



# DELHI DISHA

Vol.14/6

Province News Letter

November – December 2020

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

### **JESU BHAWAN, DELHI**

The month of November reminded us about our own dear departed and the month of December challenged us to prepare to welcome Jesus.

#### **Journeys and visits**

We visited our sisters at Jhajjar, spent some time with them and enjoyed the beauty around. Walking around the XLRI campus and seeing its grandeur and might gave us a wow feeling. Refreshed and renewed in the company of our sisters we returned in the evening. After few days it was their turn to visit us in their new vehicle. When they returned Sr. Renata went with them to spend a few days in Jhajjar. We welcomed Sr. Alice who came in for a day with a candidate who was returning home. Sr. Ely found time to visit Sr. Gladys in Ekperere, Asansol and on her way back she took two days in Allahabad. Soon after that she was on her visitation journey to Falna. After spending a month in Jeolikote Sr. Reena came back accompanying Sr. Grace who was missioned to Jhajjar. Sr. Grace was reached on the next day to her new mission – Jhajjar. At the end of November, we welcomed Sr. Teresa the new member of the community. We wish you a fruitful stay in Jesu Bhawan Teresa!

#### **Prayer days**

In November, the community spent a day in prayer with the theme, 'Just Soul' which was the resource material of COIN Rethinking Process. In December, we had our three days' recollection; we joined the retreat theme of Allahabad province. Sr. Teresa spent 8 days renewing and refreshing herself in the company of the Lord.

We do appreciate our two Generals so beautifully speaking about our Mother Mary Ward in the webinar organized on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020. With prompt and apt answers to the questions asked, Sr. Jane and Sr. Noelle were sparks of the process of CJ/IBVM union. Kudos to you dear sisters!!

## Online classes and Webinars

We were happy to be part of the webinar on ‘Celebrating Constitution Day’; Ms. Medha Patkar as the speaker of the session. On 22<sup>nd</sup> December we were very excited to be part of the COIN zoom meeting where we experienced a feeling of oneness and unity. Thanks to the **COIN leadership team** for their innovative idea for this Christmas.

Sr. Grezal is busy most of the time with online classes. The road in front of our building is getting a face lift, a lot of migrant workers with their little ones are there daily. Sr. Grezal is happy to gather these children and teach them as part of her BSW field work. These children are happy to spend some time with books and pencils. She is seen collecting all the plastics – wrappers and polythene bags and gathering together to dispose them to rag pickers. Yes, this is also part of her project work.



## Farmers’ Protest

Every day’s news brings disappointment and frustration knowing the condition of the farmers in our country. Srs. Elsy and Deepa visited Jhajjar and on their return they were very badly caught up because of the protest of the farmers. They experienced the determination of the farmers at Tikri border; for miles and miles their tractors were parked on the main road in protest. Our prayer is that justice be done to them and their demand be heard by the leaders of the country. All that we can do is to pray for them and above all to appreciate their produce of the land which is on our table.

## A Meaningful Christmas Celebration



As part of our Christmas celebration, we distributed some ration to the migrant workers who are engaged in road construction in front of Jesu Bhawan. They are around 45 of them. We gave them 10 kg of wheat flour, 2 kg cereals and oil to each family. On Christmas day we the sisters enjoyed the parish Mass after 10 months of stay inside. The next day we

shared a meal with our domestic staff. We were happy to share Christmas cake with the migrant workers; the children smiled when they received a cap each to warm their small heads.

Every day after lunch we spend some time reading and understanding 'Fratelli Tutti.' Sr. Reena is in Kerala at present for the treatment of her knees. Sr. Teresa has gone to Allahabad to take care our dear Sr. Rinalda who is operated. We wish Sr. Rinalda speedy recovery.

The community at Jesu Bhawan wishes everyone a Grace filled 2021 with blessings from above!!

## **MARIA BHAWAN, MAURANIPUR**

*Life is more strict than a teacher. A teacher teaches a lesson and then takes exam.*

*But life takes an exam and then teaches a lesson.*

Srs. Julita and Cheryl visited our sisters at Kanpur and Fatehpur; they enjoyed their stay over there and appreciated Sr. Celine and all our dear sisters for their hospitality and friendship. Sr. Juliana who finished her G.N.M. course from Nazareth hospital Allahabad, was reached to Kanpur by our sisters from Allahabad and she joined Srs. Julita and Cheryl on their way back. Srs. Lucy, Kiran, Juliana and Mukti (Patna province) joined our community and we welcome them all and wish them a fruitful mission and grace filled days ahead. May they be fitting instruments in God's hand.

The month of November began with a sad note that one of our parishioners Valsamma 58 years went for her eternal reward because of kidney failure. We are eternally grateful to the Lord for protecting us from corona virus, while we were regularly assisting to bring forth new life. Hospital functioned as usual according to the guidelines of Covid-19, we could really feel the intervention of the Lord in our lives. **Life Is A Miracle and Every Breath We Take Is A Gift.** In the last 3 months many babies were born here; three were abnormal ones. The parents and family are very upset, let us support them with our prayers.

On 9<sup>th</sup> November, in a small scale, we celebrated children's day in the village with the permission of SDM. About 150 people were present. The village Pradhan(chief) was the chief guest; children put up few cultural items. A few games were conducted for the children. The winners were given prizes.

The arrival of SFC community on Deepawali day, 14th November, brought special light and life to the community. It was joy filled moments in the company of our own. On 15<sup>th</sup> three of ours Srs. Julita, Cheryl and Lucy made a trip to Sagar to visit our sisters there and returned on the next day with cherished moments. Sr. Regis stayed with us for a week and returned relaxed and refreshed. We bade good bye to Sr. Teresa as she left for her new community, Jesu Bhawan. We wish her all the best for her stay and mission in Delhi.

Sr. Juliana went to SFC to care for Sr. Shalini who was admitted in the hospital. Sr. Gladys came back from Ekperre, Asansol after accomplishing her mission. She enjoyed her stay with the children

there, caring for them and teaching them. She is grateful to both the provincials Sr. Elsy and Sr. Kiran for giving her this opportunity. On the same day our sisters from Sagar gave a surprise visit and spent a few hours with us. Sr. Cheryl went with them to proceed to Patna from there. She was with us for the last one year and two months rendering her valuable and generous service. We are grateful to Cheryl for her gentle and loving service to the patients and community. We sincerely wish and pray for God's blessings in her future mission in Dumraon.

We conducted a general knowledge quiz in the village for the students of Classes 1 – 8; we were happy that many participated in it. It was interesting to see the elders standing around like a fence to protect the children as well as to listen to the questions we were asking. The winners got prizes and a small general knowledge book to prepare for the next quiz.

Though it is pandemic time, we had no interruption in celebrating Christmas. As usual we had the preparation, decoration, singing practice and prayer service etc. This time our Crib portrayed the current situations of our country, like corona and farmers' protest. We had midnight Mass followed by light refreshments. On Christmas day a few people came to wish us and prayed before the Crib.



We wish you all the compliments of the season and pray for each one of you - "The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you... and give you peace" (Nb 6: 24-26). With hope we enter into the New Year 2021. Wish you all a safe journey through the year; may it be filled God's blessings.

## **NIRMALA CONVENT, JHANSI**

We joyfully celebrated All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day with fond memories. We prayed for all the departed souls by offering the Holy Mass and visiting the graveyard.

Mrs. Valsamma who was known for her generosity to many of our sisters and a dedicated parishioner of Mauranipur passed away leaving behind her husband and two children. Some of our sisters attended her funeral and expressed our solidarity and concern towards the bereaved family members.

Sr. Carola C.J from Kanpur paid a surprise visit to us and we were happy to meet her after a long time. There was great joy on Diwali day as the community joined with the candidates and postulants for dinner and celebrations.

Sr. Jyotika celebrated her birthday with great joy offering herself to the Lord during the Holy Eucharist. The teachers and students wished her and put up a programme. 23rd November was a

memorable day for Sr. Mary as she was celebrating her birthday. A well prepared Holy Mass was offered and prayed for her special intention and the day concluded with both the communities coming together for a get together and social which was organized for the birthday babies of the month - Srs. Mary, Jyotika and Roselette.

On the feast day of Christ the King, due to the pandemic we had the Eucharistic procession in our campus with singing and reciting the rosary and praying for the whole world. We experienced the presence of the Lord walking along with us in the campus just like Yahweh walked alongside the Israelites.

On Advent Sundays as usual the community came together for special prayers by highlighting the particular theme of the week. A few of us joined the online retreat organized by the Allahabad Province and were able to spend quality time with the Lord under the guidance of Fr. Jossie D'Mello S.J.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December the feast of Sr. Vinita was celebrated with a thanksgiving Mass. On the same day the school had the investiture ceremony and sister was greeted by the students and the staff. This was a joyful day for all the office bearers. Students from classes 9 – 12 and the staff celebrated Christmas by depicting the birth scenes from the life of Jesus highlighting the message of love and peace, after which we closed the school for winter vacation.

1st December was a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing for Nirmala community and school. On this day we celebrated the closing of the Platinum Jubilee of our Convent and the School. Because of COVID-19, we did not have any elaborate celebration. A thanksgiving Holy Mass was concelebrated by our Bishop Peter Parappullil and Fr. Rinoy our chaplain. The melodious singing led by Sr. Sujata



helped us to raise our hearts in gratitude to God. Rev. Bishop in his homily praised and appreciated the sisters for the valuable service they have rendered during the past 75 years. He continued saying that Jhansi Gharia Phatak owes its growth and development to the untiring, loving and dedicated service of the sisters. Thousands of girls have passed through the portals of Nirmala, and many have become agents of change in the family and society. Many sisters with their sacrificing spirit brought up the school to what it is today. With much gratitude we remember them and pay our tribute

to those who have gone from this world for their eternal reward. As we celebrate its 75 glorious years of legacy and excellence, we thank the Almighty God for His continuous protection. We also thank our sisters, teachers, co- workers, parents and benefactors past and present for their contribution towards its growth and development. The Institution in its 75 years of glorious existence has nurtured

thousands of young hearts. The blessings of the Almighty God and the guiding spirit of our Mother Mary Ward has guided us to accomplish so much to bring the school to its heights.

On this joyous day we missed the presence of our Provincial dear Sr. Elsy and many who would have loved to join us on this occasion. We remembered with love and gratitude each and every one of you. Sr. Vinita thanked the Bishop and all the sisters for making the day joyful and meaningful. She said that the community pledge to carry forward the mission of the C.J with greater love, dedication and generosity of heart. After cutting the Jubilee cake by our Bishop we enjoyed the delicious meal prepared under the leadership of Sr. Camilla.

Christmas was celebrated with great love and fervor by partaking in the vigil Mass at 6 P.M in the Cathedral. A good number of people attended the Mass and exchanged Christmas greetings. In the morning we had the Christmas Holy Mass in our well decorated chapel.

We concluded the year with an hour of adoration, praising and thanking the Lord for all the graces and blessings we have received during the year 2020 and imploring His continuous blessings for the year 2021.

Nirmala Community, Jhansi.

## **ST. MARY'S, JHAJJAR**

As 2020 was drawing to a close we sat together to listen to one another about how each one saw a silver lining in the Covid Year. We had felt almost like thrown out of gear. We had planned the academic year meticulously but school life was mostly an 'online' story. However, the year provided us a lot of space and time for 'Solitude - a return to self'. Taking personal responsibility for reading, attending online programmes, reflection, learning new skills, developing hobbies, growing in intimacy with nature, fostering spirituality even in the absence of some of the usual rituals etc. led us to a personal discovery and enrichment. Very quickly we adapted to the virtual class room and virtual school reality. Online cooking tutorials and little kitchen experiments had their place too in keeping the community in good spirits! It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we end the year. We have been blessed in many ways and blessed much more than many others.

Christmas 2020. Preparation began with a day of recollection guided by Sr. Remya on the theme, 'Watching and Waiting'. We also followed an advent Eco-Calendar. As an advent pilgrimage we visited the STAR church in Najafgarh which was recently in news



for its unique architecture. There is a spirit of innovation in the whole concept of a 100 % eco - friendly church set amidst a bio-diversity park in the making – a ‘Tarumitra’ of the Delhi Diocese. We were also happy to visit, while adhering to all social distancing norms and precautions the five religious communities of St. Michael’s Church Gurgaon, which is also our parish.

We celebrated Christmas online with the students and teachers. The co-workers in the campus also had a Christmas celebration jointly organised by the CJ-SJ community.

The most special visitor during this season was our Archbishop Emeritus Vincent Concessao. He was very pleased to see the progress of the two institutions.

Sr. Grace has already completed one month in the community and she is trying to find her bearings in the school office. We are now engaged in the school recognition process up to Cl. XII. In Haryana Cl. X and Cl. XII recognition are granted simultaneously. Please keep our mission in your prayers.

Jhajjar Community

### **ST. MARY’S, RUDRAPUR**

We began the month by honouring the saints for their heroic lives. As usual the next day we invoked for God’s mercy on the holy souls and our dear departed in purgatory. Though it is still pandemic time there was deanery level recollection for Religious at Kathgodam. Srs. Mary John and Nibedita attended it. After dropping the sisters at Kathgodam, Srs. Assunta and Elaine proceeded to Nainital to spend some valuable moments with Sr. Adelaide on her birthday.

We are fortunate to have the Eucharistic Celebration four days a week in our chapel in spite of the severe cold. The virtual celebration of children’s day was appreciated by the parents. Srs. Nibedita and Josephine prepared the students who are from the next door for the Christmas Play. The children were thrilled to come to school at least for few days. The teachers and the guardians liked and appreciated the video. The next distraction was the Diocesan competition for Religious on crib making. Srs. Nibedita and Josephine worked hard to make the crib creatively. We are happy to note that Nainital and Jeolikote bagged the 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively.

On 17th Srs. Assunta, Elaine, Mary John and Josephine attended the ‘Christmas gathering’ for Religious at Kathgodam. A good number of sisters attended it. Bishop made a surprise visit on 22nd December. He had come to Rudrapur Parish and the following day he came over and offered Mass in our Chapel. On 24th we conducted a short prayer at the crib for our co-workers and there after we had lunch together. We went to the parish for midnight Mass and on Christmas Day to Kichha parish.

On 27th Sr. Josephine went on home leave, hoping to bring few candidates on her return. The last day of the year was spent in thanksgiving and imploring God’s mercy on 2021, putting an end to the pandemic. We wish all a grace filled Covid free New Year.

Sr. Assunta & Co.

## **ST. MARY'S CONVENT, NAINITAL**

The month of November began with the celebration of All Saints' Day. After a long interval on 2nd November, Fr. Henry, the Parish priest of the Lake Church offered the Eucharist in our chapel, remembering all the dear departed and to bless the graves of dear sisters. By the end of November our chaplains were back having regained their health and now we are happy to have daily Mass in our chapel. Srs. Anne, Manjusha and Sheryl visited our community in Rudrapur and Puranpur. On 3rd we were happy to have Sr. Reena who spent a week with us. We had a special holy hour and Mass offered for the speedy release of Fr. Stan Swamy and his companions.

Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow. Keeping this in mind, the teachers left no stone unturned having a virtual celebration of children's day and the feast of Diwali in a fitting manner. It was well appreciated and enjoyed by every student. On 17th we had the celebration of the twin feast of Srs. Sheryl and Amita. Teachers and students expressed their good wishes and prayers on the occasion of the birthday of Sr. Manjusha through a virtual programme.

Sr. Grace left for Jhajjar on 20th November after having served the school and community for the past 7 years. Thank you, dear Sr. Grace, for all your loving and dedicated service to the Ramnee family. God Bless and reward you abundantly as you take up your new mission in Jhajjar. On 22nd we had a recollection guided by Sr. Shobha on the theme 'Jesus the King'. This year we had a meaningful Corpus Christi procession in our campus. Priest, sisters and all our co-workers were present for the same.

After a long interval, on 30th November the Kathgodam deanery organized recollection for the Priests and religious; Srs. Anne and Amita represented our community. Since we are confined to the house, we have enough time on our hands for prayer, reading, listening to talks etc. and it is God's grace that all of us remain protected from Corona Virus.

On 8th December, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, we celebrated the birthday and feast day of Srs. Nirmala and Shobha. On 11th morning Most Rev. Ignatius D'Souza, Bishop of Bareilly diocese gave us a surprise by offering the Eucharist in our chapel. During the breakfast he shared with us his experience in the hospital fighting with Corona Virus. On 15th December we had a virtual farewell programme for Class XII students. It was a great surprise for them. On the same day the results of all the classes were declared online and started their winter holidays as usual. On 16th Srs. Manjusha and Sheryl left for their home leave.

We had deanery level Christmas celebration at Suchetna, Kathgodam for religious men and women organised by our Bishop. Srs. Nirmala, Anne, Digna and Amita participated in it. Bishop conducted many games and we won the maximum prizes and enjoyed the company of one another. This year we joined the Crib competition organised by the Diocese and won the 2nd Prize (Rs. 1500/- and a memento).

On 18th Sr. Elsy visited us for a few hours along with Bro. Cyriac SDB. On 21st Srs. Digna, Tarsicia and Anne visited our communities at Rudrapur and Puranpur to wish them for Christmas. On 22nd some of us went to Jeolikote to wish all our sisters. The next day we had Christmas celebration with our co-workers. They enjoyed the fun and frolic and had lunch with us. On the same day we were happy to welcome our sisters from Jeolikote community who came to wish us. We had rather a quiet celebration on Christmas day. After Christmas five of us made our retreat online.



The Nainital Community wishes all of you a very Happy and Prosperous 2021!

## **ST. FRANCIS CONVENT, JHANSI**

On 2nd November we fondly remembered our dear departed, visited their graves and prayed for them.

The feast day of Sr. Carola, who was with us for a short break, was celebrated on 4th with much joy and enthusiasm. It was heartening to see her beaming with joy and gratitude. The other days of celebrations were 11th November – Sr. Deepti’s birthday and 17th – Sr. Shalini’s feast day. We made both these days memorable for them by a meaningful celebration of the Eucharist in a beautifully decorated chapel, an hour of special prayer and a festal meal. On 6th we were happy to join the Jamshedpur Jesuit Province to pray for the release of Fr. Stan SJ and all human rights activists who are languishing in jails.

The community outing to Mauranipur on 14th was a welcome change to the otherwise humdrum life during this pandemic. It re-energised the community. Srs. Regis and Georgina had a short break in Mauranipur hospital community and school community respectively. Both came back refreshed and looking much younger. Thank you, dear sisters for taking care of them.

The pandemic did not deter us from celebrating the festival of Diwali and the Children’s Day. We conducted inspiring and impressive virtual assemblies on both the days. Besides, the teachers put up a variety entertainment programme which surprised and delighted the students.

In the third week of November Sr. Shalini fell seriously ill and had to be hospitalized. With three sisters away, three sick at home and herself not well, Sr. Pratima had a hard time in caring for the

community. Great was her relief when Sr. Juliana arrived to help out. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Mauranipur hospital community for sending Sr. Juliana to us. Thank you and God bless you dear sisters. Sr. Shalini was discharged from the hospital on 30th November and the month ended in a joyful note.

December ushered in the season of Advent with rays of hope and generosity of spirit. We were exceedingly happy to welcome Sr. Reena who was on her way home. She left for Kerala with Sr. Isabel in the wee hours of 10th.

A flurry of activities/celebrations kept us busy during the month: second term examinations, feast day celebration of the Immaculate Conception, birth day celebration of Sr. Maria Rose, Christmas plays and Christmas assembly etc., to name a few. The Christmas messages by Srs. Pratima and Jessy were inspiring and challenging.

We have some good news - Sr. Deepti completed her M. Ed in flying colours, two of our girls made the school proud by bagging the 2nd and 4th prizes in the poster designing competition on 'Human Rights Today', organised by the Social Media Committee of Madurai and Chennai Jesuit Provinces jointly. We had a short Christmas break from 23rd to 28th December. We have some sad news too – one of our Class 9 students, Raksha Verma died on 19th. The news shocked and saddened us. She had attended the online classes that day. She was a simple and amiable child. RIP.

We are grateful to the COIN for organizing the virtual Indo-Nepal Christmas gathering. Besides providing us with a platform to pray together; it gave us an opportunity to see others and talk to them. We did have some warm and wonderful moments together. This year we had a quiet Christmas without much glitter. We were happy to see a good crowd for the Christmas Mass on 24<sup>th</sup> evening in our parish Church. It gave us great joy to contribute something to the poor from our pocket money.

To ring out the old and to ring in the new year, we had holy hour in the community on 30th evening and in the parish Church on 31st followed by the celebration of the Eucharist. A good number attended the service.

Before we end, we wish you a Happy New Year. May God's love light your way and lead you into the New Year.

## **MARIA WARD BHAWAN, MAYUR VIHAR**

Every month is full of days and weeks to observe and celebrate. So, the month of November and December too had its own important days to celebrate and observe despite the pandemic limitations felt by all. All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day were observed with its own spiritual significance by joining the Eucharistic celebration in the parish and offering special prayers during the evening prayer. On 7th November, the school organized an inter house debate competition on the topic 'NEP – A step towards the advancement of the education standards'. The event was held virtually and it

was a good combination of thoughts, ideas and perspectives that enhanced the knowledge and understanding of the topic. It was an enthralling experience for the speakers as well as the audience.

The All India Inter School Don Bosco Bible quiz 10th edition was conducted online and like every year this year too Marians had a praiseworthy performance. The quiz had 225 students participating from 50 catholic schools across India in two categories. Two of our students won the first and third



prizes while others remained in the fourth category. We celebrated both the joyous festival of Diwali and Children's day 2020 with vigour and enthusiasm on 14th November. This year because of the pandemic restrictions, the nature of celebration was totally different. Singing of slokas, lighting of the ceremonial lamp and graceful dance performance digitally brought in a lot of festive cheer. It was heartwarming to see the students pledge not to burst crackers but to light diyas (oil lamps) in honour of all Corona frontline warriors working selflessly. A number of creative online competitions added flavor and solemnity to the occasion. Teachers paid tribute to the students showering their love with a semi classical dance performance, a medley of songs and through inspiring messages. Our Constitution Day was celebrated on 26th November. A well-prepared assembly was live streamed on our You Tube channel highlighting the importance and significance of our Constitution. The main speaker for the occasion was Sr. Cynthia CJ, our UN NGO representative who encouraged the students to value and cherish the Constitution.

Feast Day of Mother Mary, the Patroness of our school was celebrated on the 8th of December. The occasion was graced by Rev. Fr. Vincent D'Souza the chancellor of Delhi Archdiocese. He spoke on 'Hope' calling upon the Marians to spread hope among those who are hopeless. Students of class 7 put up a fitting assembly on digital mode displaying Mother Mary's virtues inviting all the Marians to be grateful for the powerful intercession of our Patroness.

Fit India school week was celebrated in our school from 14th -18th December. Activities like Surya Namaskar, poster making, aerobics and online quizzes and lectures were conducted virtually. Students took part in all these activities with keen interest conveying the message that FITNESS IS WEALTH. Second term examination for classes X and XII and periodic assessment 3 for the other classes were held from 25th November to 10th December.

Covid -19 pandemic couldn't dampen our Christmas Spirit. Our Christmas activities included various online competitions, carol singing, Christmas sharing-caring campaign along with the culmination of two Christmas assemblies by the senior and junior wing on the theme 'Christmas is an invitation to hope' and 'Jesus the Immanuel', conveying a powerful message of hope and change. .

Christmas sharing and caring campaign was introduced in our school aiming at collecting rations for the poor and needy around. Despite the pandemic, students contributed generously by delivering the items at the gate as instructed by their teachers. Sisters took the initiative to distribute the collected items to the deserving people around.

All the catholic students of our school had a meaningful advent journey towards Christmas through Kid Maranata and Teens Maranata on you tube which was initiated by Swantana community a lay organization of Delhi Archdiocese. Besides these they were also invited to read and learn the Words of Jesus from St. John's Gospel on all 25 days. Finally, a family crib making competition was held for them and the creative cribs with suitable captions were declared winners.

During these months the community also attended various webinars. Our advent journey included Sunday evening service, spiritual readings, and recollections along with the personal prayers. Papers on Re-thinking Process and various materials sent by the province helped us to challenge ourselves. Christmas Eve Mass was celebrated in our chapel by the parish priest followed by a sumptuous meal.

Merlin cj

## **ST. XAVIER'S, ROHINI**

On 12th November the Children's Day was celebrated online by the Junior school. The teachers prepared a special assembly beginning with a prayer followed by various items like skit, dance, poem and action songs. The students were thrilled, as they watched the teachers' performance. Also, an online poster making activity was conducted for every class as the festival of Diwali was approaching. Students made informative and creative posters on the topic, 'Say No to Crackers' and clicked pictures and sent them to the class teachers as instructed.

On 22nd our parish celebrated the feast of Christ the King and 29<sup>th</sup>, the Golden Jubilee of Fr. John Ari SJ. On 30th we had a day of recollection.

On 3rd December the school celebrated the feast of Francis Xavier. The class teachers conducted a special online assembly depicting the inspiring life of the Saint. On 6<sup>th</sup> our parish celebrated the parish

feast. The newly appointed Jesuit provincial of Delhi Province Fr. Susai Mani was the main celebrant. He was felicitated by the parishioners after the Holy Mass. Live streaming of the feast day Mass was done by the youth of our parish and a short cultural programme was also put up. On 12th Sr. Tomsy left for Kerala on home leave.

We were sad to hear the sudden demise of Fr. Stan D'Souza SJ on 19th. Srs. Anita and Vandana attended the funeral Mass and burial on 20<sup>th</sup>.

Every Saturday evening, the community joins the Good Shepherd prayer group of the parish for the praise and worship and intercessory prayers for the world and its needs. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in our Chapel at every prayer meeting. We are encouraged by the faith and devotion of the prayer group. The sisters take turns to share the Word of God and its reflection.

Nothing can stop us from celebrating the birthday of our Saviour. The junior school had a creative online Christmas celebration on 23rd which included skit, carols, action songs and dances by teachers as well as students. After the programme, an online class activity of preparing various Christmas symbols and characters using paper rolls was conducted. This activity helped the students to spread the joy of Christmas. On 23rd, the fathers organised a Christmas gathering for the co-workers which included few games, prize distribution and Carol singing followed by a delicious lunch.

On 24th evening and 25<sup>th</sup> morning a great number of parishioners attended the Christmas Mass. The melodious choir conducted by the youth was appreciated by all. On 31st December we had adoration and thanksgiving prayer followed by Mass.

Shahabad community.

### **ST. ANTHONY'S, JEOLIKOTE**

The month of November reminded us of the exemplary life of the great saints in the history of the Church and to pray for all the souls departed. On 1<sup>st</sup> November Fr. Uday our parish priest blessed our newly renovated parish Church which has a different look now. Rev. Bishop Isidore, St. Mary's Nainital, some of our orphan girls, our sisters and their relatives and other benefactors contributed towards the renovation of the Church. On the same day one of our parishioners, Mr. Nattu Singh, who was our former sacristian died due to his prolonged illness. He was buried on All Souls' Day

On 2nd we reopened school. Only a few students of class X and XII turned up. Though the attendance was less it was encouraging to see students once again in our compound after a long period of nearly 8 months.

Sr. Patricia spent a few relaxed days with her sister, Sr. Augustine and returned back to her community at Rudrapur.

On 12th November we got the sad news about the death of our school office clerk Mrs. Sunita, who was suffering from cancer for nearly one and half years. She leaves behind two young sons, one doing his hotel management and the other in class 11. Srs. Sheeba, Deepika, Lorna and Rekha attended the funeral. May her soul rest in peace.

Srs. Sheeba and Damian together with our parish priest, Fr. Uday went to Chorgalia for the celebration of the Christ the King feast. On 16th we had monthly recollection conducted by Sr. Alka based on the theme 'Faith'. The day ended with a meaningful Holy Hour in the evening.

Rev. Fr. Baptist D' Souza who was sick for many months expired at Suchetna, Kathgodam. Srs. Damian and Lorna went to Kathgodam to pay their last respects and pray for him. On 16th Nov, we began the half yearly exams. Some of the Class X and XII students came to school to give their exams while some preferred to have online exams. Sr. Reena who accompanied Sr. Alka, the new member of the community, spent few days with us. We celebrated the feast of Christ the King. Due to the pandemic, we could not have procession as usual, but had a short procession from parish house to the church. We sang and prayed as the procession moved forward praising and worshipping the Lord.

Srs. Sheeba, Damian and Alka along with Fr. Uday went to Bageshwar, a hill station for a day's outing. Some of us attended the CRI meeting which was held on the last day of the month.

Sr. Rinalda is on and off with her health due to her sickness. She was finding it difficult to retain food and hence she was taken to the hospital for a thorough check up. All the tests were done and she was told to have the operation for the improvement of her health. Meanwhile Sr. Elsy paid a short visit to us mainly to be with Sr. Rinalda in her difficult moments. On 26th December she was taken to Allahabad for further treatment accompanied by Srs. Sheeba and Pratibha.

On 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. there was a month's mind for late Fr. Baptist D' Souza. On the same day a Christmas gathering was organized by our Bishop Ignatius D' Souza in Kathgodam along with the other priests. After a delicious lunch, various games were conducted. Many sisters from different Congregations bagged the prizes. Rev. Bishop gave a powerful Christmas message and a Christmas gift to each one.

On 20th Dec., 6 children of our parish received their first Holy Communion. One of our parishioners Mr. Victor (nephew of Sr. Antionette) died of heart attack on 21st. His funeral took place the next day. He is survived by his old mother and two young children. School closed for Christmas vacation; the teachers had a short prayer meeting followed by light refreshments. On 24th our co-workers had their Christmas get together. This year due to lockdown a number of competitions for Christmas were held deanery wise and many of our parishioners took part in them. Our parish bagged many prizes. For crib making the community got the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.

We attended Christmas Mass at 7 p.m. and after the Mass greeted the parishioners. Many students and teachers came to wish us and see the crib and the church. Frs. Kant Raj, Denis Mascarenhas and Ala Ramesh from Jhansi diocese paid us a short visit.

Our recollection day for the month was guided by Sr. Deepika with the theme 'A key to God's Heart'. 31st being the last day of the year we had Mass at 4 p.m. together with praise and worship. We thanked God for keeping us safe throughout the year and asked God to give us a better year.

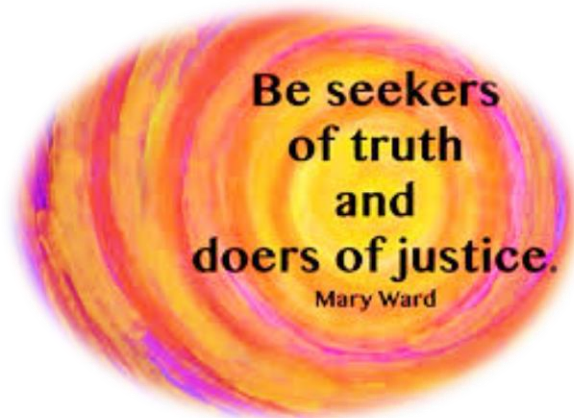
St. Anthony's Convent, Jeolikote.

### **ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT, PURANPUR**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November - All Souls' Day we had Holy Mass and visited the graveyard and prayed for the departed souls. Sisters from Nainital visited us and shared their Christmas joy with us. Our diocese conducted many competitions like group singing, star making, fancy dress, Bible Quiz, etc on the occasion of Christmas and our parishioners took active part in it. Our parish won many prizes in the deanery. This year we sang carols only in the Catholic families and prayed for them. On 23<sup>rd</sup> December we had Christmas get together with our teachers. The Catholic teachers and co-workers enacted the Nativity play and sang carols. Unlike the other years the 'Krist Bhaktas'(devotees of Christ) were not encouraged to stay over in the school campus to attend the midnight Mass. Many of them joined us for the morning Mass. The entire day our school campus was filled with people who had come from far and near to see the crib and enjoyed each other's company. Feast of the Holy Family was celebrated in the Parish. Children enjoyed the games that were organized by the sisters. The winners received prizes. We conducted games and gave gifts to our co-workers' children who come to us for daily tuition. Ration was distributed to few families. On 31<sup>st</sup> December we said good bye to 2020 with a penitential service and a thanksgiving Eucharist. We welcomed the New Year with a meaningful Eucharistic celebration and prayed that the New Year brings abundant blessings to all of us.

We Wish You All a Happy New Year 2021 and the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus.

Puranpur community



*As we celebrate **Mary Ward Week** we pray,  
Venerable Mother Mary Ward, pray for us and give us your spirit.*