sr. Christin and Fr. Sarto motivated all the DST members to inaugurate the year of St Joseph and to celebrate it more meaningfully. Participants decided to invoke St Joseph's blessings through prayer and Special devotion to St Joseph. The meeting came to an end with prayer and blessing by Fr. Nilu Murmu.

Fr Alex Tudu



Memorial Holy Eucharist

On Feb 6, 2021, Memorial Eucharist for **Fr. Valerian Fernandez** was celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Asansol. Bishop Cyprian presided over the Eucharist participated by 10 priests. Bishop Lobo blessed the grave.

On Feb 19, Memorial Eucharist for Fr. Richard Saldanha was held at Chetana Fr I P Sarto was the main celebrant. Frs Andrew and Alex Concelebrated the Eucharist.

MARCH

Ordination Anniversary

19 – Fr Antony D
19 – Fr S Britto
19 – Avinash Kumar
19 – Fr Aravind Negi
19 – + Salvadore Lobo
30 – Fr Robert

Birthday

4 - Fr Deva

Bishop Salvadore Lobo's Programme for March 2021

Date	Time	Day	Place	Subject
01	03:00PM	Sun	Baruipur	Funeral Mass of Bp Linus
02-03	11:00AM	Tues, Wed	Barasat	Regional Pastoral Council Meeting
06-07	10:00AM	Sat, Sun	Barrackpore	Recollection to Philosophy students
12	10:00AM	Fri	Sahebdanga	Recollection to the people
14	10:00AM	Sun	Kamarpara	Pastoral Visit
19	10:00AM	Fri	Chittaranjan	Holy Mass in the school, Sol. of St Joseph
21	10:00AM	Sun	Galsi	Confirmation
24-25	05:00PM	Wed, Thu	Chetana	Priests' Recollection
28	10:00AM	Sun	Bolpur	Palm Sunday
30	10:00AM	Tues	Jyothinagar	Chrism Mass

Bishop Monis' Programme for March 2021

Date	Time	Day	Place	Subject
02	9:00AM	Tues	Kolkata	Pastoral Council SKC
06	3:30 PM	Sat	Ahmedpur	Retreat Concluding Holy Mass
07	9:30AM	Sun	Nuta	First Holy Communion Mass
13	9:00AM	Sat	Bolpur	Retreat
23	9:00AM	Tues	Kalna	Retreat
24, 25	5:00 PM	Wed, Thu	Chatana	Priests' Recollection
30	9:00AM	Tues	Jyothinagar	Chrism Mass

Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

