

messenger

ISSUE 2 VOLUME V

NAGPUR ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

WE CANNOT
GROW
& WE CANNOT
EDUCATE
WITHOUT
CONSISTENCY:
CONSISTENCY
AND WITNESS!"
- POPE FRANCIS -



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Renovated & Restored Archbishop's House

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Beloved Friends in Christ,

As we enter a new scholastic year, I trust that each of you had a restful and rejuvenating summer break. The beginning of this academic year fills us with pride and a sense of achievement, especially as we acknowledge the exceptional academic successes across our educational institutions. The consistent attainment of perfect results and the notable increase in students achieving high marks are clear indicators of the quality education we offer, despite the challenges we face.

Our shared dedication to providing education rooted in values, inclusivity, and excellence is bearing fruit, and I want to extend my sincere congratulations to everyone involved. The detailed reports from our Principals and Managers reveal the commitment and effort put into guiding our students towards success. I also express deep gratitude to the parishes and religious organizations for their informative reports on feast day festivities. These events, characterized by devotion and community spirit, showcase the vibrant spiritual life within our Archdiocese.

A special acknowledgment is due to the Synod Secretariat for their hard work in documenting and updating on the ongoing preparations for the Jubilee. Your contributions are instrumental in keeping the community informed and engaged in this significant spiritual endeavour.

Looking ahead to the upcoming Feast of Our Lady of Vellankani, it is uplifting to witness the profound spiritual preparations taking place. May Mary, our Mother, continue to be a source of inspiration and guidance, leading us to become devoted and faithful followers of her Son, Jesus.

Furthermore, we are delighted to announce the successful refurbishment and renovation of the Archbishop's House. The Archdiocese is indebted to our Archbishop, Elias Gonsalves, for his foresight, mentoring and monitoring the reconstruction at every step. This endeavour was a substantial project, and its timely completion reflects the tireless effort and commitment of all those involved. We offer our deepest appreciation to the benefactors whose generous contributions facilitated this transformation. The updated appearance signifies a future of improved service and hospitality.

In conclusion, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our devoted Editorial team, which includes Fathers Anbu Xavier, Linto Peter, Anthony Xaviour, and Jomise Joy whose collaborative efforts have been crucial in bringing this publication to fruition.

May this academic year be marked by blessings, insight, and ongoing achievements in all our undertakings.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Anthony D'Souza

PILGRIMS OF HOPE....

September 8th: A Girl Child Day: the world celebrates the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We rejoice and are glad on this special day because the world had been waiting for a long time to see the dawn of the birth of the Blessed Mother who was to give birth to the Redeemer, Jesus Christ. In her birth, the plan of Almighty God begins to unfold. "Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the Virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). Very soon we will enter the Jubilee year as Pilgrims of Hope. We draw our inspiration from the model and ideal of our faith from our blessed mother. In her joy, we celebrate today the birthday of the giver of life Jesus, who brings life to the world.



This coming year is the year of jubilee. As the preparation goes on the universal Church has given us the call for a year of prayer and learning. I appeal to all our priests, religious and lay faithful to pray earnestly during this year to receive the graces. I invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God. The Holy Father calls on all Christians to become Pilgrims of Hope. This is a virtue that must be sourced above all in the grace of God and the fullness of His mercy. It is to be rediscovered in the signs of time, which encompassing "The yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become the signs of hope" (Spes non confundit, 7). In this year of learning, we are called to study the Four Vatican Documents i) Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) ii) Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium) iii) Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) iv) Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes). I invite all of our faithful to seriously study these documents and to learn more about the Church which is by its very nature pilgrim, missionary and filled with hope.

This issue of bulletin "Messenger" is dedicated to the ministry of Education in our Archdiocese. Many of our lay faithful, priests, and religious are serving in our institutions with commitment and dedication to this ministry. I take this opportunity to congratulate you for the last successful academic year. I also, appreciate your efforts to make our Education institutions relevant and modern to face the challenges of the time. In today's fast-changing world where digitalization, artificial intelligence and technological development have posed numerous challenges, as well as opportunities, problems and solutions. Are we ready to face these and many more struggles in our education ministry? We all need to come together to collaborate, coordinate and cooperate to keep the space with the fast-changing world and become relevant in the world where we experience instability, insecurity and unsustainably.

Let us therefore place all our prayers, petitions and intercede to our heavenly Mother on her birthday, when we rejoice and put all our hope in her that she intercede for us to her Son Jesus, our Lord.

Happy Feast to all on Blessed Mother Mary's Birthday

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Gonsalves". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

✠ **Elias Gonsalves**
Archbishop of Nagpur

HISTORICAL DETAILS OF ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE NAGPUR

Here are some useful details on the use of the building which is now the Archbishop's House, Nagpur.

1. In the undivided Mission of Vishakapatnam, the MSFS had started a Major Seminary at Gopalpur in Orissa which welcomed seminarians from Europe and some scanty vocations from India and trained them for the vast Mission of Vishakapatnam, including the Nagpur Mission. Later the place was found not to be viable due to various factors, especially on account of being a heavily malaria-infested area. The building was abandoned and the seminary was shifted to the St Annes Cathedral in Visakhapatnam
2. Meanwhile, the vast Visakhapatnam was bifurcated into two dioceses, the Diocese of Visakhapatnam and the Diocese of Nagpur. The Diocese of Nagpur was erected in 1887 and the Bishop stayed in SFS School
3. There was a lot of pressure from the Propagation of Faith on Bishop Riccaz the first Bishop of Nagpur to promote local vocations. But he could not do much. Again, the second Bishop, Bishop Charles Pelvat was asked to recruit local vocations and undertake their formation in the Diocese of Nagpur.
4. With a view to realise the project of priestly formation, in 1890 a plot of 18 acres from Bhonsle Estate was bought on the Takli Hil and in 1893, another 21 acres on perpetual lease from the Government was obtained. The total area was about 56 acres and it was called the Seminary Hill.
5. Bishop Charles Pelvat, with the help of his friends and benefactors, and with the Assistance of Bro Alexis Voisin and Bro John Mary Raphoz started the construction of what we call today the “red building” in 1896.
6. Meanwhile Bishop Pelvat scouted for vocations wherever they could be found: in Kamptee school, in Goa through the first Goan Priest, Fr Albino Fernandes, who was working in Nagpur diocese. Unfortunately, Bishop Pelvat died in 1890. Bishop Crochet, the successor of Bishop Pelvat slowed down the process of recruitment. Slowly some vocations from Goa and SFS School wanted to join the seminary. So an apostolic school was started for boys who showed inclination to be priests and they stayed and followed their schooling in SFS School.
7. The building, which is now the Archbishop's House, was built and was meant to be a convent school for St Joseph's Sisters but they never used it. Instead, the pupils of St Francis Xavier's School, an annexe of SFS School, meant for non-European students, to be later an independent school, was housed in this building. Later it was known as R.C. School. Another floor was built to be a dormitory for orphan boys by Father Coppel in 1900. The R.C.School grew in number and quality under Fr John da Costa. Seeing the future prospects of the school, Fr John de Costa started to build the school on the plot which is now St John's Compound. In 1929, the four classes of the Middle School of RC School were shifted to the new building and then in 1930, the entire building was blessed and the rest of the classes of RC. Schools were shifted to the present campus of St John's High School and the school was called no longer. RC. School but St John's High School
8. When the building, where the RC School was housed fell vacant, then the Major seminarians of St Charles Seminary were housed there.

9. Later, when the building was required to be prepared as the Archbishop's House, the major seminarians were temporarily shifted to Kamptee,
10. When the "Red Building" on Seminary Hill was completed, the major seminarians from Kamptee moved to the Red Building. Interestingly the official name of the Red Building in government records is "The New Castle Building."
11. After renovation of the building used as the RC School and a major seminary was completed, the Archbishop shifted from SFS School to the new Residence.

Compiled by Fr. Agnelo Fernandes & Fr. Anthony D'Souza

References :

Vagabonds for God by Francis Moget:

Pg 216 and ff on St Charles Seminary

Pg 109 and ff on St Francis de Sales Cathedral and St Francis de Sales School

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NAGPUR

Nagpur city's foundation was laid by the Gond King of Deogad "Bakht Buland Shah" in the year 1703. Chand Sultan, successor to Bakht Buland Shah, constructed a three-mile long wall around his City by the Nag River. In 1743, it became the capital of Raghoji Rao Bhonsles kingdom. The Bhonsle period witnessed peace with cultural and economic prosperity. The city was annexed in 1817 by the British after the defeat of Appasaheb Bhosale in the Battle of Sitabuldi. Consciousness for planned city development was raised by Sir Patrick Geddes, who visited the city in 1915. The Nagpur Improvement Trust (N.I.T.) was established in 1936 to carry out planned development in the city. The British Government made Nagpur the capital of the new state named Central Province in mid-19th century and it remained so till 1956, after which it became the second capital of Maharashtra.

Dr B R Ambedkar together with his followers took, 'deeksha' on the day of Dhammachakra Pravartan, 14th October 1956, and converted to Buddhism and the place is known as Deekshaboomi. The headquarters of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is located at Reshimbag. Nagpur is rich in natural resources, there are lakes, rivers and dams, ores such as Iron, Manganese, Copper etc, flora and fauna. It is also known as Orange City because its weather and soil conditions are favourable for the production of best quality of Oranges that are exported all over the world. There are animal sanctuaries in the vicinity of the city, where safaris are organised.

WE PRESENT A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION UP TO ITS ERECTION AS A SEPARATE DIOCESE AND FURTHER ARCHDIOCESE.

In a land area of 59,024 square kilometres, the archdiocesan territory covers three districts of Maharashtra state: Nagpur, Gondia and Bhandara; and four districts of Madhya Pradesh state: Betul, Chhindwara, Seoni and Balaghat. Important cities are Nagpur, Gondia, Chhindwara, Balaghat, Betul, Bhandara and Seoni. Kamptee, near Nagpur, was an important British cantonment, where a lot of Anglo-Indian Catholics live. Established on July 11, 1887 as Diocese of Nagpur, on territory split off from the Diocese of Vizagapatam.

Nagpur, Kamptee, Aurangabad, and Jalna were first visited by priests of the Goan jurisdiction, from Poona, about 1814. Nagpur and Kamptee were sub-stations of the Parish Church of Poona, which was part of the historical SEE of old Goa. Goan priests built a chapel in honour of St. Anthony which existed at Takli, suburb of Nagpur, where the troops of the Rajah of Nagpur were quartered. Another was built in Kamptee and held in great veneration by native Christians beyond the Ghora Bazar of Kamptee. The Goan priests retained their jurisdiction in these parts until the district fell to the jurisdiction of the Vicar Apostolic of Madras.

THE REGION UNDER THE VICARIATE APOSTOLIC OF MADRAS

In 1834 a new Vicariate Apostolic was established with headquarters at Madras having separate jurisdiction. From 1806 the Vishakhapatnam region was under the Mylapore Diocese and from 1833 it was officially part of the Vicariate of Madras. The eastern region of the Goa administration was detached and placed under propaganda directly under the control of Rome. It was a vast area with military garrison at Samalkot, Vijaynagar, Berhampur, Cuttack, Kamptee, Jalna and Jabalpur. Most of the soldiers were Irishmen. From 1839 to 1849, two Irish priests, Father Breen and Fr. Egen assisted by a Tamil priest Fr. Emmanuel served at

Kamptee area which was to become the cradle and the nursery of the church and future diocese of Nagpur. Fr. Breen built a chapel in the Kamptee mission compound in 1842. He also started building a chapel at Nagpur in 1844. Fr. Breen died in the same year and his mortal remains lie even now in front of the new and present altar of the Immaculate Virgin Mary Church in Kamptee.

Father Murphy was appointed the new military chaplain in 1844. Along with Fr. Emmanuel he visited sub-stations at Nagpur, Nagole, Jabalpur and Sagar. Fr. Murphy had built a Temperance Hall at Kamptee which later was converted into St. Joseph's Convent School in 1864. Subsequently, after the Vatican Council of 1870, they were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Vishakhapatnam mission. Fr. Murphy handed over charge to Fr. Lavorel of the M.S.F.S. who reached Kamptee in August 1846. Fr. Murphy whose registers are preserved in the bishop's residence at Nagpur, subsequently became Vicar Apostolic of Hyderabad and then Archbishop of Hobart Town, Tasmania, where he died in 1908.

THE VISHAKHAPATANAM VICARIATE (1845) LATER VICARIATE APOSTOLIC (1850).

This was established on the 18th of March 1845 by Pope Gregory XVI after this area was separated from Madras Vicariate. This new mission was entrusted to the Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales of Annecy in France, a congregation established only in 1838. The region between the Rivers Mahanadi and Narmada in the north and River Godavari in the south thus including parts of the modern states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh was under this new jurisdiction.

Within the space of 50 years, due to the untiring zeal and efforts of pioneer priests, Catechists and sisters, the young church grew in numbers and strength. And so this vast area of the Vicariate of Vishakhapatnam gave rise to twelve ecclesiastical units, which is called a diocese.

The Nagpur Diocese (1887)
Cuttack Diocese (1928)
Jabalpur Diocese (1932)
Indore Diocese (1935)
Amravati Diocese (1955)
Chanda Diocese (1962)

Bhopal Diocese (1964)
Raipur Diocese (1964)
Jagdapur Diocese (1972)
Berhampur Diocese (1974)
Khandwa Diocese (1977)

Later subdivisions of some of the above units e.g. 1978 Aurangabad, Adilabad and so on. At present, the ecclesiastical territory of Nagpur, which was raised to an Archdiocese in 1953, comprises the district of Nagpur and Bhandara, Gondia in Maharashtra State and the districts of Betul, Chhindwara, Seoni and Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh.

FIRST CHURCH, FIRST PRELATES

In 1858 Dr. Neyret consecrated the church in Kamptee in honour of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. Msgr. Neyret had 10 priests, 3 lay brothers and 4 sisters of St Joseph of Chambery working in five residential stations. He was a learned man. Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Rosary played a big part in his zeal for his people. But, worn out by a life of hard work and travelling for 66 days without rest via a new route to Kamptee from the South, he passed away on 5th November 1862.

Dr. Joseph Tissot had come to India with the first batch of M.S.F.S. Missionaries. He was appointed Vicar Apostolic in 1863 and was consecrated at Bombay on the 3rd of April 1864. Nagpur was separated from Vishakhapatnam in 1886. Dr. Tissot became the Bishop of Vishakhapatnam.

THE SHIFT TO NAGPUR

A church building was already started in 1844 in the S.F.S. School compound and opened for services in 1857. The foundation for the new church was laid in 1880. Services were shifted to the new S.F.S. church in 1886. The two bell towers came in 1909, in the tenure of Bishop Gayet.

The Diocese was originally formed by dismemberment of what was then known as the Central Provinces and Berar, from the Diocese of Visakhapatnam in 1887. It was entrusted to the care of Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales.

On July 18, 1932, the Brief "De Romanorum Pontificum" erected the Prefecture of Jabalpur (now Diocese) by separating from the Diocese of Nagpur and Allahabad, the districts of Jabalpur, Mandla, Narsinghpur and the tehsil of Lakhnadon in Seoni District. Again on March 11, 1935, the Decree 'Salutis Animarum' of the S.C. of the Propagation of the Faith erected the Prefecture of Indore (now Diocese) comprising parts of the Diocese of Ajmer, Allahabad and Nagpur, namely, the districts of Hoshangabad and Khandwa.

Further on May 8, 1955 the Decree 'Cum Petierit' erected the Diocese of Amravati by taking away from the Nagpur Archdiocese the four districts of Berar (Amravati, Akola, Buldanha and Yeotmal) and the three districts of Marathwada (Aurangabad and parts of Parbhani and Nanded- the other parts of Parbhani and Nanded belonged to the Archdiocese of Hyderabad).

On March 31, 1962, the Apostolic Decree "Ad lucen Sancti Evangelii erected the Exarchate of Chanda from the three districts of Wardha, Chanda and Adilabad, till then part of Nagpur Archdiocese. This was entrusted to the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, of the Syro-Malabar Rite. In 1976 Chanda Exarchate was made in to a Diocese.

On January 16, 1964 by the Bull 'Religio Vera Christique Salus', the districts of Raipur, Durg and Bilaspur were further detached from Nagpur Archdiocese to form the Prefecture of Raipur which was entrusted to the Pallotine Fathers and later given the status of Diocese in March 1974.

In September 1953, Nagpur was raised to an Archbishopric, with Amravati, Aurangabad & Chanda as its Suffragans. Most Rev. Eugene D'Souza was the first Indian Bishop and later Archbishop of Nagpur.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Date	Event	From	To
		Diocese of Nagpur	
11 July 1887	Erected	Diocese of Vizagapatnam	Diocese of Nagpur (erected)
18 July 1932	Territory Lost	Diocese of Allahabad Diocese of Nagpur	Prefecture Apostolic of Jubbulpore (erected)
11 March 1935	Territory Lost	Diocese of Ajmer Diocese of Allahabad Diocese of Nagpur	Prefecture Apostolic of Indore (erected)
14 June 1951	Territory Lost	Archdiocese of Calcutta Diocese of Nagpur Diocese of Ranchi	Diocese of Sambalpur (erected)
13 December 1951	Territory Lost	Diocese of Nagpur Diocese of Ranchi	Diocese of Raigarh-Ambikapur (erected)
Archdiocese of Nagpur			
19 September 1953	Elevated	Diocese of Nagpur	Archdiocese of Nagpur
8 May 1955	Territory Lost	Archdiocese of Nagpur	Diocese of Amravati (erected)
16 January 1964	Territory Lost	Archdiocese of Nagpur	Prefecture Apostolic of Raipur (erected)
29 July 1968	Territory Lost	Diocese of Amravati Archdiocese of Nagpur	Apostolic Exarchate of Chanda (Syro-Malabar) (erected)

NAGPUR DIOCESE LINEAGE

Bishop Alexis Riccaz	2nd August 1887 – 8th September 1892.	On 26th of July 1887, a 'bull' issued in Rome separated the Diocese of Nagpur from Vishakhapatnam and appointed Msrg. Alexis Riccaz as its first Bishop.
Bishop Charles Felix Pelvat	2nd Oct 1893 – 23rd July 1900	The opening of the Ghorargaon mission, the establishment of the St. Charles Seminary on Seminary Hills.
Bishop John Mary Crochet	28th November 1900 – 6th June 1903.	The opening of the St. Charles Seminary and acquiring a Printing press were the two important events during his tenure.
Bishop Stephen Bonaventure	17th September 1904 - 12th March 1907.	He was an educationist and a good part of Archbishop's House was also completed during his period.
Rt. Rev. Francis Stephen Coppel	22nd June 1907- 16th March 1933.	A long Silver Innings with many significant events. The annual procession in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes was started.
Rt. Rev. Louis Gayet	1st February 1934 – 26th August 1950.	He created new parishes at Ajni and Ballarshah.
Bishop Eugene D'Souza	12th July 1951-1953	

Archbishop of Nagpur		
Archbishop of Nagpur	19th September 1953 – 13th Sept 1963.	Our Diocese became an Archdiocese. He is remembered as dynamic and youthful leader endowed with faith, hope, trust and an prophetic insight to read and challenge the signs of the times. He was instrumental in restarting the new St. Charles Seminary and St. Francis de Sales College in 1956.
Archbishop Leonard Raymond	16th January 1964 - 1st February 1974.	A towering intellectual genius , a Doctor of Divinity and a Doctor of Canon Law. Nationally and Internationally renowned for his talks, lectures and discourses on almost any topic.
Archbishop Leobard D'Souza	1st July 1975 – 17th January 1998	To His Grace the Archdiocese owes a debt of gratitude for many things. Sisters of various congregation were invited to manage existing schools and several other congregations to work in the Archdiocese. The theme 'Apostolate' of the neighbourhood - or mohalla came into vogue.
Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara	17th January 1998 – 19th April 2018.	His dedication and hard work bore much fruit in the Archdiocese of Nagpur. New parishes and educational institutions were started; St. Francis Xavier's Church , Sitabuildi, St. Claret Church Butibori, St. Pius X Church , Mankapur, St. Jude's Church, Baihar and St. John Paul II Church , Hazaripahad; CBSE/English Medium Schools were started in Gondia, Seoni, Bhandara, Chhindwara, Balaghat, Wadi, Amla, and Betul. Instrumental in opening many schools by religious congregations. Jesus Youth Movement received attention and encouraged. Charismatic Movement. SCC groups got a boost with his efforts.
Most. Rev Elias Gonsalves	3rd December 2018 onwards	He revived various bodies of the Archdiocese and made them efficient and effective. The Archdiocesan Board of Education (ABE) was revitalized. Digital Learning was introduced at the start of the Covid Pandemic period. Various policies have been put in place. The Archdiocesan Synod was held in two sessions with one year of preparation, with eight thrust areas as the outcome which has been held for the renewed focus for the church in Nagpur. He has completed the construction SFS School CBSC at Narkhed, SFS School of Excellence ICSE with affiliation at Seminary Hills, Rectory at Gondia, constructed the Pre-Primary and Primary block of Nirmal School at Gondia, renovation of SFS School, Sadar Auditorium along with ground and first two floors and successfully renovated and resorted the Archbishop's House, Nagpur. Foundation stone has been blessed to construct Infant Jesus School CBSE at Wadi.

STATISTICS

Year	Catholics	Total Population	Percent Catholic	Diocesan Priests	Religious Priests	Total Priests	Male Religious	Female Religious	Parishes
1950	34,169	15,396,710	.2%	26	25	51	38	212	21
Archbishop of Nagpur									
1969	12,684	3,336,684	.4%	47	24	71	49	154	15
1980	13,844	10,972,000	.1%	47	36	83	226	230	5
1990	15,393	13,323,000	.1%	52	33	85	193	253	5
1999	22,663	11,050,000	.2%	44	57	101	240	324	24
2000	22,626	11,500,000	.2%	43	58	101	218	324	32
2001	23,185	11,000,000	.2%	42	62	104	250	397	32
2002	23,286	11,000,000	.2%	44	84	128	353	403	32
2003	24,479	11,000,000	.2%	45	80	125	419	407	21
2004	24,446	11,000,000	.2%	44	80	124	379	421	24
2013	25,500	12,202,000	.2%	47	96	143	244	540	34
2016	25,800	12,687,000	.2%	52	98	150	452	464	36
2019	28,500	13,165,400	.2%	54	105	159	455	546	35





RESULTS 2023 - 24

Sr. No.	Name of the School	Total Number of Students	Total number of Students in Class X	% of results
1	INFANT JESUS SCHOOL, WADI	729		
2	MOUNT CARMEL GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, AJNI, NAGPUR	1080	187	100%
3	PROVIDENCE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, NAGPUR	1738	280	99.64%
4	ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL, NARKHED			
5	ST. PETER'S SCHOOL, BELA, BHANDARA.	2369	152	100%
6	ST. ANTHONY'S HIGH SCHOOL, AJNI	431	79	79%
7	ST. GIANELLI CONVENT SCHOOL CBSE, KAMPTEE	1584	99	98.99%
8	ST. JOHN'S PUBLIC SCHOOL CBSE, NAGPUR	1056	87	100%
9	ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL, KAMPTEE	1625	243	100%
10	ST. MARY'S ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL, BALAGHAT	1242	75	100%
11	ST. THERESA'S ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL, BETUL	800	46	100%
12	ST. MICHAEL'S HIGH SCHOOL, NAGPUR.	261	50	68%
13	ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL, SEONI	2183	156	99.36%
14	MONTFORT SCHOOL, NAGPUR	3324	296	100%
15	ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOOL, RANALA, KAMPTEE.	1600	129	95%
16	ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOOL, PALLOTTI NAGAR, NAGPUR	3758	271 (39 Students in Merit List & 70 scored above 80%)	100%

INFANT JESUS ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL, WADI

The academic school report of Infant Jesus School, Wadi highlights various academic activities, such as School Reopening, International Yoga Day, Investiture Ceremony, and various special day celebrations like Kargil Vijay Divas, Independence Day, Hindi Divas, Diwali & Christmas Celebrations and the School Annual Day. These programmes aim to develop the students' mental and physical health, improve academic performance, create personal and social awareness, develop leadership skills, strengthen self-confidence, and develop specialized skills. It also helps students to appreciate different cultures and foster a sense of global citizenship.

Extracurricular activities included various competitions like handwriting, singing, Rakhi Making, Flag Making, Patriotic Song, Rangoli Making, Hindi Speech, Dandiya, Elocution, Diya Making, Lantern Making, Dance, Greeting Card Making, Poster Making, Chess, And Quiz Competitions. These activities aim to develop creativity, teamwork, time management, problem-solving skills, critical thinking, public speaking skills, empathy, compassion and specialization of skills.

Other activities conducted in the school were the Science Olympiad, Mathematics Olympiad, and picnics for pre-primary and primary students. These activities promote concept-based learning, inspire common actions with friends and develop a healthy sportsmanship spirit.

We are grateful to Archbishop Elias Gonsalves who has been the Chief Guest on many occasions wherein he emphasized the importance of students as the future leaders and encouraged them to complete tasks with dedication and discipline, respecting each other, and always being ready to learn new things.



MOUNT CARMEL GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, AJNI, NAGPUR

Mount Carmel Girls' High School in Ajni, Nagpur, has been conducting various academic activities to promote leadership qualities, helping students shoulder responsibility and develop scientific attitudes & critical thinking. The school also provides a platform for students to showcase their talents and discover hidden treasures.

Extra-Curricular activities conducted in the school include the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Independence Day, Patriotic Song Presentation, Children's Day celebrations, Teachers' Day celebrations and Christmas celebrations. These activities aim to inculcate Carmelite values, arouse a spirit of Patriotism, express love and affection for children and gratify teachers for their hard work.

The school also hosts an outreach program with Hues foundation, Shanti Bhavan and Mure Hospital to share God's love, joy and peace by generously distributing to the less privileged.

The Bi-centennial birth anniversary of Venerable Mother Veronica, Road Safety Week, Cleanliness Drive, Carmel Blossoms, Adoration for Catechism students, a spiritual gathering and Championship, Holy Mass and Inter-Faith Prayer were programs aimed to speak of sacred, loving relationships, celebrate the life of Venerable Mother Veronica, create awareness about road safety, social and personal hygiene and above all imbibe Carmelite values in the students.



Best Wishes From

**MOUNT CARMEL GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL
DHANTOLI, NAGPUR - 440 012**

To make her known and loved by all



Venerable Mother Veronica of the Passion
Foundress of the Apostolic Carmel
1823-1906

Mount Carmel Girls' Primary School run by the Sisters of the Apostolic Carmel was started at Dhantoli in June 1955 at the express invitation of Archbishop Eugene D'Souza. For the first few years we had very few pupils on roll. When the High school was started in 1970 we were obliged, for want of accommodation, to move into our new school building at Ajni.

The School aims at an all-round education of girls to fulfill a noble role in life. Hence attention is paid to the spiritual, the moral, the intellectual, the social and physical aspects of education. Though primarily established for Catholics, the school does not exclude others on the ground of caste, creed or status at the time of admission.

PROVIDENCE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, NAGPUR

Providence Girls' High School in Nagpur has been conducting various academic activities to increase students' confidence, enhancing students' critical thinking skills and encourage their future success. These activities include an Educational Tour, Debate Competition, Olympiad Exam, Spelling Bee, Science Exhibition, Quiz Competitions, Essay Competitions, Patriotic Song Competitions, And Geography Talent Search Exam. These competitive exams evaluate students' performance and promote concept-based learning with logical thinking. The main purpose of these exhibitions is to educate and engage students and individuals by showcasing concepts, discoveries, innovations, and experiments.

The school also hosts PTA meetings, seminars on education law and class room management, seminars for parents on mind development, and lectures on Laudato Si by Pope Francis. The purpose of these programs is to build strong relationships between parents and teachers, provide opportunities for leadership traits, and focus on challenges in implementing policies and future prospects of education. Additionally, the school operates environmental, health, waste management, safety, sanitation awareness programs and campaigns.

Providence Girls' High School takes part in various extracurricular activities to improve students' physical, mental, and moral well being. These activities include Karate Competitions, Green Club Inauguration, Sports Day, Master Stroke Drawing And Rakhi Making Competitions, and cultural programmes. The school also encourages students to participate in state level, national level and international level competitions, such as the 16th International competition of Abacus & Mental Arithmetical, sub-junior district level Karate competitions, Khasdar Mahotsav, Throwball Competition and state-level Gymnastic competitions. These activities aim to instil a sense of national pride, promotes teamwork, physical fitness, and healthy competition, fostering a sense of patriotism and awareness about history, culture, and achievements.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL, NARKHED

St. Francis De Sales School in Narkhed has reported on its achievements and activities for the 2023-2024 academic year. The school's pre-primary section has seen high-quality teaching, with a chrysalis curriculum that matches the children's ability levels. The Kindergarten children have enjoyed various festivals and events, making the school and the children colorful.

The school Parliament provides an opportunity for students to be involved in school governance and decision-making, developing their leadership skills and communication skills. The Investiture Ceremony on August 4th, 2023, established the students' council for the Academic Year 2023-2024, allowing them to work with students and staff members for the benefit of the school, students, and themselves.

Co-curricular activities provide opportunities for children to showcase their hidden talents through group-wise competitions in various fields, such as literary, essay writing, quiz, poem recitation, cultural, fancy dress, dancing, singing, and vegetable carving. The school aims to provide a balanced learning program that includes academics and a wide range of co-curricular opportunities, including dance, music, karate, chess, and comprehensive physical education.

Parent Teacher Meetings are conducted to improve the efficacy of education. A health camp was conducted by the state Government of Maharashtra for all students from Nursery to 8'th Class, recording their height, weight, and chest measurements. Sports play a pivotal role in instilling values such as discipline, team spirit, and sportsmanship among students.

The school organizes annual excursion trips and field trips to help students gain first-hand knowledge and augment their academic learning. The good work of a school is the result of the hard work of students, parents, teachers, and timely support from several quarters on behalf of the school.

In conclusion, St. Francis De Sales School, Narkhed continues to strive to mould young minds into well-balanced personalities with confidence and zeal. The report acknowledges the contributions of the committed management and staff of the school, and seeks divine grace and blessings to guide them in all their endeavours.



Best Compliments From

St. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL
Staff & Students



ST. PETER'S SCHOOL, BELA, BHANDARA

St. Peter's School in Bela, Bhandara has organized various educational initiatives to enhance students' learning experiences. A training program was arranged for teachers to upgrade their technical knowledge and enhance teaching communication skills using class smart boards. The program also provided career counselling and cybersecurity training.

A 'Rural Yuwa' seminar was held for students of class 9 and 10, led by Mrs. Bernali Ghosh from Nagpur, focusing on challenges and responsibility. Dr. Pranjali Padole, the resource person, educated the students about health and hygiene, involving separate seminars for boys and girls. Live streaming was also organized for students to learn about exam preparation, with PM Narendra Modi providing motivation and guidance. Khari Kamai was organized to teach students about earning money through small odd jobs and the importance of hard work.

Space on wheels, a collaboration between ISRO and Vigyan Bharti (VIBHA), aimed to make the children aware of ISRO and India's space mission and introduce new career options. A cleanliness campaign was organized under the guidance of Principal Rev. Sr. Regina and Rev. Fr. Jeyaprakash, involving students, teachers, and non-teaching staff in cleaning their classrooms and school campuses. These initiatives aim to promote a positive attitude and a better world for students.



ST. ANTHONY'S HIGH SCHOOL, AJNI

The Academic year 2022-23 at St. Anthony's High School, Ajni was marked by a diverse array of activities aimed at fostering both academic and personal growth among students. Our academic initiatives included remedial classes, bridge courses, and extra classes to support weaker students, alongside tree plantation drives and Save Environment rallies to raise environmental awareness. National festivals were celebrated grandly, involving maximum student participation to instil a sense of national pride. Additionally, our Child Change Maker program allowed students to fundraise for the education of girl children, while Children's Day celebrations, which included tree planting and staff-organized programs, showcased our dedication to student well-being. Sports Week, birthday and feast day celebrations further nurtured family bonds within our school community.

Our co-curricular activities were equally enriching, with the month long Summer Camp engaging students in various sports and the Eco Bricks Project Competition promoting the use of non-renewable plastics innovatively. Students gave their teachers a happy memory on teacher's day. We celebrated Diwali with sweets, Rangoli, lantern competitions, quizzes, and fancy dress events, fostering students' talents and cultural appreciation. In other significant events during the year the staff-initiated school repairs and maintenance funds ensured infrastructure upkeep, while monthly First Friday Mass and other prayer ceremonies provided spiritual support. Home visits by the Head Mistress Sr. Sahaya Nisha Christin strengthened relationships with the staff and neighbourhood recruitment drives and visit to families of students by staff members aimed to increase school enrolment. These activities collectively contributed to the holistic development of our students, making the year both fruitful and memorable.



Best Wishes From

Manager Principal Staff & Students

SFS SCHOOL



Celebrating 155 year's Jubilee

155 Years of Excellence

ST. GIANELLI CONVENT SCHOOL

St. Gianelli Convent School organized a motivational session with Rev. Fr. Dr. Paul Chandrankunnel and Prof. Abhranil Banerjee to inspire students on personal development and goal setting. The session provided students with a sense of purpose, direction, and the opportunity to set academic goals and build self-esteem.

A science and art exhibition was also held to provide learning opportunities and exposure for students. The school celebrated its Annual Sports Day, emphasizing the importance of sports in instilling values of discipline, perseverance, and teamwork. The Archbishop of Nagpur Archdiocese, Most Rev. Dr. Elias Gonsalves, and Mrs. Sangeeta Tabhane BEO of Kamptee highlighted the importance of dedication and sportsmanship in sports activities. Students also participated in the Kabaddi Competition held at Dragon Palace School, Kamptee, with one student achieving first place. Four students also participated in the national Sambo competition, winning Gold, Silver, And Bronze medals.





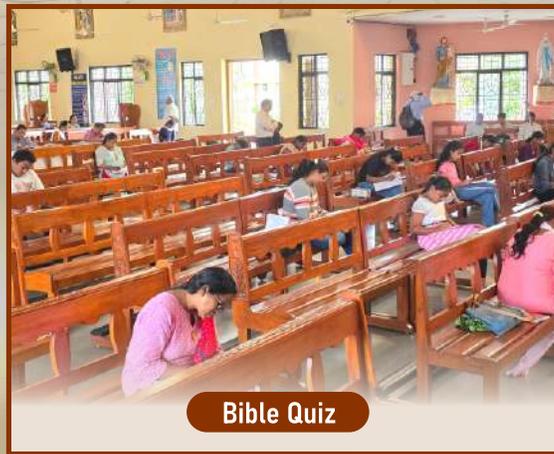
ST. MARTIN DE PORRES



YOUTH DAY C



Catechism Teachers Meeting



Bible Quiz



Youth Day Ce



Pastoral Meeting with Archbishop Elias Gonsalves

CHURCH, JARIPATKA, NAGPUR



CELEBRATION



celebration



Inauguration and Blessing of a Convent
Congregation of Missionary Sisters of
Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC)



Nagpur Deanery Meeting



Friendly Match with Rosary Parish, Seminary Hills

*Best Compliments
From Well Wishers*

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE



Kamptee Road, Mohan Nagar, Nagpur.

ST. JOHNS PUBLIC SCHOOL CBSE, NAGPUR

St. Johns Public School CBSE in Nagpur hosts several events to foster critical thinking and cooperation among students. Through participation in Debate, students promote problem solving and innovative thinking. They build links between words and ideas that make concepts more meaningful. The Inter-House Debate Competition encourages students to refine their ideas and discard illogical ones.

The Annual Parents Day with the theme 'Meliora – Pursuit of the better' encouraged students to develop leadership skills and recognize the importance of parents in their lives. The Pench Jungle Safari encouraged students to think compassionately and respect nature, allowing them to experience wildlife and witness the beauty of the animal kingdom in its natural habitat.





*"God is faithful, who has called you
into fellowship with his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord."*

~ 1 Corinthians 1:9

WHAT DO YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE?

OUR INSPIRATION

Since God has loved us first, we respond, by seeking HIM above all things, persons & ourselves through prayer and like Mary go out to share His love with everyone through Education and other forms of Social Service with special focus on children, youth, women, families and the needy, thus striving to Proclaim that **GOD ALONE SUFFICES!**



DO YOU FEEL Called to be an APOSTOLIC CARMELITE?

If so, Contact or write to

Mount Carmel Convent, Ajni Square, Nagpur - 440015

Vocation Promoter: 7303123315 | Superior: 9021881259



ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL, KAMPTEE

St. Joseph's Convent High School, Kamptee celebrated its 65th Annual Sports Day and Interfaith Meet on December 15th, 2023. The event aimed to celebrate the human spirit and youth, teaching good values and ethics to young students. The theme for the event was Pilgrims of Hope in Harmony with Nature, emphasizing that as children of Mother Earth, we belong to a 'ONE GLOBAL FAMILY' striving for a better future. The school has always been a place of inclusivity, diversity, and understanding, embracing students from all backgrounds, regardless of their beliefs or culture heritage.

The presence of the religious head sent a message to the students, parents, and invitees that together as Pilgrims of Hope, United, we walk in peace and harmony with nature. The Headmistress, Sr. Claudia in her keynote address mentioned that we are threads of all colors gifted and free, creating a tapestry of Hope, Peace, and Harmony for our Mother Earth. Teachers are professionally guiding our children to be green ambassadors in keeping the school environment clean and green, while they personally and collectively listen to the cries and groans of the environment.

The event began with the hoisting of the school flag and declaration of the Athletic meet open by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur. The Peace March symbolizing the four elements of the earth was performed by the students, who proudly reflected on the essential elements that unite us: grounding stability of Earth, flowing currents of water, uplifting embrace of air, and radiant warmth of fire.

The most entertaining part of the event was the PT drill display based on the theme of INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLET by standard 7, Meri Matti Mera Desh by standard 8, Vasudev Kutumbh Kam by standard 6, and Chandrayan by standard 5. The athletes from the Red, Blue and Yellow house, and greenhouse tested their strength in various events such as 200 meters, 100 meters, 80 meters track events, and tug of war. The nimble footed and energetic participants of standard 9th and 10th participated in the relay, showcasing agility, coordination, strength, and stamina.

The Chief Guest, Most Rev. Dr. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur, emphasized the theme of hope calling all to be responsible builders of a better world. The zealous parents constantly applauded the enthusiastic young sports stars, and the winners were awarded certificates and congratulated for their victory. The blue house was declared as the overall champions.

In conclusion, the 65th Annual Sports Day and Interfaith Meet was a day filled with sportsmanship, enthusiasm and memories to cherish. The collective wisdom, unwavering commitment, and dedication concluded the event with a resounding success.



*Best Compliments
From Well Wishers*



ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE

Kamptee Road, Mohan Nagar, Nagpur.



ST. MARY'S ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL, BALAGHAT

St. Mary's English Medium School in Balaghat held seminars for teaching staff on "Setting Outcomes for Teaching and Learning," A seminar on traffic rules by the Traffic Police helped the children become aware of road safety and importance of following rules. A seminar for parents was held on the topic "The Role of a Parent in Education and a successful Parent" by Mr. Surya Narain Bahadur. Various sport competitions like Tug of War and Football were held in the school to foster physical fitness and teamwork among the children. The school welcomed Fr. Jeya Prakash and Fr. Narendra to the school.



Tree Plantation



Welcoming



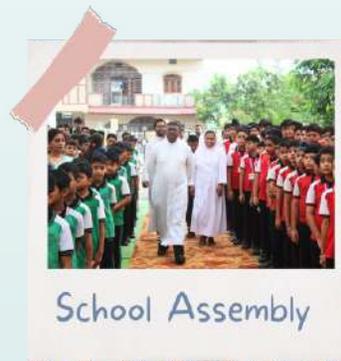
Inaugurating New Academic Year



Sports



NCC Training



School Assembly



Farewells



Rainy Day Celebration



Art Competition



Raaki Making



Investiture Ceremony



Stalls

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St. Francis De Sales College

Seminary Hills, Nagpur - 440006

Affiliated to RTM Nagpur University & AICTE

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- BSc Computer Science
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- BCA (Bachelor of Computer Application)*AICTE

Commerce

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- BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration)*AICTE

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ST. THERESA'S ENGLISH MEDIUM CONVENT SCHOOL, BETUL

St. Theresa's English Medium Convent School is situated in the heart of Betul (M.P). Our school remains steadfast in its commitment to providing a holistic education that nurtures the minds, hearts and spirits of our students.

The academic year 2023-24 began on April 1st. The Principal awards are given monthly for students who perform well in academics, discipline and English speaking. Teachers' training programs were conducted on June 13th, 14, 15, and 15th, 2023.

This year the school conducted Indian Talent Scholarship Examination and CSC Olympiad Examination. Students Munmun Pawar and Kartik Dadore received the National Level Award in G.K and Maths Respectively. Co-curricular activities such as Rakhi Making, Rhymes, drawing, English Speech, Hindi Speech, English Recitation, Song, Art & Craft, Smiling, Spell bee, Quiz, Fruit Salad Competition, Bouquet Making Competition, Dance competition, and children's day were also conducted by the school.

Cultural celebrations are an integral part of life at the school, including Foundation Day, Investiture Ceremony, Independence Day, Teacher's Day, Children's Day, Raksha Bandhan, Gandhi Jayanti, Christmas Day, Republic Day, and School Day. Visits include a school picnic to "Nature Pride" and a visit to an old age home for Raksha Bandhan celebrations was the most celebrated moment in the year.

Sports meet 2023-24 promotes efficiency and development both intellectually and physically. The school held the Annual Sports Meet 2023-24, in the presence of Mr. Dharmendra Pawar (District Sports Officer). Many tournaments took place, including football, Kabadi, Kho-Kho, cricket, throwball, Tug of war, race, Long Jump, Shot put, Relay, and more. One remarkable achievement was the 11 students securing National level prizes in the Ice stock Sports Championship.



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL, SEONI

St. Francis of Assisi School in SEONI held various events including the Arhinant Blom Olympiad, Annual Day, Election, Investment Conference, Dance Competitions, Speech Competition, Drawing Competition, Yoga, and Diwali Celebrations. These events aimed to promote academic excellence, healthy competition, and future career success by encouraging students to believe in themselves.



ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOOL PALLOTTI NAGAR, NAGPUR

ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOOL in Pallotti Nagar, Nagpur celebrated their 25 years of enlightenment with a Silver Jubilee Celebration. They also participated in the choir singing competition and Under-17 Girls - DSO Hockey Championship.



Best Compliments from...

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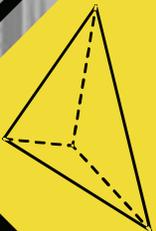
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MONTFORT SCHOOL, NAGPUR

Montfort School in Nagpur conducted academic activities for teachers and students. Teachers participated in a 10-hour CPD training program covering self-esteem, goal setting, and Indian knowledge systems. The school aimed at teaching values and building awareness through various sessions and seminars. Health awareness seminars were held, and orientation programs focused on time management and maximizing potential. The High school Student Council's orientation program focused on mastering leadership, focusing on confidence, communication, and teamwork.

The School held a Science Expo and Edification Fair, focusing on Artificial Intelligence, Scientific and Social Approach, Linguistic Enhancement, and Creativity. The event was attended by Mr. Renya Kikuchi, President and CEO of SCCIP Japan Co. Ltd, and Mr. David Prakash, CEO of ISCL Robotics Pvt. Ltd. A seminar was held for parents and students on unmasking the digital world, and Montfort Inter School Literary & Cultural Competitions were held.





Best Wishes

From Fathers of SFS Cathedral

• Fr. Sebastiraj • Fr. Jerom Pinto • Fr. Ajay Andre • Fr. Ajay Kullu

ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOOL, RANALA, KAMPTEE

In honour of PN. Panicker, the "Father of Library," St. Vincent Pallotti School observed National Reading Day. A reading week was held to help the kids from the first to the tenth grade to develop a habit of reading, via class exercises and theatrical shows, Hindi teachers highlighted the value of the Hindi language. Competitions for solo dancing for students in grades III, IV, and V boosted the self-esteem and confidence of the students. For Scout and Guide students, a one-day camp that focusses on education, outdoor exploration, team building, and life skills helped foster confidence and self-worth. Exhibitions of art, craft, and science fostered creativity and imagination. With the goal of fostering physical fitness, teamwork, and practical skills, the "VINPAL FUTSAMENT" sought to inculcate sportsmanship in students. These exercises support the students' general growth.



Best Compliments From

**ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT
GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL & JUNIOR COLLEGE
Kingsway, Nagpur**



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES HIGH SCHOOL AND JR. COLLEGE, SADAR, NAGPUR

S.F.S. School draws attention to the academic events, such as the reopening of the school, the investiture ceremony, and the felicitation of the SSC and HSSC meritorious students. The excellent results brought laurels to the school as it scored 100% in the HSSC Examination and 94% in the SSC Examination. The school celebrated special days like International Yoga Day, Kargil Vijay Diwas, Independence Day, Hindi Diwas, Vachan Prerna Diwas, Diwali, Christmas, New Year, the feast of the school patron St. Francis De Sales, Republic Day, Martyr's Day, Maharashtra Day, etc. The school paid special attention to the moral values of the students by conducting theme-based assemblies.

The school provided a platform for various interschool and interhouse competitions such as Hindi Essay Writing, the Themuras Doongagi Memorial English Elocution, the Archbishop Eugene D. Souza Memorial Hindi Elocution, the Late Archbishop Viruthakulangara Memorial Football Tournament, Quiz, Spellathon, Rakhi Making, Rangoli Making, Marathi Elocution, Fruit Salad Decoration, Debate, etc., and various sports activities to give students an opportunity to present their talents and excel in extracurricular activities.

The most important event hosted was 'A Symphony of Talent,' our school's annual concert to showcase the incredible talents of our students. The event was a platform for budding artists to exhibit their flair for acting, dancing, and music. The school conducted a fancy fete, in which various food items and games were installed and managed by the teachers. An all-subject exhibition was organized for all the classes to equip students in making working models. Various orientation and training programs were conducted for the teachers to update them. The teachers and students participated in Shramdan to support the Swachh Bharat Mission. The students raised funds for the cure of the needy, irrespective of race, religion, caste, or creed.

"DARE TO BE WISE"





*Heartiest Congratulations to His Grace
Archbishop Elias Gonsalves and The Archbishop
House Family on the Blessings and Inauguration
of the Renovated Archbishop House.*



ST JOSEPH'S FURNITURE & FABRICATIONS

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ST. MICHAEL'S HIGH SCHOOL, SADAR, NAGPUR

St. Michael's High School had a vibrant year filled with diverse activities. The Youth Reller Association hosted a seminar emphasizing moral values, virtues, education, ethics, mannerism, and overall development for students.

The Rotary Interact Club welcomed Shok Kacher as a new member during their conference on July 20, 2023. Mrs. Magdalene Francis, a dedicated educator for 38 years, was honored with a heartfelt farewell on August 31, 2023. The event began with a Eucharistic Mass followed by a cultural program and lunch.

Teachers participated in a fun-filled mini sports day on September 2, 2023. Students showcased their creativity, knowledge, and skills through a science exhibitions held on September 8 and 9.

To foster current affairs and knowledge, an inter-house quiz competition was organized. The Red House emerged victorious. Piraksha Pe Charcha, a stress-relief initiative affiliated with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan, was conducted on January 30, 2024, encouraging students to face challenges with confidence and optimism.



HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

SPES NON CONFUNDIT
Summary of the
BULL OF INDICIION OF
THE ORDINARY JUBILEE
OF THE YEAR 2025
Given in Rome,
at Saint John Lateran,
on 9 May, the solemnity
of the Ascension of our
Lord Jesus Christ, in the
year 2025

The Apostle Paul's words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome emphasize HOPE, which is central to the coming Jubilee, which the Pope proclaims every 25 years. The HOPE of the Holy Year is a personal encounter with Jesus, the door to salvation, and the Church is tasked with proclaiming it to all. The Jubilee is an opportunity to renew HOPE, guided by God's word, and to find reasons for HOPE, despite uncertainty about the future.

A Word of Hope

Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans marked a turning point in his work of evangelization, as he aimed to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead. HOPE is born of love and based on the love springing from Jesus' pierced heart. This love becomes manifest in our faith, which begins with baptism and develops in openness to God's grace. The Holy Spirit illumines believers with the light of HOPE, which is grounded in the certainty that nothing can separate us from God's love. Christian HOPE perseveres despite trials and tribulations, as it is grounded in faith and nurtured by charity. Saint Paul emphasizes the importance of patience, a virtue closely linked to HOPE, and how it can be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

A Journey of Hope

The Christian life is a journey of HOPE and patience, with moments of greater intensity to encourage and sustain HOPE. The first Jubilee in 1300 was preceded by a journey of grace inspired by popular spirituality. The power of God's forgiveness can support communities and individuals on their pilgrim way. Pilgrimage is a fundamental element of every Jubilee event, and pilgrims of HOPE will travel ancient and modern routes to experience the Jubilee to the full. The Eastern Churches, particularly those in full communion with the Successor of Peter, should feel welcome in Rome, as the Catholic Church aims to give symbolic expression to their embrace.

The Holy Year of 2025 marks the two thousandth anniversary of Jesus Christ's redemption, marking a significant milestone in Christian history. The Holy Year will also guide our steps towards yet another fundamental celebration for all Christians: 2033 will mark the two thousandth anniversary of the redemption won by the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

The year will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter in the Vatican on 24th December 2024, followed by Saint John Lateran (29th December 2024), Saint Mary Major (1st January 2025), and Saint Paul Outside the Walls (5th January 2025). The last three Holy Doors will be closed on 28 December 2025. On Sunday, 29 December 2024, in every cathedral and co-cathedral, diocesan bishops are to celebrate Holy Mass as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year. The Holy Year will conclude in the particular Churches on Sunday, 28 December 2025 and The Ordinary Jubilee will conclude with the closing of the Holy Door in the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican on 6 January 2026

Signs of Hope

During the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of HOPE for those experiencing hardships, such as prisoners and the sick. Governments should undertake initiatives aimed at restoring HOPE, such as amnesty or pardon, and programs of reintegration in the community.

Signs of HOPE should also be shown to the sick, at home or in hospitals, and to healthcare workers who carry out their mission with constant care and concern. Inclusion and care for those in difficult situations should be given, as they experience their own weaknesses and limitations, calling for the choral participation of society as a whole.

Signs of HOPE should be for the young, migrants, elderly, and the poor. It calls for greater efforts to reach out to these groups, as they represent the joy and HOPE of the Church and the world. It also calls for a spirit of welcome and responsibility for those who leave their homelands, ensuring they have access to employment and education. It is a call for the Christian community to defend the rights of the most vulnerable, ensuring they are not robbed of HOPE for a better future. It also calls for HOPE for the billions of the poor, who often lack essentials of life.

Appeals for Hope

The Jubilee Year is a reminder that the earth's goods are for everyone, and the rich must be generous. Hunger is a scandal that calls for a serious examination of conscience. The 1700th anniversary of the first great Ecumenical Council, that of Nicaea, is a significant date for all Christians. The Council of Nicaea sought to preserve the Church's unity, which was threatened by the denial of Jesus Christ's full divinity. The celebration of its anniversary invites Christians to join in a hymn of praise and thanksgiving to the Blessed Trinity and Jesus Christ. Providentially, a common celebration will take place in the year 2025. This serves as an appeal to all Christians, East and West, to take a decisive step forward towards unity around a common date for Easter.

Anchored in Hope

HOPE, together with faith and charity, makes up the triptych of the “theological virtues” that express the heart of the Christian life.

The death and resurrection of Jesus are the foundation of Christian faith and HOPE. Baptism provides a new life, breaking down death's walls and allowing us to enter eternity. The Jubilee year offers us the opportunity to appreciate this new life, with martyrs serving as a testament to this HOPE. After death, we will find eternal life, full communion with God and sharing in his infinite love. God's judgment, both at the end of our lives and at the end of history, is based on love and divine mercy.

The sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation allows God to forgive our sins and heal our hearts. Missionaries of Mercy carry out this ministry during the Jubilee Year, reviving HOPE and offering forgiveness to those in need. HOPE is a gift of grace, as seen in the Blessed Virgin Mary, who witnessed the Passion and Death of Jesus. The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City celebrates its fifth centenary, bringing HOPE to pilgrims and faithful.

As we approach the Jubilee, we should remember the HOPE we have been given, which provides stability and security amidst life's challenges. The coming Holy Year will be marked by HOPE that does not fade, helping us recover confidence in the Church, society, interpersonal relationships, international relations, and promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's creation.

- Summarised by Mrs. Zurica Kevin Pinto

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