

# FOOTPRINTS

*"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news." IS.52:7*

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Itanagar Diocesan News Bulletin

April-June 2025

## "HABEMUS PAPAM"



**POPE LEO XIV**



REMEMBERING THE PAPACY  
AND LIFE OF POPE FRANCIS!



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT:  
"May we rediscover hope,  
proclaim hope and build hope."  
- Pope Francis

## EDITORIAL



Dear Friend,

Past quarter of the Jubilee Year: 2025, April to June, had been definitely an eventful one for all of us. Globally, we suffered the loss of our Holy Father,

Pope Francis, who passed away at the Vatican, at the age of 88, on Easter Monday (April 21, 2025). His death marked the end of a historic papacy defined by humility, compassion, and a strong emphasis on mercy, dialogue, and care for the poor and the environment.

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he was elected Pope in 2013 and quickly became a beloved global figure for his pastoral style and commitment to reform within the Church. His papacy was notable for addressing contemporary issues such as climate change, economic inequality, interfaith dialogue, and the role of the Church in a changing world.

Pope Francis leaves behind a legacy of simplicity, deep spirituality, and a call for the Church to go to the margins of society, echoing the Gospel's call to love and serve all.



Following his death, Catholics around the world entered a period of mourning, with funeral rites taking place in St. Peter's Basilica. Cardinals from across the globe were summoned to the Vatican for the Sede Vacante period (when the papal chair is vacant), leading to a conclave to elect his successor. Eventually, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost from America has been elected as the successor to the 'chair of Peter', and he wished to be called Pope Leo XIV.

Pope Leo XIV is known for his pastoral heart, theological depth, and dedication to dialogue and evangelization. The name "Leo" recalls the legacy of previous Popes Leo, especially St. Leo the Great, a pope remembered for his courage, doctrine, and defence of the Church.

Pope Leo XIV's election has been welcomed by Catholics worldwide as a sign of continuity and renewal, with many hopeful for a pontificate that will uphold the Church's teachings while taking on modern challenges with wisdom and compassion.

As we dedicate this issue of 'Footprints' to the loving memory of Pope Francis, we pray for our new Pope Leo XIV that he may ably lead the Church forward in the path shown by its Founder, Jesus Christ.

- Fr. Boniface Dhanwar

"If we look at the **most painful moments of our lives**, when we have lost a loved one — our parents, a brother, a sister, a spouse, a child, a friend — **we realize that even amid the tragedy of loss**, even when torn by separation, the conviction arises in the heart that everything cannot be over, that the good given and received has not been pointless. There is a **powerful instinct within us** which tells us that **our lives do not end with death**. This thirst for life found its true and reliable answer in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus' Resurrection does not only give us **the certainty of life after death**, it also illumines the **very mystery of the death of each one of us**."

*Pope Francis, Audience, 27th November 2013*



# SHEPHERD'S VOICE



Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, and faithful,

I wish and pray for all of you as we conclude the month of May, dedicated to our Blessed Mother. May her intercession bring us closer to her Son, Jesus Christ. I also entrust you to the Sacred Heart, from whom we receive the fountain of mercy and blessings.

As your shepherd, I want to share with you some important reflections and updates. Our diocese has been blessed with many graces and opportunities for growth. Let us continue to pray and work together to build a community of faith, hope, and love.

Recently, we bid farewell to Pope Francis, whose papacy will be remembered for his tireless efforts to spread the message of love, compassion, and mercy. As the Bible reminds us, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." (1 Corinthians 13:4). Pope Francis embodied these qualities, inspiring countless individuals worldwide to live out their faith with greater fervour and commitment. We give thanks for his legacy and pray that his soul rests in eternal peace.

Following his passing, the conclave elected Pope Leo XIV as the new leader of the Catholic Church. We welcome him with open hearts and pray that he will guide the Church with wisdom and spiritual strength, as the Psalmist says, "Guide me, O Lord, in the way of your commandments, and I will walk in your truth." (Psalm 119:35).

In our diocese, we have been active in various initiatives. Notably, we recently held our annual



spiritual retreat for our diocesan clergy, which provided a much-needed opportunity for spiritual rejuvenation and reflection. As the Church teaches, "The spiritual retreat is a means of growth in holiness, and it is an essential part of the priestly life." (Pastores Dabo Vobis, 26).

Furthermore, we are pleased to announce the opening of two new religious houses: One at Raga Parish by FCC Bharanaganam Province and another at Likabali Parish by FCC Sisters of Imphal Province dedicated to serving the Lord and our community. These houses will provide a nurturing environment for spiritual growth and service, as Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes one of these little ones in my name welcomes me." (Mk 9:37).

The silver jubilee of the Catholic Church at Radum under Boasimla and the blessing of the new church at Lapung under Bameng parish was also noteworthy. These milestones remind us of the importance of faith and community in our lives.

As we have begun the academic sessions in our educational institutions, let us be reminded of our commitment to the overall development of the students who are placed in our care. As the Church teaches, "Education is an essential part of the Church's mission, and it is a fundamental aspect of the human person's development." (Gravissimum Educationis, 1).

Let us continue to pray for our diocese, its clergy, and the entire Catholic Church, that we may remain faithful to our Lord's call and serve with love and humility. May God bless us all.

May we entrust ourselves to the patronage of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, and our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary, who exemplified love, compassion, and service. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the intercession of our Blessed Mother guide and bless us all.


With paternal love and blessings,

+ Most Rev. Benny Varghese  
Bishop of Itanagar

### UNUSED HEART:

A patient who needs a heart transplant suddenly gets a phone call from his surgeon, "You are lucky, we have two matching donors – a twenty year old athlete and an eighty year old lawyer. Which heart do you want?" The patient answers, "Give me the lawyer's heart." The surgeon asks in surprise, "Are you sure?" The patient says, "Yes, I would rather have one that has not been used."





# Lasting Inner Peace is Something We Choose

There once was a king who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The king looked at all the pictures. But there were only two he really liked, and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror for peaceful towering mountains all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace.

The other picture had mountains, too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky, from which rain fell and in which lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all.

But when the king looked closely, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest - in perfect peace. The king chose the second picture.

Moral: Peace is not something that just randomly happens to us. And it does not always look like we think it should. It is something created.

- Author unknown, but greatly appreciated





## ASK YOUR QUESTION:

*Question: Dear Father, Pope Francis has died, now how will the Church elect a new Pope? I would like to know how a new Pope is elected in the Catholic Church.*

Answered by: Fr. Manu Mathew

On May 7, 2025, the Catholic Church commenced a significant chapter in its history with the initiation of the papal conclave to elect the 267<sup>th</sup> pope, following the passing of Pope Francis on April 21 at the age of 88. This conclave is notable for its unprecedented diversity and size, reflecting the global nature of the Church today.

A total of 133 cardinal electors, representing 71 countries, have convened in the Sistine Chapel. This marks the most geographically diverse and largest group of electors in the Church's history—108 of whom were



appointed by Pope Francis himself. The eyes of the world now turn to the Vatican—not in anticipation of politics, but of a profound spiritual discernment.

When a pope dies or resigns, many assume that what follows is a political campaign. But the election of a new pope is not a contest for power. It is a solemn moment when the Church listens—through silence, tradition, and centuries of wisdom—for the whisper of the Holy Spirit.





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Let us now walk through this ancient and holy process.

1. What is a Conclave?: The word conclave comes from Latin: cum clave— “with a key.” The cardinals are literally locked inside a space so they can discern without distraction or influence. It is a time of prayer, reflection, and silence.
2. The Rulebook-*Universi Dominici Gregis*: The procedures are governed by *Universi Dominici Gregis*, an Apostolic Constitution issued by Pope John Paul II in 1996. It outlines the rules to be followed during the *sedevacante* (the vacant seat) and the election process.
3. The Death or Resignation of a Pope - *Sede Vacante*: The election process begins with either the death or resignation of a pope. The Holy See becomes *sede vacante*, and the College of Cardinals takes over ordinary administration until a new pope is elected.
4. The *Novemdiales* - Mourning and Discernment: A nine-day mourning period (*novemdiales*) follows the death of a pope. During this time, cardinals celebrate Mass together and hold daily meetings known as General Congregations to prepare for the conclave.
5. Breaking the Ring of the Fisherman: The Ring of the Fisherman, which bore the popes seal, is ceremonially destroyed. This act marks the formal end of the previous pontificate and prevents misuse of papal authority.
6. Sealing of the Papal Apartments: The camerlengo (the cardinal appointed to oversee the temporal goods of the church and administration of the Holy See during *sede vacante*) seals the papal apartments—symbolizing that no one owns the office. It is not inherited; it is given anew through divine guidance and ecclesial discernment.
7. Who Are the Electors?: Only cardinals under the age of 80 on the day the *sede vacante* begins may vote. There can be up to 120 electors (though this number is sometimes exceeded with papal permission).
8. Where Do the Cardinals Stay?: The cardinals reside at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, a residence within Vatican City. They are escorted to and from the Sistine Chapel under strict security, with all communication cut off.
9. Where Is the Conclave Held—and Why?: The Sistine Chapel has hosted the conclave since 1878. Its fresco of Michelangelo’s Last Judgment looms over the electors—a reminder of their accountability before God.
10. Secrecy and Oaths: A Sacred Responsibility: Before entering the conclave, all participants—cardinals and support staff alike, take a solemn oath of secrecy. Breach of this oath results in automatic excommunication.



11. No Contact with the Outside World: Inside the conclave, the cardinals are cut off completely from external contact. No phones, newspapers, radios, or internet. This ensures freedom from political and media pressures.
12. Extra Omnes and the Meditation: Listening Before Choosing: The conclave officially begins with the declaration "Extra Omnes"—"Everyone Out." After this, a spiritual meditation preached by a selected cleric. He reflects on the needs of the Church, the world, and the qualities needed in the new pope. It is a sacred and sober moment of guidance before voting begins.
13. How Is a Pope Elected?: A cardinal must receive a two-thirds majority to be elected. This requirement ensures unity and prevents division. If no result is reached after several rounds, the cardinals continue until consensus is formed.
14. How Do They Cast Their Vote? A Sacred Act of Conscience: Each cardinal writes a name on a ballot inscribed with the Latin phrase: "*Eligo in Summum Pontificem*" ("I elect as Supreme Pontiff...")  
They walk one by one to the altar, under the fresco of the Last Judgment, raise their hand, & swear:  
"I call as my witness Christ the Lord, who will be my judge, that my vote is given to the one who before God I think should be elected."

The ballots are collected in a special urn, then counted and read aloud by three scrutineers. When finished, the ballots are threaded with needle and string, tied together, and burned.

15. The Smoke Signals: Black or White?: If no pope is elected, the smoke from the chimney is black (*fumatanera*). When a pope is chosen, white smoke (*fumatabianca*) signals to the world: *Habemus Papam*. This tradition began in the 15th century and remains one of the most iconic images of the conclave.
16. The Role of the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit doesn't whisper names into ears. Instead, He moves through prayer, dialogue, and conscience. The entire Church is called to pray during the conclave, invoking the Spirit to guide the electors.
17. Daily Voting Rounds: Up to four votes are cast per day—two in the morning and two in the afternoon. This continues until one candidate reaches the necessary majority.
18. What Happens When One Is Elected?: When a cardinal receives enough votes, the Dean asks: "Do you accept your canonical election as Supreme Pontiff?" If he accepts, he is asked: "By what name shall you be called?"  
He is then taken to the "Room of Tears" to change into white papal garments. Many popes have wept in that room, overwhelmed by the responsibility now upon them.



19. “*Habemus Papam*” – We Have a Pope!: The Senior Cardinal Deacon steps onto the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica and announces: “*Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum: Habemus Papam!*” (“I announce to you a great joy: We have a Pope!”) He reveals the new pope’s chosen name. A moment of silence follows. The Church breathes again.
20. The First Blessing: The newly elected pope appears on the balcony and offers his first *Urbi et Orbi* blessing— “to the city and to the world.” It is not a show. It is a real, apostolic blessing—a gift to the faithful, and a beginning.

## Conclusion

The conclave is not about ambition or politics. It is about humility, prayer, and sacred responsibility. In a noisy world, the conclave teaches us the power of silence. In a divided world, it reminds us that unity is still possible through faith.

Let us be proud of our Church—not for

its wealth or riches, but for its unwavering commitment to listen, to discern, and to follow the path of Christ – “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church.”

## Epilogue: The Work of the Spirit

“No confusion. No argument. No tension.

No jealousy. No division. No business. No bitterness.

No sadness remains.

The whole world, in silence and awe, accepts the new Holy Father.”

This is the Catholic Church—one family, united not by opinions or politics, but by the Blood of Christ, poured out and sprinkled upon the Rock of Peter. Who could not love such a Church? Who would want to walk away from a Church founded not by men, but by Christ Himself?

We own nothing. We control nothing. We simply stand in tears, overwhelmed by the quiet and majestic working of the Holy Spirit.

## CAKE LESSON:

A white-haired woman reaches into the oven to pull out a pie, from the perspective inside the oven. A little boy tells his Grandma how “everything” is going wrong: School, family problems, health problems, etc., etc. Meanwhile, Grandma bakes a cake. She asks her grandson if he would like a snack, which of course he does. “Here, have some cooking oil.” “Yuck” says the boy. “How about a couple raw eggs?” “Gross, Grandma!” “Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?” “Grandma, those are all yucky!” To which Grandma replies: “Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!” She continued, “That’s how God works in our lives, too.”





# A Pope Who Became a Man: Walking with Shoes of the Poor



*By Rev. Fr. Manu Mathew*

They say you can read a person's soul by looking at their shoes. If that is true, then the image of Pope Francis will need to be redrawn – not in robes of gold or shoes of red velvet, but in worn-out leather, faded and creased by years of walking among the people. His shoes were not of a prince but of a pilgrim – simple, torn, and ordinary. They were the same shoes he wore as a Jesuit priest. And they tell us everything we need to know about the man who chose to lead the Church by stepping downward, not upward.

**His Lifestyle Choices: Humility in the White Cassock – and Worn Shoes:** From the very first day of his papacy, Pope Francis made radical choices. He refused the papal palace and lived in a modest room. He rode in an economy car. He dined with workers. But more revealing than all these was the fact that he never

changed his shoes. Even in death, his personal inheritance amounted to just \$100. In a world where power is often dressed in excess, Francis reminded us that authority rooted in simplicity is more powerful than any throne. His life stands as a direct challenge to those entrusted with care – leaders, clergy, politicians, and even we.

**His Language: A Heart That Speaks Simply:** Francis spoke the way people needed to hear – not in lofty theological language, but in parables of today. He talked about broken elevators, soup kitchens, stray dogs, and burned-out priests. He once said, “God is not afraid of our wounds.” In his language, he brought God closer – not as an idea but as a living, walking presence in the streets of suffering. His words were bridges, not walls. And in those bridges,



people felt seen, forgiven, and welcomed.

**His Actions: Kneeling Before the Margins:** But he didn't just speak. He bent down – literally and symbolically. From washing the feet of prisoners, to embracing the sick and disfigured, Francis broke the invisible glass that separates “the sacred” from “the suffering.” If seeing the shoes of Pope Francis unsettles you, it may be because there are shoes in your life that need changing – shoes that must come down from platforms and walk where the poor and broken live. His actions were never dramatic. They were ordinary acts done with extraordinary love.

**His Papacy's Central Themes: Mercy, Ecology, and Inclusion:** Francis didn't just reform the Church; he reshaped its heart. With *Laudato Si'*, he reminded the world that the planet is not a backdrop to salvation but part of it – that the earth groans with us, not apart from us. With *Amoris Laetitia*, he embraced broken families with understanding rather than judgment. With the Jubilee of Mercy, he called the Church to open doors – not just metaphorically, but physically and pastorally. His vision of God's love was truly universal – spilling beyond religion, politics, species, and climate.

**His Resistance to Power: A Quiet Earthquake:** In refusing luxury, Francis also refused the invisible chains of power and prestige. He once warned against “spiritual worldliness” – a disease far worse than secularism. He didn't condemn the world; he questioned the comfort of those who claimed to lead it.

His critique of clericalism and corruption wasn't aggressive but clear. He taught that real authority is not exercised from above, but shared from below. His simplicity was not naivety – it was a revolution in soft tones.

**His Humanity as Holiness: The Saint Who Stayed Human:** Perhaps the greatest miracle of Francis was that he never stopped being human. He joked, confessed his faults, took afternoon naps, and admitted when he didn't have all the answers. He once said, “I am a sinner, whom the Lord has looked upon.” That humility made him relatable. That vulnerability made him holy. He was a Pope, yes – but more deeply, he remained a man – a man who saw himself in the faces of others.

**A Name and a Life Lived Fully:** Francis took his name from St. Francis of Assisi – the saint of poverty, peace, and creation. And he lived that name not just in words but in every breath, until his last. He understood that to follow Christ is to descend – to become less so others may be more. In doing so, he never ceased to be the Pope. But more importantly, he never ceased to be a man.

**When Shoes Speak:** The shoes of Pope Francis may never be displayed in glass cases. But they will live in the memory of our conscience. If they make us uncomfortable, perhaps it is because we too are being called – not to admire him, but to imitate him. His life is a mirror to every heart, a question to every leader, and an invitation to every Christian: Will you dare to walk in shoes that touch the ground?



# JESUS CHRIST: OUR UNITY

*[Based on the Decree on Ecumenism, Vatican II, Unitatis Redintegratio (Restoration of Unity) Promulgated by Pope Paul VI on 21 November 1964.]*

In an orchestra play, types of musical instruments produce their sound and when blended together well it gives harmonious music. In the similar manner, the Church is the visible sign of unity in this world. Unity has always been the nature and the goal of the Church. The Church founded by Jesus Christ is one. Occasionally, we come across a few difficulties and differences in the ways of thinking and acting of some church leaders. We experience divisions in the Church. Sometime, diverse expressions of our faith leads us to forget the very movement of the Church to unity which is to return to Jesus Christ and live in communion with God and one another.

The tendency to divide in the name of faith expression may lead us to work against the unity of the Church. Whatever the difference may be, what we need is the courage to become aware of what is happening within the Church and the reasons that hinders us to be united in Christ. It is true that the greater way to solve divisions is a deeper conversion towards Christ, since Christ is the way, the truth and the life. (John 14:6a). This is more important than to seek or to restore the visible unity of the Churches. Togetherness within the Churches certainly would help the Churches to pray together. Our model of prayer is the prayer of Jesus. The prayer of Jesus, "That they may be one" (John 17:21), is the prayer of unity signifies far more than institutional solidarity. But the undeniable challenge of every Christian is also to progress towards the fullness of unity and make it visible in the Church and in the world. This prayer for unity is the prayer for



*By: Bro. Pius, Diocese of Itanagar*

spiritual journey to connect with the divine through love. Through this prayer Jesus shares the glory with His disciples given to Him by the Father and invites them to experience God's love in the same way that He does.

Decree on Ecumenism, Vatican II, *Unitatis Redintegratio* (Restoration of Unity) promulgated by Pope Paul VI on 21 November 1964, teaches us that Church is a communion of faith and Sacrament, which we can experience visibly and invisibly. We believe that this unity subsists in the Catholic Church as something she can never lose and it will continue to increase until the end of time (UR 4). This statement made by the Church does not exclude other Churches and Ecclesial Communities from the body of Christ rather it affirms our common faith in Jesus Christ and baptism (UR 3). We hold firm that the separated brothers and sisters through their faith and sacramental life participate in some way into the one Church and into the mystery of Christ. 'The Catholic Church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic,





yet it recognizes the elements of salvation that are found in other Churches' (The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, (Light of the Nations) 8, Promulgated by Pope Paul VI on 21 November 1964). Therefore, it is true that the quality of unity can also be found in other Churches and Ecclesial Communities.

The true goal of the unity is to gather all Christians in a common celebration of the Eucharist into the unity of the One and only Church which Christ bestowed from the beginning (UR 4). St Ignatius of Antioch affirms in his letter to the Trallians that "God stands for unity" and Eucharist creates unity in the Body of Christ and Eucharist is also the sign and person of unity in the Church. Our action to achieve this goal requires conviction and firm knowledge about the true teachings of the Church in spite of holding on to human judgment, wrong expression and wrong teachings. There is also always a need to promote and value the sound conscience that demands the common good for humanity. In this affair, prayer is the key foundation that will enrich us to know the will of Christ and not the will of humans. Prayer is also the foundation of our relationship with God. Through prayer we speak to God, listen to His words and open our hearts to Him and thus we become faithful and embrace unity.

The work of unity begins from within not from outside. The change of our heart is a step towards building unity. As the document *Unitatis Redintegratio* puts it "For, it is from newness of attitude, from self-denial and love that yearnings for unity take their rise and grow towards maturity...This change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians, should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement" (7-8). This work of unity requires attentive listening to the word of God, right understanding of its teachings and

opening of our hearts to God in order to witness Christ faithfully. The greater requirement includes a change of heart through forgiveness and reconciliation. Having a common prayer or praying together for unity also important since Jesus says that, 'For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them' (Mt 18:20). Our Christian spirituality must be based wholly on the word of God because word of God is the foundation of Christian life.

*Unitatis Redintegratio* number 6 states that "Every renewal of the Church essentially consists in an increase of fidelity to her own calling". The true call of the Church is unity in the body of Christ. We are called to the one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Eph 4:4-5). We need not shout at the top of our voice for unity because it emerges from within the voice of our hearts. We can embrace the virtue of humility, gentleness and prudence because they are the fundamental virtues proper to unity. To maintain true unity in the Church, society and family, the first imperative is to be humble, gentle, patient and loving toward one another. We are called to live a holy life. Our response towards holiness would bring us closer to Christ and to one another. Eventually, the fruits of our faith would reflect in our lives filled with love, joy, peace and regards for one another. Thus, as the Psalmist proclaims that "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity....it is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forever" (Psalm 133:1) will come true. Unfortunately, unity cannot be achieved merely by human efforts alone. We need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to realize the wish and prayer of Jesus for unity. Therefore, working for unity is allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us and being able to bear all things, believe all things, hope all



things and endure all things solely for the love of Christ (1Cor 13:7).

As we are the “Pilgrims of hope” we need reformation, renewal and healing, so that we are united in Jesus Christ. Therefore, let our prayers be rooted on the prayer of Jesus Christ for unity. Let our prayer for unity be a prayer to know the will of God and not to change the will of God. Let it be a prayer to change ourselves because the change of heart and the renewal of our life is a necessary ways towards unity. Let us not cease to believe that the Holy Spirit always guides us

and moves our hearts in times of prayer. Therefore, let us be clear that the principle of unity is having communion with one another and the Triune God. For our life and unity we depend upon the love of the Father, the prayer of Christ and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is our only hope and our hope is that Jesus would enable us to overcome every obstacle and heal every wound of our division. Jesus Christ is the head and centre of the unity and we, as humans can be one of instruments of Christ to promote unity, love, joy and peace in this world.

## ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUIZ-46

1. Jabal. (Gn 4:20)
2. Jubal. (Gn 4:21)
3. Tubal-cain. (Gn 4:22)
4. Adam and Eve. (Gn 4:25)
5. Nine hundred thirty years. (Gn 5:5)
6. Nine hundred twelve years. (Gn 5:8)
7. Lamech. (Gn 5:28-29)
8. Three - Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Gn 5:32, 6:10)
9. Because the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth. (Gn 6:5-7)
10. Noah. (Gn 6:8)
11. An Ark. (Gn 6:14)
12. Cypress wood. (Gn 6:14)
13. A flood of waters. (Gn 6:17)
14. Eight - Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives. (Gn 6:18)
15. A pair of every living thing, and every kind of food. (Gn 6:19-21)
16. The Lord. (Gn 7:16)
17. Six hundred years old. (Gn 7:11)
18. On the seventeenth day of the second month. (Gn 7:11)
19. Forty days and forty nights. (Gn 7:12)
20. One hundred and fifty days. (Gn 7:24)



# NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE:

## Steady Growth of Damin Parish

DAMIN, March 24, 2025: St. Stephen Catholic Church, Huri has 17 active Catholic families. It is the most vibrant village church under Damin Parish. Yesterday (23/03/2025) there were 5 persons who received the baptism, one was Revival who decided to join our church. Thanks be to God!

- Fr. Augustine Malangmei



## Fr. Sabu Joseph Installed as Parish Priest at Yachuli



YACHULI, March 28, 2025: Rev. Fr. Sabu Joseph was formally installed as the Parish Priest of Mary Help of Christians Parish, Yachuli, by Most Rev. Benny Varghese, Bishop of Itanagar on 28.03.2025. The ceremony took place in the presence of Rev. Fr. Joy, Provincial of Pallotine Fathers. Fathers, Sisters, and a large number of faithful gathered to welcome Fr. Sabu as the new parish

priest, as well as Rev. Fr. Varghese Assistant Parish Priest and the Principal of the school. The Diocese and faithful expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Pallotine Fathers for their selfless service and dedication to Yachuli Mission over the past 13 years. Their spiritual leadership, guidance, commitment to education, and support for the poor and marginalized were deeply appreciated. Special appreciation was extended to Rev. Fr. Yesu Babu, Fr. Byju, Fr. Jijo, and Fr. Savio for their remarkable service. Their legacy will continue to inspire and guide the community. May God bless and continue to inspire the Pallotine Fathers. May God bless you, and may you continue to be a source of inspiration and hope to us all.

- By: our Correspondent





## Pilgrimage to Cathedral "Jubil ee: 2025 Shrine" from Naharlagun

ITANAGAR, March 29, 2025: Today, we the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church, Naharlagun, along with Fr. Deepak and Sisters came to the Cathedral Church, Itanagar, for Pilgrimage. We had Holy Mass and prayers at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Fr. Thomas Lakra, the Parish Priest of Cathedral Church welcomed us and talked to us.

- Fr. Deepak



## NSS Cell of SCCZ Organizes Special Camp



ZIRO, March 30, 2025: The NSS Cell of Saint Claret College (Autonomous), Ziro, successfully conducted the first phase of its NSS Special Camp at its adopted village, Lempia, Old Ziro, from March 28 to March 30, 2025. The three-day camp aimed to instil social responsibility among students through various activities, including community service and awareness programmes.

The camp commenced with a social service initiative, where NSS volunteers actively participated in a cleanliness drive to enhance the hygiene and

sanitation of the adopted village.

On the second day, the volunteers conducted an awareness programme on the effects of junk food at Ziro Valley School, Ziro. The session focused on educating school students about healthy eating habits and the detrimental impact of junk food on overall well-being.

The highlight of the camp was a street play on the theme 'Gender Equality,' performed by the NSS volunteers. Through a creative and impactful presentation, the volunteers emphasized the significance of equal opportunities for all genders in society, promoting awareness and inclusivity.

The final day of the camp featured a trekking expedition to Pakhu Akhii Putu, a site recently recognized for hosting Ziro Valley's first-ever paragliding test. A total of 110 student volunteers enthusiastically participated in the trek, embracing adventure and



teamwork. Shri Nani Opo, the founder member of Pakhu Akhii Putu, lauded the efforts of the NSS volunteers, commending their dedication to social causes.

The NSS Special Camp was a testament to the spirit of volunteerism and social responsibility fostered by Saint Claret College (Autonomous), Ziro. The unwavering support and encouragement from the college

management played a pivotal role in empowering students to take on challenges with enthusiasm and a sense of purpose. Through such initiatives, the NSS Cell continues to nurture a sense of commitment, compassion, and leadership among students, ensuring their active participation in community development.

- Fr. Principal, SCCZ

## BEC Leadership Program Held at Bishop's House

NAHARLAGUN, Bishop's House, April 05, 2025: The Itanagar Deanery organized a B.E.C. Leadership Program at the Bishop's House on April 5th. The program was expertly guided by Fr. Avinash D'Mello and saw an impressive turnout of 70 participants.

The program covered various topics aimed at strengthening faith communities and also events that focused on developing leadership skills among participants. Fr. Avinash D'Mello's guidance played a crucial role in the program's success.

The Leadership Program was a valuable opportunity for participants to grow in

their faith and leadership abilities. By focusing on key topics and providing expert guidance, the program helped equip participants with the skills and knowledge needed to strengthen their faith communities.

- By our correspondent



## Youth Leadership Training Programme

ITANAGAR, April 06, 2025: Itanagar Diocesan Youth Commission successfully concluded its 3 day leadership training programme from 4th to 6th April 2025. 40 participants

from the 5 deaneries, including FCC Sister and postulants, benefited from the sessions led by Adv. Fr. Simon Thaiko MSFS, Mr. Rajesh Tudu, and Ms. Magdalene (former Northeast Youth





President). The programme aimed to equip youth leaders for effective service within the parish and diocese as a whole. After the training programme a

Diocesan Youth Council meeting was held to discuss about the upcoming youth programme in the diocese and outside the diocese. Participant's evaluations highlighted the programme's positive impact.

The Team YUVODAYA under the guidance of God facilitated fruitful experiences to our young leaders. This initiative contributes to developing capable young leaders to lead the Church and build an ideal society in Arunachal. We hope to see greater things happening in the Diocese.

- Fr. Roshan Bamin Peter, DYD

## Recollection, Meeting & Chrism Mass: 2025

NAHARLAGUN, April 10, 2025: The Spiritual Recollection and the Pastoral Meeting of the Priests and Religious working in Itanagar diocese and the Chrism Mass: 2025 were held from April 08 to 10, 2025.

The programme began with the Recollection at 5:00 p.m. on the 8th. It was held at Sacred Heart Church, Naharlagun, and the Recollection talk was given by Rev. Fr. Nison Luka (Asst. Director of NBCLC, Bangaluru). Fr. Nison is a Scripture scholar and he talked on the Word of God. He mesmerized the gathering of Priests and Religious by quoting the Word of God from the Bible by heart. He preached on the theme of repentance and commitment in the service of the Lord quoting the Bible left and right. His preaching was indeed forceful. The talk



was followed by Adoration and Confessions, and the dinner, thereafter.

On the following morning, the Pastoral Meeting was held at the Bishop's House which began at 8:30 a.m. After the opening hymn and prayer, Most Rev. Bishop Benny Varghese appointed Rev. Fr. C.C. Jose sdb as the moderator of the meeting. Fr. C.C. Jose invited Rev. Fr. Jacob Mattathilany (VG of the diocese) to say the welcome words. After that





Bishop Emeritus John Thomas launched his new book, 'Skilling in Good Manners'. This was followed by the launching of Diocesan Website, 'w.w.w.dioceseofitanagar.com' under the direction of Rev. Fr. Kampan.

Then, the Report of the previous meeting, held during pre-Christmas Recollection in December 2024, was presented by Rev. Fr. Augustine Malangmei, and it was passed without remarks. After that, some Commissions' Secretaries spoke about the present positions and activities of their commissions. This was interrupted by Mr. Sumit Das' briefing and presentation on 'Franciscan Solutions, Pvt. Ltd', which provides digital assistance to schools.

In the course of the meeting, His Lordship, Bp. Benny also informed the gathering about the new appointments of Rev. Fr. Santosh Rabha as the new Financial Administrator of the diocese, and of Rev. Fr. Manu Mathew as the new Chancellor and Procurator.

After the tea break, the five deaneries of the diocese - Aalo, Itanagar, Sangram, Seppa and Ziro - presented their reports.

After that, Bp. Benny briefed the gathering about Diocesan Pastoral Council and asked the Parish Priests to form Parish Pastoral Council in all the parishes of our diocese before next October 2025.

After the lunch break, the meeting continued at 2:00 p.m. Rev. Fr. John Pudussery (P.P. of Doimukh) spoke about the youth concerns and placed his views and ideas about how to attract our young people to the church. After that, Rev. Fr. Martin Munda presented report about Education Commission, Fr. Boniface Dhanwar about the diocesan news bulletin 'Footprints' and Rev. Fr. Jacob Mattathilany VG about various Associations. Later, the topic of 'Tithe' also came into discussions. At the end, Bp. Benny gave the final remarks on various points, and also informed the gathering about some new Congregations that have already come or are about to come to work in the Diocese of Itanagar. And with the final prayer led by Rev. Fr. Thomas Lakra, the meeting came to a conclusion just before 4:00 p.m.

- Fr. Boniface Dhanwar

## A Short Report about Naharlagun Youth Retreat:

NAHARLAGUN, April 12, 2025: A day dedicated to spiritual renewal, approximately 70 young individuals from Naharlagun gathered at Sacred Heart Parish for a youth retreat. The event, organized by Parish, provided a platform for reflection, prayer, and community building.

The retreat was led by Rev. Fr. Joel VC from the Divine Retreat Centre, Joram, who served as the retreat preacher. His insightful talks and spiritual guidance resonated deeply with the participating youth. Supporting team members were Sr. Jasna, Miss Maria Nabam, and Miss Mili Angel, who contributed





significantly to the retreat's atmosphere through their dedicated assistance with prayers and hymns.

The youth participated meaningfully throughout the day, engaging in various spiritual exercises, reflections, and communal prayers and Confession and concluded with the Holy Eucharist. The retreat fostered a sense of unity and provided a space for personal growth and spiritual enrichment. The day was marked by a spirit of devotion and a renewed sense of faith among the participants.

We thank Fr. Jacob for providing all the necessary things for the retreat.

- Fr. Roshan Bamin



## Celebration of Lord's Supper at the Cathedral

ITANAGAR, April 17, 2025: This year, His Lordship Most Rev. Benny Varghese celebrated the Lord's Supper at the Cathedral Church, Itanagar, on Maundy Thursday, 17-04-2025. The day's programme began at 6:30 p.m., with the blessing and inauguration of the "Jubilee: 2025 Memorial Grotto of PIATA" in front of the Cathedral. Then, followed the celebration of the Lord's Supper presided

over by His Lordship. Rev. Fr. Nison Luka (Asst. Director of NBCLC, Bangaluru), who is visiting our Itanagar diocese, preached the homily during the Holy Mass. Fr. Nison preached on the theme of "Washing of Apostles' Feet by Jesus" and our need to follow His example to give oneself in the service of others. The symbolic washing of feet during the celebration was done by His Lordship Benny Varghese. At the conclusion of the Lord's Supper, the Holy Eucharist was carried in procession to the place of repose and some time was spent in adoration, thanksgiving and prayers before the Blessed Sacrament. It was a meaningful celebration in which the faithful participated with devotion and reverence.

- Fr. Boniface Dhanwar



## Requiem Mass for Pope Francis in Itanagar Diocese

NAHARLAGUN, April 22, 2025: Saddened by the passing away of His Holiness Pope Francis, a Requiem Mass for the Pontiff was held in Itanagar diocese at Sacred Heart Church, Naharlagun, on 22nd April, 2025. His Lordship Bishop Benny Varghese presided over the Mass and Bishop Emeritus John Thomas, Rev. Fr. Jacob Mattathilany VG, and about 40 other priests concelebrated it. The homily was preached by Bishop Emeritus John Thomas. He paid homage to Late Pope Francis and spoke about the extraordinary qualities of His Holiness with which he served the people of God and whole humanity. Shri Nabam Tuki (former CM of A.P.), APCA leaders, and a large number of Catholic faithful participated in the Mass to pray for and to pay homage to the Late Pope.

This day, actually was the birthday of



Bishop Benny Varghese and celebration day of Fr. Jacob's priestly ordination. In fact, a programme was scheduled for a joint celebration on this day. However, because of the death of Pope Francis, the joyous celebration of the Bishop's birthday and Fr. Jacob's golden jubilee of priestly ordination was restrained. A condolence message was read by the APCA President Shri Nabam Pekhi at the end of the Mass. A simple meal was served to all before dispersing.

- Fr. Boniface Dhanwar

## Fr Joseph Touthang Installed as New Parish Priest at Damin

DAMIN, April 27, 2025: Rev. Fr. Joseph Touthang is installed as the new Parish Priest of St. Peter's Parish, Damin. Rev. Fr. Manu Mathew, the Chancellor of the

Diocese administered the ceremony as the official Delegate of Most Rev. Benny Varghese Eddathattel, bishop of Itanagar.

Fr. Augustine Malangmei, the assistant parish priest exhorted the faithful to continue co-operating the new Parish Priest so that the church at Damin will flourish in the coming days. God bless Fr. Joseph Touthang as he takes up his great responsibility.

- Fr. A. Malangmei





## A Symphony of Faith and Talent: "Ji Utha Prabhu Yesu"

NAHARLAGUN, April 28, 2025: Yesterday witnessed a vibrant and uplifting celebration of faith and youthful talent as the Catholic Youth Association of Itanagar Deanery (CYAID) successfully organized its Easter Musical Evening and YOUCAT competition at the Sacred Heart Parish, Naharlagun. The event, centered on the powerful theme, "Ji Utha Prabhu Yesu" (The Lord Jesus is Risen), to bring back the dying youthfulness to life with the Risen Christ, drew an enthusiastic participation of around 130 young individuals from various parishes across the Itanagar Deanery. The program proved to be a resounding success, filled with joyous expressions of the resurrection and intellectual engagement with the teachings of the Church.

The evening commenced with the gracious presence of Rev. Fr. Jacob, the Dean and the Parish Priest, who jointly inaugurated the program, setting a tone of spiritual reflection and communal harmony rooted in the Easter message of "Ji Utha Prabhu Yesu." The air was then filled with the melodious voices of the brothers from St. Patrick's Minor Seminary, whose opening prayer song invoked a sense of divine blessing upon the gathering, echoing the triumph of the risen Lord.

What followed was a delightful showcase of the diverse talents nurtured within the deanery's youth. Each participating parish contributed their



unique "special items," painting a rich tapestry of artistic expression that reflected the central theme of Christ's resurrection. From soulful songs that resonated with the joy of "Ji Utha Prabhu Yesu" to graceful dances that embodied the spirit of renewal brought about by His victory over death, and thought-provoking skits that conveyed meaningful messages about the risen Lord's impact on our lives, the



performances captivated the audience and fostered a sense of unity and shared celebration of Easter.

The program unfolded seamlessly, a testament to the meticulous planning and dedicated efforts of the organizers. The grace of God, the very essence of the "Ji Utha Prabhu Yeshu" message was palpable throughout the evening, weaving through the performances and the interactions among the youth.

As the vibrant program drew to a close, the attendees were treated to a sumptuous dinner, thoughtfully prepared by the dedicated executives of CYAID. This communal meal provided a perfect opportunity for fellowship and further strengthened the bonds among the young participants, united in their celebration of "Ji Utha Prabhu Yeshu."

The success of this event is particularly noteworthy as it was largely orchestrated by the newly appointed executives of CYAID, who demonstrated remarkable dedication and efficiency under the able guidance of their Youth Director, Fr. Roshan Bamin Peter. Their commitment and hard work were evident in the smooth flow of the program and the overall positive atmosphere, all in service of proclaiming "Ji Utha Prabhu Yeshu."

Earlier in the day, during the Holy Mass, a significant Oath Taking Ceremony was held for these newly appointed executives. The entire congregation joined in prayer, beseeching divine blessings upon them as they embark on their new responsibilities, guided by the light of the risen Lord, "Ji Utha Prabhu Yeshu." This collective prayer underscored the community's support and hope for the future endeavors of the youth association in spreading the message of resurrection.

In conclusion, the Easter Musical Evening and YOUCAT competition organized by CYAID, under the inspiring theme "Ji Utha Prabhu Yeshu," was a beautiful testament to the vibrant faith, talent, and unity within the Itanagar Deanery. It was an evening where youthful energy met spiritual devotion, leaving a lasting impression of joy, fellowship, and renewed commitment to faith in the risen Lord. The newly appointed executives have undoubtedly set a high standard, promising a bright future for the Catholic youth of the deanery under the inspiring leadership of Fr. Roshan Bamin Peter, all in the glorious name of "Ji Utha Prabhu Yeshu."

- CYAID

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## Seppa Deanery Sports Meet cum Cul tural Events

VEO, May 03, 2025: The Seppa Deanery successfully organized a three-day Sports Meet cum Cultural Event from May 1st to 3rd, 2025, at St. Anthony

Parish, Veo. The event carried the inspiring theme "Run to Win", encouraging the youth not only to strive for excellence in sports and cultural





activities but also to run the race of faith and purpose with perseverance and dedication (1Cor 9:24).

The event commenced with the flag hoisting ceremony by Rev. Fr. Yesudas, the Parish Priest of St. Anthony Church in presence of the all the Executives and youths, followed by welcome speech and the celebration of the Holy Mass led by Rev. Fr. Ashvin, Parish Priest of St. Xavier Church, Palizi.

The program featured a vibrant array of activities including skits, singing, Bible quiz, dance competitions, as well as football and volleyball matches for both boys and girls. Total around 300 youth, accompanied by four priests and two religious Sisters congregations actively took part in the event.

To nurture the spiritual and moral development of the youth, the event also included several meaningful sessions:

Led by Miss Tai Jeming Moya the Vice President of Itanagar Diocesan Youth Commission and Female Representative to ICYM North East, this session explored how social media influences youth decisions, especially in the area of relationships and early marriage. It helped the participants critically assess online content and its impact on their lives.

Rev. Fr. Alexcius Kerketta, the Deanery Youth Director, spoke on the beauty and sanctity of Christian marriage. He emphasized its role as a divine covenant and the responsibilities that come with it, helping the youth to view marriage as a sacred vocation.

Rev. Fr. Avinash D'Mello, Dean of the



Seppa Deanery Youth Commission, delivered a powerful message on the role of youth in the Church. He encouraged young people to recognize their God-given purpose and their mission to be stewards of creation and active members of the Church.

Rev. Fr. Anand Mathew conducted a deeply reflective session on the importance of confession. He explained how reconciliation with God restores spiritual peace and strengthens the soul. The talk moved many youth to better understand the grace and healing that the Sacrament of Reconciliation offers.

The event also provided time for adoration, confession, and prayer, ensuring a strong spiritual foundation alongside the physical and cultural activities.

The program concluded with a prize distribution ceremony and a thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Alexius Kerketta. The event was a true embodiment of the theme "Run to Win", not just in competition, but in life and faith. It left a lasting impact on the youth, fostering a spirit of sportsmanship, unity, cultural pride, and deeper spiritual commitment.

- Correspondent



## SCCZ Holds Commencement Ceremony for Class of 2025

ZIRO, May, 03 2025: Saint Claret College (Autonomous), Ziro (SCCZ) hosted the Commencement Ceremony for the Claretine Class of 2025 with pride and solemnity on Saturday at the college auditorium, celebrating the achievements and aspirations of its graduating students.

Ms. Himani Meena, IAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Ziro, presided over the ceremony as Chief Guest, while Prof. D. Jeevan Kumar graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.

A total of 290 graduating students took part in the ceremony, pledging to uphold the values instilled in them by the institution and to serve society as responsible citizens.

In her inspiring commencement address, Ms. Meena reflected on her own student journey, acknowledging both struggles and triumphs. She congratulated the parents for supporting their children in achieving their dreams and advised the students to remain grounded to their roots. Quoting lines from Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's renowned poem *Rashmirathi*, she encouraged the graduates to forge ahead with courage and conviction.

Addressing the graduating batch, Prof. D. Jeevan Kumar remarked that the students are fortunate to be graduating from an institution like SCCZ, which has carved a reputation for academic excellence in the state and the region. He advised students to remain open to multiple career paths and to develop



alternative plans in this dynamic and competitive world.

Vice-Principal of the college, Fr. Arnest Kharmawlong, in his message, congratulated the graduating batch and expressed hope for their continued success in future endeavours.

Mr. Tibom Tekwa from the Department of Geography delivered the valedictorian's address, offering a heartfelt tribute to the college and his peers.

A special highlight of the ceremony was the felicitation of 30 students who secured ranks in the Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar (RGU) 2024 Examinations, a moment of pride for the college community.

Furthermore, 81 students were conferred with various scholarships and awards in recognition of academic and co-curricular excellence. These included the SCCZ Residential Scholarship, SCCZ Academic Scholarship, Single Step Foundation Scholarship,



Edacheriparambil M. E. Memorial Scholarship, Gigi-Mini Scholarship, Saju-Bindu Scholarship, Fr. Tomy Scholarship, Dani Tabin Yaniya Memorial Award, Smti Habung Pappu Memorial Award, Nirmala Frank Scholarship, and the SCCZ Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance. In total, scholarships worth ₹3,66,000 were distributed during the ceremony.

The college also felicitated contingents of the Arunachal Yuva Samanvay from the college in acknowledgment of their contributions at the state and district level.

Later in the day, a heartfelt Farewell Programme was organized to bid adieu to the outgoing Claretines, marking the conclusion of their memorable journey at SCCZ.

## St. Mary's Parish, Aalo: Youth Convention



AALO, May 04, 2025: From May 2nd to 4th, 2025, St. Mary's Parish Aalo successfully conducted a 3-day Youth Animation Program, bringing together around 40 enthusiastic youths from the parish. The program aimed to motivate the youth to stay on the right path, guiding them towards a more purposeful life.

The program was led by Fr. Roshan, Director of the Itanagar Diocese, who served as the main animator. He was ably supported by Bro. John, a dedicated youth delegate from Naharlagun.

Together, they created an engaging atmosphere filled with interesting games and activities that captivated the young participants.

The presence of Fr. Lukose, the Parish Priest, and Fr. Luke, the Assistant Parish Priest, ensured the program's smooth execution. They worked closely with Fr. Roshan to make this event a memorable experience for the youths.

Through this initiative, the youths were given a platform to explore their potential and growth in their faith. The program's success is a testament to the power of collaboration and the dedication of the parish team.

St Mary's parish extends its heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Roshan, Bro. John, and all the participants for making this program resounding success. The parish looks forward to hoisting more such events in the future, nurturing the spiritual growth of its young members.

- Fr Luke Tanti





## 3rd Sangram Deanery Mega Youth Convention

NYAPIN, May 11, 2025: The 3rd Sangram Deanery Mega Youth Convention was held at St. Andre Parish, Nyapin, from 7th-11th May, 2025. The Theme was "Youth of the Church: Hope for the World". This vibrant and spiritually enriching gathering brought together young people from nine parishes under the Sangram Deanery: St. Andre Parish, Nyapin, Immaculate Parish, Yangte, Holy Rosary Parish, Palin, St. Mark Parish, Sarli, St. Peter's Parish, Damin, St. Thomas Parish, Parsi Parlo, Chambang Church, Holy Cross Parish, Koloriang, and Ane Moriam Parish, Sangram. A total of 405 participants, including youths, Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters, took part in the five-day event.

The convention, themed "Youth of the Church: Hope for the World" served as a platform for spiritual growth, learning, and unity amongst the youth. The gathering featured a variety of input sessions delivered by knowledgeable and inspiring resource persons on topics relevant to the youth:

1. The Sacrament of the Eucharist - Fr. Roshan Bamin, Youth Director of the

Itanagar Diocese

2. The Impact of Social Media on the Lives of the Youth - Fr. John, SDB

3. The Sacrament of Marriage - Mr. Taku Stephan

4. Drug Addiction and its Consequences - Fr. Sijo, Parish Priest of Sangram

5. Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life - Fr. Prasanta Basumatary, CSC, Parish Priest of Koloriang

6. Career Guidance - Mrs. Ronie, Circle Officer of Koloriang.

In addition to the educational and spiritual sessions, the convention was filled with joy and enthusiasm through a variety of cultural competitions, games, and sports. Activities such as volleyball, football, and tug of war brought energy and a spirit of friendly competition among the participants.

This Mega Youth Convention has truly fostered spiritual and personal growth in the lives of the youth. The spirit of unity, learning, and celebration was evident throughout the convention, making it a memorable and transformative experience for all involved.

*Fr. Lawrence Wanniang CSC (SDYD)*





## St. Mary's Catholic Church Radum Celebrates Silver Jubilee

BOASIMLA, May 11, 2025: St. Mary's Catholic Church Radum, under Boasimla Parish, marked a significant milestone with its Silver Jubilee celebration from May 8-11, 2025. The church's remarkable journey began in 2000, sparked by a miraculous healing in 1999. Today, the church stands as a witness to the power of faith and community.

The community extends heartfelt gratitude to pioneers like Fr. Sebastian CMF, Shri Tatung Talin, Mrs. Tatung Nayu, and many others who played a crucial role in establishing and growing the church. Special thanks to Shri Lomra Taka (Robert) and his family for generously donating land for the church campus.

Bishop Benny Varghese of Itanagar congratulated the community, emphasizing the church's journey as a testament to faith and community. He wished the church continued growth and blessings, guided by love, compassion, and service.



Heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Fr. Roshan Kindo, Parish Priest, and the entire community on this momentous occasion. Boasimla parish is blessed with 18 village communities. The community gratefully remembered the initiate of Fr. Mathew CMF the former parish priest in building the church and constant visit he made which led the community to strive in their faith. May the Silver Jubilee celebration strengthen the bonds of faith and community, inspiring many more to follow the path of love and service.

- Correspondent

## St. Mary's Parish Gangte: A Growing Community of Faith



GANGTE, May 13, 2025: Established in 2015, St. Mary's Parish Gangte has experienced remarkable growth, becoming a beacon of hope and spirituality for the surrounding villages. Today, the parish encompasses several villages, including: Gangte: 26 households, Guchi village: 12 households, Tungmer: 14 households,



Gangba: 6 households, Maui: 3 households, Raibalo: 11 households, Raiga: 4 households, Tali village: 61 households.

Bishop Benny Varghese visited the community on 13.05.2025, celebrating Holy Mass in the presence of a large gathering of faithful from neighbouring villages. This significant event underscored the parish's growing influence and the bishop's commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of its members.

Under the leadership of Fr. Jipson Joseph, the parish is making strides in its development. The construction of the church is currently halfway through, and preparations for the presbytery are

underway. Despite the progress, there are still many villages that remain to be reached and ministered to, presenting an opportunity for further growth and service.

The parish would like to extend a special note of thanks and appreciation to Rev. Fr. Mathew CMF, who took a special interest in the pastoral care of these communities. His dedication and commitment have been instrumental in nurturing the faith and spiritual growth of the parish members.

As St. Mary's Parish Gangte continues to grow and expand its reach, it remains committed to spreading the message of love, hope, and faith to all those it serves.

- Correspondent

## Sacred Heart Parish Likabali is blessed with Rani Maria Convent



LIKABALI, May 14, 2025: The parish's journey began on December 24, 1999, with the baptism of nine individuals from Bali village at SFS Church, Silapathar. Lt. Kardu Taipodia, a believer donated a plot of land for the

Catholic Church and a makeshift church was constructed.

After nine years, St. Mary's Church, Bali village, gained independence and Sacred Heart Parish, Likabali, was established in 2009 with Fr. Stephen Pou MSFS as Parish Priest. The parish church was blessed by Bishop John Thomas in 2010.

Presently Rev. Fr. Simon Thaikho serves as the Parish Priest. On May 14, 2025, the community welcomed Sr. Carmela FCC, Sr. Pauline FCC, and Sr. Mary Kim FCC. Most Rev. Benny Varghese, Bishop of Itanagar inaugurated Rani Maria Convent. The Sacred Heart Parish, Likabali, currently consists of: 12 Catholic villages, 154 households, a



population of 820, 2 Priests and 3 Sisters. The community expresses gratitude to Bishop Benny Varghese, Fr. Tomson

Aerathedathu MSFS, and Sr. Lilly Maria FCC Provincial for their support in sending the sisters to Likabali.

- Correspondent

## Bp Benny Varghese Visits Pipu Circle under Seppa Parish

SEPPA, May 16, 2025: The Catholic faith was introduced to Pipu Circle under St. Joseph Parish Seppa in 1992, thanks to the instrumental efforts of Mr. Atung Doka. As the Bible says, "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), Bro. Prem Bhai visited Pipu and baptized the first group of Catholics, leading to the whole town embracing the Catholic faith. This remarkable event reflects the power of faith and community, as seen in Acts 2:41-47, where the early Christians came together in devotion and fellowship.

Today, Pipu Circle has grown to include seven villages with a Catholic presence: Bakar, Ropo, Flego, Doka, Cheda, Lozi, and Pipu. The visit of Bishop Benny Varghese on May 16, 2025, was a historic occasion that brought together leaders

from all the villages. As the Bible says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another" (Hebrews 10:25). The gathering was a testament to the community's commitment to their faith and to supporting one another.

During the visit, the community came together to commit their support for the Catholic Church and donated more than 10 acres of land for further development. This generous act reflects the biblical principle of giving and sharing, as seen in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, where it says, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

The Catholic Church expresses its gratitude to Shri Hayeng Mangfi, the Honourable MLA of 9-Chayang Tajo





A/C, for his support. Special thanks are also extended to Mr. Niya Doka, Chairman PGCSO, and Shri Arjun Flago Taniyang, ZPM Pipu, who openly professed their faith in the Catholic Church. As the Bible says, "Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story" (Psalm 107:2), their testimonies are a powerful reminder of the impact of faith. The Catholic community of St. Joseph Parish is also grateful to Shri Joro Doka and all the APCA office bearers of East Kameng District for their unwavering

support. Fr. Avinash, the parish priest, and the youth from Seppa are thanked for their logistical support, which helped make the event a success. As the community celebrated the Holy Eucharist, they thanked God for the wonderful blessings they have received, reflecting the biblical principle of gratitude and worship. Mr. Sunil Rigom, chairman Pipu Town Development Committee has expressed the support of the area to the Catholic Church. May God bless you all.

- Correspondent

## Annual Spiritual Retreat of the Diocesan Priests

ITANAGAR, Bishop's House, May 24, 2025: A four day spiritual retreat for the diocesan priests of Itanagar diocese was arranged here in the Bishop's House from May 19th to 24th 2025. The retreat began after dinner, in the evening of May 19th. It was animated by Rev. Fr. Arockiasamy SJ of St. Joseph College, Trichy, Tamil Nadu. It was an Ignatian

retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Some 22 priests participated in the spiritual exercises and regained their spiritual and pastoral strength at the end, which concluded with the Holy Eucharist, in the morning on the May 24th.

- Fr. Boniface Dhanwar





## St. Joseph's Church, Seijosa Celebrates Parish Day

SEIJOSA, May 25, 2025: May 24-25, 2025, was a momentous occasion for the parish community of St. Joseph's Church, Seijosa. The seeds of the Catholic faith were sown in the early 1980s when the area was part of the Dolaibil Parish under the Diocese of Tezpur. Over the years, the church has been nurtured by various parishes, reflecting the growth and development of the local community.

With the establishment of the Diocese of Itanagar, Seijosa came under its jurisdiction. The church was initially looked after by Itanagar parish, then Naharlagun parish, and later Banderdewa parish, until it became an independent parish in 2022. Today, St. Joseph Parish comprises three substations, serving over 327 Catholics.

The parishioners are blessed to have a dedicated community and spiritual leaders guiding them in their faith journey. The history of St. Joseph's Church, Seijosa, is a testament to the power of faith and community. As the parish continues to evolve, may its members remain united in their devotion to God and service to one another.

The parish day celebrations were marked by two significant events:

- On May 24th, the parish community gathered for a Eucharistic procession,



which was about 5 km long, with decorated vehicles and the entire parish community in attendance. The procession culminated in an adoration and healing service conducted by the Bishop.

- On May 25th, the community gathered for a Eucharistic celebration in a beautifully decorated pandal. The Bishop administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 4 elders and 7 children received their First Holy Communion. The program concluded with a vibrant cultural program organized by the community.

The community expressed gratitude to the Fathers and Sisters for their dedication and congratulated Fr. Sebastian and the Sisters on their tireless efforts.

- Correspondent



## Report on: Visit to Sagalee Parish Youth



SAGALEE, May 25, 2025: On 25th of May the Itanagar Deanery executives visited the youths of Sagalee along with the new Youth Director Fr. Sunny Minj SDB. The visit was a successful one because it got to interact with the mass youths of Sagalee.

The Sagalee Youths conducted their 3rd Annual Youth Convention at Don Bosco School Sagalee, on the theme - "I am the

light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12). The program was held for 3 days, dated - 22nd May to 25th May 2025. The total delegates who attended were 200 from 12 Churches out of 20 Churches of Sagalee.

The speeches/advice of the dignitaries -

1. Fr. Roshan Bamin (DYD) spoke on the Eucharist. Its importance and make the Lord as the center of Faith.
2. Fr. Sunny Minj Youth Director focused on the topic Holy Trinity. The Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.
3. Shri Taba Kaki a social worker the guest of honour of the program advised the youths to do the right thing at the right time.

Also President of Deanery Miss Nangbia Riniu shared the joy of meeting the Youths of Sagalee and humbly requested them to take active participation in all the activities of deanery programs.

The convention as well as the visitation was fruitful for the Itanagar Deanery team.

- CYAID

## Faith, Fellowship & Fun: Aalo Deanery Unites Youth

AALO, May 26, 2025: On the 26th of May 2025, Aalo Deanery came alive with joy, unity, and youthful energy as it hosted a vibrant and spiritually uplifting youth event. The day featured inter-

parish Volleyball matches and a Bible Quiz competition, bringing together young people from various parishes for a celebration of talent, teamwork, and faith.



The Volleyball Tournament, organized separately for boys and girls, saw impressive participation. The Aalo youth teams performed exceptionally, emerging as champions in both categories. The Divine Mercy Parish, Yingkiong, earned the second place in the boys' category, while the Basar Parish claimed second place in the girls' match, showcasing great sportsmanship and skill.

The event also included a Bible Quiz Competition, based on the popular youth catechism book YOUCAT. It was a spirited and enlightening contest that encouraged the youth to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. St. Joseph Parish, Kaying, won the first prize, while the SFS Parish, Pasighat, secured the second prize, reflecting their strong preparation and knowledge.

Adding to the joy of the day, the program was concluded with a sumptuous meal, shared in fellowship by all participants and guests. Attractive prizes and trophies were awarded to the winners, recognizing their hard work and achievements. In a beautiful

gesture of encouragement, consolation prizes were also presented to all parishes that did not win any matches, ensuring that every participant felt appreciated and included.

This successful and well-organized event was made possible through the dedication and initiative of Fr. Lukose, the Parish Priest and Dean of Aalo Deanery, whose leadership and commitment were truly commendable. Special appreciation also goes to Fr. Luke Tanti, the Youth Director of Aalo Deanery, for his vital role in coordinating the youth activities. Sincere gratitude is extended to the Holy Cross Sisters, who graciously provided their school ground as the venue for this meaningful gathering.

This day was not only a celebration of competition and knowledge but also a beautiful witness to the unity, enthusiasm, and spiritual growth of the youth within Aalo Deanery. May such initiatives continue to inspire and build the future of the Church.

- Fr Luke Tanti msfs





## Aalo Deanery Catechists' Training

KAYING, June 08, 2025: Aalo deanery held a Catechists' Training Programme for all its thirteen parishes. The training programme was held from May 05 to 08, 2025, at St. Joseph's Parish, Kaying. Itanagar Diocesan Catechetical Director, Rev. Fr. Boniface and Itanagar Diocese APCA Secretary, Shri T.T. Stephen were the resource persons for the programme. The dean of the Aalo deanery, Rev. Fr. Lukose msfs inaugurated the programme on the evening of May 5th and Rev. Fr. Joseph, the parish priest of Kaying was present all through the programme to see to the smooth running of the programme. Forty catechists attended the training programme.

Fr. Boniface dealt with the Faith aspect of the Catholic Doctrine and elaborately



explained the "Apostles' Creed" to the participants; while T.T. Stephen dealt with various topics like - Love of Neighbour, Prayer and Marriage. The programme was successfully concluded on Pentecost Sunday (08/06/25) after the Holy Eucharist.

- Shri T.T. Stephen

### "Come again" Board in a Jewellery Shop:

The thief who robbed a jewellery shop twice was produced in the court by the local police:

Judge: I think your face is familiar to me. Last time, you robbed jewellery worth Rupees five lacs and, for which, you were awarded 6 months imprisonment. Am I right?

Thief: Yes, your honour; you are right!

Judge: But what made you to go twice to the same shop to rob?

Thief: The owner of the shop is responsible for it, your honour.

Judge: In what way?

Thief: Last time, after robbing the stuff, while I was coming out, I saw the Board in the shop that read: "Thank you, come again." Since I had an open invitation, I took the liberty of going again to the same shop!



## Congratulations to the New Auxiliary Bishop of Shillong

SHILLONG, March 30, 2025: The Diocese of Itanagar extends heartfelt congratulations to Most Rev. Bernard Laloo on his Episcopal Ordination as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Shillong. The solemn celebration was a powerful witness to the vibrant faith of the Christian community, with thousands of devoted faithful in attendance. We join the universal Church in rejoicing over this significant milestone in Bishop Laloo's ministry, praying for his continued guidance and blessings as he serves the Lord and His people. I also had the joy of meeting the



Catholic leaders of Shillong Archdiocese.

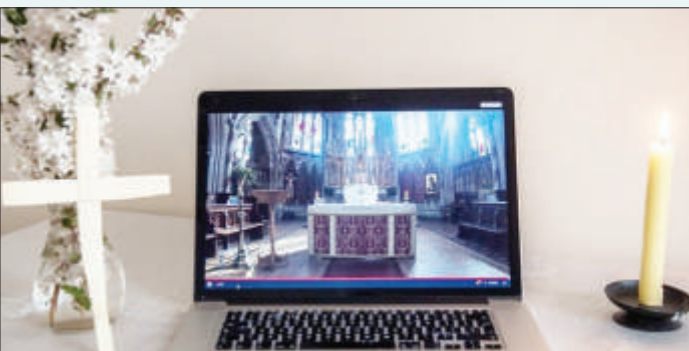
- Bp. Benny Varghese

## Church in India Issues Guidelines for Online Streaming of Liturgical Celebrations

BANGALORE, April 03, 2025 (CCBI): The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) has introduced new guidelines regulating the online transmission of Holy Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Titled

"Guidelines for the Electronic Transmission of the Celebration of the Eucharist and Other Liturgical Services", the document was officially issued on March 25, 2025, and made public on April 3, 2025.

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, President of the CCBI, emphasized the importance of maintaining the theological, spiritual, and liturgical integrity of online liturgical broadcasts. In a special circular to the faithful, he stated, "These Guidelines ensure that liturgical celebrations transmitted via electronic media retain their sacredness and



reverence. While online broadcasts offer spiritual benefits, they do not replace the ideal and normative form of physical participation in the liturgy, as affirmed by the Second Vatican Council in *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (n. 7)."

The Guidelines were formulated after extensive discussions during the 94th and 95th Executive Committee Meetings of the CCBI in May and September 2024 and received final approval at the 36th Plenary Assembly in February 2025. They are now binding on all bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and

laypersons involved in the electronic dissemination of liturgical celebrations within the Latin Church in India.

By setting clear norms for online liturgical broadcasts, the CCBI aims to preserve the sanctity of the Eucharist and foster deeper spiritual participation among the faithful, whether attending in person or through digital platforms.

CCBI guidelines can be accessed using the link below:

<https://shorturl.at/NKs94>

- By: Dr. Stephen Alathara (Courtesy: Catholic Connect)

## Pope Francis has Died April 21 at the Age of 88

VATICAN CITY, April 21, 2025: The pope died at 7:35 a.m. Rome time, U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, Chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, announced. Pope Francis gave new energy to millions of Catholics - and caused concern for some - as he transformed the image of the papacy into a pastoral ministry based on personal encounters and strong convictions about mission, poverty, immigration and dialogue.

"His whole life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and his church," Cardinal Farrell said in a video announcement broadcast from the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where Pope Francis lived and where he was recovering from pneumonia and respiratory infections. He had been released from Rome's Gemelli hospital





March 23 after more than five weeks of treatment.

Pope Francis "taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalized,"

Cardinal Farrell said. "With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of the Triune God."

- *Courtesy: CNS*

## CCBI Welcomes the Election of Pope Leo XIV with Joy & Prayer



BANGALORE, May 08, 2025 (CCBI): The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) expresses heartfelt gratitude and great joy upon receiving the joyous news of the election of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV as the 267th Successor of Saint Peter and Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

Archbishop Peter Machado, Vice President of the CCBI, on behalf of the bishops of the CCBI expressed deep

gratitude to God for the gift of a new Shepherd to the Universal Church. With faith and filial love, we welcome Pope Leo XIV, rejoicing in his election and entrusting his pontificate to the providence of God. The CCBI also conveyed its appreciation to the College of Cardinals for their prayerful discernment under the guidance of the Holy Spirit during the conclave.

Recognizing Pope Leo XIV's pastoral experience, humility, and dedication to the Gospel, the bishops affirmed their commitment to walking in communion with him in the shared mission of evangelization, justice, peace, and care for the poor and creation.

The CCBI assures the Holy Father of constant prayers and support of the Latin Church in India, invoking the blessings of the Triune God upon Pope Leo IV as he begins his sacred ministry. May his pontificate be marked by grace, courage, and deep love.

We invite all the faithful in India and all peoples of good will to join us in praying for Pope Leo XIV as he leads the Universal Church.

- *By Dr. Stephen Alathara (Courtesy: Catholic Connect)*



# BIBLE QUIZ - 47

[ From the Book of Genesis, Ch. 4-7 ]

Write the answers in the space given and cut out this page and send it to the Editor, Footprints, Bishop's House, Post Box No. 294, Naharlagun - 791 110, Papum Pare Dist. (A.P.), or send the answers by e-mail at [footprints.arunachal@gmail.com](mailto:footprints.arunachal@gmail.com). Your answers should reach us latest by 15 January, 2025. Winners will be awarded. [N.B: This Bible Quiz is meant for the general Catholic faithful, students, youth, and candidates to priesthood and religious life; it is not meant for priests and already finally professed religious.]

Name: .....

Address: .....

Ph. No: ..... Status: .....



1. When the flood waters began to subside, where did Noah's Ark come to rest?  
.....

2. When did the tops of the mountains appear?  
.....

3. How did Noah know that the waters had subsided from the earth?  
.....

4. How many times did Noah send the dove out from the Ark?  
.....

5. Did Noah send any other bird from the Ark?  
.....

6. When were the waters dried up from the earth?  
.....

7. What did Noah do as soon as he came out of the Ark?  
.....



8. What did Noah offer in the burnt offerings?  
.....
9. What did God say to Noah and his sons as He blessed them?  
.....
10. What did God forbid them from eating?  
.....
11. What was the sign of the covenant that God established with Noah?  
.....
12. Name the three sons of Noah who went out of the Ark with him?  
.....
13. How old was Noah when he died?  
.....
14. After the flood where did people go and settle at first?  
.....
15. What did the people decide to build there?  
.....
16. Why were the people unable to complete the tower they were building?  
.....
17. Why was the tower they were building called the 'tower of Babel'?  
.....
18. Who was the father of Abram?  
.....
19. What were the names of two brothers of Abram?  
.....
20. What was the name of Haran's son?  
.....







## **DO IT ANYWAY!**

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred; forgive them anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and some true enemies; succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, others may be jealous; be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will forget tomorrow; do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; give the best you have anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it is never between you and them anyway.

– Attributed to Mother Teresa of Calcutta





Shri Kumar Waii, hon'ble MLA, 8<sup>th</sup> Bameng Constituency, along with Bishop Benny Varghese – during Church Blessing at Lapung, under Bameng Parish, on: May 17, 2025.