

messenger



ISSUE 1 VOLUME VII

NAGPUR ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS LETTER

APRIL 2026



HE
IS
RISEN

In loving memory of



Fr. Scaria Varanath, OFM

31st Jan. 1949 - 3rd Jan. 2026



Fr. Sebastian Peter O.P.

28th Feb. - 9th Jan. 2026

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(Archbishop of Nagpur)

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Faith and Evangelization

The central mystery of our Christian faith - Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection - stands at the heart of our life and mission. It is not merely an event we commemorate, but a living reality we are called to participate in. In the Resurrection of the Lord, we are invited into new life, a life transformed by grace, sustained by faith, and directed toward mission. As Easter people, we are a people of hope and joy. The Risen Christ walks with us, strengthening our faith and renewing our commitment to witness to the Gospel in our daily lives. In a world often marked by uncertainty and fragmentation, our calling is to radiate the joy of the Gospel and to be signs of hope to all. May the Risen Lord fill each of us with His love, joy, and peace, so that our lives may become instruments of His presence.

The journey of faith that we continue to undertake as a Church has been deeply enriched by the spirit of the Synodal path; a journey marked by communion, participation, and mission. Even as we reflect on the progress made, we are reminded that this journey is ongoing, inviting us to listen more attentively, walk together more closely, and respond more generously to the promptings of the Spirit. Our parishes have played a vital role in nurturing this faith-filled journey. Through vibrant sacramental and devotional life, along with various pastoral and social initiatives at the parish, deanery, and Archdiocesan levels, the faithful have actively contributed to building a more inclusive and participatory Church. These efforts have strengthened faith not only at the ecclesial level but also within families and communities, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and shared mission.

We are also encouraged by the dedicated efforts of our educational institutions. Schools continue to impart value-based, inclusive education, rooted in democratic and constitutional values. Their commitment to holistic formation (shaping intellect, character, and social responsibility) deserves special appreciation. We remain confident that the sincere efforts and hard work of our students will bear fruit and yield the desired results in their Board Examinations. The active participation of our parishes in programmes aimed at building a socio-pastoral and inclusive society is a sign of a living and dynamic Church. These initiatives reflect the essence of evangelization; not merely through words, but through witness, service, and community engagement. We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the editorial team for their cooperation, coordination, and efficiency in bringing out this issue. Their dedicated service ensures that the life and mission of the Church continue to be documented and shared for the inspiration of all.

As we celebrate this season of grace, may we truly live as Easter people; filled with hope, renewed in faith, and committed to the mission entrusted to us.

Happy Easter!

Fr. Anthony D'Souza
Chief Editor, Messenger

SHEPHERD SPEAKS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Grace and peace to you in the Risen Lord!

As we approach the sacred celebration of Easter, I extend my warm greetings and blessings to all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Nagpur. The Easter issue of *The Messenger* reaches you at a moment when the Church throughout the world proclaims with renewed joy the central mystery of our faith: **Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen!**



The Resurrection of Jesus is not merely a beautiful religious memory; it is the foundation of our Christian faith and the source of our hope. The journey to Easter always passes through Calvary. The Cross, which once symbolized suffering and humiliation, has become for us the sign of redemption and victory. Through His passion and death, Christ revealed the depth of God's love for humanity. Through His Resurrection, He opened for us the path to new life. In the Gospel we hear Jesus say: "Take courage; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). These words echo powerfully in our times. Our world today faces many challenges—uncertainty about the future, social tensions, economic difficulties, and spiritual fatigue, and the war in the middle East. Yet the message of Easter assures us that darkness does not have the final word. Life triumphs over death, hope over despair, and love over hatred.

The Cross therefore is not simply a reminder of suffering; it is the gateway to resurrection. Every Christian disciple is invited to carry his or her cross with faith, trusting that God can transform pain into grace and trials into new beginnings. In this sense, the Easter mystery speaks profoundly to the daily lives of believers. In our families, parishes, institutions, and communities, we are called to live the spirit of the Resurrection by spreading hope, reconciliation, and love. The ongoing journey of the universal Church also reminds us of this call. The recent reflections of the Synod on Synodality invite the Church to walk together as a community of faith, listening attentively to the voice of the Spirit and to one another. Faith grows stronger when it is lived in communion. As members of the Body of Christ, we are called not only to believe individually but also to journey together as a pilgrim people of hope. The implementation of our Archdiocesan Pastoral plan in our Parishes and communities will help us in a greater ways.

In this context, the words of Pope Leo XIV resonate deeply: "The Risen Christ continues to walk with His people. Wherever hearts are open to faith and hands are extended in charity, there the light of Easter shines anew." This is the mission entrusted to every baptized Christian—to carry the light of the Resurrection into the ordinary realities of life. Dear brothers and sisters, Easter invites each one of us to rediscover the joy of faith. The empty tomb proclaims that God's love is stronger than every form of darkness. Let us therefore walk forward with renewed confidence, knowing that the Risen Lord accompanies us on our journey. May the light of the Resurrection fill your homes with peace, strengthen your faith, and inspire us all to become true witnesses of Christ.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and grace-filled celebration of Pascal mystery and Easter Season.



+ Elias Gonsalves
✠ **Elias Gonsalves**
Archbishop of Nagpur

C.B.C.I STATEMENT

37th General Body Meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI)

A call to live our identity as authentic Christians and responsible citizens of India

We, the 202 Bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) who gathered together for the 37th General Body Meeting held from 4th -10th February 2026 at St. John's Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, prayerfully reflected on the theme "Faith and the Nation: The Church's Witness to India's Constitutional Vision." In the present socio-cultural and political scenario of our country, we discern how important it is to renew our commitment to the message of Jesus Christ and also to the guiding principles enshrined in our Constitution.

1. Proud Indians and authentic disciples: We are grateful to the Almighty for our wonderful nation, where our Christian community co-exists amidst people of various cultures, languages, and religious traditions. With joy and hope, we contribute to India's growth, harmony, and unity, and cherish the freedom to practice our faith. However, alongside growth and aspiration, we witness rising inequality, ecological degradation, misinformation, polarization, and anxiety about identity and belonging. In this context, the Church is expected to offer a mature, hopeful, and credible public witness, as we are called by our Lord to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Mt 5, 13-14).

We are urged to stand ever more steadfast in our Christian identity, drawing strength from our rich spiritual heritage. Each time our faith is questioned, or our Christian way of life is confronted, we are presented with a providential moment to deepen our relationship with Christ, who unfailingly grants us the grace needed to persevere (Cf. 2 Cor. 12:9). Instead of being silenced or withdrawing from our mission, we are urged to live our Christian identity with courage and conviction, so that the fragrance of Christ (Cf. 2 Cor. 2:15) may permeate every aspect of society, inspiring hope and promoting unity among all peoples.

2. Safeguarding Constitutional values: Genuine Christian living inspires us to be law-abiding citizens who promote peace and defend human rights. Fidelity to the Constitution of India flows from our Christian faith and our commitment to the common good, freedom of conscience, the dignity of every person, and the protection of India's plural, secular, and democratic character. The socially uplifting initiatives of the Church spring from our deep rootedness in Christ and our faithfulness to the Constitutional values. We encourage all the faithful to continue participating actively in nation-building, guided by truth, compassion, and moral courage.

At a time when freedom and human rights are increasingly disregarded, we reaffirm our faith in the Constitution of India which envisions our country as "a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic" which secures to all its citizens "justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity" (Cf. Preamble to the Indian Constitution). Whenever Constitutional rights are unjustly restricted, particularly concerning the poor, the marginalised, the Dalit and tribal people, it is important to advocate for the protection of fundamental rights for all individuals, regardless of caste, creed, and language. The denial of rights to Dalit Christians continues for decades as an indirect form of discrimination, despite numerous appeals for equality and justice. We express our concerns about the denial of rights to the minorities, as such acts weaken the

democratic fabric of our society. While maintaining our commitment to eliminate any type of discrimination existing in the ecclesial communities based on caste or language, we urge the Government to ensure that no citizen is denied of fundamental rights of equality and freedom.

As many innocent individuals are incarcerated based on unfounded allegations of forceful religious conversions, we strongly demand the repealing of legislations which are inconsistent with religious freedom and right to privacy. Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees that, “all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion”. Let us remember the great example of Mahatma Gandhi whose entire life was for forming “an India in which the people shall feel that it is their country, in whose making they have an effective voice, an India in which there shall be no high class and low class of people” (Young India, 10-9-31, p. 255).

3. Development of leadership among the youth: We give special attention to young people, who face uncertainty due to unemployment, migration, digital vulnerability, and social pressures. They look not only for opportunities, but meaning and moral direction. We continue our commitment to accompany youth through leadership formation, civic education, and ethical engagement and encourage them to participate actively in public life and democratic processes. It has become the need of the hour that our youngsters, as exemplary Christians and as responsible citizens of India, actively engage in politics as a vocation to service.

4. Option for the poor: We reaffirm the vital role of Christian educational and social institutions in forming conscience, and ethical leadership. Academic excellence must be inseparable from inclusivity, justice, and a preferential option for the poor. We uphold the vision set by Pope Leo XIV: “Wherever access to education remains a privilege, the Church must push open doors and invent new pathways because to ‘lose the poor’ is to lose the very meaning of the school” (Drawing New Maps of Hope, 2025). While acknowledging the immense contributions of our church towards the betterment of the poor and the marginalised, we realise that the forms of poverty also get diversified as plurality of deprivations, “where the lack of a voice is often more devastating than the lack of bread” (Dilexi te, 1.14). We pledge to undertake more endeavours to uplift the poor through our faith communities and institutions. We also acknowledge that the Church’s moral credibility in society is inseparable from justice, transparency, accountability, and ethical governance within her own institutions.

5. Dialogue and reconciliation: In a context of polarisation and mistrust, we maintain the Church’s calling to foster dialogue, reconciliation, and fraternity. The Christian faith has always inspired us to seek the way of forgiveness whenever we have been deprived of human dignity and rights. We take upon sustained inter-religious dialogue and civil-society engagement, standing in solidarity with all those who face injustice or exclusion, and working together for peace, social harmony, and the protection of human dignity.

6. Rooted in Christ and faithful to the Constitution, we recommit ourselves to be a Eucharistic presence in the heart of the nation - serving the common good with humility, courage, and wisdom. Entrusting our mission to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and seeking the maternal protection of Mother Mary, the Queen of Peace for our country, we move forward in solidarity with all people of goodwill, working for a just, inclusive, and fraternal India. “Hope does not disappoint us” (Romans 5:5).

ELIAS

Prot. No. D-02/2026

24 January, 2026



BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND FAVOUR OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE
ARCHDIOCESE OF NAGPUR

DECREE

My Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and all the faithful,

In the exercise of my pastoral office and desiring to deepen the spirit of prayer among the faithful and to entrust the Archdiocese more fully to the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, following the example of our Patron, St. Francis de Sales, who faithfully recited the Memorare in times of crisis, challenges and difficulty, I invite the faithful to seek her powerful intercession for the safeguarding of human dignity and religious freedom.

I hereby decree that henceforth, in all Parishes, Chapels and Religious Communities, Formation Houses and Convents within the Archdiocese of Nagpur, the **Prayer "Memorare"** (याद कर विनती) **shall be recited after every celebration of the Holy Eucharist**, following the Final Blessing and preceding the Recessional Hymn.

All Parish Priests, Rectors, Superiors of Religious Houses and those responsible for liturgical celebrations are bound to ensure faithful observance of this norm.

This decree has immediate effect.

Given at the Archbishop's House, Nagpur, on the twenty-fourth day of the Year of the Lord two thousand and twenty-six, on the Solemnity of Saint Francis de Sales, Patron of the Archdiocese of Nagpur.

✠ Elias Gonsalves
Archbishop of Nagpur Metropolitan





SECRETARIA GENERALIS
SYNODI

Vatican, 28 January 2026

Prot. N. 260014

Your Beatitude/ Your Eminence/Your Excellency,
Dear Brother in the episcopal ministry,

as the synodal journey entrusted to the whole Church continues, we wish to draw your attention to certain **pastoral aspects connected with the year 2026**, which falls at a decisive moment of the **implementation phase of the Synod**, as outlined in the *Pathways for the implementation phase* prepared by the General Secretariat of the Synod.

As already communicated, the period **from June 2025 to December 2026** is dedicated to the **paths of implementation within the local Churches**, the Eparchies and their groupings, with reference to the Final Document of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The year 2026 therefore represents the final stage of this time of implementation and consolidation, in view of the subsequent **assemblies scheduled for 2027**.

With this letter, we first of all wish to invite you, as guarantor of the synodal process, to ensure that sufficient time is set aside, within the agenda of the Diocese/Eparchy, the Episcopal Conference or the Synod of the Eastern Catholic Church, for the implementation process to take place, so that it does not remain at the margins of the ordinary life of the Diocese or Eparchy, nor be delegated exclusively to individual offices or groups.

In particular, during the course of 2026 it will be important to: **continue and strengthen the implementation paths already begun**, or initiate them where this has not yet occurred, by embracing the Final Document in its overall vision; **support the work of the synodal team** and of the participatory bodies, enhancing their role in animation, discernment and ecclesial coordination; **foster concrete experiences of synodal practice**, integrated into ordinary pastoral activity, rather than extraordinary or parallel initiatives; and begin to gather progressively the fruits of the journey undertaken, also in a narrative form, in view of the evaluation phase.

In this regard, we wish to recall more explicitly the **timing of the assemblies scheduled for 2027**, as indicated in the *Pathways*:

- in the first half of 2027, the convening of **evaluation assemblies on the journey undertaken in the Dioceses and Eparchies**, which are called to reread the implementation process carried out at the local level;
- in the second half of 2027, the convening of **evaluation assemblies on the journey undertaken at the level of the Episcopal Conferences and the Synods of the Eastern Catholic Churches**, in view of the subsequent continental assemblies in 2028.

To the Bishops
To the Presidents
of the Episcopal Conferences, of the Synods of the Churches *sui iuris*
and of the other groupings of Churches

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The year 2026 is therefore decisive also as a **time of preparation** for these assemblies, so that they may be carried out in an orderly, participatory and truly fruitful manner.

The Pathways further indicate that, during the implementation phase, **it may be envisaged that the local Churches will be called to share the steps taken in certain specific areas**, according to modalities and forms suited to the different contexts. Among these areas, without any claim to exhaustiveness, mention may be made of: the promotion of synodal spirituality; the practice of ecclesial discernment and decision-making processes in a synodal style; the renewal of the participatory bodies; the appreciation of ministries and charisms; transparency, accountability and evaluation; the missionary renewal of communities and parishes; and attention to formation.

It is important that the work of 2026 take these perspectives into account, not in order to anticipate unduly the evaluation phase, but to **orient the paths of implementation with greater awareness**.

Finally, we wish to recall the importance of **organising the work in accordance with what is indicated in the Pathways also at the methodological level**. The processes of implementation are called to unfold in a synodal style, avoiding the risk of improvisation or dispersion, through an appropriate investment in the **elaboration and accompaniment of processes**, in the formation of the persons involved, and in careful attention to the modalities of participation, listening and discernment.

The General Secretariat of the Synod, in dialogue with the competent Dicasteries, will continue to accompany this journey, offering listening, tools and opportunities for exchange, while respecting the proper responsibilities of each local Church and of each Church sui iuris.

Thanking you for the dedication with which you guide the People of God in this demanding and fruitful time, we assure you of our closeness and support, entrusting our common journey to the action of the Holy Spirit.

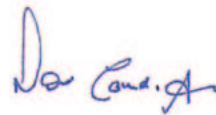
With fraternal esteem, in Christ



Luis Antonio G. Card. TAGLE

Pro-Prefect

*Dicastery for Evangelization
Section for the First Evangelization
and New Particular Churches*



Mario Card. GRECH

Secretary General

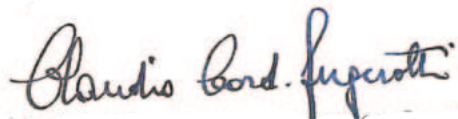
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H. E. Mons. Filippo IANNONE, O. Carm.

Prefect

Dicastery for Bishops



Claudio Card. GUGEROTTI

Prefect

Dicastery for the Eastern Churches

In order to maintain direct contact with all synodal teams, Dioceses and Eparchies are kindly invited to register their synodal team through the following link:

<https://synod2024db.com/2025-synodal-teams-registration/>

WESTERN REGION BISHOPS' COUNCIL

**Ahmedabad – Amravati – Aurangabad – Baroda – Bombay – Chanda – Gandhi Nagar –
Goa & Daman – Kalyan – Khadki – Nagpur – Nashik – Poona – Rajkot – Sindhudurg – Vasai**

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Joint Press Release

March 19, 2026

Strong Protest Against the Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026

We, the Bishops in the State of Maharashtra, register our deep disappointment and strong protest against the so-called Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act 2026, recently passed by the Maharashtra Assembly. Far from safeguarding religious freedom, this law, in its present form, effectively undermines the very right it claims to protect, i.e., the freedom to choose and profess one's religion, as guaranteed under Articles 19, 21, and 25 of the Constitution of India.

The provisions of the Act amount to a direct and unjustified interference in the legitimate religious practices of the Catholic Church, particularly its Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) programme. We thank all those who have opposed this bill. However, it is equally disheartening that the ruling party along with a few others have backed this bill without adequate consultation with the communities most affected by it. Past governments, including that of Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, upheld the democratic tradition of engaging in dialogue with stakeholders before enacting laws impacting religious communities. Such a consultative approach is glaringly absent here.

Chapter III, Section 6 of the Act mandates that any individual intending to convert must submit a notice sixty days in advance to the Competent Authority. It further empowers the authorities to initiate a police inquiry into the "intention, purpose, or cause" of the proposed conversion if objections are raised or suo moto. This provision intrudes deeply into the personal domain of conscience and belief, opening the door to scrutiny, suspicion, and harassment. This section like most sections in the Bill, are manifestly arbitrary and this section is violative of an individual's right to privacy protected by Article 21 as recognised by Supreme Court in the judgement of Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd) vs Union of India.

The Catholic Church has consistently opposed forced conversions. Its own Canon Law (Canon 865 §1) explicitly requires that an adult seeking baptism must do so freely and after proper instruction. The RCIA process, which typically spans several months, is designed precisely to ensure that individuals make a well-informed and voluntary decision regarding their faith.

However, under the present law, even such a carefully discerned and freely chosen conversion could be easily challenged. If family members, who may naturally oppose such a decision, raise objections, the clergy and others involved in the process risk being accused of coercion or of "brainwashing" as mentioned in 2(p) of the bill. In such circumstances, they face the threat of severe and disproportionate penalties, including imprisonment of up to seven years and heavy fines, despite the absence of any wrongdoing. This effectively criminalises legitimate religious activity and places an unreasonable burden on both the individual and the religious institution. The shifting of the burden of proof on the accused, the lack of deterrent punishment on false allegations, and the broad, ambiguous language of the Act raise serious concerns regarding arbitrariness and potential misuse, as has been the case in other States. This is violative of both Article 25 and Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

A close reading of the Act suggests a troubling lack of neutrality. Rather than promoting harmony, it risks fostering suspicion, division, and injustice. The law appears to disproportionately affect minority communities, raising serious concerns about its intent and application.

The Catholic Church has always stood in support of the nation's progress, unity, and integrity. It has worked alongside governments in building a just and inclusive society. However, when legislation departs from constitutional principles and adopts a partisan or coercive character, it becomes necessary to raise a principled voice of dissent.

We therefore strongly oppose this Act in its current form and call for its immediate withdrawal or substantial revision. Religious freedom is not a concession granted by the State; it is a fundamental right that the State is bound to respect, protect, and uphold.

In the interest of justice, constitutional integrity, and the protection of fundamental rights.

✝ Elias Gonsalves
Archbishop of Nagpur, Chairman WRBC

✝ John Rodrigues
Archbishop of Bombay

✝ Sebastian
Archeparchy of Kalyan

✝ Thomas D'souza
Secretary of WRBC, Bishop of Vasai

✝ Lancy Pinto
Bishop of Aurangabad

✝ Simon Almeida
Bishop of Poona

✝ Ephrem Nariculam
Eparchy of Chanda

✝ Malcom Sequeira
Bishop of Amravati

✝ Matthews Mar Pochomio
Eparchy of Khadki

✝ Agnelo Pinheiro
Diocese of Sindhudurg

✝ Savio Fernandes
Stephen Fernandes

✝ Alwyn D'Silva
Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese of Bombay

WESTERN REGION BISHOPS' COUNCIL

Ahmedabad – Amravati – Aurangabad – Baroda – Bombay – Chanda – Gandhi Nagar – Goa & Daman – Kalyan – Khadki – Nagpur – Nashik – Poona – Rajkot – Sindhudurg – Vasai

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संयुक्त प्रेस विज्ञापित

दिनांक: 19 मार्च, 2026

महाराष्ट्र धर्म स्वातंत्र्य अधिनियम, 2026 के खिलाफ कड़ा विरोध

हम, महाराष्ट्र राज्य के कैथोलिक धर्माध्यक्ष (बिशप), हाल ही में महाराष्ट्र विधानसभा द्वारा पारित तथाकथित 'महाराष्ट्र धर्म स्वातंत्र्य अधिनियम, 2026' के प्रति अपनी गहरी निराशा व्यक्त करते हैं और इसका कड़ा विरोध दर्ज कराते हैं। धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता की रक्षा करने के बजाय, यह कानून अपने वर्तमान स्वरूप में उस अधिकार को ही खोखला करता है जिसकी रक्षा करने का यह दावा करता है-अर्थात्, अपनी पसंद का धर्म चुनने और मानने की स्वतंत्रता, जिसकी गारंटी भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 19, 21 और 25 के तहत दी गई है।

इस अधिनियम के प्रावधान कैथोलिक चर्च की वैध धार्मिक प्रथाओं, विशेष रूप से इसके 'वयस्कों के लिए ईसाई दीक्षा संस्कार' (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults & RCIA) कार्यक्रम में सीधे और अनुचित हस्तक्षेप के समान हैं।

हम उन सभी को धन्यवाद देते हैं जिन्होंने इस विधेयक का विरोध किया है। हालांकि, यह अत्यंत निराशाजनक है कि सत्ताधारी दल और कुछ अन्य लोगों ने सबसे अधिक प्रभावित होने वाले समुदायों के साथ पर्याप्त विचार-विमर्श किए बिना ही इस विधेयक को पारित कर दिया। श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी की सरकार सहित पिछली सभी सरकारों ने धार्मिक समुदायों को प्रभावित करने वाले कानून बनाने से पहले हितधारकों (Stakeholders) के साथ संवाद करने की लोकतांत्रिक परंपरा को कायम रखा था। वर्तमान मामले में इस तरह के परामर्श दृष्टिकोण का स्पष्ट रूप से अभाव है।

अधिनियम के अध्याय III, धारा 6 में यह अनिवार्य किया गया है कि धर्मांतरण का इरादा रखने वाले किसी भी व्यक्ति को साठ दिन पहले शसक्षम प्राधिकारी (Competent Authority) को नोटिस देना होगा।

यह अधिकारियोंको यह अधिकार भी देता है कि यदि आपत्तियां उठाई जाती हैं या स्वतः संज्ञान (suo moto) लिया जाता है, तो वे प्रस्तावित धर्मांतरण के "इरादे, उद्देश्य या कारण" की पुलिस जांच शुरू कर सकते हैं। यह प्रावधान व्यक्ति की अंतरात्मा और आस्था के नितांत निजी दायरे में गहरी घुसपैठ है, जो जांच, संदेह और उत्पीड़न के दरवाजे खोलता है। विधेयक के अधिकांश प्रावधानों की तरह यह धारा भी स्पष्ट रूप से मनमानी है और यह व्यक्ति के निजता के अधिकार का घोर उल्लंघन है, जिसे सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने 'न्यायमूर्ति के.एस. पुट्टास्वामी (सेवानिवृत्त) बनाम भारत संघ' ऐतिहासिक फैसले में संविधान के अनुच्छेद 29 के तहत संरक्षित माना है।

कैथोलिक चर्च ने हमेशा जबरन धर्मांतरण का कड़ा विरोध किया है। चर्च का अपना 'कैनन लॉ' (Canon 865 §1) स्पष्ट रूप से यह अनिवार्य करता है कि बपतिस्मा (Baptism) चाहने वाले किसी भी वयस्क को यह पूरी तरह से स्वेच्छा से और उचित शिक्षा ग्रहण करने के बाद ही करना चाहिए। RCIA प्रक्रिया, जो आमतौर पर कई महीनों तक चलती है, विशेष रूप से यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बनाई गई है कि व्यक्ति अपनी आस्था के संबंध में पूरी जानकारी के साथ एक स्वतंत्र निर्णय लें।

हालांकि, वर्तमान कानून के तहत, इस तरह के सावधानीपूर्वक और स्वतंत्र रूप से चुने गए धर्मांतरण को भी आसानी से चुनौती दी जा सकती है। यदि परिवार के सदस्य-जो स्वाभाविक रूप से ऐसे निर्णय का विरोध कर सकते हैं-आपत्तियां उठाते हैं, तो पादरियों और इस प्रक्रिया में शामिल अन्य लोगों पर विधेयक की धारा 2(p) के तहत 'जबरदस्ती' या 'ब्रेनवॉशिंग' (मानसिक हेरफेर) का आरोप लगने का जोखिम है। ऐसी परिस्थितियों में, कोई भी गलत काम न होने के बावजूद, उन्हें सात साल तक की कैद और भारी जुर्माने सहित कठोर और असंगत दंड के खतरे का सामना करना पड़ेगा।

यह प्रभावी रूप से एक वैध धार्मिक गतिविधि को अपराध की श्रेणी में डालता है और व्यक्ति एवं धार्मिक संस्थान दोनों पर अनुचित बोझ डालता है। आरोपी पर ही अपनी बेगुनाही साबित करने का बोझ (Burden of proof) डालना, झूठे आरोप लगाने वालों पर कड़ी सजा का अभाव, और अधिनियम की व्यापक व अस्पष्ट भाषा इसके संभावित दुरुपयोग के बारे में गंभीर चिंताएं पैदा करती है, जैसा कि अन्य राज्यों में भी देखा गया है। यह भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 25 और अनुच्छेद 21 दोनों का स्पष्ट उल्लंघन है।

अधिनियम को बारीकी से पढ़ने पर इसमें तटस्थता (neutrality) की चिंताजनक कमी दिखाई देती है। सामाजिक सद्भाव को बढ़ावा देने के बजाय, यह संदेह, विभाजन और अन्याय को जन्म देने का जोखिम पैदा करता है। यह कानून अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों को असंगत रूप से (disproportionately) प्रभावित करता प्रतीत होता है, जो इसकी मंशा और इसके लागू किए जाने के तरीके पर गंभीर सवाल खड़े करता है।

कैथोलिक चर्च हमेशा देश की प्रगति, एकता और अखंडता के समर्थन में खड़ा रहा है। इसने एक न्यायपूर्ण और समावेशी समाज के निर्माण में सरकारों के साथ कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर काम किया है। हालांकि, जब कोई कानून संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों से भटकता है और पक्षपातपूर्ण या दमनकारी चरित्र अपनाता है, तो असहमति की सैद्धांतिक आवाज उठाना आवश्यक हो जाता है।

इसलिए, हम इस अधिनियम के वर्तमान स्वरूप का कड़ा विरोध करते हैं और इसे तत्काल वापस लेने या इसमें व्यापक संशोधन करने की मांग करते हैं। धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता राज्य द्वारा दी जाने वाली कोई रियायत नहीं है; यह एक मौलिक अधिकार है जिसका सम्मान, रक्षा और पालन करने के लिए राज्य संवैधानिक रूप से बाध्य है।

न्याय, संवैधानिक अखंडता और मौलिक अधिकारों की रक्षा के हित में जारी।

हस्ताक्षरकर्ता :

1. आर्चबिशप एलायस गॉन्सल्वेस- नागपुर आर्चडायोसिस एवं अध्यक्ष, WRBC (वेस्टर्न रीजन कैथोलिक बिशप्स काउंसिल)
2. आर्चबिशप जॉन रोड्रिग्स - बॉम्बे आर्चडायोसिस
3. बिशप थॉमस डी'सूजा - सचिव, WRBC वसई डायोसिस
4. बिशप सेबस्टियन - कल्याण आर्चपार्की
5. बिशप एफ्रेम नरीकुलम - चांदा एपार्की
6. बिशप लांसी पिंटो - औरंगाबाद डायोसिस
7. बिशप मेलकॉम सिक्वेरा - अमरावती डायसिस
8. बिशप एग्नेलो पिन्हेरो - सिंधुदुर्ग डायसिस
9. बिशप मैथ्यूज मार पोचोमियो - खड़की एपार्की
10. बिशप साइमन अल्मेडा - पुणे डायसिस
11. बिशप सावियो फर्नांडीस, बिशप स्टीवन फर्नांडीस, बिशप एल्विन डिसिल्वा - सहायक बिशप, बॉम्बे आर्चडायोसिस



ARCHBISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS - APRIL 2026

Archdiocese of Nagpur

POPE'S INTENTION FOR April: For Priests in Crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

1 April		Office work
2 April	6.00 pm	Washing of the feet and Maundy Thursday Liturgical Celebration at SFS Cathedral
3 April		Way of the Cross, Veneration of the Cross, & Good Friday Liturgical Celebration at SFS Cathedral
4 April	10.00 am 9.00 pm	Meeting with the Architect and Construction Committee at Archbishop's House Easter Vigil Service at SFS Cathedral
5 April	9.30 am	Easter Holy Eucharist at SFS Cathedral
6 April		Office Work
7 April		Meeting of the WRBC Office Bearers at Bombay
8-10 April		WRCFE Meeting (Western Region Catholic Foundation for Education) at Bombay
11 April		Office Work
12 April	8.00 am 3.00 pm	Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Francis Xavier Church, CHHINDWARA Divine Mercy Holy Eucharist at SFS Cathedral
13-15 April		WRCFE General Body Meeting at Bombay
16-17 April		At Sindhudurg for the Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Agnelo Pinheiro
18 April	10.00 am 6.00 pm	Meeting with the Provincial of HGN at the Archbishop's House Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Francis Xavier Church, SITABULDI
19 April	8.00 am 5.00 pm	Sacrament of Confirmation at Infant Jesus Church, WADI Farewell Programme and Thanksgiving Mass for His Grace Most Rev. Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio, at Delhi
20-21 April		Meeting with the Office Bearers at the CBCI Centre, Delhi
22 April	10.00 am	Sacrament of Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church, GARRATOLA
23 April	10.00 am	Addressing the Major Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Nagpur at Ankur Kunj Seminary, Kamptee
24 April		Office Work
25 April	5.30 pm	Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Peter's Church, BHANDARA
26-27 April		Office Work
28 April	5.00 pm	APT and Synod Team Meeting
29 April		Office Work
30 – 8 May		National Synodal Assembly CCBI, Executive Committee Meeting of the CCBI at Bangalore
9 May	11.00 am	Holy Mass for the Junior Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry at Snehalaya, NGP
10 May	5.00 pm	Nurses Day Celebration at Catholic Institute, Nagpur
11-12 May		Office Work
13 May	6.00 pm	Feast of Our Lady of Fatima at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Jaitala



EDUCATE TO EMPOWER

Congratulations

OUR OFFICE BEARERS OF

CBCI OFFICE FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE



MOST REV. ELIAS GONSALVES
Chairperson
CBCI Office for Education and Culutre



MOST REV. VINCENT AIND
Member
CBCI Office for Education and Culutre



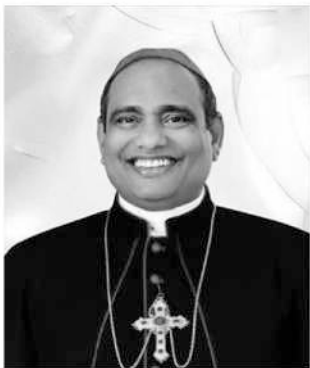
MOST REV. EUGENE JOSEPH
Member
CBCI Office for Education and Culutre

Congratulations to our dear Archbishop Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves for being re-elected as the Chairperson of the CBCI Office for Education and Culture and our dear Rt. Rev. Eugene Joseph and Most Rev. Vincent Aind for being re-elected as Member Bishops of the CBCI Office for Education and Culture.

★ ★
Congratulations & Thank you.
★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

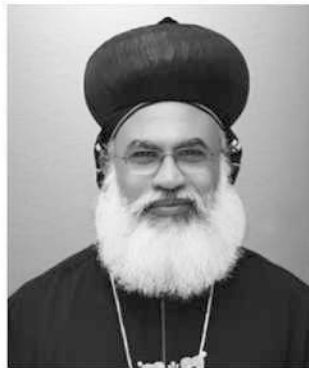


HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW OFFICE BEARERS OF CBCI



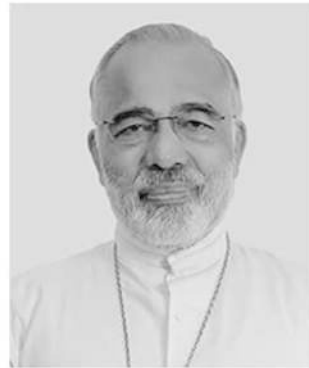
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FROM FEAR TO FAITH: THE RESURRECTION JOURNEY IN JOHN 20

- Br. Annel Anthony



In John 20:1–29, the Resurrection is not only about Jesus rising from the dead. It is also about the disciples being raised into new life in faith. In John's Gospel, Jesus has already completed his mission on the cross. He has returned to the Father. The disciples are now children of God and part of the Father's family. They have become a new living Temple where the Father, Son, and Spirit dwell. But the disciples still do not understand what this means for their own lives and for the world. So John 20 shows how the disciples move from fear and doubt into faith and mission.

John 20 has four scenes and two time frames. On the first day of the week, the morning scenes focus on the empty tomb. Mary Magdalene runs to Peter and the Beloved Disciple and says, the stone has been removed. They run to the tomb. The Beloved Disciple arrives first, but Peter enters first. They see the burial cloths. The Beloved Disciple “saw and believed,” even without seeing Jesus. This shows, that faith does not always depend on physical sight.

Mary stays at the tomb and cries. She sees two angels and then Jesus, but she thinks he is the gardener. When Jesus calls her by name, she recognizes him. Faith is personal. Mary wants to hold Jesus, but he tells her not to cling to him. Faith must move from holding to trusting. Jesus sends Mary to the disciples, and she becomes the first witness of the Resurrection.

That same evening, the disciples are inside a house with the doors locked because they are afraid. Jesus comes and says, “Peace be with you.” He shows them his wounds. The crucified Jesus is now alive. Their fear turns into joy. Jesus breathes on them and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Just as God once gave life to Adam, Jesus now gives new life to the disciples. He sends them on mission.

Eight days later, the disciples are again inside the house, and Thomas is with them. Thomas had said he would not believe unless he touched Jesus' wounds. Jesus appears and invites him to touch. Thomas believes and says, “My Lord and my God.” This is the strongest statement of faith in the Gospel. Jesus then says, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Everyone in John 20 begins with doubt. Peter, Mary, and Thomas, all struggle. But Jesus leads each one into faith. The Beloved Disciple believes without seeing. Mary believes when Jesus calls her name. The disciples believe when Jesus gives them peace and the Spirit. Thomas believes and calls Jesus Lord and God.

The Resurrection in John is not only about Jesus coming back to life. It is about people being changed inside. Fear becomes peace. Doubt becomes faith. Sadness becomes mission. John 20 invites every reader to walk this path and to live as a beloved disciple who believes without seeing.

EASTER JOY IN A BROKEN WORLD

- Br. Anupam Lakra



The present digital world is full of conflict, pain, and confusion. In such world, the Easter message can be felt crucial as well as surprising. Every year, Easter is celebrated around the world by our Christian brothers and sisters. Easter reminds us of two sides of the same moment: suffering and joy. We cannot have one without the other; both belong to the same saving act. Easter is not just the Resurrection morning, but it is the Paschal mystery- Passion, Death, and Resurrection as one act of salvation. Suffering is not an accident; it is a path to joy and glory. This event is central to the Christian faith, which brings a kind of joy that does not ignore the brokenness of life but transforms how we see it.

The Easter joy is not merely feeling of happiness, like celebrating an event of holiday. It is a deep life-changing joy that comes from hope and shines even life is difficult. The joy of Easter is not simply good ending after a painful story. It flows from God's promise that never fails. Christ's Resurrection is the sign of victory over sin, death, and evil. It is not only a past event; it is something we experience even today, especially through the sacrament of the Eucharist. Easter joy shins through our lives. The disciples, who were once afraid, became brave witnesses of Jesus Christ. This same joy gave strength to the martyrs who suffered for their faith.

When we lose our loved ones, especially from our own families, we often feel deep pain and a sense of unfairness. Many of us have experienced this kind of feelings; sadness, fear, and confusion in such situation. In those moments, the Resurrection may seem distant. Yet the message of Easter speaks directly to the reality. Jesus shows us that suffering is not the final end. The brokenness of the world; injustice, suffering, pain, and loneliness was not the ultimate end of Jesus' story. Instead, Christians believe that God acted in the most broken places, at the cross and in the tomb, to bring new life to the all humanity.

The Easter joy can be understood, like seed which is buried under the dark soil. At first, they may appear very small and lifeless. But over time, when the roots grow, it eventually breaks through the soil to become alive and new. Likewise, Easter shows us, that life can come from death and hope can rise from despair. Easter joy is not only limited to Easter Sunday. It must be carried forward even in the saddest parts of our lives. It changes how we treat others. It teaches us to forgive, even in difficult moments. When we share joy, hope and compassion, we reflect the promise of the Resurrection. Easter joy is not shallow happiness; it is profound faith that God can bring beauty into our lives. Therefore, when we celebrate Easter, we celebrate not just an event in history but a living reality. The powerful grace of God continues to renew broken hearts, comfort the sorrowful, and inspire us to face life courageously with confidence. Easter joy is not a fleeting emotion; it is a lasting way of life rooted in God's love and in the promise of new life.

THE CROSS IN THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLE

– Br. Richard Lakra



The Cross holds a central and indispensable place in the life of a disciple. Jesus makes this clear in the Gospel when He says if anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me (Mt 16:24). Discipleship, therefore, is inseparable from the Cross. To follow Christ is to embrace a way of life marked by self-denial, sacrifice, love, and faithful obedience to God's will. The Cross does not merely signify suffering or pain. Rather, it represents love freely given, sacrifice willingly embraced, and obedience lived out in daily life. In ordinary situations, the Cross is carried when a person chooses truth instead of lies, forgiveness instead of revenge, and service instead of selfishness. It is seen when one accepts difficulties with patience and responds to challenges with faith and courage.

Carrying the Cross also teaches the disciple that suffering is not meaningless. John Sobrino, a great liberation theologian says that the cross is the ultimate expression of Jesus' solidarity with the poor and the suffering. United with Christ, suffering becomes a path to transformation. Thus, the Cross becomes a source of hope, renewal, and inner freedom, shaping the heart to be humble, faithful, and trusting. At its deepest level, the Cross lies at the heart of Christian discipleship. It teaches the disciple to love selflessly and to surrender completely to God's will. The Cross calls the believer to let go of pride, ego, and sinful desires in order to be transformed by Christ's love.

Christian tradition also presents powerful witnesses to this truth. Saint Francis of Assisi embraced poverty and suffering to follow Christ more closely, while Saint Teresa of Calcutta carried the Cross through tireless service to the poor and abandoned, transforming suffering into love in action. Their lives show that the Cross, when embraced with faith, becomes a living testimony of God's love in the world. Ultimately, the Cross stands at the very centre of Christian life. It is not merely a symbol of pain, but a sign of faithful love and total surrender to God's will. The disciple who remains faithful to the Cross discovers true life, lasting hope, and deeper communion with Christ, becoming a living witness of God's redeeming love in the world.

THE PELICAN IN HER PIETY: A LENTEN CALL TO SELF-GIVING LOVE

Br. Sumit Singh



One of the most profound visual metaphors of self-sacrifice in Christian tradition is found in medieval and Gothic art: the image of the mother pelican piercing her breast to feed her young with her blood. This symbol, “Pelican in Her Piety,” became an enduring representation of Christ’s redemptive love. The earliest reference appears in the *Physiologus*, an early Christian text from the second century. It recounts an allegory: the young pelicans wound their parents; in response, the parents strike back and the young die. After three days, the mother pelican pierces her side and pours her blood over them, restoring them to life. The author then draws the Christological parallel: humanity wounded its Creator through sin, yet from the pierced side of Christ flowed blood and water—streams of redemption and eternal life. Thus, the pelican became a Eucharistic and Passion symbol, embodying a love that gives life through suffering.

This image of life born from sacrifice did not end with Christ’s Passion. The Apostles, conformed to their Master, carried forward this pattern of self-offering. Fearless in hostility, they proclaimed the Gospel among the nations, often at the cost of their lives. Their martyrdom became the seedbed of faith, echoing that “the blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church.” Their witness reflects Christ’s words in John 12:24: unless a grain of wheat falls and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. As the pelican gives her blood to restore life, so the Apostles poured out their lives so others might share in Christ’s life. This pattern of redemptive suffering still speaks to the Church today. In many parts of the world, faith is met with suspicion or hostility, and believers may face exclusion or persecution. Yet the suffering of the Church is never separate from her Lord. Christ continues His Passion in His Body, the Church, and the wounds of Christians become places where grace flows.

Within this context, the season of Lent gains renewed significance. It is not only a time of penitence but an invitation to share in the self-giving love of Christ, the true Pelican. Through prayer, we remain close to Him, trusting in the life from His wounded Heart. Through fasting, we share in His self-emptying, loosening our attachment to comfort. Through almsgiving, we serve others, reflecting His redeeming love. Yet suffering is not the final word. The Passion leads to Resurrection, and the Cross opens to hope. For believers, Christ’s suffering and triumph assure that endurance in faith is never in vain. United to Him, trials become paths to deeper communion and greater fruitfulness.

The Church’s liturgical tradition beautifully expresses this devotion in the hymn of Thomas Aquinas, who prays:

*“O loving Saviour, Lord Jesus, cleanse me, the unclean, in Your Blood,
of which a single drop can save the whole world from all its sin.”*

May this Lenten season draw us ever closer to Christ, our Saviour, that we too may become instruments of life-giving love in a wounded world.

BLESSING AND CONSECRATION OF THE NEWLY BUILT CHURCH AT JAITALA

The Archdiocese of Nagpur witnessed a moment of profound grace and joy with the solemn blessing and consecration of the newly constructed church at Jaitala on 13th January 2026. The sacred ceremony was presided over by the Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, who dedicated the new House of God through the solemn rites of blessing and consecration.

The Archbishop was assisted by Rev. Fr. Ranjith Rodrigues, Chancellor, and Secretary to the Archbishop, along with Rev. Fr. Paul Pereira OP. Rev. Fr. Prashant meticulously coordinated the commentary and other arrangements, ensuring the smooth and prayerful conduct of the entire celebration.

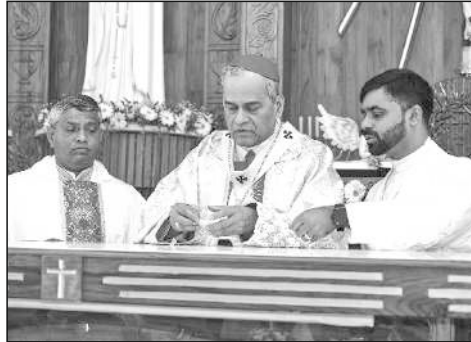
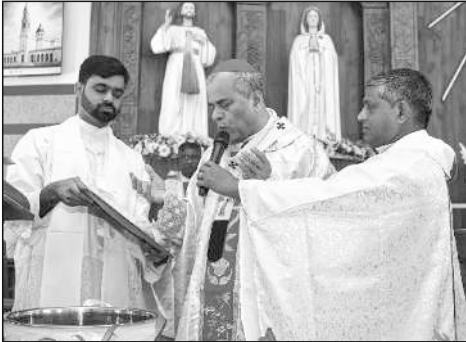
The rites of dedication were carried out with great reverence and liturgical precision. Each ritual—ranging from the blessing of water, the anointing of the altar and walls, the incensation, and the lighting of the altar—was beautifully arranged and meaningfully executed. The faithful deeply appreciated the well-prepared and spiritually enriching liturgy, which reflected both theological depth and aesthetic harmony. Rev. Fr. Gonsalo, the Parish Priest, played a pivotal role in preparing the parish community for this historic occasion. His dedicated leadership, together with the wholehearted cooperation of the parishioners, contributed greatly to the success of the event. The Vicar General was also present for the solemn function, adding to the significance of the celebration.

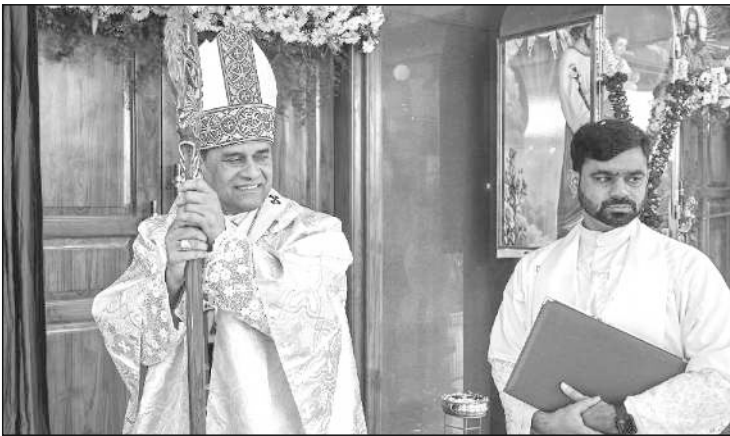
The consecration of the new Church at Jaitala stands as a testament to the living faith and unity of the parish community. The sacred edifice now stands as a visible sign of God's dwelling among His people and as a centre of worship, communion, and mission for generations to



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, SO THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM MAY NOT PERISH BUT MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. (JOHN 3:16)



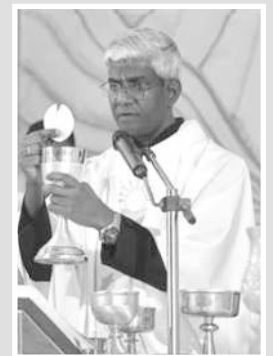




FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION AT ST. ANTHONY CHURCH, AJNI

On 11th January 2026, during the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Anthony Church, thirty-one children received their First Holy Communion, marking a significant milestone in their spiritual journey. Among them, eleven children were from the Besa Mass Centre, while twenty belonged to St. Anthony Ajni Parish. The Sacrament of the Eucharist was administered by Rev. Fr. Robert, with Rev. Fr. Joseph Koovely also present for the celebration of the Holy Mass. The children participated devoutly and actively in the liturgy, making the occasion deeply prayerful and meaningful for the entire parish community.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, the children were gathered in the parish hall, where they were presented with certificates and gifts as mementos of this important day in their faith life. Special appreciation was extended to Rev. Fr. Sanjeev Kujur, who, in coordination with the Sisters and teachers, took great care and dedicated effort in preparing the children for the worthy reception of the Sacrament. The celebration reflected the collective commitment of the parish community in nurturing the faith of its young members.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT SFS CATHEDRAL

Twenty eight children were administered the Sacrament of Confirmation on 18th January at SFS Cathedral. The solemn Eucharistic celebration marked a significant milestone in the spiritual journey of the candidates, as they were strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and called to a deeper commitment in their Christian faith.

The ceremony was conducted in a prayerful and dignified manner, with the active participation of parents, sponsors, and parishioners. The celebration reflected the vibrant faith life of the cathedral parish and its continued dedication to nurturing and guiding the younger members of the Church.



UNITY OCTAVE PRAYER HELD AT SFS CATHEDRAL NAGPUR

The Church Unity Prayer Octave was held on 18th January 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at SFS Cathedral, Nagpur. The programme was organized by the Ecumenical Commission of the Archdiocese of Nagpur. Several pastors and faithful from various Christian denominations participated in the prayer service, manifesting a spirit of unity and oneness in Christ. The gathering stood as a meaningful witness to the Church's commitment to ecumenism and fraternal communion.



A DAY OF GRACE: LENTEN RETREAT AT SACRED HEART PARISH, SILEWARA

On 22 March 2026, a Lenten Retreat was meaningfully conducted at Sacred Heart Parish, Silewara, under the guidance of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Jomise Joy. The retreat team of four members led by Mr. Jerry D'Souza led the faithful through prayer, praise, and worship. Preaching was centered on repentance and spiritual renewal. Parishioners were encouraged to actively participate with their Bibles and notebooks, which helped foster deeper reflection. Many attended from the morning sessions, making the retreat spiritually enriching and participative. The day concluded with the celebration of the Holy Mass, sealing the graces received. It was truly a fruitful moment of renewal for the parish community.



FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION AND JUBILEE YEAR CONCLUSION AT ASSUMPTION CHURCH, BALAGHAT

Assumption Church solemnly celebrated Family Day in conjunction with the conclusion of the Jubilee Year, centered on the theme “Communion, Participation, and Mission.” The celebration highlighted the spirit of unity and shared responsibility within the parish community. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. Balaraj as the main celebrant. During the Holy Mass, special prayers were offered in thanksgiving for the Silver Jubilee of the DBS Sisters, acknowledging their dedicated service to the Church and society. The occasion was further enriched by extending heartfelt birthday wishes to Rev. Fr. Narendra, who was felicitated in a special manner by the parish community.

Parishioners participated wholeheartedly in the liturgical celebration and the various activities organized for the day, reflecting a vibrant sense of belonging and fellowship. The programme concluded with a joyful fellowship meal, fostering family spirit and communal harmony among all present. With gratitude to God for the manifold blessings received, the special celebration came to a meaningful and joyous conclusion.



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CELEBRATION AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, GONDIA

As Our Lady of Lourdes is the second patroness of the Archdiocese of Nagpur, St. Joseph's Church, Gondia joyfully celebrated the feast in communion with thousands of devotees around the world. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by Rev. Fr. Saiju Jacob, Parish Priest. In his homily, he emphasized the importance of devotion to the Holy Rosary and encouraged the faithful to deepen their love and trust in Mother Mary, who continually intercedes for her children.



As part of the celebration, a drawing competition was organized for the catechism children. The children participated enthusiastically, expressing their devotion and creativity through their drawings. Sagar Joseph secured the first prize in the competition. Following the spiritual celebration, Preeti Bhoj (community meal) was provided for everyone present, fostering a spirit of fellowship and unity among the parishioners. The entire celebration was meticulously planned and organized by Rev. Fr. Roshimon Peter, Assistant Parish Priest, with the generous support and collaboration of the SMMI Sisters, whose dedicated service contributed greatly to the smooth and joyful conduct of the feast.

NURTURING YOUNG HEARTS IN FAITH: CATECHETICAL MINISTRY AT ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH, AJNI

“Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people, and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine.” – St. John Paul II

These inspiring words beautifully capture the spirit of our catechetical mission. Catechesis is not merely the transmission of doctrine, but a sacred ministry of the heart — forming young minds in truth and shaping young hearts in love. The Catechism Ministry of St. Anthony's Parish, Ajni, continues to live this vision, serving as a vibrant pillar in the spiritual formation and holistic development of our children. During the academic year 2025–2026, the ministry faithfully carried forward its mission of imparting sound doctrinal teaching, nurturing Christian values, and preparing young hearts for the worthy reception of the sacraments. Through regular classroom instruction, creative competitions, meaningful celebrations, and periodic evaluations, faith was not only taught but also experienced and lived.

The catechetical year began with the solemn Installation of Catechism Teachers, invoking God's grace upon the ministry and setting a prayerful and committed tone for the year ahead. This meaningful beginning reminded the teachers of their noble vocation as collaborators in the Church's mission of faith formation. Children's Day, celebrated on 16th November 2025, was marked by a special Eucharistic celebration followed by joyful activities and fellowship. The day fostered unity, belonging, and enthusiasm among the children, reminding them that they are valued and cherished members of the parish community. The Christmas celebration on 21st December 2025 added colour and creativity to the catechetical journey. A class-wise Christmas ornament-making competition beautifully showcased the artistic talents of the students. Their vibrant participation in the Parish Christmas Concert, through skits and dances, reflected growing confidence, teamwork, and active engagement in parish life. Through these initiatives, the Catechism Ministry continues to sow seeds of faith, hope, and love in the hearts of young believers, ensuring that the light of Christ shines brightly in the lives of the next generation.



FIRST PROFESSION OF VOWS – SACRED HEART PROVINCE, ASMI

The Sacred Heart Province of the Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate (ASMI), Nagpur, joyfully celebrated the First Profession of Vows of three novices — Sr. Alisa Gudiya, Sr. Bandhani Tirkey, and Sr. Neelima Kerketta — on 14th February 2026 at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by His Grace, Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, in the presence of numerous priests, religious sisters, family members, and well-wishers. The atmosphere was deeply prayerful and grace-filled as the three novices publicly consecrated themselves to the Lord through the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, marking an important milestone in their religious vocation.

In his inspiring homily, the Archbishop congratulated the newly professed sisters and expressed appreciation to their parents for generously offering their daughters for the service of God and the Church. Reflecting on the evangelical counsels, he explained that religious obedience is not the loss of freedom, but freedom purified through loving listening to the will of God. He presented the biblical example of Samuel as a model of attentive obedience to God's voice. Speaking on poverty, he emphasized that it is not merely the absence of possessions but a radical dependence on God, recalling the words of St. Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you," which invite total trust in God's providence. Reflecting on consecrated chastity, he highlighted that it is not simply renunciation but a total belonging to Christ, remaining in His love with an undivided heart.

He further reminded the congregation that where there is genuine love, there is also sacrifice. Consecrated persons, he noted, exist for the mission of the Church, witnessing to the Gospel through their lives of prayer, sacrifice, and service. Sacrificial love for the community and wholehearted dedication to the mission are essential dimensions of authentic religious life. The celebration was graced by the presence of Rev. Sr. Lily Francis, Provincial Superior, along with many priests, religious sisters, relatives, and faithful who gathered to witness this joyful moment in the life of the congregation. The sacred celebration became a moment of thanksgiving and grace for the congregation and the local Church, witnessing the generous response of these sisters to God's call. The event concluded with a brief felicitation programme followed by a fellowship meal, as the gathered community expressed gratitude to God for the gift of new vocations and renewed their commitment to serve the Church with joy and fidelity.



KAMPTEE DEANERY ENTERS LENT BY COMMEMORATING THE CONSECRATED LIFE

Priests and religious gathered at St. Gianelli Convent School to prepare themselves by commemorating the blessings of consecrated life. As the church remembers consecrated life in February, Rev. Fr. Prashant K Samuel, Parish Priest of St. Pius Xth Church, gave reflections on Pope Leo XIVth message on consecrated life in 2026. Priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters from all over Kamptee Deanery came to participate in this great moment at St. Gianelli Convent school, Ajani, Kamptee on 22nd February 2026 from 3 pm to 6 pm. St. John the Baptist Sisters led the prayer service, and Sr. Divya OLG, superior of the community, gave a warm welcome to all. Our Lady of Garden Sisters led the Holy Hour. The congregation prepared with a prayerful tone to enter the Lenten season through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Games and snacks added the flavour of the fellowship of the consecrated life in the event. Fr. Linto Peter, the dean, thanked all for the cooperation and commitment.



FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION AT ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI CONVENT, KAMPTEE

St. Vincent Pallotti Convent, Kamptee, celebrated Founder's Day on 22nd January 2026 with great devotion and joy. The celebration was marked by the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist, with Rev. Fr. Antony Roswan, Provincial of Prabhu Prakash Province, Nagpur, as the main celebrant. The presence of the neighbouring religious communities added further joy and fraternal spirit to the celebration, making the occasion a moment of thanksgiving, unity, and renewal of commitment to the charism and mission of the Founder.



NEW GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTED – SISTERS OF THE LITTLE FLOWER OF THE CHILD JESUS, BETUL

The Sisters of the Little Flower of the Child Jesus (LFCJ), Betul, have prayerfully elected their new General Superior and General Councillors for the term 2026. The congregation rejoices in this significant moment of grace and leadership renewal.

Newly Elected General Council Team – 2026

- **Superior General:** Sr. Mercy George
- **Assistant Superior General:** Sr. Joji John
- **General Councillors:**
 1. Sr. Aney Joseph
 2. Sr. Rosemary Jacob
 3. Sr. Anuja Tirkey



Heartfelt congratulations and prayerful best wishes are extended to the newly elected leadership team. May the Lord guide and strengthen them with wisdom, courage, and fidelity as they assume their responsibilities in leading the congregation in its charism and mission.

May this new chapter be filled with grace and fruitful service for the Church and society.



NAGPUR DEANERY BEC SEMINAR

The Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) Seminar for the Nagpur Deanery was held on 15th February 2026 at Elizabeth Sanna Hall, Pallotti School, Nagpur. The seminar brought together priests, religious, and lay representatives from different parishes of the deanery to reflect on the importance and mission of Basic Ecclesial Communities in the life of the Church.



The programme aimed to strengthen the vision of BECs as small faith communities where families come together to pray, reflect on the Word of God, and support one another in Christian living. The sessions highlighted the role of BECs in fostering participation, communion, and missionary outreach at the grassroots level of the Church. Participants actively engaged in the discussions and reflections, sharing their experiences and insights on how BECs can be further strengthened within parish communities. The gathering also served as a platform for encouraging greater collaboration between clergy, religious, and lay faithful in promoting vibrant faith communities. The seminar concluded with words of encouragement to all participants to continue nurturing and strengthening BECs in their respective parishes so that the spirit of communion and evangelization may grow within the Archdiocese.

CONFIRMATION CEREMONY AT ST. PIUS X CHURCH, MANKAPUR

St. Pius X Church was blessed to witness the solemn celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on 11th January during the Holy Mass held at 8:30 a.m. The sacrament was reverently conferred by His Grace Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, who invoked the abundant gifts of the Holy Spirit upon eighteen candidates, strengthening them in faith and deepening their commitment to Christian life and witness. A large gathering of parishioners, parents, and well-wishers participated prayerfully in this grace-filled celebration, contributing to the solemn and spiritually uplifting atmosphere of the occasion. Mrs. Sonia Saldanha, who diligently prepared the candidates for the Sacrament, together with her husband Mr. Alexander Saldanha, generously served as sponsors. They accompanied the candidates in their journey of faith, offering guidance, encouragement, and spiritual support.

The Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Prashant, expressed sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the successful organization of the programme. Special appreciation was extended to the Archbishop for his pastoral presence and guidance, which greatly enriched the celebration. The Archbishop's Secretary and Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Ranjith Rodrigues, was also present for the occasion. As a gesture of love and gratitude, the parishioners warmly felicitated both the Archbishop and Rev. Fr. Ranjith Rodrigues, acknowledging their dedicated service and continued support to the parish community.



Following the Eucharistic celebration, the newly confirmed candidates were presented with certificates, gifts, and snack boxes as tokens of encouragement and remembrance of this significant milestone in their spiritual journey. The entire celebration stood as a vibrant testimony to the living faith of the parish community and its committed efforts to nurture and strengthen the spiritual growth of its young members.



RECOLLECTION FOR THE PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS OF BETUL DEANERY

A spiritual recollection for the priests and members of the religious community of Betul Deanery was held at Jadegaon Convent, Betul. The gathering brought together clergy and religious for a meaningful time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal during this sacred season. A total of 45 religious members participated in the recollection, representing various congregations serving in the deanery. The programme provided an opportunity for the participants to step aside from their daily pastoral and apostolic responsibilities in order to deepen their relationship with God and renew their commitment to their vocation.

The recollection included moments of prayer, spiritual input, silent reflection, and fraternal interaction among the participants. Such gatherings foster unity among the priests and religious and strengthen their shared mission of serving the faithful with renewed zeal and dedication. The event concluded with gratitude to the Jadegaon Convent community for their generous hospitality and for providing a serene environment conducive to prayer and reflection. The participants returned to their respective ministries spiritually enriched and encouraged to continue their service with renewed enthusiasm and commitment.



MONTHLY RECOLLECTION FOR PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS

The Monthly Recollection for the Priests and Religious of the Archdiocese was held on 19th February at the Archbishop's House. The recollection was preached by Rev. Fr. James Thomas, Pallottine, a member of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, serving in the Archdiocese of Nagpur. A large number of priests and religious sisters participated in this spiritual gathering, taking time away from their pastoral and apostolic responsibilities to enter into prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal. During his reflections, Fr. James Thomas offered meaningful insights particularly suited to the Lenten season, encouraging the participants to renew their dedication to their vocation and deepen their relationship with God.

The recollection served as a valuable opportunity for both priests and religious to come together in prayer and fraternity, strengthening their common mission in the Church. The programme concluded with a simple Lenten fellowship meal, during which the participants shared a moment of fraternal interaction and community bonding.



CRI NAGPUR UNIT WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO CORE TEAM

The Conference of Religious of India (CRI), Nagpur Unit, has welcomed new members to its core team following the completion of the term of some of its executive members. The changes mark a new phase of leadership and continued commitment to the mission of religious life in the region. Fr. James Thomas, SAC, has been appointed as the new Vice President, succeeding Fr. Praveen Monteiro, OP. Sr. Shyny Thoma, SJSM, has taken over the role of Secretary, replacing Fr. Ignacy Joseph Francis, SFX, while Sr. Veronica Lakra, SCC, has assumed the responsibility of Treasurer, succeeding Sr. Veronica, SMMI. At the same time, Sr. Mary Jose, RGS, continues to serve as the President of the CRI Nagpur Unit. She will be supported by Sr. Anima, ASMI, and Sr. Jiwanlata, DSP, who continue as members of the core team.

The CRI Nagpur Unit expressed its heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing members — Fr. Praveen Monteiro, OP, Fr. Ignacy Joseph Francis, SFX, and Sr. Veronica, SMMI — for their dedicated service and committed leadership. Their contributions have greatly enriched the life and mission of the CRI Nagpur Unit, fostering collaboration and strengthening the spirit of consecrated life in the region. The Unit assured them of its prayerful support and best wishes for their future ministries. At the same time, the CRI Nagpur Unit extended its warm congratulations and prayerful good wishes to the newly appointed members, invoking God's blessings upon them as they take up their responsibilities in the service of the religious communities and the wider Church.



CRI NAGPUR UNIT CELEBRATES THE DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

The Conference of Religious of India (CRI), Nagpur Unit, celebrated the Day of Consecrated Life on 1st February 2026 at the Pallottine Animation Centre. The celebration witnessed the enthusiastic participation of around 130 religious and consecrated men and women, making it a vibrant and spiritually enriching gathering. The Eucharistic celebration formed the heart of the programme. Fr. Joseph K. P., SAC, served as the main celebrant, while Fr. Aquin Noronha, OP, proclaimed the Word of God and offered reflections that inspired the gathering to remain faithful and committed to their consecrated vocation.

Following the Holy Mass, a meaningful session on Psychological Wellness was conducted by Fr. Roger Godinho, OP, who shared valuable insights on maintaining emotional balance and holistic well-being in religious life and ministry. His reflections encouraged the participants to nurture both their spiritual and psychological health. The celebration was further enlivened by vibrant action songs and thematic dances, which filled the atmosphere with joy and energy, inviting everyone to participate with enthusiasm and fraternity. The programme reached its climax with the encouraging address of Archbishop Elias Gonsalves, who motivated the religious to continue witnessing Christ in today's world with renewed zeal, hope, and dedication. Overall, the celebration proved to be a joyful and spiritually enriching experience, strengthening the bonds of consecrated life and deepening the sense of communion among the religious communities of the Nagpur Unit.



DIACONATE ORDINATION OF DOMINICAN BROTHERS

A solemn celebration of the Ordination to the Diaconate took place this evening at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Seminary Hills. During the sacred liturgy, four Dominican brothers were ordained as deacons by His Grace Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur.

The newly ordained deacons are:

- Br. Nigel Savio
- Br. Malcolm Louis
- Br. Vincent Valikappen
- Br. Thomas Kewin



GONDIA–BALAGHAT DEANERY CELEBRATES THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

The Gondia–Balaghat Deanery joyfully celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also observed as the Day of Consecrated Life, on 2nd February 2026 at the Garhi Mission. The celebration was graciously hosted by the Congregation of Holy Cross Sisters serving in the mission. The gathering was organized by the Parish Priest, Fr. Mejo, who warmly welcomed the priests and religious of the deanery. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for the clergy and religious to come together in prayer and fraternity, experiencing the joy of unity as one religious family even in this far-off mission area.

The programme was marked by a spirit of prayer, fellowship, and thanksgiving as the participants shared moments of reflection and interaction. Fr. Jeyaprakash, the Dean of the Gondia–Balaghat Deanery, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Holy Cross Sisters and Fr. Mejo for their extraordinary hospitality and for organizing such a joyful gathering for the religious community. The celebration concluded with a fellowship dinner prepared by the hosts. After sharing the meal and the warmth of the gathering, the participants returned to their respective missions filled with gratitude and renewed joy in their common vocation of service to the Church.



CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT SACRED HEART PARISH, SILEVARA

A solemn Eucharistic celebration was held at Sacred Heart Parish, Silevara, on 25th January at 8:30 a.m., during which eight candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation and five children received their First Holy Communion. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by His Grace, Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur. The celebration was attended by Rev. Fr. Ranjith, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, and Rev. Fr. Linto, Dean of Kamptee Deanery, along with the parish faithful.



The liturgy was prayerful and meaningful as the candidates received the sacraments, marking an important milestone in their faith journey. Following the Eucharistic celebration, a short felicitation programme was organized. On this occasion, the catechism teachers were felicitated in appreciation for their dedicated service in preparing the children for the sacraments. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Jomise Joy, who expressed gratitude to the Archbishop, the priests present, the teachers, parents, and all those who contributed to the successful celebration of the event.

THANKSGIVING MASS ON THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

On the occasion of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a solemn Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated on 11th February at 5:30 p.m. at Lourd Mata Mandir. The Holy Eucharistic celebration was presided over by His Grace Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, who was joined by several priests of the Archdiocese. A large number of faithful gathered at the shrine to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and to seek her maternal intercession. During the celebration, the Archbishop invited the faithful to deepen their devotion to the Blessed Mother and to imitate her faith, humility, and obedience to the will of God. The feast served as a moment of prayer, thanksgiving, and spiritual renewal for the devotees who came in great numbers to participate in the liturgy.

The atmosphere at the shrine was marked by deep devotion and joy as the faithful united in prayer, remembering the message of hope and healing associated with Our Lady of Lourdes. The celebration concluded with prayers and blessings, entrusting the needs of the faithful and the Archdiocese to the loving care of the Blessed Mother.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CHURCH, JARIPATKA

A joyful celebration of faith took place on the morning of 1st February 2026 at St. Martin de Porres Church, Jaripatka, where thirty-eight children received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The sacrament was administered by His Grace Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur, who encouraged the candidates to remain firm in their faith and to become courageous witnesses of Christ in their families and communities. Through this sacrament, the candidates were strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and called to live their Christian vocation with renewed commitment.

The celebration was attended by priests, catechists, parents, and parishioners who gathered to support and pray for the newly confirmed. The parish community rejoiced as these young faithful took an important step in their journey of faith and deeper participation in the life of the Church. The solemn celebration concluded with thanksgiving to God for the graces received, as the newly confirmed were encouraged to grow in faith and actively contribute to the mission of the Church.



DIACONATE ORDINATION AT ST. CHARLES SEMINARY, NAGPUR

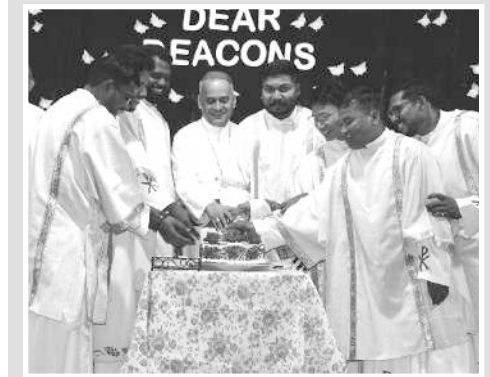
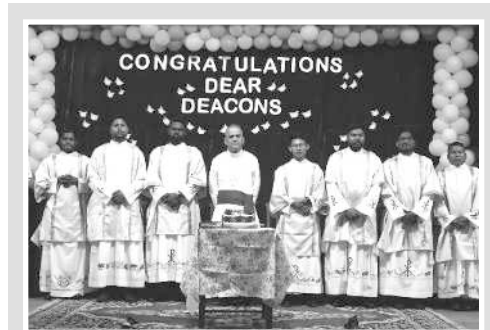
A solemn and grace-filled celebration marked the Ordination to the Diaconate of several seminarians from different dioceses at St. Charles Seminary on Saturday, 31st January 2026. The sacred ceremony was presided over by His Grace Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur, in the presence of priests, religious, seminarians, family members, and faithful.

During the solemn liturgy, the following seminarians were ordained as Deacons, committing themselves to a life of service in the Church:

- Br. Arun Toppo – Diocese of Ambikapur
- Br. Akash Gaikwad – Diocese of Aurangabad
- Br. Anil Gamit – Diocese of Baroda
- Br. Sahaya Allday – Archdiocese of Gandhinagar
- Br. Philiush Daimari – Archdiocese of Guwahati
- Br. Hamaniush Marak – Archdiocese of Guwahati
- Br. Jakerias Tirkey – Diocese of Gumla

In his homily, the Archbishop encouraged the newly ordained deacons to live their ministry with humility, dedication, and deep love for the Word of God and the service of the people. He reminded them that the diaconate is a call to selfless service, following the example of Christ who came not to be served but to serve.

The joyful celebration was a moment of thanksgiving for the Church and for the families and dioceses of the newly ordained, as they begin their diaconal ministry in preparation for the sacred priesthood. The faithful gathered offered their prayers and best wishes, asking God to bless them abundantly with zeal, humility, and fidelity in their mission of serving the People of God.



CONFERRAL OF THE MINISTRIES OF LECTOR AND ACOLYTE AT ST. CHARLES SEMINARY

The solemn ceremony of the Conferral of the Ministries of Lector and Acolyte was held on the morning of 21st February 2026 at St. Charles Seminary. The celebration marked an important step in the formation journey of the seminarians as they were entrusted with these ministries in the life of the Church. The sacred ceremony was presided over by His Grace, Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur, who conferred the ministries upon the eligible seminarians. In his address, he encouraged the candidates to carry out their responsibilities with devotion, reverence, and a deep spirit of service to the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist.

The programme was attended by the Rector, Fr. Aquin, along with other members of the seminary staff, who accompanied the seminarians in this significant moment of their formation. Also present for the occasion was Fr. Ranjith Rodrigues, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, who joined the seminary community in witnessing and supporting this important milestone. The celebration highlighted the seminarians' growing commitment to the Church and their readiness to serve the People of God with dedication and faithfulness as they continue their preparation for the sacred priesthood.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, UNTKHANA

The Sacrament of Confirmation was solemnly administered to nine children on the evening of 14th February at Holy Family Church, Untkhana. The sacramental celebration marked a significant moment in the faith journey of the young candidates as they received the gifts of the Holy Spirit and strengthened their commitment to Christian life.

The sacrament was conferred by His Grace Most rev. Elias Gonsalves, who encouraged the candidates to remain steadfast in their faith and to live as true witnesses of Christ in their daily lives. The celebration was attended by the Parish Priest, Fr. Jesuraj, along with Fr. Ranjith Rodrigues, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, who were present to witness and support the candidates on this important occasion. Parents, catechists, and parishioners also gathered in large numbers to participate in the Eucharistic celebration and to pray for the newly confirmed. The joyful celebration concluded with gratitude to all who helped prepare the children for the sacrament, especially the catechists and families who accompanied them in their faith formation.



PILGRIMAGE, WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION & BIBLE QUIZ AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, SITABULDI, NAGPUR

Women's Day Celebration & Pilgrimage

St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sitabuldi, celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March 2026 with great devotion and enthusiasm. On this occasion, a pilgrimage was organized to Chhindwara Parish. The celebration began with the Holy Mass, followed by the Way of the Cross, in which all parishioners actively participated with deep faith and devotion. Special prayers were offered for all women. Rev. Fr. Sameer Nagrare offered the Holy Mass for all the pilgrims, while Rev. Fr. K.D. Thomas addressed the gathering and spoke about the importance of pilgrimage. He encouraged everyone to move forward with hope despite life's challenges. A total of 52 women and 8 men participated in this dual celebration. The Chhindwara parish generously arranged lunch for all pilgrims. The day concluded with everyone returning home safely, filled with joy and strengthened faith.

Bible Quiz Report

A Bible Quiz was conducted on 18th January 2026 at St. Francis Xavier Church, Sitabuldi, with the participation of 50 parishioners. The quiz aimed to improve knowledge and deepen love for the Word of God. It emphasized that understanding Scripture is essential for living a meaningful Christian life. As rightly said by St. Jerome, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." The program encouraged participants to grow in wisdom and understanding through God's Word. It also highlighted the message: "Faith comes by listening to the Word of God," which helps in building strong character. Under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Sameer Nagrare and brothers from St. Charles Seminary, the quiz was conducted successfully. Prizes were awarded to the winners to motivate and encourage greater participation in future events.

Sport's Carnival Youth Ignis

A group of 24 youth from St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sitabuldi, participated in the Ignis Sports Carnival organized by the Youth Commission of the Nagpur Archdiocese on 28th Feb & 1st March 2026. With great enthusiasm and team spirit, they actively took part in various events and brought pride to the parish by winning several medals and prizes.

Conclusion

The Women's Day pilgrimage, Bible Quiz, and Ignis Sports Carnival—were successful and enriching. They strengthened faith, encouraged learning, and promoted unity, while also showcasing the talent and enthusiasm of the parish youth.



NMSSS ORGANISES GOAT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME UNDER EFID-III PROJECT IN UMRED TEHSIL

The Nagpur Multipurpose Social Service Society (NMSSS) organised a Goat Distribution Programme under the EFID-III Project on March 17th, 2026, at Padri-Thana village in Umred tehsil. The initiative was aimed at promoting agriculture-allied livelihood activities among marginalised rural communities. The programme focused on supporting vulnerable groups, including widows, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and single mothers, to enhance their income-generating opportunities. A total of 30 marginalised farmers were selected as beneficiaries, each receiving two goats to start small-scale livestock-based livelihoods. The distribution programme was conducted in the presence of Rev. Fr. Sameer Nagarare, Director of NMSSS, Rev. Fr. Balaraju Madanu, Treasurer of NMSSS, Sr. Apolina, and Ms. Parija, along with the entire NMSSS team. During the event, the dignitaries encouraged beneficiaries to effectively manage the livestock units and utilise the support to improve their economic conditions. The initiative is expected to strengthen self-employment and contribute to sustainable livelihood development in the region.



NMSSS AIDS PADRI THANA FARMERS IN BUTIBORI TO LAUNCH POULTRY FARMING FOR EXTRA INCOME

Nagpur Multipurpose Social Service Society (NMSSS) organized a Poultry Farming Distribution Program at Padri Thana to promote poultry farming as an agriculture allied livelihood activity for rural farmers. The initiative aimed to encourage self-employment and strengthen the economic stability of small and marginal farmers in the project area. During the program on March 12th at Padri-Thana village, Umred block, 1,500 Aseel poultry chicks, along with feed and basic medicines, were distributed to 30 beneficiaries from 15 villages of Umred block, who are small marginal farmers and farm labourers, enabling them to start poultry farming as an additional source of income. Each beneficiary farmer received 50 chicks to establish a small poultry unit.

The program was conducted in the presence of Fr. Sameer Nagarare, Director of NMSSS, Fr. Balaraju Madanu, Parija Madam, and Sr. Aponia, who encouraged the farmers to make proper use of the support and manage the poultry units effectively. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to NMSSS for providing them with the opportunity and support to begin poultry farming, which is expected to improve their livelihoods and household income.





ARCHDIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION GENERAL BODY MEETING AT ST. ANN'S SCHOOL, DAHEGAON

The Archdiocesan Board of Education convened its General Body Meeting at St. Ann's School, bringing together 62 Principals and Managers from various institutions across the Archdiocese. The gathering served as a significant platform for reflection, collaboration, and strategic planning in the field of Catholic education. Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves delivered the keynote address, highlighting the urgent need to establish a dedicated training centre in the region, particularly for Vidarbha and Marathwada. He emphasized that such an initiative would strengthen academic excellence, leadership formation, and value-based education within Church-run institutions. Rev. Fr. Maria Charles, Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Education and Culture, animated the gathering with two insightful and substantial input sessions. His presentations offered practical guidance and a renewed vision for holistic and faith-oriented educational ministry.

The meeting was further enriched by the presence of Mr. Aubrey, CEO of Lorraine Music Academy, who addressed the assembly on the importance of music literacy within the education system. He underlined how structured musical training contributes to intellectual growth, creativity, discipline, and overall personality development. Sr. Cleo, the Principal, along with the Sisters, staff, and organizing team, ensured excellent hospitality and seamless coordination throughout the programme. Their dedicated efforts were widely appreciated by all participants. The meeting concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks proposed by Rev. Fr. Jeyaprakash, expressing gratitude to the Archbishop, resource persons, organizers, and participants for their valuable contributions. The gathering ended on a positive note, reaffirming the collective commitment to nurturing quality, value-based education across the Archdiocese. May God continue to bless and guide all our educational endeavors.





CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION AT ST. ANTHONY PRIMARY SCHOOL, AJNI

Children's Day was joyfully celebrated on 14th November 2026 at St. Anthony Primary School, Ajni, Nagpur. The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students and staff. Various cultural programmes and games were organized by the teachers, creating a joyful and vibrant atmosphere for the children. The students actively participated in the activities, making the occasion lively and memorable. The programme was organized under the guidance of Rev. Sr. Priya, SJB, the Primary Headmistress, whose leadership and encouragement contributed greatly to the success of the celebration.



The event concluded with the distribution of gifts and sweets to the children, bringing smiles and happiness to all present.

CELEBRATION OF SAVITRIBAI PHULE JAYANTI AT ST. ANTHONY PRIMARY SCHOOL, AJNI

Savitribai Phule Jayanti was celebrated on 3rd January 2026 at St. Anthony Primary School, Ajni, Nagpur, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule, a great social reformer and pioneer of women's education in India. On this occasion, the school organized a short programme to remember and honour her valuable contribution to the field of education and social reform. Teachers highlighted her life, struggles, and dedication to the upliftment of women and the marginalized sections of society. The students were encouraged to draw inspiration from her life and commitment to education and equality. The programme helped the children understand the importance of education and the role played by Savitribai Phule in shaping modern Indian society. The celebration concluded with a message encouraging the students to follow the values of knowledge, courage, and service exemplified by Savitribai Phule.





CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION AT ST. ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, AJNI

Christmas was joyfully celebrated at St. Anthony's Primary School, Ajni, Nagpur, with great enthusiasm and festive spirit. The celebration commemorated the birth of Jesus Christ and brought together students, teachers, and staff in a joyful gathering. The programme began with a short prayer service highlighting the message of Christmas—peace, love, and goodwill. The students presented Christmas carols, dances, and short skits, creating a festive and joyful atmosphere in the school. The celebration was organized under the guidance of Rev. Sr. Priya, SJB, the Primary Headmistress, whose leadership helped make the programme meaningful and memorable. The celebration concluded with the distribution of gifts and sweets to the children, spreading joy and happiness among all the students.



FRUIT DAY CELEBRATION AT NIRMAL SCHOOL, GONDIA

“Health is Wealth” is a value that the children of Nirmal School, Gondia are encouraged to practice in their daily lives. With this spirit, the school organized its annual Fruit Day, promoting healthy eating habits and the joy of sharing among the students. On this day, children were asked to bring their favourite fruits from home. The fruits were collected by the class teachers, carefully washed, peeled, and cut before being distributed among the students. The activity created a joyful and meaningful atmosphere as the children happily shared the fruits they had brought with their classmates and friends. The celebration not only encouraged healthy food habits but also nurtured the values of sharing, friendship, and togetherness among the students.





FAITH FORMATION AND EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVES AT MOUNT CARMEL GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, AJNI, NAGPUR

In humble fidelity to the charism of the Apostolic Carmel Congregation, Mount Carmel Girls' High School ardently fostered the mission of Faith Formation and Evangelization during the months of December 2025 to February 2026. Rooted in Eucharistic devotion and illumined by the Gospel, the school community journeyed through the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, and the early weeks of Ordinary Time with prayerful reflection and spiritual enthusiasm.

Each initiative undertaken during this period served not merely as a program but as a meaningful proclamation of Christ's love—forming young hearts in compassion, strengthening moral values, and inspiring students to become witnesses of the Good News in society. The following highlights present a brief overview of the spiritual activities conducted during this grace-filled season.

1. Christmas Outreach Programme

In the true spirit of Christmas and the self-giving love of Christ, the school organized a Christmas Outreach Programme for the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society. Students and staff came together to distribute food hampers, clothing, and essential supplies, accompanied by carol singing and brief scriptural reflections. This initiative became a living expression of Christian charity, helping students encounter Christ in those in need. It also sensitized them to social realities and encouraged the practice of compassion and service as integral elements of Christian life.



2. Advent Wreath Prayer Services

To prepare spiritually for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, weekly Advent Wreath Prayer Services were conducted class-wise. As the candles representing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love were progressively lit, students reflected on the prophetic promises of salvation and the coming of Christ. Through scriptural reflections, hymns, and moments of silent prayer, the campus experienced a serene and contemplative atmosphere. These observances deepened the students' liturgical awareness and encouraged them to prepare their hearts for the coming of the Lord.

3. Scripture Enrichment and Bible Quiz

To nurture a deeper love for the Word of God, a Scripture Enrichment Programme was organized, culminating in an engaging Bible Quiz. Students enthusiastically explored various biblical narratives, teachings, and parables. The programme not only enhanced biblical knowledge but also encouraged reflection on the moral and spiritual values found in Sacred Scripture, helping students apply Gospel teachings to everyday life.

4. Interfaith Prayer Service – Symphony of Sacred Harmony

An uplifting Interfaith Prayer Service was reverently conducted by the students of Class VI on 5 December 2025. Through meaningful prayers, hymns, and reflections, the young Carmelites expressed the universal message of peace, harmony, and mutual respect among all faith traditions. Their thoughtful presentations highlighted the importance of unity and spiritual harmony, reminding all present that the values of love, peace, and compassion transcend religious boundaries.



5. Eucharistic Celebration in Honour of the Nativity

In reverent celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ, a solemn Eucharistic Celebration was organized for the Catholic staff and students on 5th January 2026. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Arun Poulose (MSFS), who invoked God’s blessings upon the staff, students, parents, and benefactors of the institution. The liturgy was prayerfully animated with appropriate hymns selected and played by Sr. Marisa, which enriched the spiritual atmosphere of the celebration. Fr. Arun also delivered an inspiring message encouraging everyone to begin the new year with renewed faith, hope, and commitment. On the same occasion, the students of Class V conducted another meaningful Interfaith Prayer Service at Carmel Vidya Jyoti Hall, emphasizing the values of peace, harmony, and respect for all religions. Their sincere prayers and reflections beautifully expressed the spirit of unity and new beginnings.



ANNUAL CONCERT CELEBRATION AT ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOOL

St. Vincent Pallotti School celebrated its Annual Concert with great enthusiasm and splendour on 12th December 2025 for students of Std. III to IX under the theme “Lumina Fest”, and on 13th December 2025 for the Foundational Stage under the theme “Lumina Mia.” Many eminent dignitaries graced the occasion on both days. The program commenced at 5:30 p.m., with the presence of students, parents, and well-wishers who gathered to witness the vibrant celebration. The venue was beautifully decorated with colourful lights, flowers, and creative handmade paintings prepared by the students, creating a joyful and festive atmosphere. The evening began with a ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the introductory address by the Principal. This was succeeded by a graceful prayer dance and a welcome song by the school choir, which set a melodious and prayerful tone for the evening.

The cultural program featured a rich variety of performances, including dance, music, and drama. The students displayed their remarkable talents through a series of well-coordinated and captivating presentations. During the program, the Annual Report was presented by the cabinet ministers of the school, highlighting the institution's achievements in academics, sports, and extracurricular activities over the past year. The Annual Concert proved to be a grand success, receiving warm appreciation and positive feedback from both parents and guests. The event not only provided a valuable platform for students to showcase their talents but also strengthened the spirit of unity and community within the school.





S.F.S. COLLEGE, NAGPUR

S.F.S. College, Nagpur, organized its Annual Awards Ceremony for the academic year 2025-26 on 27th February 2026 in the College Auditorium. The occasion was a celebration of academic excellence, research accomplishments, dedicated service, and the vibrant contribution of students and faculty to the life of the institution. The programme was presided over by the Chairman of the College, Most Rev. Dr. Elias Gonsalves. Rev. Fr. Anthony D'Souza, Secretary of the S.F.S. College Society, was also present. Donors of various medals, faculty, parents, and students gathered to witness the event. In his address, Most Rev. Dr. Elias Gonsalves spoke on the importance of quality enhancement in higher education. He appreciated the consistent efforts of the institution in maintaining academic standards and fostering holistic development. Congratulating the award-winning students and faculty, he acknowledged their dedication and perseverance. At the same time, he encouraged those who did not receive awards to strive with renewed determination. He reminded the gathering that medals and certificates, though significant, are not the ultimate goal. What truly matters, he said, is building a career rooted in values, integrity, and commitment.

Rev. Fr. Anthony D'Souza highlighted the steady growth of the College in recent years. He emphasized the continuous upgradation of academic programmes through the introduction of new courses aligned with current trends and emerging demands. This forward-looking approach, he noted, ensures that students remain relevant and competitive in a rapidly changing academic and professional landscape. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Praveen D'Souza, Officiating Principal, underlined two important initiatives introduced this year. For the first time, the College formally recognized Faculty Achievers, honouring members of the teaching staff for their academic milestones and research contributions. Three faculty members who were elevated as Professors in their respective subjects were felicitated, marking a proud moment for the institution. In addition, several teachers were acknowledged for their academic laurels and research accomplishments.

Another new category introduced was the Student Campus Ambassador Award. Alongside the traditional Best Student and Best All-Rounder awards, this new recognition honours outgoing students who have made exceptional contributions to the life of the College through leadership, initiative, service, and positive influence. This initiative reflects the institution's commitment to valuing character and contribution alongside academic performance. The ceremony also included the distribution of subject medals and special awards instituted by generous donors, recognizing students who secured highest marks in various examinations. The presence of parents added warmth and pride to the occasion as they witnessed the achievements of their wards. The Annual Awards Day was not merely a distribution of prizes but a reaffirmation of the mission of S.F.S. College: to nurture excellence grounded in values. The event stood as a testimony to the collaborative efforts of management, faculty, students, and well-wishers in strengthening the institution's legacy within the Archdiocese of Nagpur.





SFS SCHOOL SADAR

1. **Victory Vibes – 2:** “Nothing can dim the light which comes from within.” The Annual Sports Day for the Pre-Primary and Primary Sections was celebrated on 20th December 2025 with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit. The young students captivated the audience with well-coordinated drills, energetic performances, and displays of teamwork, reflecting both discipline and joy.



2. **The Christmas Assembly** was conducted by Class VIII D under the guidance of Tr. Mettelda on 22nd December 2025. The programme beautifully highlighted the true spirit of Christmas through meaningful presentations, inspiring reflections, and festive performances.

3. **VandeNriitya –** the Inter-School Patriotic Dance Competition – was organised on 19th January 2026 by the Inter-School Committee. The event brought together students from various institutions who expressed their love for the nation through vibrant and creative dance performances.



4. An Awareness Programme on Road Safety was conducted for the students on 21st January 2026 by the Jan Akrosh Team under the leadership of Tr. Sushmita. The session aimed at fostering responsible civic behaviour and enhancing awareness about safe practices on the road.

5. The Feast Day Assembly of St. Francis de Sales was conducted on 23rd January 2026 by Class VI C under the guidance of Tr. Diana. The assembly reflected on the saint's life, virtues, and enduring message of gentleness and humility.





6. The Feast Day Mass of St. Francis de Sales was solemnly celebrated on 23rd January 2026. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop, along with several priests who graced the occasion with their presence, making it a spiritually enriching event for the entire institution.



7. The 77th Republic Day Assembly was conducted by the Junior College students and teachers on 26th January 2026. Lt. Col. Ameya Kanade graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, inspiring the gathering with his words on patriotism, responsibility, and national pride.

8. **Exhiblitz** – an all-subject exhibition – was held on 31st January 2026 under the guidance of Vivian Sir. Students participated with remarkable creativity and academic excellence, presenting innovative projects across disciplines.



9. The Farewell Programme for Class XII was organised on 3rd February 2026 by the Class XI students and Junior College teachers. The event was marked by heartfelt messages, cultural performances, and blessings, wishing the outgoing students success in their future endeavours.

10. The Fancy Fete was organised on 7th February 2026 with vibrant enthusiasm and community participation. A wide array of food stalls and engaging game stalls added colour and excitement to the celebration. The event witnessed an impressive turnout and was a resounding success.



11. The Farewell Programme for Class X was conducted on 10th February 2026 by the Class IX students and teachers. The programme was thoughtfully arranged, expressing gratitude, appreciation, and best wishes for the outgoing batch as they prepare to embark on a new academic journey.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION AT MOUNT CARMEL CONVENT

International Women’s Day was celebrated on 10th March 2026 at Mount Carmel Convent, Ajni, Nagpur, in the Carmel Vidyajyoti school hall. Nearly 100 women from the Veronica Social Service Centre, run by the Mount Carmel Educational Society, participated in the programme. The chief guest was Municipal Corporator Smt. Laxmi Munnabhai Yadav. The event was also graced by Mrs. Deepa Age, Superintendent of Central Jail, Nagpur; Fr. Sameer, Director of the Archdiocese of Nagpur Social Service Centre; and representatives from Federal Bank, who sponsored and supported the programme. The Federal Bank team conducted an awareness session on Self-Help Groups (SHGs), banking facilities, savings schemes, and financial empowerment for women.

During the programme, women who successfully completed the Beautician and Tailoring courses received their certificates. Various games and activities were also organized, including the “Home Minister” game, where the winner was awarded a silk sari, while other participants received saris as prizes. Inspirational messages were shared by Smt. Laxmi Munnabhai Yadav, Mrs. Deepa Aage, and Fr. Sameer, encouraging women towards leadership, confidence, and social responsibility. The programme was well organized by Sr. Regina Greta A.C. and Sr. Regina George A.C., in charge of the Veronica Social Service Centre. All participants received takeaway gifts, and the celebration concluded on a joyful and motivating note.





SYMPHONY OF GRATITUDE-SUCCESS: 2025-26

For the second consecutive year, the management of St. Johns Public School (CBSE), Mohan Nagar, Nagpur organized “Symphony of Success” for the academic year 2025-26, a vibrant three-day celebration honouring the dedication, unity, and spirit of its staff. More than an event, it was a heartfelt tribute to educators who shape young minds and build the future. The staff participated enthusiastically, divided into four teams: Achievers, Conquerors, Strikers, and Warriors, symbolizing teamwork and excellence.

Day 1: Outdoor Activities – 20th March 2026: The celebration began with energetic outdoor games, creating an atmosphere of excitement and companionship. Activities such as Lagori, Tug of War, Dupatta Roll Race, Balancing Pencil, Dropping the Stickers, Blowing the Candle, Stacking the Cones, and Breaking the Balloons tested agility, coordination, and team spirit. Refereed by Fr. Peter Thomas and Fr. Kulandai Raj, the competitions were conducted with fairness and enthusiasm.



Day 2: Cultural Extravaganza – 24th March 2026: The second day showcased the hidden talents of teachers through cultural events like Stand-up Comedy, Solo Singing, Speech, and Solo Dance. The stage came alive with creativity and confidence, revealing a new dimension of the educators. The competitions were judged by Mrs. Mercy John, Mrs. Vidya Bhanu, and Mrs. Tresa Noranha.



Day 3: Grand Culmination – 25th March 2026: The final day featured a vibrant Group Dance on “Bollywood Fiesta” and a meaningful skit, “Shades of Life,” portraying emotions of joy, struggle, hope, and resilience. Judges included Fr. Jomise, Sr. Shaiji Augustin, and Sr. Hazel. Sr. Shaiji highlighted the importance of the three H's: Head, Heart, and Hands, emphasizing balanced development of knowledge, compassion, and meaningful action and growth.



Honouring Excellence: A Celebration of Our Educators: Staff members were recognized for their contributions through awards such as Best Lesson Plan, Handwriting Excellence, Teaching Excellence, and Dedicated Service. Under “Champions of Change,” awards like Innovative Educator and Beacon of Kindness were presented. The “Stellar Award” (Teacher of the Year) was awarded to Ms. Jacqueline Pinto. The event celebrated unity and teamwork, with the Warriors emerging as champions. It concluded with gratitude to the Principal, Management, and Sr. Veronica, reinforcing that true success lies in unity, mutual respect, and shared purpose that truly defines success at SJPS.



FELICITATION OF NEWLY ELECTED CORPORATOR

On 18th January 2026, following the Holy Mass, His Grace, the Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, felicitated Mrs. Margaret Deva Usre on her victory in the recent Corporator elections. Mrs. Margaret Deva Usre, notably the only Catholic Corporator from the area, was warmly congratulated and acknowledged for her achievement. The felicitation ceremony, held in the presence of the faithful, recognized her dedication to public service and expressed the community's pride in her accomplishment. The parish community extended heartfelt congratulations and assured her of their prayers and support as she undertakes her responsibilities in service to society.



HEALTH WORKERS' AND NURSES' GATHERING 2026

The Archdiocese of Nagpur Health Commission, in collaboration with the Catholic Nurses Guild of India (CNGI), organised a Health Professionals and Nurses' Gathering on Sunday, 18th January 2026, at the Catholic Institute Hall. Approximately 70 participants - including nursing students, working and retired nurses, and religious sisters - took part in the enriching and fellowship-oriented programme.



The event was graced by His Grace, the Most Rev. Elias Joseph Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur; Rev. Sr. Sarla Macwan, National President of CNGI; Dr. Fr. Joseph Polishetty; Fr. Francis; and other distinguished guests. The programme commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolising knowledge and service, followed by a graceful welcome dance presented by the Providence Nursing students. In his inspiring address, the Archbishop encouraged nurses and healthcare professionals to persevere in their noble vocation with renewed dedication, compassion, and faith, reminding them that their service is a ministry of healing in imitation of Christ.

Dr. Fr. Joseph Polishetty presented the Health Commission's Annual Report (2025) and outlined the Pastoral Plan for 2026, highlighting key initiatives and future goals for strengthening healthcare ministry within the Archdiocese. Fr. Francis and Sr. Paulina shared a meaningful testimony, offering personal insights into the challenges and blessings of healthcare service. A motivational skit performed by Bro. Robert and his team was warmly appreciated for its creativity and uplifting message. Rev. Sr. Sarla Macwan addressed the gathering on the mission and vision of CNGI, urging members to remain united and committed to professional excellence rooted in Gospel values. The programme concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the Archbishop, resource persons, organisers, and participants for their valuable contributions. The gathering fostered unity, renewed commitment, and spiritual encouragement among all present.

CEI-LED PROJECT SITE VISIT TO REVIEW ONGOING SOCIAL INITIATIVES

On 19th January 2026, a formal project site visit was conducted under the leadership of the Conferenza Episcopale Italiana (CEI) to review the progress and implementation of CEI-supported development initiatives at the field level. The visit formed part of CEI's regular monitoring and accompaniment process, ensuring effective utilization of resources and alignment with approved project objectives. The CEI delegation was led by Rev. Don Pipinato Gabriele, Director of the CEI Department for Projects, and Rev. Don Claudio Francesconi, Economic General of CEI. The delegation was accompanied by Most Rev. Johannes Gorantla, Bishop of Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh. They were formally welcomed at the project site by Rev. Fr. Balaraj Madanu, Project In-Charge; Rev. Fr. Sameer Nagrare, Director of NMSSS; along with project staff and beneficiaries.

The visit focused on Project No. 1033/2024 – Social Service Project and Project No. 565/2016 – Pre-school Project, both supported by CEI. Comprehensive presentations were made outlining project objectives, implementation strategies, financial management procedures, and the progress achieved thus far. The CEI representatives carefully reviewed relevant documentation, interacted with project personnel, and engaged directly with beneficiaries to gain first-hand insight into the



implementation process and outcomes. The delegation assessed the effectiveness of the ongoing interventions and offered constructive observations and guidance aimed at strengthening quality of implementation, transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability. The visit also facilitated meaningful dialogue regarding future planning and need-based enhancements. The implementing organization expressed sincere appreciation to CEI for its continued guidance, monitoring, and generous support. The visit reaffirmed CEI's commitment to promoting structured, transparent, and community-centered development initiatives that respond effectively to local needs.

FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATED AT HOME FOR THE AGED, UNTKHANA

The Foundation Day of the Home for the Aged, Untkhana was celebrated on 31st January 2026 in a spirit of gratitude and joy. The occasion brought together residents, staff members, well-wishers, and members of the local Church community to thank God for the years of dedicated service offered to the elderly.



CATHOLIC INFORMATION CENTRE, NAGPUR

On the occasion of the 11th Foundation Day of the Catholic Information Centre (CIC), Nagpur, a diocesan-level Widows' Get-Together was organized on 14th March 2026. A total of 95 widows from various city parishes, along with CIC members, participated in the programme. The event was held at the Catholic Club, Mohan Nagar, Nagpur. The programme commenced at 5:00 p.m. with the lighting of the lamp, followed by a short prayer service and a welcome dance. The Archbishop of Nagpur, Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, graced the occasion with his esteemed presence. In his address, he encouraged the gathering by emphasizing the need to initiate meaningful support for widows in the future and suggested forming a group to strengthen such initiatives. His presence and inspiring words encouraged all to live with faith, hope, and trust in God.

Rev. Fr. Vivian, Director of the Christian Life Commission and the Catholic Information Centre, shared valuable insights on future plans and the way forward. Sr. Jiwanlata (DSP) spoke on the life and faith of widows in the light of the Bible and highlighted the activities of the Catholic Information Centre. Two participants shared their personal testimonies, which deeply touched the hearts of those present. The gracious presence of Sr. Apolonia, Superior of the Daughters of St. Paul, along with Sr. Vincent and sisters from various congregations, added great joy to the gathering. The pre-postulants of the Daughters of St. Paul presented a beautiful thanksgiving dance, which was greatly appreciated by all.

A short interactive session with Bible-based questions was also conducted. The programme lasted for approximately two and a half hours. The participants expressed their joy at coming together and requested that similar programmes be organized in the future. The event concluded with a fellowship meal served to all. The Catholic Information Centre expresses its sincere gratitude to the Sisters of St. Paul, CIC members, and all others who contributed through their prayers, presence, and encouragement.



POWER TO LEAD PROGRAM – GARRATOLA

On 5th December 2025, Rev. Fr. Augustine Antony Dsilva conducted the program “Power to Lead” for the youth of Sacred Heart Church, Garratola. The program aimed at motivating and guiding area youth representatives to discover their potential and develop leadership skills. It enabled the participants to grow in confidence and encouraged them to assume active roles as responsible leaders within their respective areas. The smooth coordination of the program was greatly supported by Sr. Angel MSMHC, Youth Office Secretary, whose timely advice and meticulous planning contributed significantly to the successful conduct of the initiative.



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SPORTS CARNIVAL – “YUVA IGNIS” 2026

“YUVA IGNIS” 2026, a sports carnival, was organized on 28th Feb and 1st March 2026 by ICYM Nagpur under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Augustine Antony Dsilva, Youth Director, along with the DEXCO team, with the encouragement, assurance, and prayerful support of His Grace Archbishop Elias Gonsalves. The event marked a historic milestone for ICYM Nagpur with the successful organization of this large-scale sports carnival, bringing together youth from across the Archdiocese in a spirit of sportsmanship, unity, and fraternity. The success of the event was further strengthened by the dedicated support of Sr. Angel MSMHC, Youth Office Secretary, whose timely advice and meticulous planning played an important role in the effective execution of the program.

Special appreciation is also extended to Mr. Vivian Vasnik, President of ICYM Nagpur, Rev. Fr. Augustine Antony Dsilva, Youth Director, and Br. Sumit, for their valuable assistance and leadership throughout the planning and organization of the event. Sincere gratitude is likewise expressed to all the youth volunteers and team members who generously contributed their time, energy, and efforts in planning and conducting the sports carnival, making “YUVA IGNIS” 2026 a memorable and successful event.



CHRISTMAS CON 2025

Christmas Con 2025 was held on 14th December 2025 at the SFS Cathedral Ground, organized by ICYM Nagpur. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of youth from various parishes of the Archdiocese. The program featured vibrant Christmas dances, skits, and Nativity tableaux, reflecting the joy and spirit of the Christmas season.

The highlight of the event was the Biblical Character Depiction Competition, which encouraged the youth to reflect upon and creatively present the lives of holy figures from Sacred Scripture. The celebration fostered an atmosphere of joy, love, hope, and peace among all those present.

Rev. Fr. Ranjith Rodrigues, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Through his inspiring message, he encouraged and motivated the youth to move forward with faith, commitment, and enthusiasm in their Christian life and service to the Church.

The event was effectively coordinated with the valuable support of Sr. Angel MSMHC, Youth Office Secretary, whose timely guidance and meticulous planning ensured the smooth and successful organization of the program.



WESTERN REGION YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Western Region Youth Conference was held from 16th to 18th January 2026 at Atmashodh Divine Kendra, Vasai, organized by WRYC. Seven delegates from ICYM Nagpur participated in the conference. The primary purpose of the gathering was to conduct elections and present the annual reports of the participating dioceses. The conference brought together youth, youth directors, and animators from fourteen dioceses.

Ms. Jennifer Philips was elected as the Liturgy Head of REXCO, and Mr. Jason was elected as a REXCO Member. The conference strengthened the spiritual commitment of the youth and encouraged the development of leadership qualities among the participants. The preparation and coordination of the delegation were facilitated with the guidance and support of Sr. Angel MSMHC, Youth Office Secretary, whose attentive planning helped ensure effective participation from ICYM Nagpur.





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GLIMPSE OF CHRISTMAS CON - 2025







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