



BARODA SPOTLIGHT

THE BARODA DIOCESE NEWSLETTER



February - March 2026

For Private Circulation Only

www.dioceseofbaroda.org

SAINT OF THE MONTH ST JOHN BRITTO



"God, Who called me from the world into religious life, now calls me from Portugal to India. Not to answer the vocation as I ought, would be to provoke the justice of God. As long as I live, I shall never cease striving to gain a passage to India."

- St John Britto

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE POPE FEBRUARY

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

MARCH

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP: WHY "SHUNYAVAT" (PHIL 2:7)

BARODA DIOCESE PPC CONVOCATION

Inaugural Address — Bp. Seby Mascarenhas SFX

What is the difference between a Parish Pastoral Council and a *Panchayat*? Or is there a difference at all? Is it not the same type of administration?

I would like to begin with some clichés that I have heard in real time that reflects this confusion.

- A lay person said to me: Now that Synodality is here, when shall we the laity get power?
- A parish priest says: Let there be discussions and consultations. Finally I have the last say.
- And people say: What is the use of the PPC. The parish priest finally decides as he wants.
- An *agewan* proudly says: I am *agewan* for the last 23 years. I know the church from the very beginning. People follow me.
- I told one priest that some people had come to me with some suggestions. I told him to meet them. The next time I met him I asked him what he had done. He said he removed them from the committee.
- One lady told another: I will go for this meeting very specially. The Parish priest is going to be questioned. There will be tension. I want to see the fun.



Finally all say: Meetings, Meetings, Meetings, nothing moves forward. I am not being negative, because we are a vibrant church. I am so happy that so many of you are here today, more than a thousand. It shows how involved we are. But we do get confused.

We do not really understanding what our role as Church leaders is. Many of us look at leadership in the Church on the pattern of leadership of democracy and even, may be dictatorship as many priests are sometimes looked at. Pope Francis always spoke of clericalism Or we may run our Church on the pattern of a business, very professionally and efficiently! Or like a *panchayat* or a legislature. And sometimes, very sloppily, not taking care of things, thinking that it is only something spiritual!

The Church is perhaps the best organised structure from which others have learnt. Outwardly secular structures are very similar And therefore we tend to somehow mix the identity of the Church with mere structures.

In order to try to find the identity that determines our structures, I proposed *Shunyavat* (Emptying Phil 2:7) as the title of our convocation. The first reaction was: it is too negative. Some thought it would be too intellectual. But I realised that this is JESUS, who is the vine and we are the branches. He dwells in us so that we live his life. Further the first person to accept Jesus

...continued on pg 2

OFFICIAL FEB - MARCH 2026

COMMITMENTS OF THE BISHOP FEBRUARY - MARCH 2026

Feb 1	Korvidham Mata Maria Melo
Feb 2-11	CCBI and CBCI Meetings in Bengaluru
Feb 12	Meeting of Council of Priests of Baroda, Meeting of Consultors, Meeting of Finance Commission of the Diocese
Feb 13	Blessing of new chapel in Zankhvav Parish
Feb 15	Confirmation in St Joseph
Feb 16	Fellowship of Diocesan Priests
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday
Feb 22	Confirmation in Nani Singloti
Feb 24	WRBC Ecumenism & Dialogue Meet
Feb 25	WRBC Theology & Doctrine Meet
Feb 26	Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting
Feb 27	Celebration of 200 years of Vedruna in Bhavnagar
March 1	Confirmation in Umarpada
March 2-10	Diocesan Finance commission visit to parishes
March 12	Diocesan Lenten Collection
March 13-19	Retreat
March 26	CHRISM MASS All are expected to participate

PLEASE PRAY

BIRTHDAYS

09-02-1978	Fr. Bijendra James
14-02-1972	Fr. Lobo Vincent
19-02-1946	Fr. Fonseca Albert
20-02-1982	Fr. Baraik Jaychand
01-03-1957	Fr. Lemos Saby
17-03-1989	Fr. Bhushan Bara
23-03-1948	Fr. Fernandes Joao M.
24-03-1982	Fr. Karketta Raymond
29-03-1940	Fr. Gonsalves Albert

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

05-02-2012	Fr. Arasure Muthu
23-02-2008	Fr. Arthur Menezes
04-03-2000	Fr. Cyprian Mendoca
29-03-2015	Fr. Kilian Lopes J.

ORIDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

06-02-2010	Fr. Devassy Joseph
18-02-2023	Bp. Seby Mascarenhas (3rd Episcopal Ordination)
28-03-1992	Fr. Vasava Dalsukh

... continued from pg 1

within herself immediately realised the meaning of Jesus within her: I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word. Our Teacher Jesus and his first disciple, Mary had one common attitude: Jesus made place for us humans, Mary made place for Jesus, so that her life was now a living witness to HIM.

Today's Convocation is to reflect on who we are, rather than what we are to DO. We can organise, build, buy, sell, even help and serve. But the quality of the Church is on realising who we are – even the helping and serving that we do. Or else we will be only CEOs or like any other leaders with egos, power struggles and measurements of success by worldly yardsticks. Jesus taught us to be loving Shepherds, humble Servants and conscientious Stewards – like HIM. It is possible only we have place for the other.

We do not measure ourselves merely by What we do but by HOW we do it -- like Jesus, for he lives in us. Church leadership is about enabling every Christian to be and to live like Jesus, like Mary did. The precondition for that is *Shunyavat*, emptying. Only then can we follow the only commandment: to Love one another (1 Cor 13).

Fr. Simon Thomas SJ will lead us into understanding what Jesus-like Leadership means; Fr. Vinay Macwan SJ will show us how that is translated into structures like the Parish Pastoral Council, Deanery Pastoral Council, Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Diocesan Bishop with the Priest Council and the Consultors The CCBI, The Pope.

The keynote address will be the sermon of Cardinal Oswald Gracias. I hope he can address the questions I raised: What is consultation and why does the parish priest decide? Why do we follow what the Pope says or the Bishop says! Why is the Church not a mere democracy but a discernment of the Spirit.

I would like to end with a poetry from Rabindranath Tagore, which really speaks of this spirit of Emptiness

Thou hast made me endless, such is thy pleasure.

*This frail vessel thou emptiest again and again,
and fillest it ever with fresh life.*

*This little flute of a reed thou hast carried over hills and dales,
and hast breathed through it melodies eternally new.*

*At the immortal touch of thy hands
my little heart loses its limits in joy
and gives birth to utterance ineffable.*

*Thy infinite gifts come to me
only on these very small hands of mine.*

*Ages pass, and still thou pourest,
and still there is room to fill.*

COLLECTIONS

Feb 8, 2026: Holy Childhood Collection

March 16, 2026: Caritas Collection

Please send your collections (Cheques) in favour

"Dakshin Gujarat Seva Kendra",

Bank: Indian Overseas Bank, A/C no: 019501000011894,

IFSC: IOBA0000195, Branch: Alkapuri, Baroda.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Great indeed is the Harvest...

AREA: 24,035 sq. kms
TOTAL POPULATION: 6,411,432
CATHOLICS 8568
CATECHUMENS 1702

THE DIOCESE OF BARODA

Pray therefore, the Lord of the Harvest to send labourers into His Vineyard

...but the Labourers are few

DIOCESAN PRIESTS	7
RELIGIOUS PRIESTS	24
BROTHERS	10
SISTERS	105
CHURCHES	4
CHAPELS	15
MISSION STATIONS	46

While we have Spotlight as the Diocesan news letter, actually, the Diocesan Newsletter began as AD-VENTURE in January 1970 with Fr Oscar Barretto as the first publisher! We print the cover page and the last page of this first issue. Look at the Statistics. We have records until 1971 only!



શૂન્યવત્

CONVOCAÇÃO OF PPCS

Jhagadia, January 14, 2026

As follow up of the Jubilee Year of Leadership and as a fruit of the Synodal Path, perhaps for the first time in any diocese, the Diocese of Baroda had a convocation of all members of the Parish Pastoral Councils of the Diocese of Baroda. About 1100 men and women participated (see the numbers published in this issue).

The Inaugural Address was delivered by BP. SEBY MASCARENHAS SFX, while the key note address was the Sermon of CARDINAL OSWALD GRACIAS who was the main celebrant. The whole focus was on the change in Spiritual attitudes based on the Self Emptying Model of Jesus (Phil 2:7) and Mary (Lk 1: 28). FR. SIMON THOMAS SJ spoke on the Spiritual Leadership model of Jesus and Mary, while Fr. Vinay Parmar sj spoke on how this leadership can be realized in the various structures of the Church. Their lucid and deep reflections were highly appreciated.

The 1100 participants split into 50 groups to reflect on 13 questions published in this issue.

During the mass there were two presentations: 1) on the unity of the church based on the Eucharistic divisions that Paul brings out in 1 Cor 11; 2) the Body of Christ of 1 Cor 12. All 50 parishes came forward in the offertory procession with gifts of the produce of the land.

16 priests and 26 nuns who are 75 years and above and who have served in the Diocese for more than 10 years were honoured. 50 lay men and 50 lay women representing the 50 parishes/mission stations were also honoured for their services to the Church.

The whole gathering ended with the Eucharistic Blessing, The feedback has been overwhelmingly good and the feel good factor gives a lift to all. However the fruits will be if we can motivate the people now in the same line at the Parish Levels. It is upto the Parish Priests.

Congratulations to Fr. William Carvalho, Fr Kaushik Vasava, Sisters and team of fathers and sisters from all surrounding parishes for their selfless dedication, excellent organization and genuine collaboration with each other.



शून्यवत् — CONVOCATION OF PPCS



PARTICIPANTS OF THE PPC CONVOCATION

Deanery and Parish (includes PP and Sister)		Male	Female	Total
VADODARA (127 MEMBERS PARTICIPATED)		75	57	
1	Our Lady of Rosary Cathedral, Fatehgunj (1869)	16	12	28
2	St. Joseph the Worker, Nizampura. (1940)	20	9	29
3	Our Lady of Fatima, Gothada.(1960)	5	3	8
4	Don Bosco Church, Makarpura. (1972)	6	11	17
5	Catholic Church, Bhoj , Padra.	14	10	24
6	Holy Family Church, Gorwa.	5	5	10
7	Sacred Heart Sama	7	6	13
8	St Jospeh Devalaya Waghodia	2	1	3
PANCHMAHAL (88)		43	45	
9	St. Joseph's Church, Dohad.(1932)	5	3	8
10	Christ the King Church, Jhalod.(1975)	5	4	9
11	Catholic Church, Chhota Udepur.(1975)	8	8	16
12	Mary, Queen and Mother, Godhra.(1976)	5	3	8
13	Catholic Church, Muvalia.(1984)	0	0	0
14	Nitya Sahayak Mata, Kawant.(1986)	8	11	19
15	Sacred Heart Church, Narukot.(1987)	5	7	12
16	Sacred Heart Church, Halol.(1989)	4	6	10
17	St. Mary's Church, Diwada Colony, Kadana.(1990) (Tikhi)	3	3	6
NARMADA (193)		118	75	
18	Isunath Mandir, Zankhvav.(1960)	11	8	19
19	Param Kripa Mandir, Dediapada.(1965)	16	10	26
20	Jesus the Saviour, Umarpada.(1977)	30	13	43
21	Immaculate Conception BVM Church, Sagbara.(1979)	26	16	42
22	Catholic Church, Nani Singloti.(2000)	10	8	18
23	St. John Marie Vianney, Relwa. (2002)	16	13	29
24	Catholic Church, Dadhwada.(2002)	6	4	10
25	Catholic Church, Tankala (2002) No catholics	0	0	0
26	St. Xavier's Church, Rajpipala. (1928-2000)	3	3	6
SURAT (105)		61	44	
27	Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Nanpura.(1639-1935)	11	8	19
28	St. Anthony's Church, Valsad.(1912)	6	8	14
29	Holy Trinity Church, Bilimora. (1963)	6	4	10
30	Holy Cross Church, Navsari.(1965)	8	5	13
31	Our Lady of Hope Church, Vapi.(1977)	9	6	15
32	Mother Mary Church, Bhestan.(1997)	12	6	18
33	Divine Mercy Church, Umargam (2013)	4	6	10
34	Our Lady of Pilar, Pardi	5	1	6

TAPI (328)		225	103	
35	St. Francis Xavier Church, Zaroli.(1922)	9	6	15
36	St. Joseph's Church, Vyara.(1961)	41	16	57
37	Christ, Light of the World Church, Unai.(1971)	27	27	54
38	Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Dharampur.(1976)	19	13	32
39	St. Joseph's Church, Mandal.(1990)	40	12	52
40	Christ - Rock of Salvation, Bardipada.(2001)	48	12	60
41	Catholic Church, Paraspada. (2005)	37	13	50
42	Catholic Church Songad	4	4	8
DANGS (67)		43	24	
43	St. Francis Xavier, Pimpri.(1980)	6	5	11
44	Catholic Church, Samgahan.(2002)	8	7	15
45	St. Paul, Subir.(2002)	29	12	41
BHARUCH (174)		91	83	
46	Our Lady of Health, Bharuch.(1814)	19	10	29
47	St. Joseph of the Adivasis, Jhagadia. (1971)	36	38	74
48	Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Ankleshwar.(1978)	9	13	22
49	Catholic Church, Hingoria. (1984)	15	13	28
50	Catholic Church, Netrang. (2013)	12	9	21
Total		683	423	

CONVOCATION OF PPC QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

1 As a PPC member, list two or three qualities that you are going to imbibe or improve in your life, so that you become a leader like our Lord Jesus. What spiritual training would the PPCs need in order to grow in Jesus in order to lead the Church in the Parishes.

2 What are the ways that we can empty ourselves (laity and clergy) because we love the church and we want to work for its betterment? List the top three ways and how we could train ourselves for them.

3 According to you, which are the various obstacles that hinder us from practicing a leadership in the church like that of Jesus? List the top three hindrances and how we could overcome them.

4 What training would the PPCs need so that we understand the dynamics of leadership in our villages and multi ethnic towns as well as to understand Church structures like PPC, DePC, DiPC, Diocese, Universal Church etc

5 What do you expect from the Bishop, Priests and Sisters so that we become an effective Synodal Church. List three top priorities.

6 How can the PPC be involved to see that Faith Formation becomes effective in our parishes and villages. Suggest how to do in the villages specially.

7 How can the PPC be effective so that we can reach out to the poor in our parishes. Give three concrete suggestions.

8 What are three main challenges that we face to live our faith today. How could the PPC help in the present challenges we have in the Church

9 How could the PPCs involve in seeing that more and more people get involved in the Church. Give three concrete suggestions in order of priority

10 How can the PPC support the ministry of Youth. Give three concrete suggestions

11 How can the PPC support the ministry of the Family. Give three concrete suggestions in order of priority.

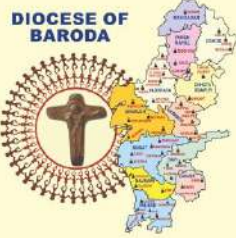
12 How can the PPCs involve in organising Small Christian Communities in the villages (through MFC or Jesus Youth etc?). Give three concrete suggestions in order of priority.

13 How could the PPC involve in protecting the Environment? Give three concrete suggestions in order of priority.

FATHERS WHO HAVE SERVED.....

"Before you were born I consecrated you"

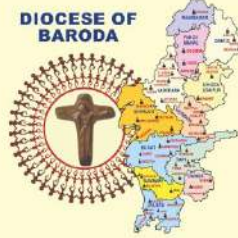
(Jeremiah 1:5)



SISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED.....

You have not chosen me: but I have chosen you;

(John 15:16)



1. Fr. Albert Gonsalves DoB
2. Fr. Thottupurath Chacko SJ
3. Fr. Moonnupeedikail Anthony SJ
4. Fr. Thannipara Alex SJ
5. Fr. Kappamootil John SJ
6. Fr. Victor Devamani SJ
7. Fr. Chamakala Thomas SJ
8. Fr. Mailadumpuara Anthony SJ
9. Fr. Miranda Roy SJ
10. Br. Falcao Pravin SJ
11. Fr. D'Souza Aubrej SJ
12. Fr. Manjooran Xavier SJ
13. Fr. Castiella Joaquin SJ
14. Fr. D'Souza A. Freddy SJ
15. Fr. Albert Fonseca DoB
16. Fr. Fernandez Jerry SJ
17. Fr. Puthukulam D. Mathew SJ
18. Bro. Jerome Mendonca SDB
19. Fr. Jayanti Macwan
20. Fr. Parmar Robert SJ
21. Bro. Rodrigues Malcolm SJ
22. Fr. Mascarenhas Robert SJ
23. Fr. Joao Manuel Fernandes DoB
24. Fr. Stanny Ferreira SDB
25. Bro. Manthottam Jose SVD
26. Fr. Parmar Fidelis SJ

1. Sr. Susan Miranda MSCJ
2. Sr. Anne Fernandes SchSA
3. Sr. Rosa Martha Quevedo CCV
4. Sr. Antoinette Frank CM
5. Sr. Sossamma Nelliekunnel CCV
6. Sr. Mary Thannipara CCV
7. Sr. Mary Sevastian SchSA
8. Sr. Sunanda Macwan FC
9. Sr. Eileena MC
10. Sr. Ann Painumkal CCV
11. Sr. Mayura Jadav CM
12. Sr. Rosy Pommany CCV
13. Sr. Rosy D'Santos SchSA
14. Sr. Vandana Dabhi FC
15. Sr. Annie Abraham OP
16. Sr. Mary Anthony FC
17. Sr. Nirmala Michael Parmar SchSA
18. Sr. Shanta Bedwawala FC
19. Sr. Anisa Chirayath FC
20. Sr. Maria Bhajji Macwan SchSA
21. Sr. Pushpa Mohan SchSA
22. Sr. Lalita Macwan CM
23. Sr. Nirmala Alphonsa Parmar SchSA
24. Sr. Gridonia Sequeira MSCJ
25. Sr. Anila MSCJ
26. Sr. Candida MSCJ

FELICITATION OF LAY MEN AND WOMEN

BARODA DEANERY



BHARUCH DEANERY



PANCHMAHAL DEANERY



NARMADA DEANERY



SURAT DEANERY



TAPI DEANERY



DANGS DEANERY



A man and a woman from Each Parish were honoured for their outstanding service to the Church in their Parish (100 persons)

No	Parish	Male	Female
BARODA DEANERY			
1.	Rosary	કૈતાન ડીસૂઝા	ઈંદરિબેન પરમાર
2.	Sama	શાંતલાલ વસાવા	તારાબેન મકવાણા
3.	St. Joseph's	જુલેન કુલજી મકવાણા	પુષ્પા મકવાણા
4.	Don Bosco	કુરસિદોફર પરવેઝ ડીન	હલિડા ડી'સૂઝા
5.	Gordwa	પીટર જ્યોર્જ	નરિમલા મકવાણા
6.	Gothada	શાંતલાલ હીરાભાઈ પરમાર	કુસુમબેન મકવાણા
7.	Padra	મગનભાઈ ગરિધિરભાઈ	મણીબેન ચમિનભાઈ
BHARUCH DEANERY			
8.	Bharuch	આલેક્સ ચેરોકચિયા રાજ	રજવાડી સીમા બેન
9.	Ankleshwer	રમેશ વસાવા	વેરોનિકા બેન મકવાણા
10.	Jhagadia	નટવરભાઈ વસાવા	વાસંતીબેન વસાવા
11.	Hingoria	વસાવા મણીલાલ ભાઈ	વસાવા દક્ષાબેન
12.	Netrang	ઝીણાભાઈ વસાવા	સુરજબેન વસાવા
PANCHMAHAL DEANERY			
13.	Dahod	સરિલિ મેકવાણા	અનૂના ડીકોસટા
14.	Jhalod	માલજીભાઈ ભાભોર	લલતિબેન માવી
15.	Muvalia		
16.	Chota Udepur	દશરથભાઈ રાઠવા	વેસ્તીબેન રાઠવા
17.	Godhara	શાંતલાલભાઈ પરમાર	છાયાબેન પરમાર
18.	Kawant	રાઠવા રાવજી	મધુમાલતી રાણા
19.	Narukot		
20.	Halol	રમેશ પરમાર	પુષ્પાબેન પરમાર
21.	Kadana	ચમિનભાઈ એમ. કટારા	રૂપાબેન પી. કટારા
NARMADA DEANERY			
22.	Zankhvav	ગામીત પ્રવણિભાઈ	ચૌધરી કાસાબેન
23.	Dediapada	ખુમસંજિ વસાવા	નાનીબેન વસાવા
24.	Umarpada	વસાવા ગંભીરભાઈ	વસાવા અંબુબેન
25.	Sagbara	સૂરપાભાઈ વસાવા	ગીતાબેન વસાવા
26.	Nani Singloti	શાંતલાલભાઈ	સુકરાબેન વસાવા
27.	Relwa	વસાવા રૂપજીભાઈ	વસાવા સુમનબેન
28.	Dadhwada	વસાવા બુધીયાભાઈ	
29.	Rajpipla	માઈકલ ઝેવિર ફર્નાન્ડેસ	
30.	Tankala		
SURAT DEANERY			
31.	Nanpura	જુદાસ નરોનહા	લીના ફર્નાન્ડેસ
32.	Bhestan	જેરાલ્ડ પન્જો	લીલાબેન ગામીત
33.	Valsad	ઓલવિર રોડ્રિગ્સ	સરીતા ચેટ્ટવિર
34.	Navsari	થોમસ જોસેફ	કોકલિબેન વસાવા
35.	Bilimora	માઈકલ રેબેલો	સબિલિ પન્જો
36.	Vapi	વજિય મોન્ટેરીયો	રવિા ફેલિક્સ
37.	Umargam	લોરેન્સ પાયસ	જેશીલી ચેટ્ટીયાર
38.	PARDI	ફેલિક્સ ફેર્નાન્ડેસ	જુલીયાના ગોન્ઝાલ્વીસ
TAPI DEANERY			
38.	Zaroli	દનિશભાઈ ખરપડચિા	રમીલાબેન ભરડા
39.	Vyara	બપિનિભાઈ ગામીત	ઉષાબેન ગામીત
40.	Unai	નલિશભાઈ ગામીત	સીતાબેન ગામીત
41.	Dharampur	રામુભાઈ પટારા	પાથુબેન રાથડ
42.	Mandal	રતનજીભાઈ ગામીત	મીરાબેન ગામીત
43.	Bardipada	રૂબેન કોકણી	વનતિબેન
44.	Paraspada	કમલેશ ખાનવિા	ચંપાબેન વલવી
	Songad	ગામીત ધીરજીભાઈ	રંજનબેન
DANGS DEANERY			
45.	Pimpri	લીવસન ચંદ્રિભાઈ	ગાવતિ સકુરુબેન
46.	Samgahan	પવાર લક્ષ્મણભાઈ	
47.	Subir	પુણ્યાભાઈ ગામીત	સીતાબેન જાડવ

જીવંત વાણી BIBLE QUIZ

Jhagadia January 14, 2026

The Bible Quiz on the Infancy Narratives for Students of 8 and 9th Standard was a fun success under the leadership of Fr. Mayank Parmar SDB with his team of Sr Sejal, Salesian and Diocesan Regents and the youth of Kawant and Ankleshwar. It was unique as it was conducted simultaneously with the PPC convention. Most parishes participated. A few had no children in that group and three expressed their inability to participate. St. Joseph Vadodara was placed first, followed by Pimpri and Bharuch. We look forward to an annual Bible interaction.



Group 1 Bharuch + Dang = Total 8 teams

1. Ankleshwar	1. Vasava Hani 2. Vasava Aliya 3. Vasava Reyan 4. Vasava Evansh
2. Bharuch	1. Dennis David 2. Vipul Khristi 3. Samuel Antony 4. Anan S Parmar
3. Hingoria	1. Henil Harilal Vasava 2. Tanvina Kiranbhai Vasava 3. Aarina Daudbhai Vasava 4. Hiren kumar Maheshbhai Vasava
4. Jhagadia	1. Jinal Pradip Bhagat 2. Selina Pradip Bhagat 3. Lizaben Ravindra 4. Ankitaben Ashishhai
5. Netrang	1. Vasava Prinayshi Amitbhai 2. Trisha kumari Sureshbhai 3. Aunecious kumar Basantbhai 4. Vasava Inyakikumar Fatesingbhai
6. Pimpri	1. Francis Shahul Chaudhri 2. Divyang Mukesh Pawar 3. Shaileja Sanjay Kokani 4. Divya Suresh Pawar
7. Shamgahan	1. Abhishekhai Sitarambhai Bagul 2. Justinekumar Yohanbhai Gangoda 3. Nancyben Anilbhai Padvi 4. Sunandaben Laskhmanbhai Pawar
8. Subir	1. Jadhav Divyaben Dineshbhai 2. Gavli Samirbhai Sandipbhai 3. Gayakwad Rohitbhai Anilbhai 4. Gavrit Riyaben Dikshit

Group 2 Narmada = Total 8 team

1. Dadhwada	1. Choudhary Shreyanshi Nileshbhai 2. Choudhary Anushka Kirtanbhai 3. Choudhary Nirav Munnabhai 4. Vasava Justin Yakubhai
2. Dediapada	1. Vasava Rozyben Saileshbhai 2. Vasava Nancyben Dharmendrabhai 3. Vasava Francis 4. Vasava Keven Tulshi
3. Nani Singloti	1. Vasava Aradhya Ramjibhai 2. Vasava Archit Ramjibhai 3. Vasava Lucky Navinbhai 4. Vasava Nitisha Bharatbhai

4. Relwa	1. Rajwadi Himmalton Hemantbhai 2. Vasava Smit Gumanbhai 3. Vasava Prachiben Vinaybhai 4. Vasava Natikiben Ranjitbhai
5. Sagbara	1. Ashish Vasava 2. Nirav Vasava 3. Rutvi Vasava 4. Ishika Vasava
6. Tanakhla	1. Bhil Surekha Bhukanya 2. Bhil Archana Suresh 3. Rathwa Nisha Kishore 4. Bhil Leela Bhukanya
7. Umarpada	1. Jack Sureshbhai Vasava 2. Angel Gulabsinh Vasava 3. Clerence Ignas Vasava
8. Zankhvav	1. Smitkumar Naranbhai Vasava 2. JustinabenPrakashbhai Vasava 3. Khushiben Gurjibhai Vasava 4. Yash kumar
Group 3 Panchmahal = 7 Teams	
1. ChhotaUdepur	1. Shital Bhabhor 2. Bhavna Dubhil 3. Leela Nayak 4. Kinjal Dubhil
2. Dahod	1. Demion 2. Akanksha Damor 3. Damien Lobo 4. Jia Solanki
3. Godhara	1. Anse Parmar
4. Halol	1. Dominic Moses 2. Shakshi Macwana 3. Dennis Lobo 4. Joyce Pateliya
5. Kadana	1. Pritiben P Katara 2. Mahimaben V Katara 3. Pradeepbhai M. Katara 4. Anandbhai M Katara 5. Ajaybhai M Katara (Substitute)
6. Kawant	1. Shivam Shailesh Rathwa 2. Devyan Kesur Rathwa 3. Sneh Lalsing Rathwa 4. Niraj Bhursingh Rathwa
7. Narukot	1. Sushlesha Chauhan
Group 4 Surat = 6 teams	
1. Bhestan	1. Aisha Bara 2. Mansi Kujur 3. Jeff Munj 4. Brion Parmar
2. Navsari	1. Agel Niki Francis 2. Anuj Devbhai Vasava 3. Aarav Satish Vasava
3. Surat	1. Naomi Noronha 2. Catherine Noronha 3. Edlyn Fernando
4. Valsad	1. Sara
5. Vapi	1. Sneha Paraipil 2. Asmita Soreng 3. Ankita Ekka 4. Gracy Tirkey
6. Umargam	1. Cecelia 2. Christopher 3. Mahi 4. Rozer



Group 5 Tapi = 6 Teams	
1. Dharampur	1. Hadal Shreyasbhai Maheshbhai 2. Dhangar Arunbhai Rangubhai 3. Dalvi Pranali Kakadbhai 4. Bhadgi Yasmika Navinbhai
2. Paraspada	1. Angel Nilesh 2. Ujjwal Chiman 3. Prunita Santosh Diva 4. Sudam Arun Bhavar
3. Songadh	1. Parinitikumari Pradipbhai 2. Arohikumari Anilbhai 3. Bhagya Vijaybhai
4. Unai	1. Gamit Pranay Prakash 2. Gamit Steven Mahendra 3. Gamit Shreya Shailesh 4. Gamit Priyansi Sunil
5. Vyara	1. Gamit Erickumar Vijaybhai 2. Gamit Vatsalkumar Benjaminbhai 3. Gamit Niralkumar Jigneshbhai 4. Gamit Dipenkumar Niteshbhai
6. Zaroli	1. Kinjal Raju Vadvi 2. Shubham Jagu Vaijal 3. Ayush Kamlesh Dhodi 4. Ayushi Yogesh Patel
Group 6 Vadodara = 6 Teams participating	
1. Gothda	1. Parmar Shradha Jayesh 2. Parmar Mitul Pravinbhai 3. Mecwan Sruti Sanjaybhai 4. Parmar Meet Rajeshbhai
2. Don Bosco	1. Bestus Fernando 2. Isaac Augustine 3. Alisha Joseph 4. Abjoth John
3. Infant Jesus	1. Mitansh Amitabh Dabhi 2. Isaah Gamit 3. Sakshi Chandrakantbhai Kanthariya 4. Helly Himanshubhai
4. Rosary	1. Selvi Anthony Parmar 2. Tanna Sandip Parmar 3. Tanmay Kamlesh Parmar 4. Aarav Nimesh Dabhai
5. Sacred Heart	1. Dabhi Jiyan Dineshbhai 2. Mackwan Angel Dilipbhai 3. Paul Sunil Mackwan 4. Shenal Parmar
6. St Joseph	1. Smit Mehl Makwana 2. Erom Mehl Macwan 3. Jiya Bhavkumar Macwan 4. Honey Girish Macwan

CLOSING OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR 2025 BARODA DIOCESE



By Fr. John Paul Lobo SJ

The Closing of the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 was solemnly celebrated on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at Zankhvav. This significant event marked the conclusion of a spiritually enriching year dedicated to prayer, repentance, renewal, and thanksgiving within the Diocese.

The celebration fostered a deep spiritual atmosphere marked by reverence and unity. It drew an impressive gathering of 90 priests and brothers, 130 Religious Sisters, and over 900 faithful representing 50 parishes of the Diocese of Baroda. The solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Sebastião. He was concelebrated by Fr. Malcolm Fernandes, Vicar General of the Diocese; Fr. Manoj Parmar, SJ, Parish Priest of Zankhvav; Fr. Paul D'Silva, in charge of the Jubilee celebrations; the Deans of all seven deaneries of the Diocese; and several other clergy.

In his inspiring homily, Fr. Peter D'Souza SJ reflected on the profound significance of the Ordinary Jubilee Year, emphasizing its call to deeper faith, reconciliation, mercy, and service to one another. Drawing from Scripture, he cited examples of figures such as Abraham and David, who lived with hope amid uncertainty. He also warned that denying the presence of the Saviour among us can have destructive consequences, illustrating this through the historical and spiritual fall of the Jewish temple and heritage. He exhorted the faithful to awaken from spiritual slumber, continue living the spirit of the Jubilee beyond its official conclusion, and remain steadfast in hope and Christian commitment.

Special prayers and thanksgiving were offered during the liturgy in gratitude for the abundant blessings and spiritual fruits received throughout the Jubilee Year. The wide participation of clergy and laity from across the Diocese underscored a strong sense of communion and shared faith.





Following the Holy Eucharist, a meaningful closing ceremony was held. As a symbolic gesture of hope, renewal, and commitment to nurturing life, a sapling was presented to each parish. While blessing the congregation and the saplings, Bishop Sebastião urged everyone to listen attentively to one another and to the Spirit of the Lord, and to continue building the Church of God with love and hope. This symbolic act reinforced the Jubilee's message of growth, care for creation, and responsibility toward fostering faith and hope in future generations.

The celebration concluded with a Solemn Final Blessing, officially marking the closure of the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025. The event at Zankhvav was a grace-filled and memorable occasion, leaving the faithful spiritually renewed and inspired to live out the values of faith, unity, hope, and service.

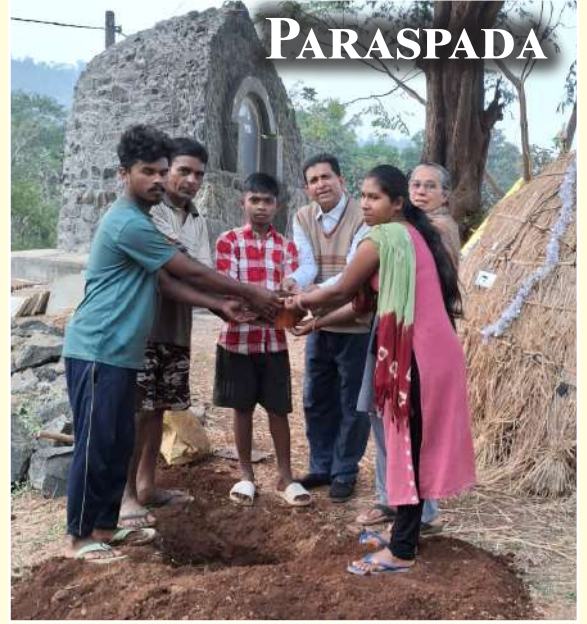
"Spes non confundit" - "Hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5) - was the deep sentiment experienced by the faithful gathered at the venue.



Fr. John Paul Lobo, SJ, coordinated and anchored the entire ceremony, ensuring its smooth and orderly conduct. Zankhvav Parish extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to making the Closing Eucharistic Celebration of the Jubilee Year, a truly meaningful and grace-filled experience. The day concluded joyfully with a fellowship meal, bringing the spiritual journey to a fitting and joyful close.

JUBILEE PLANT PLANTATION IN DIFFERENT PARISHES

The Jubilee trees will be marked in the parishes; perhaps the inauguration of Jubilee 2050 will begin from there!



FR. IÑAKI BERECIARTUA, SJ

A SPIRITUAL ARCHITECT OF BARODA DIOCESE

Fr. Bereci went to the Lord on 12th December 2025. Today we present this Obituary in sorrow, but also in profound gratitude, to honour the life of Fr. Iñaki Bereciartua, SJ—a faithful servant of God, a true Jesuit missionary, and a beloved shepherd of souls.

Fr. Bereciartua was born on 20 February 1935, near the historic Castle of Loyola in Spain, the birthplace of St. Ignatius of Loyola. From these spiritually rich beginnings, his life unfolded as one of deep commitment to God, the Church, and the people entrusted to his care. He entered the Society of Jesus on 14 September 1952, was ordained a priest on 17 March 1967 in Baroda, India, and pronounced his Final Vows on 2 February 1982, sealing his lifelong dedication to the Jesuit mission. On 12 December 2025, at the age of 90, after 73 years in the Society, he returned peacefully to his eternal abode in Loyola, Spain.

His missionary journey in India began in 1970, marked by obedience and readiness for service. Appointed first to Zankvav, he was redirected immediately to Dediapada, where he would spend the heart of his life's work. As Parish Priest, he devoted himself to celebrating the sacraments, guiding families in joy and sorrow, and strengthening the faith of the people with simplicity, availability, and deep pastoral concern.

Fr. Bereciartua's vision extended beyond the spiritual to the social and educational upliftment of the Adivasi communities. He built schools and hostels in Dediapada, Sagbara, Nani Singloti, and Relva, including an English-



medium residential school that opened new horizons for rural children. He ensured that promising students pursued higher education in Ahmedabad, Baroda, and Surat, enabling many to rise beyond poverty and limitation.

His concern for the economic well-being of the people led him to establish milk cooperatives, a milk chilling plant in Dediapada, and a fodder factory in Sagbara, initiatives that strengthened livelihoods and fostered self-reliance. Known for his perseverance, he never abandoned a project once begun. What some called stubbornness was, in truth, a grace-filled resilience that bore lasting fruit.

Fr. Bereci was a man of prayer, spending hours in the chapel before going to villages to celebrate Mass. His homilies were remembered as inspirational, and his joyful presence in community life—full of fun and laughter—kept spirits alive.

One of his most enduring legacies is the Marian Shrine of Korvi Mata, which continues to draw people of all faiths to prayer and to the intercession of Mother Mary. This shrine stands as a testament to his vision of hope, unity, and trust in God.

As we bid farewell, we remember

Fr. Bereciartua as a shepherd of souls, an educator of the marginalized, a builder of communities, and a man whose faith translated into concrete service. His life inspires us to live with courage, compassion, and unwavering faith.

May his soul rest in peace, and may his memory continue to guide us in the mission of love and service.



PHOTO STORY



DIOCESAN CLERGY IN PRAYER AND REFLECTION IN ADVENT



FR RAKESH ATTENDS CARITAS MEETING IN GOA



FR JOSEPH DEVIASSY ATTENDS NATIONAL MEETING OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS

BARODA DEANARY CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER ON JANUARY 5



ORDINATION OF REV. FR. RAMAN DALVI SJ



On 29 December 2025, Dn. Raman Dalvi SJ was ordained a priest by the Bishop of Baroda, Most Rev. Bishop Sebastiao Mascarenhas. The ordination ceremony was a memorable and grace-filled occasion, made fruitful and outstanding through meticulous planning and preparation by the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) of Shamgahan Parish, the Dangs Jesuits, and the Sisters of Shamgahan and Saputara.

Fr. Sunil Solanki SJ, Parish Priest of CC Shamgahan, who was entrusted with the overall responsibility of organizing the event, ensured that everything proceeded smoothly through his untiring presence and careful supervision. Fr. Ashok Vaghela SJ, Parish Priest of CC Subir and Dean of Dangs, served as the Master of Ceremonies. With his immense knowledge and expertise, he guided the liturgy efficiently and gracefully.

The contribution of Rev. Bishop Sebastiao Mascarenhas was truly priceless. He arrived a day prior to the ordination and spent considerable time with Dn. Raman as well as with the organizing team, preparing and motivating everyone for the sacred celebration. Fr. Jayanti Badagi SJ, Assistant Parish Priest of Pimpri, generously contributed by preparing the altar servers for the ceremony.

The ordination liturgy began at 3:00 p.m. and concluded around 6:30 p.m. Approximately 70-80 priests and nearly 3,000 faithful participated in the celebration. Several local administrative leaders were also present and were honored before the commencement of the service.

Fr. Raman Dalvi SJ hails from Nadagchond village of Shamgahan Parish. He is the first priest from his village, the second from Shamgahan Parish (The first one is Fr. Mahesh Bagul from Bhapkhali), and the third from the Dang District (Fr. Kishor Gavitt SJ from Nani Dabdar, Pimpri parish). With his ordination, the Society of Jesus and the Diocese of Baroda are blessed with one more priest dedicated to the service of God and His people.



CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR ACTIVITIES IN DIFFERENT PARISHES



ANKLESHWAR



BESTHAN



DON BOSCO MAKARPURA



GOTHDA



CHHOTA UDEPUR



HALOL



PARASPADA



NETHRANG



ROSARY, VADODARA



ST JOSEPH, VADODARA



ZAROLI



GORWA

PARISH BOYS UNITE FOR REUNION CAMP AT DON BOSCO PARISH, MAKARPURA

Ms Priyamary Dabhi

On January 14th and 15th, Fr Shaun D’Lima with the Vocation Team of Don Bosco Parish, Makarpura hosted a transformative Camp Reunion of Bosco ke Saath Zindagi Mast for 28 boys from Grade 5 and above. The overnight event, which combined spiritual depth with high-energy recreation, left a lasting impact on both participants and their families.

The journey began at the parish grounds, where boys were divided into four teams: Red, Blue, Green, and Yellow. The morning opened with a Holy Eucharist that invited the campers to “own” their faith. Through a symbolic activity, each boy placed his thumbprint and name on an image representing the Body of Christ. During the sermon, the boys engaged in reflective exercises, writing their personal camp intentions on “fishes” that



swam toward a cross, and sharing their personal visions of who Jesus is to them.

After the spiritual foundation was laid, the energy shifted toward team-building. An “ice-breaker” balloon activity filled the hall with laughter, followed by a vocal session to prepare for the evening’s worship. A spirited football match—which was extended by popular demand—concluded the morning session before the group departed for a local farmhouse.

The afternoon at the farmhouse offered a change of pace, featuring a refreshing swimming session and time for teams to finalize their campfire performances. As dusk fell, Fr. Shaun led a poignant “Praise and Worship” session. In the mindful silence of the candlelit lawn, the boys sat around a cross, joined by Fr. Brian for an hour of prayer and guitar-led hymns.

The day culminated in an “electrifying” campfire. The teams showcased their creativity through dances, yells, and slogans, demonstrating 100% participation.



FR. DUARTE FERNANDES SILVER JUBILEE, GOTHADA, JAN 24



DHANAK: A SPECTRUM OF HOPE AT DON BOSCO MAKARPURA'S 47TH ANNUAL DAY



Fr. Chris Ferreira SDB

Don Bosco High School, Vadodara, recently transformed its campus into a kaleidoscope of talent and gratitude for its 47th Annual Thanksgiving Day. Themed “Dhanak – Umeed ke 7 Rang”, the event served as a vibrant testament to the perseverance and collective achievements of the school community throughout the academic year 2025-2026.

The evening's prestige was elevated by the presence of the Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. George Carlos SDB, a visionary Salesian celebrating his Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession. Fr. Carlos, renowned for his missionary work in Gujarat's tribal belts, inspired the audience with a message of resilience and faith. He was joined by Fathers of the Salesian management, including the Rector Rev. Fr. Brian Moras sdb, and the Principal Mrs. Leena Varghese.

A deeply emotional segment of the program was the felicitation of retiring staff members who have been the cornerstones of the institution. Tributes were paid to Chief Coordinator Mrs. Gloria Baptista for her 26 years of selfless service, and Mrs. Vijay Upreti, a passionate Sanskrit educator who retired after 23 years. Also honored were Mrs. Mini Prasad, recognized for her decade of dynamic English teaching, and Mr. Rajji Makwana, the school's “Superman” maintenance supervisor known for his technical expertise and tireless dedication.

During the presentation of the Annual Report, Principal Leena Varghese in her message pointed out the school's “upward graph” in academics, sports, and community service. This was followed by the prize distribution, where “rainbow student warriors” were recognized for their outstanding achievements in both academics and extra-curricular activities.

The cultural showcase began with a soulful prayer dance and a melodic welcome song by the school choir, which the hosts described as “the sunshine” that inspired student dreams to shine. The thematic performance, “Dhanak,” unfolded through a play by the school students, with a series of choreographed dances representing the seven hues of hope: courage, creativity, optimism, growth, determination, wisdom, and imagination in a brother-sister relationship that takes them across the colourful expanse of Rajasthan. Each performance highlighted how diverse talents harmonize to create a “bridge of hope”.

The celebration concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Head Boy Samuel D'Souza, who expressed profound gratitude to the principal, the coordinating teachers, Fr Chris, the parents, and choreographers who turned the vision of “Dhanak” into a spectacular reality. The evening ended with the National Anthem, leaving the Don Bosco family inspired to continue “painting their dreams with colours of hope”

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS JUBILEE MEET



THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION DIOCESE OF BARODA

11 JANUARY, 2026

HEALTH SECRETARY: Sr Dr. Shiny Thomas CM.

CNGI REPRESENTATIVES:

- 1) Mrs Vimal maria -Rosary parish ,Vadodara deanery.
- 2) Miss Angel Sama parish, Vadodara deanery.

ST. LUKE'S GUILD Representatives

- 3) Dr. Sunil Dsouza – Surat Parish, Surat Deanery.
- 4) Dr. Forum – Rosary Parish. Vadodara deanery.

SDFI REPRESENTATIVES

- 5) Dr. Sr. Annette Fernandes FC.
- 6) Dr. Sr. Joemol Peter CCV

PARAMEDICAL DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES

- 7) Miss Reshma Vasava-Jhagadia, parish, Bharuch deanery
- 8) Mr. Kantilal - Subir Parish, Dangs deanery.
- 9) Mrs Pushpaben -Dhadhwada Parish, Narmada deanery,
- 10) Nayka Kalpana – Don Bosco parish, Panchmahal deanery.
- 11) Reena Vasava -Surat parish, Surat deanery.
- 12) Jignesh Vasava -Mandal parish, Tapi deanery.

The Health Commission of the Diocese of Baroda, under the leadership of Sr. Dr. Shiny Thomas, CM, Diocesan Health Secretary, successfully hosted the Jubilee Meet of Health Care Professionals at the Bishop's House on 11th January 2026. The theme was "The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing the pain of the other". The event, held in the spirit of the Jubilee Year, witnessed the participation of more than 160 health care professionals from across the deaneries and parishes of Baroda Diocese.

Bishop Sebastiao Mascarenhas delivered the keynote address, highlighting the spiritual mission of health care as a vocation of service. Fr. Santosh Ivan Dias, National Health Secretary of the CBCI Health Commission, emphasized the importance of organization and unity in Catholic health ministry, while Sr. Sarla, National President of the Catholic Nurses Guild of India, spoke on the compassionate care and dedication of Catholic nurses.

The meet included group discussions on challenges faced by health professionals and future action plans for diocesan health initiatives. The program concluded with a Eucharistic celebration and fellowship lunch.

The Diocese of Baroda extends heartfelt gratitude to all collaborators, parish representatives, and the Bishop's House staff for their tireless efforts in making the Jubilee Meet a resounding success.

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS MEET

JANUARY 11, 2026 - VADODARA

REPORT: GROUP DISCUSSION

PRESENT PROBLEMS FACED

1. Workplace Challenges

- Shortage of doctors in government hospitals.
- Lack of proper medical instruments and facilities.
- Language barriers affecting patient care.
- Ignorance and limited awareness in the medical field.
- Many professionals possess theoretical knowledge and degrees but lack sufficient practical experience.

2. Religious and Social Challenges

- Religious indifference and intolerance.
- Negative attitudes towards religious practices.
- Professional duties often become a hindrance to religious activities.

3. Mental and Emotional Stress

- Mental torture and pressure from relatives and patients.
- Higher professionals often show low regard for those in lower professions.
- Difficulties arising from superstitious beliefs and practices.

WHAT CAN BE DONE AT THE DIOCESAN LEVEL

1. Conduct periodic diocesan-level meetings at least once a year.
2. Create a voluntary service group for those willing to serve in health and social ministries.
3. Organize programs at parish, deanery, and diocesan levels, including:
 - Retreats
 - Talks and professional seminars
4. Arrange seminars on:
 - Stress management
 - Mental health
 - Current and relevant social and professional topics
5. Conduct seminars on interreligious dialogue and tolerance.
6. Create awareness about existing colleges and provide proper guidance to youngsters on various career options in the health sector.
7. Establish educational funds to support nursing education.
8. Arrange access to a counsellor or psychologist (sister or priest) for guidance and support.
9. Promote and strengthen Nurses' Guild and Doctors' Guild among lay people.
10. Encourage doctors, retired nurses, and other healthcare professionals to provide free services in rural areas.
11. Collaborate with government agencies and NGOs.
12. Improve communication and cooperation among healthcare professionals.
13. Organize health awareness programs in parishes.
14. Motivate young people to take up health-related ministries.

WESTERN REGION CATHOLIC COUNCIL MEETING AT SARVODAYA, GOREGAON, MUMBAI ON 13–14 DECEMBER 2025



BY Sr Philomena D'Souza, FMA

Under the leadership of Bishop Sebastiao Mascarenhas, a delegation comprising Nigel Rodrigues (youth representative), Mary D'Souza (lay woman), Druv Rathod (lay man), Fr Raja SVD, and Sr Philomena D'Souza FMA participated in the Western Region Catholic Council (WRCC) meeting held at Sarvodaya, Goregaon West, Mumbai, on 13–14 December 2025.

The Western Region of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) encompasses 17 dioceses across Maharashtra, Goa, and Gujarat: 13 Latin, 3 Syro-Malabar, and 1 Syro-Malankara. This diverse communion of churches, representing varied linguistic and cultural groups, journeyed together in a spirit of synodality.

APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION

Fr Gavin Lopes presented the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Leo XIV, *Dilexi Te*, offering theological insights and pastoral reflections.

RESPONSE TO SOCIO-POLITICAL CHALLENGES

Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes of Bombay addressed the assembly on the Christian community's response to emerging socio-political challenges, encouraging discernment and proactive engagement.

PASTORAL PLAN PRESENTATION

Fr Vivian Lobo outlined the Western Region Pastoral Plan focusing on three dimensions of mission:

- o Faith Formation
- o Family
- o Ecology

On 14 December, participants were grouped by dioceses to draft pastoral outlines in these areas, specifying:

- Goals
- Objectives
- Activities
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

FELLOWSHIP AND SYNODALITY

The meeting was marked by shared prayer, meals, and a cultural evening that fostered fellowship and strengthened bonds among participants. This spirit-filled experience deepened the sense of communion and reinforced the collective commitment to continue the synodal journey.

The WRCC meeting at Sarvodaya was a significant milestone in the synodal process, enabling dioceses to discern pastoral priorities collaboratively. The event highlighted the richness of diversity within the Western Region and the unity of purpose among pastors and faithful.

ST. JOSEPH BARODA CHRISTMAS PROCESSION 2025



ST. JOSEPH PARISH BARODA HAD SPIRIT FILLED MUSIC BAND ON 15TH NOV 2025



ST. JOSEPH BARODA PARISH INTER-RELIGIOUS MEET 20TH DEC



INAUGURATION OF CHAPEL AT MANDALA, DEDIAPADA



SUBIR HOSPITAL



SHANTI SADAN SISTERS HOLD PRAYER SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



The Shanti Sadan Sisters had a small prayer with the boarding children in Jhagadia for the Christian unity on 25th January. The theme was one body and one spirit.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROLAMA 2025 – Joy That Transforms at Don Bosco Parish, Baroda



Fr. Chris Ferreira SDB

The 6th edition of Ecumenical Christmas Carolama 2025 was joyfully celebrated on 7th December at Don Bosco Church, Baroda, bringing together the faithful in a spirit of unity, praise, and preparation for the birth of Christ. True to its vision of coming together across Christian denominations in a spirit of unity, prayer, and praise through the singing of Christmas carols – celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and sharing His message of love, peace, and hope, the event stood as a beautiful witness of Christian harmony.

The programme commenced with a reverent procession carrying the Baby Jesus, symbolising the Church’s journey towards the joy of Christmas. This was followed by the Chief Guest, Fr. Jesu Raj, placing the Infant Jesus in a small crib, marking the formal inauguration of the evening. Thereafter, Fr. Thomas addressed the gathering; setting the spiritual tone and inviting all present to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ. He encouraged the gathering to rediscover the true joy of Christmas – a joy rooted in faith, simplicity, and service. The theme for the evening, “Joy That Transforms,” resonated strongly throughout the celebrations.

A distinctive and engaging highlight of this year’s Carolama was the creative narration of the meaning of Christmas through the eyes of a modern-day drummer boy

and a drummer boy from the past. Interwoven between the choir performances, this thoughtful presentation beautifully contrasted contemporary perceptions of Christmas with the simplicity and depth of faith from earlier times, drawing the audience into deeper reflection.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from 10 Christian churches representing different Christian denominations, all coming together not in competition, but in communion – united in song and worship. The melodious carol renditions filled the church with prayerful joy, reinforcing the message that Christmas is a celebration meant to be shared across traditions in praise of God.

Adding a joyful and interactive element to the evening was the much-anticipated Jolly Jackpot, where Santa Claus delighted the audience by calling out winners from the lucky draw tickets. This segment brought smiles and laughter, especially among families and children, making the celebration all the more memorable. As a token of appreciation, group trophies and mementos were presented to all participating choirs, acknowledging their dedication and contribution to the spirit of the evening.

With an attendance of over 500 people, Christmas Carolama 2025 was a testament to the power of music, storytelling, and fellowship in bringing communities of different churches together. The evening concluded with hearts uplifted and spirits renewed, as the faithful departed carrying the transforming joy of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS AT CHINCPADA, SUBIR, DANGS

During the month of November, the village leaders decided that this year Christmas will be celebrated at Chinchpada. While most of us were skeptical about this move, the Chinchpada members, though hardly three present, were very confident about their undertaking. Seeing their determination, we all supported their move and agreed to extend all our support to them. On December 24, when we gathered there to celebrate Christmas, it was the chill which had its say. Indeed, it was freezing, yet it did not dampen the spirit of the faithful. Nearly a multitude of 800 devotees gathered there to celebrate Christmas and exhibit their faith. Fr Joseph Parmar, as the main celebrant, invited the devotees, to be open like the shepherds to listen to the Spirit and respond to the divine plan of God for the salvation of one and all. The Joy of Christmas continued until 3am and the chill did not deter the Spirit of the children who had flocked from various villages to put up their artistic skills.



BARODA SHEPHERDS AT SHUNYAVAT



SPOTLIGHT PUBLISHER: Fr Vincent Lobo, DTP: Joy Fernandes
Please send all matter to Fr Vincent Lobo—WhatsApp: 94281 67064