

EPARCHY OF SATNA



The Satna Samachar

Satna Eparchial Bulletin



Fondly Remembering

First Bishop of Satna

Mar Abraham D. Mattam

On his first death anniversary
(16.04.2019)



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Patron
Mar Joseph Kodakallil
Bishop of Satna

Chief Editor
Fr. Antony Panachinkal
9424992556
E-mail: apanachinkal@gmail.com

Published by
Bishop's House
PB No. 22, Rewa Road
Satna - 485001, Madhya Pradesh



Rest in Peace Your Excellency

MAR MATHEW ANIKUZHIKATTIL

(First Bishop of Idukki)

by

EPARCHY OF SATNA





Bishop's Message

On the Easter day the Church renews the proclamation made by the first disciples: "Jesus is risen!" Jesus is risen from the dead! This message resounds in the Church all over the world, along with the singing of the Alleluia: Jesus is Lord; the Father has raised him and he lives forever in our midst. The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope and joy that death is not the end of life and Jesus has defeated death and sin through his resurrection. The angel said to the woman: "You are seeking Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen, he is not here." These words express the mystery that we celebrate today: Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified, has resurrected.

Pope Francis speaks to the young people in his Apostolic Exhortation: Christ is alive! He is our hope ... that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, he is with you and he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope. (*Christus Vivit*, 1-2)

Jesus after the resurrection greets the women and other disciples: "Do not be afraid!" (Mt 28:5); "Do not fear" (v. 10). These words encourage us to open our hearts to receive the message that Jesus is truly risen and lives amongst us. The faith in the resurrection of Jesus gives us courage to overcome pain, suffering, setbacks and failures, difficulties and other challenges.

We must not seek Jesus among the dead, but seek him among the living. The risen Jesus comes to meet us and we encounter the risen Christ. This encounter will bring us closer to Him and to the conviction that he is living today and walks with us. Pope Francis illustrates four ways to encounter the risen Jesus in our day-to-day life.



First, we encounter Jesus in the church that becomes concrete experience in the Christian community where the Word enlightens us; the sacraments sanctify us and make us partakers of Christ's life.

Second is the familiarity with the Bible and in particular the Gospel which is to be understood as the testimony of those who have met Jesus and they have communicated their experience in the four Gospels. The Gospel is fundamental: to be read, studied, meditated, prayed, lived with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Third, participation in the Holy Eucharist and frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Fourth, practice material and spiritual works of mercy that enable us to perceive the presence of Christ in the poor and the needy neighbour.

Wish you all the joy and peace of Easter!

Mar Joseph Kodakallil

विशेष प्रार्थना

हे दयालु प्रभु, कोरोना वायरस से पीड़ित सभी भाई - बहनों को आप के चरणों में समर्पित करते हुए हम प्रार्थना करते हैं, कि आप उन्हें आशीर्वाद दें, उन्हें चंगाई प्रदान करें ताकि वे जल्दी से जल्दी पुनः स्वस्थ होकर आप की स्तुति करें। कोरोना वायरस के संक्रमण को रोकने के लिए उसकी वैक्सीन और इलाज की खोज में लगे सभी लोगों को आशीर्वाद दें तकि वे अपने प्रयास में सफलता प्राप्त करें। हमारे देश के शासन और प्रशासन के लिए, विशेषकर स्वास्थ्य विभाग के अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों के लिए प्रार्थना करते हैं कि वे इस महामारी को रोकने हेतु उचित कदम उठायें। पिता, पुत्र और पवित्रात्मा, हे सबके प्रभु सर्वदा। आमेन्।



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2020 WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS

(3 May 2020)

Words of Vocation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On 4 August last year, the 160th anniversary of the death of the Curé of Ars, I chose to write a letter to all those priests who daily devote their lives to the service of God's people in response to the Lord's call.

On that occasion, I chose four key words – *pain, gratitude, encouragement and praise* – as a way of thanking priests and supporting their ministry. I believe that today, on this 57th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, those words can be addressed to the whole people of God, against the backdrop of the Gospel passage that recounts for us the remarkable experience of Jesus and Peter during a stormy night on the Sea of Galilee (cf. Mt 14:22-33).

After the multiplication of the loaves, which had astonished the crowds, Jesus told his disciples to get into the boat and precede him to the other shore, while he took leave of the people. The image of the disciples crossing the lake can evoke our own life's journey. Indeed, the boat of our lives slowly advances, restlessly looking for a safe haven and prepared to face the perils and promises of the sea, yet at the same time trusting that the helmsman will ultimately keep us on the right course. At times, though, the boat can drift off course, misled by mirages, not the lighthouse that leads it home, and be tossed by the tempests of difficulty, doubt and fear.

Something similar takes place in the hearts of those who, called



to follow the Teacher of Nazareth, have to undertake a crossing and abandon their own security to become the Lord's disciples. The risk involved is real: the night falls, the headwinds howl, the boat is tossed by the waves, and fear of failure, of not being up to the call, can threaten to overwhelm them.

The Gospel, however, tells us that in the midst of this challenging journey we are not alone. Like the first ray of dawn in the heart of the night, the Lord comes walking on the troubled waters to join the disciples; he invites Peter to come to him on the waves, saves him when he sees him sinking and, once in the boat, makes the winds die down.

The first word of vocation, then, is *gratitude*. Taking the right course is not something we do on our own, nor does it depend solely on the road we choose to travel. How we find fulfilment in life is more than a decision we make as isolated individuals; above all else, it is a response to a call from on high. The Lord points out our destination on the opposite shore and he grants us the courage to board the boat. In calling us, he becomes our helmsman; he accompanies and guides us; he prevents us from running aground on the shoals of indecision and even enables us to walk on surging waters.

Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. "Vocation, more than our own choice, is a response to the Lord's unmerited call" (*Letter to Priests*, 4 August 2019). We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives.

When the disciples see Jesus walking towards them on the sea, they first think that he is a ghost and are filled with fear. Jesus immediately reassures them with words that should constantly accompany our lives and our vocational journey: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear" (*Mt 14:27*). This, then, is the second word I wish to offer you: *encouragement*.

What frequently hinders our journey, our growth, our choosing



the road the Lord is marking out for us, are certain “ghosts” that trouble our hearts. When we are called to leave safe shores and embrace a state of life – like marriage, ministerial priesthood, consecrated life – our first reaction is often from the “ghost of disbelief”. Surely, this vocation is not for me! Can this really be the right path? Is the Lord really asking me to do this?

Those thoughts can keep growing – justifications and calculations that sap our determination and leave us hesitant and powerless on the shore where we started. We think we might be wrong, not up to the challenge, or simply glimpsing a ghost to be exorcized.

The Lord knows that a fundamental life choice – like marriage or special consecration to his service – calls for *courage*. He knows the questions, doubts and difficulties that toss the boat of our heart, and so he reassures us: “Take heart, it is I; have no fear!” We know in faith that he is present and comes to meet us, that he is ever at our side even amid stormy seas. This knowledge sets us free from that lethargy which I have called “sweet sorrow” (*Letter to Priests*, 4 August 2019), the interior discouragement that hold us back from experiencing the beauty of our vocation.

In the *Letter to Priests*, I also spoke about pain, but here I would like to translate the word differently, as fatigue. Every vocation brings with it a responsibility. The Lord calls us because he wants to enable us, like Peter, to “walk on water”, in other words, to take charge of our lives and place them at the service of the Gospel, in the concrete and everyday ways that he shows us, and specifically in the different forms of lay, priestly and consecrated vocation. Yet, like Saint Peter, our desire and enthusiasm coexist with our failings and fears.

If we let ourselves be daunted by the responsibilities that await us – whether in married life or priestly ministry – or by the hardships in store for us, then we will soon turn away from the gaze of Jesus and, like Peter, we will begin to sink. On the other hand, despite our frailty and poverty, faith enables us to walk towards the Risen Lord and to weather every storm. Whenever fatigue or fear make us start to sink, Jesus holds out his hand to us. He gives us the enthusiasm



we need to live our vocation with joy and fervour.

When Jesus at last boards the boat, the winds die down and the waves are calmed. Here we have a beautiful image of what the Lord can do at times of turbulence and tempest in our lives. He stills those winds, so that the forces of evil, fear and resignation no longer have power over us.

As we live out our specific vocation, those headwinds can wear us down. Here I think of all those who have important responsibilities in civil society, spouses whom I like to refer to – not without reason – as “courageous”, and in a particular way those who have embraced the consecrated life or the priesthood. I am conscious of your hard work, the sense of isolation that can at times weigh upon your hearts, the risk of falling into a rut that can gradually make the ardent flame of our vocation die down, the burden of the uncertainty and insecurity of the times, and worry about the future. Take heart, do not be afraid! Jesus is at our side, and if we acknowledge him as the one Lord of our lives, he will stretch out his hand, take hold of us and save us.

Even amid the storm-tossed waters, then, our lives become open to *praise*. This is the last of our vocation words, and it is an invitation to cultivate the interior disposition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Grateful that Lord gazed upon her, faithful amid fear and turmoil, she courageously embraced her vocation and made of her life an eternal song of praise to the Lord.

Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God’s call in their lives, to find courage to say “yes” to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran,
8 March 2020, the Second Sunday of Lent*

Franciscus



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 35th WORLD YOUTH DAY 2020

"Young man, I say to you, arise!" (Lk 7:14)

Dear Young People,

In October 2018, with the Synod of Bishops on *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, the Church undertook a process of reflection on your place in today's world, your search for meaning and purpose in life, and your relationship with God. In January 2019, I met with hundreds of thousands of your contemporaries from throughout the world assembled in Panama for World Youth Day. Events of this type – the Synod and World Youth Day – are an expression of a fundamental dimension of the Church: the fact that we "journey together".

In this journey, every time we reach an important milestone, we are challenged by God and by life to make a new beginning. As young people, you are experts in this! You like to take trips, to discover new places and people, and to have new experiences. That is why I have chosen the city of Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, as the goal of our next intercontinental pilgrimage, to take place in 2022. From Lisbon, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, great numbers of young people, including many missionaries, set out for unknown lands, to share their experience of Jesus with other peoples and nations. The theme of the Lisbon World Youth Day will be: "Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39). In these two intervening years, I want to reflect with you on two other biblical texts: for 2020, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" (Lk 7:14) and for 2021, "Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen" (cf. Acts 26:16).

As you can see, the verb "*arise*" or "*stand up*" appears in all three themes. These words also speak of resurrection, of awakening to new life. They are words that constantly appear in the Exhortation *Christus Vivit* (Christ is Alive!) that I addressed to you following the 2018 Synod



and that, together with the Final Document, the Church offers you as a lamp to shed light on your path in life. I sincerely hope that the journey bringing us to Lisbon will coincide with a great effort on the part of the entire Church to implement these two documents and to let them guide the mission of those engaged in the pastoral care of young people.

Let us now turn to this year's theme: "*Young man, I say to you, arise!*" (cf. Lk 7:14). I mentioned this verse of the Gospel in *Christus Vivit*: "If you have lost your vitality, your dreams, your enthusiasm, your optimism and your generosity, Jesus stands before you as once he stood before the dead son of the widow, and with all the power of his resurrection he urges you: 'Young man, I say to you, arise!'" (No. 20).

That passage from the Bible tells us how Jesus, upon entering the town of Nain in Galilee, came upon the funeral procession of a young person, the only son of a widowed mother. Jesus, struck by the woman's heartrending grief, miraculously restored her son to life. The miracle took place after a sequence of words and gestures: "When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still" (Lk 7:13-14). Let us take a moment to meditate on these words and gestures of the Lord.

The ability to see pain and death

Jesus looks carefully at this funeral procession. In the midst of the crowd, he makes out the face of a woman in great pain. His ability to see generates encounter, the source of new life. Few words are needed.

What about my own ability to see? When I look at things, do I look carefully, or is it more like when I quickly scroll through the thousands of photos or social profiles on my cell phone? How often do we end up being eyewitnesses of events without ever experiencing them in real time! Sometimes our first reaction is to take a picture with our cell phone, without even bothering to look into the eyes of the persons involved.

All around us, but at times also within us, we can see realities of death: physical, spiritual, emotional, social. Do we really notice them, or simply let them happen to us? Is there anything we can do in order to restore life?

I think too of all those negative situations that people of your age are experiencing. Some stake everything on the present moment and risk their own lives in extreme experiences. Others are "dead" because



they feel hopeless. One young woman told me: "Among my friends I see less desire to get involved, less courage to get up". Sadly, depression is spreading among young people too, and in some cases even leads to the temptation to take one's own life. How many situations are there where apathy reigns, where people plunge into an abyss of anguish and remorse! How many young people cry out with no one to hear their plea! Instead, they meet with looks of distraction and indifference on the part of people who want to enjoy their own "happy hour", without being bothered about anyone or anything else.

Others waste their lives with superficial things, thinking they are alive while in fact they are dead within (cf. Rev 3:1). At the age of twenty, they can already be dragging their lives down, instead of raising them up to the level of their true dignity. Everything is reduced to "living it up" and seeking a morsel of gratification: a minute of entertainment, a fleeting moment of attention and affection from others... And what about the widespread growing digital narcissism that affects young people and adults alike. All too many people are living this way! Some of them have perhaps bought into the materialism of those all around them who are concerned only with making money and taking it easy, as if these were the sole purpose of life. In the long run, this will inevitably lead to unhappiness, apathy and boredom with life, a growing sense of emptiness and frustration.

Negative situations can also be the result of personal failure, whenever something we care about, something we were committed to, no longer seems to be working or giving the desired results. This can happen with school or with our ambitions in sports and in the arts... The end of the "dream" can make us feel dead. But failures are part of the life of every human being; sometimes they can also end up being a grace! Not infrequently, something that we thought would bring us happiness proves to be an illusion, an idol. Idols demand everything from us; they enslave us yet they give us nothing in return. And in the end they collapse, leaving only a cloud of dust. Failure, if it makes our idols collapse, is a good thing, however much suffering it involves.

There are many other situations of physical or moral death that a young person may encounter. I think of addiction, crime, poverty or grave illness. I leave it to you to think about these things and to realize what has proved "deadly" for yourselves or for someone close to you, now or in the past. At the same time, I ask you to remember that the young man in the Gospel was truly dead, but he was able to come back to life because he was seen by Someone who wanted him to live. The same thing can also happen to us, today and every day.



To have compassion

The Scriptures often speak of the feelings experienced by those who let themselves be touched “viscerally” by the pain of others. Jesus’ own feelings make him share in other people’s lives. He makes their pain his own. That mother’s grief became his own. The death of that young son became his own.

As young people, you have shown over and over again that you are capable of compassion. I think of all those of you who have generously offered help whenever situations demanded it. No disaster, earthquake or flood takes place without young volunteers stepping up to offer a helping hand. The great mobilization of young people concerned about defending the environment is also a witness to your ability to hear the cry of the earth.

Dear young people, do not let yourselves be robbed of this sensitivity! May you always be attentive to the plea of those who are suffering, and be moved by those who weep and die in today’s world. “Some realities of life are only seen with eyes cleansed by tears” (Christus Vivit, 76). If you can learn to weep with those who are weeping, you will find true happiness. So many of your contemporaries are disadvantaged and victims of violence and persecution. Let their wounds become your own, and you will be bearers of hope in this world. You will be able to say to your brother or sister: “Arise, you are not alone”, and you will help them realize that God the Father loves us, that Jesus is the hand he stretches out to us in order to raise us up.

To come forward and “touch”

Jesus stops the funeral procession. He draws near, he demonstrates his closeness. Closeness thus turns into a courageous act of restoring life to another. A prophetic gesture. The touch of Jesus, the living One, communicates life. It is a touch that pours the Holy Spirit into the dead body of that young man and brings him back to life.

That touch penetrates all hurt and despair. It is the touch of God himself, a touch also felt in authentic human love; it is a touch opening up unimaginable vistas of freedom and fullness of new life. The effectiveness of this gesture of Jesus is incalculable. It reminds us that even one sign of closeness, simple yet concrete, can awaken forces of resurrection.

You too, as young people, are able to draw near to the realities of pain and death that you encounter. You too can touch them and, like Jesus, bring new life, thanks to the Holy Spirit. But only if you are first



touched by his love, if your heart is melted by the experience of his goodness towards you. If you can feel God's immense love for every living creature – especially our brothers and sisters who experience hunger and thirst, or are sick or naked or imprisoned – then you will be able to draw near to them as he does. You will be able to touch them as he does, and to bring his life to those of your friends who are inwardly dead, who suffer or have lost faith and hope.

"Young man, I say to you, arise!"

The Gospel does not tell us the name of the young man whom Jesus restored to life in Nain. This invites each reader to identify with him. To you, to me, to each one of us, Jesus says: "Arise". We are very aware that, as Christians, we constantly fall and have to get up again. People who are not on a journey never fall; then again, neither do they move forward. That is why we need to accept the help that Jesus gives us and put our faith in God. The first step is to let ourselves get up and to realize that the new life Jesus offers us is good and worth living. It is sustained by one who is ever at our side along our journey to the future. Jesus helps us to live this life in a dignified and meaningful way.

This life is really a new creation, a new birth, not just a form of psychological conditioning. Perhaps, in times of difficulty, many of you have heard people repeat those "magic" formulas so fashionable nowadays, formulas that are supposed to take care of everything: "You have to believe in yourself", "You have to discover your inner resources", "You have to become conscious of your positive energy"... But these are mere words; they do not work for someone who is truly "dead inside". Jesus' word has a deeper resonance; it goes infinitely deeper. It is a divine and creative word, which alone can bring the dead to life.

Living the new life as "risen ones"

The Gospel tells us that the young man "began to speak" (Lk 7:15). Those touched and restored to life by Jesus immediately speak up and express without hesitation or fear what has happened deep within them: their personality, desires, needs and dreams. Perhaps they were never able to do this before, for they thought no one would be able to understand.

To speak also means to enter into a relationship with others. When we are "dead", we remain closed in on ourselves. Our relationships break up, or become superficial, false and hypocritical. When Jesus restores us to life, he "gives" us to others (cf. v 15).

Today, we are often "connected" but not communicating. The indis-



criminate use of electronic devices can keep us constantly glued to the screen. With this Message, I would like to join you, young people, in calling for a cultural change, based on Jesus' command to "arise". In a culture that makes young people isolated and withdrawn into virtual worlds, let us spread Jesus' invitation: "Arise!" He calls us to embrace a reality that is so much more than virtual. This does not involve rejecting technology, but rather using it as a means and not as an end. "Arise!" is also an invitation to "dream", to "take a risk", to be "committed to changing the world", to rekindle your hopes and aspirations, and to contemplate the heavens, the stars and the world around you. "Arise and become what you are!" If this is our message, many young people will stop looking bored and weary, and let their faces come alive and be more beautiful than any virtual reality.

If you give life, someone will be there to receive it. As a young woman once said: "Get off your couch when you see something beautiful, and try and do something similar". Beauty awakes passion. And if a young person is passionate about something, or even better, about someone, he or she will arise and start to do great things. Young people will rise from the dead, become witnesses to Jesus and devote their lives to him.

Dear young people, what are your passions and dreams? Give them free rein and, through them, offer the world, the Church and other young people something beautiful, whether in the realm of the spirit, the arts or society. I repeat what I once told you in my mother tongue: *Hagan lío!* Make your voices heard! I remember another young person who said: "If Jesus was someone who was only concerned about himself, the son of the widow would not have been raised".

The resurrection of that young man restored him to his mother. In that woman, we can see an image of Mary, our Mother, to whom we entrust all the young people of our world. In her, we can also recognize the Church, who wants to welcome with tender love each young person, without exception. So let us implore Mary's intercession for the Church, that she may always be a mother for her dead children, weeping for them and asking that they be restored to life. In every one of her children who dies, the Church also dies, and in every one of her children who arises, the Church also arises.

I bless your journey. And I ask you, please, not to forget to pray for me.

Rome, from Saint John Lateran,
11 February 2020, Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes

FRANCISCUS



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA

XXXIV PLENARY ASSEMBLY, ST. JOHN'S NATIONAL ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES,
BENGALURU, 13-19 FEBRUARY 2020

Final Statement

Dialogue: The Path to Truth and Charity

INTRODUCTION

We, the 192 member Bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, assembled for our XXXIV Plenary Assembly at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru from 13-19 February 2020. Prompted by our fidelity to Jesus Christ and unflinching loyalty to our beloved motherland we reflected, meditated and deliberated on the ever relevant theme, "Dialogue: The Path to Truth and Charity." We also sought to sincerely evaluate the quality of our apostolic ministry and be renewed in the Spirit to be servant leaders of our people after the heart of Christ who came "to serve and not to be served" (Mark 10, 48).

The Church, the community of faith in Jesus Christ, has integral and all-inclusive dialogue at her heart. Indeed dialogue belongs to the very essence of the Christian faith. All through her history the Church has made earnest efforts to engage in dialogue at different levels. As a community of human beings the Church lives in civil society and body politic, continuously inspiring us to be loyal citizens of India. The noteworthy contribution of the Church in the field of education, health care and social transformation has been consistently acknowledged by the people of India.

INDIA: UNITY IN DIVERSITY

The hallmark of Indian society is its pluralism. From ancient times, India has been a mosaic of many religions, cultures and languages with a strong Indian identity. What unites us is stronger and deeper than what divides us. We are proud of our Constitution that envisions a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic which resolved to secure for all its citizens Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity as enshrined in the Preamble. Justice is spelt out as social, economic and political; Liberty is explained as liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; and Equality is understood as equality of status and opportunity. These Constitutional values form the ethos of Indian



identity that promotes Fraternity which leads to the dignity of the individual and unity and integrity of the nation. Every citizen must be ever vigilant against any attempt to undermine the ennobling human vision of the Constitution so that our beloved country ever remains united.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

Various streams of thoughts running through the biblical texts enrich our understanding of the necessity of dialogue among peoples and cultures. Dialogue with other religions is integral to the Biblical Revelation. The different aspects of dialogue in the Bible are rooted in our faith in God as Trinity: God as the Creator of all, the universal presence of God's Spirit, and Jesus as the Saviour of all mankind.

In the Gospels, Jesus' encounters with people reveal that God is the Father of all. The Kingdom of God that Jesus preached embodies the love of God, irrespective of race, sex, colour, class, language and creed. The Good News of Jesus calls upon humanity to establish a society of justice, equality, love, forgiveness and peace. Dialogue begins and grows when we open ourselves to the Lord, and by committing ourselves to his words and deeds, live the mystery of his death and resurrection which paves the path to truth and charity. For example, in the dialogue with the Samaritan woman, Jesus unveils the true horizons of relating with God in truth and spirit. He starts with the dialogue of life and moves to the dialogue of action which is followed by the dialogue of sharing the religious experience, and eventually the dialogue leads to the witnessing of truth.

CHURCH TEACHINGS

The Church encourages believers to respect each other and one another's religious tradition, thus cooperating with one another to promote peace and harmony and work for the common good of all. Pope Francis has urged all people of good will to make every effort to establish peace in society by "inviting all persons who believe in God to unite and work together, so that it may serve as a guide for future generations to advance a culture of mutual respect in the awareness of the great divine grace that makes all human beings brothers and sisters...called to express this human fraternity by safeguarding creation and the entire universe, and supporting all persons, especially the poorest and those most in need..." (*Document on Human Fraternity, 4th February 2019, Abu Dhabi*).

Dialogue is rooted in the very vocation of the Church. Being open to dialogue, calls for being absolutely consistent with one's own religious



tradition. Believers enter into each other's depth of life through dialogue.

DIALOGUE WITH CULTURES AND RELIGIONS

Every community that lives in India possesses its own cultural identity with its richness, which must be respected at any cost. Attempts to homogenize and impose a mono-cultural pattern pose serious threats to the cultural patrimony of our country. As our Constitution envisions, there cannot be any meaningful dialogue of culture without acknowledging the primacy of human person. People of every culture and religion and those who profess no religion must be esteemed with mutual respect which eventually leads to human fraternity. No culture or religion shall dominate over other cultures and religions. Subduing certain cultures by the dominant culture will destroy the peace and harmony existing in the country. "The enemy of fraternity is an individualism which translates into the desire to affirm oneself and one's own group above others. Religious behaviour, therefore, needs continually to be purified from the recurrent temptation to judge others as enemies and adversaries." (*Document on Human Fraternity, 4th February 2019, Abu Dhabi*).

DIALOGUE WITH THE POOR, THE DALITS AND TRIBAL PEOPLE

Dialogue with the poor, the Dalits and Tribal people is an urgent priority in the context of India. The Dalits and Tribal people are continually denied their human rights socially. Every step taken in favour of their liberation by eradicating poverty, exploitation, discrimination, and every other form of sinful structures of society is an effective means of dialogue. However, dialogue with the poor shall not be limited only to the works of mercy. The term 'the Church of the poor' reflects the constant self-understanding of Christians that the poor stand in the place of Christ, and therefore charity and justice must be an essential and central dimension of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

In this context, we urge the State authorities to take adequate steps to ensure justice to the Dalit Christians and the Tribal people.

DIALOGUE WITH NATURE

Dialogue with nature is another important aspect. The earth, our common home, which was created to support life and give praise to God, is crying out with pain because human activity is destroying it. All who believe in God and all people of good will have an obligation to protect the ecological equilibrium of the earth, intended by the



Creator. Therefore dialogue with nature includes serious steps to mitigate climate change, clean the land and the seas, and start treating all of creation with respect and concern.

DIALOGUE WITH THE UNBORN

Dialogue should not be limited to those who are born; rather the right to life of the unborn must also be taken seriously into account. We believe that the human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception, that each and every human life has inherent dignity, and thus must be treated with the respect due to a human person from womb to tomb. The steps to legalise abortion even to the extent of six months must be condemned as a gross injustice which undermines the right to life of the unborn. We appeal to the State authorities that it immediately withdraw the Bill in the Parliament.

DIALOGUE OF PEACE

Interreligious dialogue is one of the most pressing needs of our times. There will be no peace among nations without peace among religions. There will be no peace among religions without dialogue among religions. We are alarmed by continuous persecution on a global level endured by innocent people at the hands of fundamentalist and terrorist groups.

Dialogue in India should aim at collaboration in areas such as peace-building, protection of the environment, eradication of poverty and ensuring the human dignity of all, especially of women and children. Besides, it means that we condemn all wars, violence and terrorism that create insurmountable blocks to dialogue. We pledge ourselves to engage in a process of dialogue for a reconciled society.

A FERVENT APPEAL

We believe that patriotism is different from narrow and divisive cultural nationalism, which is radically different from Constitutional nationalism. No one has the right to question the patriotism of any Indian citizen on subjective grounds. Authentic patriotism unites us amidst divergences. Patriotism is defined as directing the attention of the citizens to the good of the whole human family, united by the different ties which bind together races, people and nations. "All Christians must be aware of their sense of responsibility and their service of the common good. They must recognize the legitimacy of different opinions with regard to temporal solutions, and respect citizens, who, even as a group, defend their points of view by honest methods" (*Church in the Modern World*, no. 75).



False nationalistic ideologies that instigate contempt for cultures other than the majoritarian dominant culture are capable of perpetrating atrocities. It is necessary to clarify the essential difference between patriotism and pseudo nationalism. Patriotism builds up the nation while pseudo nationalism destroys the integrity, unity and harmony of the nation. Nationalism, particularly in its most radical and extreme forms, is thus the antithesis of true patriotism.

We appeal to the State authorities to ensure that pseudo nationalism does not continue to give rise to new forms of totalitarianism. Together with the framers of the Constitution, we, the Catholic Bishops of India, affirm that religion shall not be a criterion for determining Indian citizenship. The authorities should come forward with sincere and effective means to erase the sense of fear, anxiety and uncertainty spreading in the country, especially among the religious minorities.

Needless to say that dissent should not be misconstrued as unpatriotism. Democracy cannot be built on monologue. We call upon the State authorities that it is right time to sit around the common table, a place of conversation and of shared hopes. Against the attempts at creating cultural isolation in our beloved country, dialogue will make the elements that are seemingly a barrier or a wall, a bridge of relationship. "Identity and dialogue are not enemies. Our own cultural identity is strengthened and enriched as a result of dialogue with those unlike ourselves. Nor is our authentic identity preserved by an impoverished isolation." (*Pope Francis, Querida Amazonia, n. 37*).

CONCLUSION

Dialogue is indeed the path to truth and charity. Let us pray that dialogue grows in every family, at all levels of the Church, among the Christians, among religions and cultures, and among the nations so that God's Kingdom of reconciliation, justice, peace and love may be established.

Though deeply concerned and anguished with what is happening in our country, we are filled with hope inspired by faith and the innate goodness of all our fellow citizens. We appreciate the majority who uphold the secular values of our nation. We are determined to continue to collaborate in the work of building our great nation, Mother India.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who manifested the exemplary spirit of dialogue through her maternal intercession, guide each one of us on the path of truth and charity!

■



शहीद सिस्टर रानी मरिया

Sr Jasmine FCC

प्रभु का आत्मा मुझ पर छाया रहता है क्योंकि उसने मेरा अभिषेक किया है, उसने मुझे भेजा है जिससे मैं दरिद्रों को सुसमाचार सुनाऊँ। (लूकस 4/18)

पवित्र आत्मा की प्रेरणा पाकर धन्य सि. रानी मरिया सन् 1975 मे केरल से मिशन क्षेत्र में आयी, और 8 साल बिजनोर धर्मप्रान्त में, 9 साल सतना धर्मप्रान्त में, और अपने जीवन के अंतिम 3 साल इन्दौर धर्मप्रान्त में प्रभु की दाखबारी में कार्यरत थी।

प्रभु का जीवनदायी वचन कहता है - माता के गर्भ मे तुम को रचने से पहले ही, मैंने तुमको जान लिया, तुम्हारे जन्म से पहले ही मैंने तुमको पवित्र किया, मैंने तुमको राष्ट्रों का नबी नियुक्त किया। (यरमियाह 1/5) अपने धर्मसंघीय बुलाहट को पहचानकर सि, रानी मरिया अपने गुरु प्रभु येशु के पदचिन्हों का अनुसरण करते हुए उसने बिना किसी भेद - भाव के नबियों की तरह निडर होकर सभी जाति धर्म से उपर उठकर, गरीब आदिवासियों, शोषितों, लाचारों और बेरोज़गार भाई- बहनों की सेवा में अपना सारा जीवन बिताया। येशु कहते हैं - जो मेरा अनुसरण करना चाहता है, वह आत्मत्याग करे, और प्रतिदिन अपना क्रूस उठाकर मेरे पीछे हो ले। (लूकस 9/23)

सि रानी मरिया 23 मई 1983 में सीधी जिले के ओडगडी नामक जगह पर पहुँची। यह एक जंगल इलाका था। सन् 1945 तक यह रहने योग्य जगह नहीं थी, विषैले साँप, घेर इत्यादि हिंसक जीव इधर पाये जाते थे। जब सिगान डैम का निर्माण हो रहा था तब उधर के आदिवासियों को ओडगडी भेजा गया। उनके लिए न मकान और न रहने की कोई व्यवस्था सरकार ने दिया था। जीवन की प्रतिकूल स्थिति को धैर्य से सामना करते हुए उन्होंने जंगल साफकर अपने लिए झोपड़ियाँ बनाये, खेती बाड़ी शुरू किये। प्रभु का कथन है - मैं इसलिए आया हूँ कि वे जीवन प्राप्त करें, बल्कि परिपूर्ण जीवन प्राप्त करें, (योहन 10/10)



सि. रानी मरिया सभी धर्म के लोगों के बीच ईश्वरीय प्यार, पॉति एवं आनंद का सुसमाचार फैलाने आयी। वह जैसे ही ओडगडी पहुँची, वैसे ही लोगो के आध्यात्मिक एवं सामाजिक विकास कार्य ओडगडी के चारो ओर स्थित करीब 20 गाँवों में घुसआत की, क्योंकि लिखा है जो खो गया था मानव पुत्र उसी को खोजने और बचाने आया है। (लूकस 19/10)

सि. रानी मरिया पहले उन इलाकों में पहुँचना चाहती थीं जहाँ कोई भी विकास के कार्य घुस नहीं हुए थे। उनके दिल की यही तमन्ना थी कि वह सतना धर्मप्रान्त के महामहिम धर्माध्यक्ष के आषीर्वाद एवं अगुवाई से सामाजिक सेवा कार्यों में जुड़े सभी पुरेहितों के साथ मिलकर विशेषकर फादर मैथ्यू वट्टाकुषी जिन्होंने सि. रानी मरिया के साथ उन गरीब, हताश, निराश भाई बहनों को उपर उठाने में, कन्धे से कन्धा मिलाकर कार्य किये। सि. रानी मरिया ने अपनी प्रखर बुद्धि, शक्ति एवं योग्यताओं के द्वारा गरीबों के प्रगति के लिए कई योजनाएँ बनायी, कई निर्णय लिये, क्योंकि उन्हें विष्वास था कि ईश्वर के लिए कुछ भी असभव नहीं हैं और प्रभु का वचन उन्हें ज्योति प्रदान करती और उनका पथ आलोकित करती है।

सि. रानी मरिया अपने सादा जीवन, उच्च विचार एवं भले कार्यों के द्वारा गरीबों के बीच येशु मसीह को एक उद्धारकर्ता के रूप में पेश करना चाहती थी, उनके हृदय में आध्यात्मिक शांति एवं खुषी लाना चाहती थी। इसलिए उन्हें अपने ही परिश्रम से कमाने, सुखद एवं सम्मानित जीवन जीने के लिए उन्हें सक्षम बनायी, प्रभु का वचन कहता है- जब तक गेहूँ का दाना मिट्टी में गिरकर नहीं मर जाता तब तक अकेला ही रहता है। परन्तु यदि वह मर जाता है, तो बहुत फल देता है। सि. रानी मरिया पूर्ण रूप से अपने आपको येशु के प्रति गरीबों के लिए समर्पित थी। इसलिए उनका पूरा ध्यान गरीबों की खोज एवं उनकी प्रगति में था। पवित्र वचन कहता है - स्वर्ग का राज्य खेत में छिपे हुए खजाने के सदृश्य है जिसे कोई मनुष्य पाता है और दुबारा छिपा देता है। तब उमंग में जाता और सब कुछ बेच कर उस खेत को खरीद लेता है।

सि. रानी मरिया के दिल में ख्रीस्त की ज्योति प्रज्वलित थी। इसलिए वह निडर होकर ऊँची नीची पहाड़ियों, घाटियों, नदियों एवं घने जंगलों को पार कर बिना किसी थकान के पूरे जोष एवं उत्साह के साथ, दूर दराज़ के गाँवों में पहुँचती थीं क्योंकि नबी इसायम के ग्रंथ अध्याय 43/1 में प्रभु कहते हैं - नहीं डरो! मैं तुम्हारे साथ हूँ। मैंने तूमको अपनी प्रजा के रूप में अपनाया हूँ। आइए हम भी सि. रानी मरिया की तरह प्रभु को दुड़े प्रभु को पहचाने।

मैं दाखलता हूँ और तुम डालियौं हो। जो मुझमें रहता है और मैं जिसमें रहता हूँ वही बहुत फलता है क्योंकि मुझ से अलग सहकर तुम कुछ भी नहीं कर सकते। (योहन 15/15) प्रभु से जुड़े रहकर सि. रानी मरिया को अपने सेवा कार्य, गाँव भ्रमण और परिवार दौरे करते समय अनेक समस्याओं के बारे सुनने को मिला। जैसे घर, भोजन, बिजली,



रोज़गार, स्वास्थ्य सुविधा की कमी, गाँवों में, परिवारों में शांति की कमी, वैवाहिक जीवन की समस्याएँ, बच्चों के लिए शिक्षा की कमी इत्यादि।

सि. रानी मरिया नये तरीकों की खोज करके, नये ढंग से सभी समस्याओं का समाधान आसानी से, कम समय में करने के लिए प्रयासरत रहती थी। इस इलाके के युवाओं के साथ सेमिनार, स्कूल कैम्प, एवं समितियाँ बनायी।

प्रभु का वचन कहता है - जब तुम मुझे पुकारोगे और मुझसे प्रार्थना करोगे, तो मैं तुम्हारी प्रार्थना सुनूँगा, जब तुम मुझे ढूँढ़ोगे तो मुझे पा जाओगे। (यिरमियाह 29/12) सि. रानी मरिया इन वचनों पर विश्वास रखते हुए लोगों के कई ज़रूरतों की पूर्ति के लिए ईश्वर से प्रार्थना की, कई लोगों के दरवाज़े खटखटाये। उन्हें देर ही रही, लेकिन सभी माँगे पूरी होती गई। उन्हें कई बार सीधी के मुख्य कार्यालय, सरकारी दफ़्तर एवं बैंकों का चक्कर काटना पड़ा, लेकिन वह निरुत्साह नहीं हुई। वह कहती थी गरीबों के खातिर मुझे अफसरों से बातें करते में कोई डर नहीं, क्योंकि “मैं नहीं, मेरे द्वारा ईश्वर बोलता है। इतना तक कि एक बार एक अधिकारी ने उनसे कहा। आप इन गरीब शैतानों के लिए क्यों चिंतित हैं? सि. रानी मरिया ने इन जैसे लोगों का दिल क्रोध से नहीं, बल्कि अपने सशील व्यवहार, ईमानदारिता, सहनशीलता, उदारता एवं सौम्यता से जीत लिया और बदले में उन्हें सम्मान मिला।

पवित्र वचन कहता है - तूने इन भाइयों में से किसी एक के लिए चाहे वह कितना ही छोटा क्यों न हो जो कुछ किया वह तुमने मेरे लिए ही किया। (मत्ती 25/40) जी हों, प्यारे भाइयों एवं बहनों, सि. रानी मरिया ने गरीब भाई - बहनों को अपने अधिकार की प्राप्ति के लिए मदद की, उन्हें सक्षम बनायी ताकि वे अपने अधिकार के लिए आवाज़ उठाएँ। धनी एवं ज़मीनदार लोग गरीबों के नाम पर आये पैसों का लाभ उठाते और उनका शोषण करते थे, लेकिन सि. रानी मरिया ने अपने अथक परिश्रम से एक पैसे उनके हाथ नहीं लगने दिये।

ओडगड़ी में सि. रानी मरिया गरीबों, लाचारों बेसहारा, दीन दुःखियों की माँ थीं। माँ की ममता के कारण लोग उन्हें मदरजी कहकर पुकारते थे। यह सच है कि सि. रानी मरिया को ईसा मसीह ने अपने अधीन में ले लिए था इसलिए उनके हृदय में गरीबों के प्रति पवित्र प्रेम एवं नेक कार्य करने का साहस कूट - कूट कर भरा हुआ था। क्योंकि सामर्थ्यवान प्रभु का वचन कहता है - मैं तुम्हें ऐसी वाणी और बुद्धि प्रदान करूँगा जिसका सामना अथवा खण्डन तुम्हारा कोई विरोधी नहीं कर सकेगा।

सि. रानी मरिया ने, पुरुषों एवं महिलाओं के सामाजिक उत्थान एवं अनौपचारिक शिक्षा हेतु विभिन्न गाँवों में पुरुष एवं महिला मण्डल की स्थापना की, जैसे ओडगड़ी, मझोलीडीह, जोबगड़ कन्टाहिया टोला, बाघाडीह भलुही टोला आदि में महिला मण्डल एवं बालाडीह, बाघाडीह चौराडाड़, बगबुड़वा, अज्जैनी, पिलप, आमों, बभनी आदि में पुरुष मण्डल की स्थापना की। इन सभी मण्डलों की अगुवाई हेतु कुछ अनीमेटरस भी थे जैसे श्री



राम अजेर पाण्डे, श्री दानिएल, श्री चतुर्गुन प्रसाद, श्री बिरन सिंह, रामधनी रावत आदि।

सि. रानी मरिया ने गाँवों के नेताओं एवं मुख्या को अपने हक, प्रौढ़ शिक्षा, स्वच्छता समबन्धी शिक्षा, उत्तरदायित्व के बारे सजग बनाकर गाँव में सड़क निर्माण, भवन निर्माण, पानी, बिजली उपलब्ध कराना, बालवाड़ी या आँगनवाड़ी चलाना, कुआ खोदना, मिट्टी के कटाव को रोकना, सिंचाई के लिए बिजली सुविधा, ग्रामीण बच्चों के लिए स्कूल खोलना, मछली पालना, बैंकों से लोन लेना आदि को सुव्यवस्थित रूप से चलाने के लिए प्रशिक्षण देती थी और लोगों को कर्मठ एवं आत्मनिर्भर बनायी। कुछ गाँव में आटा चक्की, तेल निकालने की मशीन आदि उपलब्ध करायी। इस प्रकार कई सेवा कार्य बड़े ही लगन एवं ईमानदारी से की। क्योंकि लिखा है - तुम मृत्यु तक ईमानदार बने रहो और मैं तुम्हें जीवन का मुकुट प्रदान करूँगा। (प्रका 2/10)

सि. रानी मरिया ओडगड़ी के सभी भाई बहनों के दिलों में बस गयी थी। वह न केवल बाहर समाज सेवा कार्य में लगी रही, बल्कि पूर्ण समर्पण के साथ संत फांसि एवं संत क्लारा द्वारा दिये गये धर्म संघीय जीवन के आदर्शों का पालन, निष्ठापूर्वक सामुदायिक जीवन जीकर साकार किया। हमारे धर्मसंघीय जीवन की परिपूर्णता चर्च से अलग रहकर नहीं बल्कि चर्च से जुड़े रहकर ही होती है। सि. रानी मरिया ओडगड़ी के ख्रीस्तीय भाई बहन, जो कि मिशन स्टेपन शुरु होने के पहले से ही विहमान थे, उन्हें ख्रिस्तीय विष्वास में दृढ़ बनाने के लिये धर्म शिक्षा दिया करती थी। साथ ही अपने धर्मबहनों के साथ मिलकर परिवारों की मुलाकात करती थी जिसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि आस - पास के आदिवासी एवं हरीजन भाई - बहनों ने ख्रीस्त को अपने जीवन में धारण किया।

प्यारे भाईयों एवं बहनों, 18 मई सन् 1992 में सि. रानी मरिया इन्दौर धर्मप्रान्त के उदयनगर के स्नेहसदन कोन्वेन्ट पहुँची। वहाँ भी उन्होंने सामाजिक सेवाकार्य को सुसंगठित और सुव्यवस्थित करने का प्रयास किया। सि. रानी मरिया ने गरीबों के साथ अपना जीवन बिताकर उनका पक्ष लेकर उनके अधिकारों के प्रति आवाज़ उठायी। उनका गरीबों के बीच काम करना, जमीनदारों, लाखपतियों और साहूकारों के लिए बहुत बड़ा धक्का था इन गैर कानूनी व्यापारियों का क्रोध सि. रानी मरिया के विरुद्ध बढ़ता एवं भड़कता गया। जीवन सिंह जो धोखाबाजियों का क्षेत्रीय नेता था निरक्षर और अशिक्षित ईसाईयों पर गलत दोषारोपण किया। इस प्रकार समाज विरोधियों से बार - बार धरकी मिलना शुरू हुआ। लेकिन वह पीछे नहीं हटी, वह सच्चाई और न्याय के लिए संघर्ष कर के गरीबों का साथ दिया और इसके लिए उन्होंने अपने जीवन को बलि चढ़ाया।

25 फरवरी सिन् 1995 में सि.रानी मरिया, सुबह प्रार्थना करते समय बाईबल खोली तो यह वचन मिला, “नहीं डरो, मैं तुम्हारे साथ हूँ। मैंने तुमको अपनी प्रजा के रूप में अपनाया है” और वह तैयार होकर कपिल बस में इन्दौर से होकर भोपाल के लिए रवाना की। बस नदी, नाला, पहाड़ पर्वत पार कर नाचनबोर नामक घाटी पहुँची वहाँ उनके विरोधियों ने पूजा की, नारियल चढ़ाया और बस आगे बढ़ी। कुछ दूरी पर हत्यारा समुन्दर सिंह नामक लड़का नारियल काट कर सभी यात्रियों को दिया, अंत में सि. रानी को भी



दिया, तब सिस्टर ने पूछा आप इतने खुश क्यों हैं? नारियल बाँटने का क्या कारण है? इस पर उसने कहा तुमको मारना है। इतना कहकर चाकू उसके चेहरे पर भोंका। उनके मुख्य विरोधी जीवन सिंह एवं अन्य लोग उन्हें मार डालने की प्रेरणा देते रहे। सि. रानी मरिया दर्द से कराहने लगी, लेकिन बचाने वाला कोई नहीं था। उसे बेरहमी से घसीट कर बस के बाहर पटक दिया और उनकी रीढ़ की हड्डी पर छूरा चलाया। उसके बाद चेहरे और सीने पर बार - बार गोदकर उसके मरने तक मारते रहे। उनके शरीर में 54 बार छूरे के घाव थे वह खून से लतपथ हो गयी थी। वे सि. रानी मरिया का सिर काट देना चाहते थे, परन्तु उसी समय वह अन्तिम सांस ले चुकी थी। जब सि. रानी को वार किया जा रहा था, वह येशु का नाम दुहराती रही, तब समुन्दर सिंह हँसी उड़ाकर पूछा, तूम येशु को बुला रही हो, देख लेते हैं कि वह तुमको बचाता है कि नहीं?

जी हाँ दोस्तों, प्रभु येशु ने सिस्टर रानी को, अनन्त जीवन का मुकुट देकर उनको स्वर्ग राज्य में ले लिया, लेकिन समुन्दर सिंह को अपने कर्मों का फल भोगने जेल जाना पड़ा, लेकिन ईश्वर की योजना कुछ और थी, इसलिए 21 अगस्त सन् 2002 को सि. सेलमी उनकी सगी बहन, फादर स्वामी सदानंद सी. एम. आई. और अपने धर्म बहनों के साथ जेल जाकर प्रेम एवं क्षमा का चिन्ह प्रकट करते हुए उन्हें राखी बांधी। समुन्दर सिंह ने कहा मुझे अपने कर्म पर पछतावा है मुझे माफ कीजिए। सिस्टर ने कहा, ईश्वर और हम लोगों ने क्षमा कर दिया है, ईश्वर आपको प्यार करता है, इतना ही नहीं, सि. रानी मरिया के मम्मी -पापा एवं परिवार जनों ने भी उन्हें क्षमा कर दिया है, जू समुन्दर सिंह केरल गया तब सि. रानी मरिया की माँ ने बहुत प्यार से हत्यारे के हाथों को चुम्बन किया और कहा, माँ अपनी बेटी के हत्यारे के हाथों का चुम्बन करना चाहती थी, और मुझे यह सौभाग्य मिल गया है क्योंकि ये हाथ मेरे बेटी के खून से रंगे हैं।

प्यारे भाईयों एवं बहनों, यही है सच्चा प्यार, यही है क्षमादान। प्रभु येशु ने पिता से प्रार्थना की थी - पिता इन्हें क्षमा कर क्योंकि ये नहीं जानते कि क्या कर रहे हैं प्रभु ईसा मसीह के मनोभाव के अनुसार सि. रानी मरिया के हत्यारे समुन्दर सिंह को क्षमा करना ही, उनके नाम पर घटित हुए चमत्कारों में सबसे महान चमत्कार था। और साथ ही सि. रानी मरिया की बहन सि. सेलमी जो कैन्सर से पीड़ित थी चंगाई मिली।

जी हाँ प्यारे दोस्तों, प्रभु का जीवनदायी वचन कहता है- इससे बड़ा प्रेम किसी का नहीं कि कोई अपने मित्रों के लिए अपने प्राण अर्पित कर दे। प्रभु येशु की वीर - सिपाही बनकर, येशु की तरह सि. रानी मरिया ने अपने गरीब मित्रों के खातिर, अपने शरीर में चाकुओं द्वारा कई गहरे घाव पाकर, येशु में समा गई, कुर्बान हो गई और प्रेम तथा क्षमादान का सुसमाचार बन गई।

धन्य शहीद सि. रानी मरिया, आप अमर हैं, महान हैं, आप धन्य है, आपको हमारा सादर प्रणाम, हमारे लिए प्रार्थना कीजिए।





GLIMPSE FROM ST. EPHREM'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

• Br Antony Kizhakkethalakkal •

CONGRATULATION TO OUR NEW PRIESTS

St. Ephrem's wholeheartedly congratulates her 14 deacons who were ordained priests to lead, teach, and sanctify the people of God and to become a sacrifice pleasing to God. St. Ephrem's prays and wishes that they all become human faces of divine compassion, partakers in human paths and an incessant stream of divine grace so that the thirsty may drink and find rest. The other four deacons will be ordained after Easter.



EKTA DIWAS 2020

The unique vision of St. Ephrem's Theological College is to provide missionary formation for her children. *Ekta Diwas*, which is celebrated on 26th January every year, is a great opportunity for being with villagers. On this day, hundreds of village children get acquaintance with



the seminary and celebrate the day in harmony, togetherness and enthusiasm without any cultural indifference. This year too *Ekta Diwas* was celebrated with its full vigour and rhythm. The programme started around 12 pm with the registration of villagers and came to an end at 4.30 in the evening with the refreshments. The whole programme was organized under the supervision of the village apostolate ministry headed by Rev. Fr Cyriac Puliampallil. Mrs. Susheela Shukhla, Sarpanch of Barakala, inaugurated the meeting. The whole day was packed with different games, competitions and cultural programmes.



VISIT OF MAR THOMAS THARAYIL

St. Ephrem's cordially welcomed Mar Thomas Tharayil, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Changanacherry on 28th January. His Excellency reached the seminary by evening and took a short session for the brothers on the burning issues like Cultural and Infiltration Marxism. His Excellency celebrated Holy Qurbana on 29th morning and enriched the community through his words regarding the life of priests while explaining the parable of good shepherd and the gate keeper.



PARISH FEAST AND MISSION DAY

Ephrem pariwar was actually blessed and fortunate to celebrate the feast of St. Ephrem, the great Syriac church father. The vehemence and vivacity of the parish feast had its official flare-up with the blessing and hoisting of flag on the eve of 14th February. On the eve of 15th, entire Ephrem pariwar gathered in Koinonia to offer the evening prayer Ramsa in its solemnity. Almost two hours of long procession coupled with the festal message by Rev. Fr Erosiyan Ekka was a kind of typical exhibition of Christian witness and piety which in turn became unique before a people having different creeds and culturally driven expositions of devoutness. The procession was arranged in such a way that it would reach every religious house in the Ephrem Pariwar. When the procession reached back the seminary, there arranged *pachoor* for all. On 16th February, the most solemn form of liturgy Raza, was celebrated by Rev. Fr Emmanuel Kadankavil, Vicar General of the Eparchy of Kalyan. All the fathers of Ephrem pariwar concelebrated in the presence of all the members of Ephrem pariwar.



FOUNDATION STONE

On 2nd February, Mar Joseph Kodakallil laid the foundation stone of the mission formation house of Preshitaram Sisters in the presence of Sr Dona, Superior General, and Sr Lisieu, Assistant General of Preshitaram Sisters.



VOLLEY BALL MATCH AND BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

On 20th and 25th February the seminary volleyball team had matches with the Christjyothi team, Satna and Venkit volleyball club, Satna, respectively. The seminary team won the matches with a good score. A friendly



badminton tournament was conducted by the sports department of St. Ephrem's. Around 12 teams participated for the match. Rev. Frs. Antony Pullan and Augustine Chittooparambil also joined for our tournament.

St. Ephrem's expresses its gratitude to **Rev. Dr. George Kudilil** for his commendable and dedicated service to the seminary to form good priests.

His biblical scholarship and guidance inspired many students.

Moreover, being the chief editor of Ephrem's Theological Journal, he spared no effort to fame the scholarship of the seminary in an international sphere.

We congratulate and offer sincere greetings of his appointment as the Chief Editor of Deepika.





GLIMPSE FROM BETHANIA

● Sr Vijaya DST ●

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

During Christmas our pre - novices performed a prayer dance and a drama based on the concept of incarnation in Koond mission station as part of the Christmas programme conducted for the people in the surrounding villages. Along with the candidates from other Religious Congregations we performed the drama at St. Vincent Cathedral church, Satna in front of a huge crowd gathered on 25 December. We gratefully remember Rev. Fr Francis Mattathil for providing such opportunities.

CLASSES FOR THE PRE - NOVICES

In the months of January and February four of our candidates along with two candidates from CPS attended special classes on English, Hindi, Methodology and Vatican Council II arranged by respected Fathers from ETC. We thankfully remember Rev. Frs George Kudilil, John Kondooparambil, Cyriac Puliyampallil and Mathew Peedikayil who generously spared their valuable time for these extra ordinary classes.

VISIT OF OUR PROVINCIAL COUNCILOR

Our Provincial Councilor, Rev. Sr Linet DST, visited us on 21 February and accompanied us to Deosar on 25 February and returned to Pala on 04 March.

VILLAGE EXPOSURE PROGRAMME

On 25 February our four pre-novices along with the Mistress Rev. Sr Lisieu went to Deosar for the village exposure programme. On the





next day we started visiting three villages namely Kusedi, Kartha and Kunthavar under the guidance of Mr. Veeran Singh. We mainly visited the interior regions of the villages and heard from the people of the villages the difficulties and problems they face and we made them aware of the need of education to overcome all those difficulties. We also taught English rhymes and alphabets to the children at Kusedi Government School.

TRIP TO KUSMI

On 29 February Rev. Fr. Paul Uthinipparampan took us for a trip to Kusmi, a newly started mission and we met Rev. Fr Joseph Porimattathil, a zealous missionary. He took a special class sharing his own experience in the mission and motivating the candidates for the future apostolate. In between the class the *thahsildhar* of the place arrived and we had a small interaction with him.

ODGADY CONVENTION

On 01 March our pre-novices performed a drama on the life of Blessed Rani Maria at the Odgady Bible convention on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of Blessed Rani Maria who toiled hard for the people of Odgady for nine years. The convention was altogether a new experience and we thank Rev. Fr Antony Panachinkal who invited us to perform the drama.



TRIP TO THE COAL MINES

On 04 February we went on a visit to the Amelia Coal Mines at Odgady where we got first hand information about the process involved in coal mining from Col. Ajai Singh, the in charge of the mines. We appreciate the interest and the valuable presence of Rev. Fr Antony panachinkal and Rev. Fr Joseph Edathil who accompanied us to the mines.

We are grateful to Rev. Fr Paul Uthinipparampan, Priest in charge of Deosar mission, Rev. Srs Philomy, Lilly, Naicy, and Nikitha, the DST members of Deosar community for their warm welcome and great support during our village exposure programme. We also thank Rev. Sr Vijaya for her prayerful support and Rev. Sr Lisieu who took the pain to guide us and empower us with her missionary insight. We returned to Bethania on 08 March.



FAREWELL LUNCH

As the stay in the Eparchy of Satna is slowly coming to an end, our pre-novices were invited to a farewell meal at Bishop's House. We thanked our beloved Bishopji Mar Joseph Kodakallil, Protosyncellus Rev. Fr John Thoppil, Syncellus Rev. Fr Augustine Chittuparambil, Procurator Rev. Fr Kuriakose Kachapilly and all other members of the Bishop's House.

"Easter experience enables one to look on his life with hope and expectation" Bethania wishes all a very 'Happy Easter!'

GLIMPSE FROM SABS, PATERI

PROVINCIAL HOUSE

• Sr Maria Jose SABS •

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

On the eve of Christmas 2019 Christmas tree group in charges conducted a short programme in the community. All of us enjoyed the programme and shared the joy of the day among us.

On the day of Christmas, there was a Mela in the campus of Cathedral. One stall depicting the scene of Jesus who washes the feet of the disciples was arranged by our community. As the people of the





City of Satna visited the Cathedral, we have taken the initiative to pray over them who came seeking blessings from the Lord.

On 26 December 2019, as part of our Christmas celebration we had invited our neighboring Hindu families and given them a talk on Christmas, conducted half an hour adoration and the children performed one hour cultural programme as we had given them practice earlier on the life of Jesus. Rev. Mother Rose Therese gave a short message on Christmas. At the end of the programme snacks were distributed. After the programme we had taken them to Bishop's House and showed them stalls and Crib which were arranged there.

RETREATS

Aiming at a spiritual renewal in our Congregation, we had conducted 20 days' retreat (Eucharistic Covenant Retreat) at the Provincial House from 26 December to 15 January. Rev. Sr Lee Rose Kachapilly, Sr Arpitha Thiruthel and Sr Mable Koikkara were the resource persons, who underwent special training at the Generalate for the same. Around 40 Sisters from various communities made their retreat.

Our Pre- Aspirants made their three days of retreat. Rev. Sr Arpitha Thiruthel guided them to be deepened in their religious vocation.

Two hours of prayer was conducted for our Parishners on 19 January 2020 by Rev. Sr. Arpitha Thiruthel.

SNEHSADAN SPECIAL SCHOOL, PATERI

Snehsadan School students were taken to Satna Stadium for the celebration of the World Disabled Day on 03 December 2019 which was organized by D.D.R.C. They had arranged various competitions in sports and games in which our students too took part. Many of them won the prizes.





They also participated in the celebration of the World Disabled Day which conducted at Samaritan Social Service Centre on 13 December 2019. Competitions on both cultural as well as sports and games were conducted, and many received prizes for the same.

On 21 December, staff and students of Snehsadan arranged a Christmas celebration. Rev. Sr Rose Chakkieth and Rev. Mother Rose Therese Cheerakathil were the Chief guest and guest of honour respectively. Students performed a variety of colorful programme. Rev. Sr Rose Chakkieth gave an inspiring message and Rev. Mother gave final blessing to all those who have gathered there.

GLIMPSE FROM CSN, PATERI

● Sr Soumini CSN ●

RELIGIOUS VESTITION AND THE FIRST PROFESSION

Four of our Novices - Friska, Merina Joe, Elisava and Roshmika have dedicated themselves to the cause of the Kingdom of God by taking their First Profession in our Congregation on 25 January 2020 after successfully completing the required period of formation. The function was held in Allahabad where our Provincial House is situated and Rt. Rev. Raphy Manjaly, the Bishop of Allahabad was the main celebrant.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW SUPERIOR GENERAL AND THE TEAM

The General Synaxis held at our Generalate in Aluva on 01 March





elected Sr Terecine as our New Superior General. It is her second term as General of our Congregation. She served as Novice Mistress from 2016-2019 at Pateri Novitiate House and 2019-2020 as Postulants' Mistress at Kothi Formation House. On 11 March, the Pateri Community arranged a cordial welcome and reception for our new General and Sr Alphine, our General Councillor. Mar Joseph Kodakallil was the main celebrant of the Eucharistic Celebration on 11 March. Sisters and Fathers from Pateri Pariwar also were present for the Eucharistic Celebration and the Breakfast.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR AND THE TEAM

The Provincial Synaxis held at our Provincial House in Allahabad on 12 March elected our new Provincial and the team. Hearty Congratulations to Sr Lata, our Provincial and Srs Saly Jose, Tracy, Geeta, Moncy and Regi, our Councillors.



BEST WISHES TO OUR ASPIRANTS

Our Aspirants have successfully completed the first year of their formation period having had variety of programmes and classes. Now they are getting ready to begin their Plus one course in the month of April in Allahabad. Best wishes and God's blessings!





GLIMPSE FROM DEOSAR

● Fr Paul Uthinipparampan ●

AFFILIATION TO CBSE

A long awaited wish is to be bloomed in a short span of time. We are indeed elated to apply St Mary's School to CBSE Board after extending the school upto Class X. The inspections went on well on November 06, 2019. Now all are eagerly waiting for the outcome, the affiliation of the school to CBSE.

DAZZLING STEP TO NEW YEAR

St. Mary's family celebrated the New Year with lots of gratitude to 2019 and with strong feeling of happiness for the New Year 2020. Marians bade a befitting farewell to the year 2019 and enthusiastically welcomed the year 2020 by a creative program prepared by the students and teachers. Rev. Fr Paul, our Manager blessed and addressed the students and teachers and wished us to have a prosperous year.



SALUTE TO THE MOTHER LAND

We celebrated the Republic Day with strong and tremendous feelings of patriotism. Our students decorated the stage and performed various meaningful and colorful events. Mr Vikaskumar Visvakarma and Mrs Prianka Visvakarma, Magistrates of the Civil Court, Deosar, the chief guests of the day, addressed the gathering. Their presence made the day very remarkable and memorable one. We are proud to say that our school won the





overall championship in the Block Level Republic Day Competitions in Deosar. St. Mary's band performed an enthralling band display which created a feeling of patriotism in the hearts and minds of the citizens gathered on the occasion.

STOP, WAIT AND GO

Our school conducted a seminar on the Road Safety for the students as well as for the auto and van drivers. Mr Nehru Singh Khandate, Town Inspector of police, Deosar and his team shared with our children their rich experiences and employed various methods to drive home the message. They also appealed to the students to follow the rules of the traffic always and everywhere.

THUMBS-UP TO THE CHAMPIONS

All the achievements must be appreciated. All the appreciations must be remembered with gratitude as motivations. With this goal in mind, our school conducted a special ceremony of honoring the students. We distributed prizes to all the students who achieved high positions in their academic, athletic, cultural, sports, fine arts, and various literary competitions. Mr Lal Dev Singh, Sub-Divisional Officer of Police, Deosar, presided over this ceremony. He honored our students with prizes and encouraged them to maintain the high standard and appreciated all the teachers who worked hard for the success of the students.

Cheers to all for the support and prayers for the mission at Deosar. Deosar family wishes all a very blessed Easter! May the Risen Lord vanish the pandemic, Coronavirus – Covid 19 from the face of the world.



GLIMPSE FROM KAILASPUR

● Fr Sebastian Puthenpurayil ●

Children's Day was celebrated in a solemn way. The teachers made the day colorful and memorable. The head boy and head girl were honored as the chief guests of the day. On 21st December we had the Christmas celebrations and we shared the message of love, joy and peace of infant Jesus. The feast of St. Sebastian, the patron saint of our Manager was celebrated in a short but sweet way by wishing him all the joy and blessings of the special day. We celebrated the Republic Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. The Flag hoisting was done by the Manager followed by March past and patriotic cultural programme. This year our school organized annual sports for two days from 31 Jan to 01 February. All students were greatly thrilled on these days to participate in various items. The Manager inaugurated the event and blessed the children through his inspiring message.

As the light of the burning lamp, from time to time students are given special sessions on enlightenment and guidance by the principal and staff. The unit tests and the exams are taken as per schedule to make sure that the children are growing in all the aspects of their life, especially in education. A meeting of parents was held on 22 February. On 29 February winners of the sports day were encouraged and honoured by distributing prizes and certificates. We also gratefully remember all the Fathers and Sisters who visited us from time to time.

GLIMPSE FROM KOOND

● Sr Rineth SH ●

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Joyfully the Koond family celebrated the birthday of Rev. Fr George Vadakkumcherry with solemn Holy Qurbana on 05 December 2019. Thereafter we gathered together for wishing and Agape.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

We conducted Christmas program for the people from surrounding villages on 23 December 2019. Rev. Fr George Vadakkumcherry gave a warm welcome to all the invited guests and the gathering. Rev. Fr Joseph Ottapurackal was the chief guest. He delivered a beautiful and inspiring Christmas message. Many invited guests, Fathers, Sisters from Rewa, Satna, Pateri and Kothi were present. Rev. Fr Francis Mattathil and his team staged an amazing Christmas dance drama. A variety of cultural programme was presented by the villagers too. After the program, refreshments and Christmas cake were distributed to all. Around 1500 people participated in the celebrations.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Christmas, the great feast of Nativity of Jesus Christ, was celebrated with a solemn Holy Qurbana at 10.00 p.m. on the eve of Christmas. Rev. Fr George Vadakkumcherry was the main celebrant and he gave an enriching message to the faithful. Around 70 believers took part in the liturgical celebrations. After the Holy Qurbana, all gathered together and wished one another the joy of Christmas and took part in the Agape.

CANONICAL VISITATION

Rev. Sr Usha Maria SH, Provincial Superior of Delhi province visited Koond community on 06 January 2020.

REPUBLIC DAY

Republic Day was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm on 26 January 2020. The ceremony started at 8.30 a.m. in the dispensary ground. Many people from the surrounding villages participated in the Programme. Rev. Fr Augustine Pullolickal hoisted the national Flag and gave the message on the occasion. Children performed some cultural programme on national unity and constitutional rights.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

To encourage and nurture the inborn talents, a cultural programme was organized for the children of the tuition centers in the village on 29 January 2020. After a class on personal hygiene and good habits, certain cultural competitions were conducted and prizes were distributed to the winners. Around 50 students and their tuition teachers participated in the event.

St. Mariam Thresia



Feast - June 8
St. Mariam Thresia pray for us

Born

26 April 1876
Puthenchira, Thrissur District,
Kerala, India

•

Died

8 June 1926 (aged 50)
Kuzhikattussery,
Thrissur District, India.

•

Beatified

9 April 2000,
Saint Peter's Square,
Vatican City
by Pope John Paul II

•

Canonized

13 October 2019,
Saint Peter's Square,
Vatican City
by Pope Francis

•

Feast

8 June



GLIMPSE FROM LAVKUSHNAGAR

• Fr Joseph Edathil •

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The birthday of Rev. Fr Joseph Edathil, Asst. Manager, was solemnly celebrated in the School. The teaching and non teaching staff along with the students felicitated and wished him the blessings of the day. The students have staged a variety of cultural programme to solemnize the occasion.

SOLEMN RECEPTION TO THE REGIONAL YOUTH CROSS

On 05 December the Regional Youth Cross was solemnly received at Lavkushnagar Parish. The cross was brought-in by Rev. Fr Sebastian Panthallooparambil, the Eparchial Youth-Director. Rev. Fathers, Sisters along with a few youths of the parish solemnly received the cross with due respect and honor. Rev. Fr Sebastian celebrated the Holy Qurbana.



PRAYER DAY FOR THE PARISHIONERS

In anticipation to the Christmas, a preparatory 'Prayer day' was observed in the parish. Rev. Fr Thomas Puthenthayil guided the people in helping them to have a close encounter with God and God-experience. The day was scheduled with a few talks, Rosary, Praise and Worship, Confession, Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Qurbana. A good number of the faithful participated in the spiritual exercises and received the special blessings.



WATER CONSERVATION DAY

'No Water No Life', understanding the meaning between these lines, a day to ponder over Nature', greatest free gift of water, was arranged. To color this day the children had availed themselves in making relevant and meaningful posters and placards.



KHADI WEARING DAY & SARVA DHARMA PRARTHANA DIWAS

As part of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and as per the circular of the CBSE, Khadi wearing day was observed. The students and the staff were asked to be present in Khadi dress. Awareness programme on 'The harmful effects of the plastic products' and the use of the *Jhute* bags also were given stress on the same occasion. To promote the sense of the religious harmony among the the stu-





dents, *Sarva Dharma Prarthana Diwas* also was observed. The children made symbolic presentations of every Religion and prayed for the Religious harmony in the Nation.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The school level Christmas Celebrations were held on 21 December. His Excellency Mar Joseph Kodakallil, the SDMO and the TI of Lavkushnagar were the Chief guests of the function. Along with many cultural programme by the students, there were also Christmas-Tree and Star making competitions. As the Parish has its three sub-stations namely Chandela, Gorihar and Sarwayi, the parishioners along with Rev. Fathers and Sisters also carried out two-days' carol programme. Inspired by the true spirit of Christmas, this year the parishners have collected the amount which was meant for buying the crackers, but, instead, have used them for buying a few blankets to contribute to the poor and the needy who lived around them.



PICNIC

It's so refreshing to be on a picnic! On our community picnic day we had a nice time freeing ourselves from the daily routines of life and busy schedule in the School. Though places like Pandav fall and Ranesh fall were quiet familiar to us, visiting those places as a community really mattered a lot to us in sharing our joy and happiness.

ANGER FREE ZONE

Making the schools 'Anger-free zones' will help students in developing effective skills and in eradicating emotions like fear, humiliation, hurt and disrespect which are the by-products of anger. Keeping this intention in mind the School has set apart





a day to promote the Anger Free Zone movement, the children had actively took part in it.

PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA

Master Ayush Raikwar from class X was selected to take part in PM's *Pariksha pe Charcha* programme which was held at Talkatoa Stadium, New Delhi, on 20 January. The students were given the opportunity to watch the live-streaming of the programme in the School. Master Ayush Raikwar along with his family members was honored by the school management for his active participation in the programme. He was one among the 19 students from MP and one among the 4 students from Chhatarpur District to participate in the same.



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

As the Nation celebrated the Republic Day, the School level Republic Day celebrations were held with all its solemnity. Rev. Fr Rony Maruthummootil was the Chief Guest of the programme. He has inspired the young minds by exhorting them to be the good citizens of our Country and to be at the service of the nation in every way possible. The students in honor of the Nation have performed a number of Patriotic danc-





es, songs and skits. As per the instructions given some of the students also were taken to the *Mela* Ground at Lavkushnagar for putting up their cultural performance. Our students were also awarded with the second prize for their group dance.

HOME MISSION PROGRAMME IN THE PARISH

As part of the follow-up to the Home Mission Programme, Rev. Srs Grace, Merin Sebastian and Vineetha of CHF Congregation arrived at Lavkushnagar. The programme turned out to be a great success as the people had a great appreciation for the same. All the Christian families were personally visited by Rev. Sisters. On the last day of the programme the people were given the opportunity for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation during a guided adoration and finally it was concluded with the solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY QURBANA FOR THE OUTGOING STUDENTS

The students and teachers wholeheartedly took part in the Holy Qurbana which was specially arranged for the class X students. Participating in the liturgical celebration, the children made special prayer intentions especially for the success in the upcoming class X board exams. After the celebration, the children sought blessings from Rev. Fathers, Sisters and teachers by touching their feet. The Fathers laid their hands on each of the students and prayed over them. Most of the students shared that the entire ambience gave them a kind of inner joy and happiness for which they craved for long.

FAREWELL TO THE CLASS X STUDENTS

Being part of Christ Jyoti family for many years 39 of our tenth class students bade farewell to their second home 'Christ Jyoti CBSE School'. The Ninth Class Students initiated the cultural programme in honor of their elder brothers and sisters. The Manager as well as the Principal felicitated them and wished them all the very best for their success in the upcoming Board Exams. A sumptuous lunch for the class X students and teaching staff was also served as part of the function.





JAIL MINISTRY

Some of the students from Christ Jyoti School were given the opportunity to visit the sub-jail in Lavkushnagar. This event turned out to be a new exposure for the students and teachers. The students could interact with the inmates freely and they entertained the inmates with a few dances and skits, by which the students also could transmit a kind of positive energy and encouragement to their audience. Some of the inmates also ventured themselves to be performers of a few programme from their part.

This occasion also was coincided with the free eye-camp in the jail. Two surgeons along with few helpers from Samaritan Social Service Society had arrived for the same. Twenty prisoners were given the spectacles and many others were given eye drops and medicines for free.



GLIMPSE FROM ODGADY

● Fr Antony Panachinkal ●

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The Solemn Holy Qurbana at midnight on the occasion of Christmas was celebrated, joined by hundreds of local people. After the Holy Qurbana there were celebrations like cake cutting, singing and dancing. Christmas gifts were also given to all through lucky coupon. Earlier the faithful and *Christu bhakthas* could pray in a special manner from the depth of their heart through one day retreat as preparation for the Christmas day. Rev. Fr Varghese Kallely celebrated the Holy Qurbana



here on New Year Day and he was wished by the community on his Ordination day.

On 01 February around 40 people from Odgady mission participated in the convention held at *Rakshadham*, Waidhan.

On 18 February Rev. Fr Varghese Naicomparambil VC, Rev. Fr Joseph Edattu VC with Rev. Fr Augustine Pullolickal came over here and offered the Holy Qurbana for the departed souls of Rev. Fathers and Sisters who rendered their services at Odgady and special prayers were offered through the intercession of Blessed Martyr Rani Maria. Rev. Fr Varghese expressed his joy recollecting his days at Odgady as Priest in charge and shared his personal experiences with Sr. Rani Maria.

FIRST ODGADY BIBLE CONVENTION

The first Odgady Bible convention was held on Sunday, 01 March 2020. It was a great day for the mission at Odgady in proclaiming Christ with great zeal and enthusiasm. It started with the prayer of intercession to Blessed Virgin Mary by reciting the Holy Rosary followed by praise and worship. Before the formal inauguration of the convention, there was a solemn procession carrying the Holy Bible and the statue of Mother Mary from the Church to the convention Centre. The Word of God was proclaimed from the Holy Bible by Rev. Fr Antony Panachinkal, the Priest in charge of Odgady. Then he extended cordial welcome to all the participants of the one day programme. The convention was formally inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by Rev. Fr John Thoppil, Protosyncellus of the Eparchy of Satna. In the inaugural address he stressed the importance of continuing and fulfilling the missionary mandate of Christ to proclaim the Good News to all. He appreciated the initiative of Fr Antony in conducting such a programme and un-





derlined the need of continuity of Odgady Bible Convention every year on Sunday following the anniversary of the martyrdom of Sr Rani Maria and shared his personal experiences with Blessed Rani Maria while they were contemporaries at Gijwar and Odgady in the early 1990's.



The main preacher of the day was Rev. Fr Joshy Chettiyanchira from the Eparchy of Chanda. The preaching was based on St Luke 19: 1-10 – how to see and experience the love and mercy of God in our daily life. Rev. Sr Jasmine FCC spoke on Blessed Rani Maria, her life of evangelization especially at Odgady. The Solemn Pontifical Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Mar Joseph Kodakallil, Bishop of Satna. In his sermon he emphasized the importance of hearing the Word of God and practicing the Word of God in our day today life. A dance drama on Blessed Rani Maria was staged by the candidates of DST and CPS Congregations, Kothi together with the children of Odgady parish. It has definitely inspired the Christian gathering to appropriate the brave lifestyle of Blessed Rani Maria in preaching the Good News and to become the voice of the voiceless. Rev. Fr Thomas Puthenthayil, Director of *Christubhaktha* Movement, led the afternoon prayer session with deliverance and healing prayers and Eucharistic Adoration. Rev. Sr Jolly, the Superior of Assisi Sadan, Odgady appreciated the programme and proposed vote of thanks. The gathering dispersed after the tea at 4.30 p.m.

We express our sincere gratitude to the Fathers and Sisters and the faithful of Singrauli zone, along with Rev. Fr Francis Mattathil, Rev. Sr Elizabeth SD and Mr Ansu for the great support and cooperation for the success of this first ever Odgady Bible convention 2020. As per the future plan, the Odgady Bible convention will be organized as an annual event and the next convention will be held on 28 February 2021 led by Rev. Fr Anil Dev IMS and team from Varanasi.

On the same day foundation stone for the new convent was blessed and laid by Mar Joseph Kodakallil.





CHRIST JYOTI SCHOOL, ODGADY

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

On 22 December 2019 we celebrated Christmas in the school with great fervor and joy. The programme began at 09 a.m. by invoking God's presence with a prayer dance. The entire programme was based on the life of Jesus Christ. The message delivered by Rev. Fr Antony, the Manager was inspiring on the divine birth and life of Jesus Christ. The entire school vibrated with the echoes of Christmas Carols. Various competitions were held in connection with Christmas celebration, among them the class decoration was the most attractive. L.K.G and class I (Lotus) stood first.



REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION

To develop patriotism in our students we celebrate national festivals in our school. We celebrated Republic Day with great joy and enthusiasm. The bright morning welcomed excited children, parents and teachers who assembled to unfurl and salute the national *Tiranga*. Rev. Fr Antony unfurled the national flag which was followed by National Anthem. The students of four houses marched rhythmically and honoured the national flag. The Manager addressed the gathering by expressing his pride in the rich heritage and culture of our country. He urged every student to be a responsible citizen of our country by fulfilling his/her own duties.

ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION

The annual day celebration was held on 08 February 2020. The president of the function was His Excellency Mar Joseph Kodakallil, the Bishop of Satna and the Chief Guest was Mr Vikas Singh, the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Deosar.





Guests of Honour were Mr Lavlesh Mishra (Tehsildar Kusmi), Mr Manish Tripathi (TI Bargawan), Mr Mehdi Husain Ansari (BEO Deosar), Mr Krishna Kumar Dwivedi (BRC Deosar), Mrs Ramrati Saket (Sarpanch Odgady), Col. Ajai Singh (Unit Head Jaypee Amelia North Coal Mine), Mr Ratan Kumar Somani (Unit Head Hindalco Industries Ltd.) and Mr Bishwanath Mukherjee (Sr. VP- HR Hindalco Industries Ltd.) The school ground had been prepared for the occasion with beautiful tent and temporary stage.

The programme began with the presentation of the theme EKTA taking the example of human body. The annual function started with a prayer dance followed by auspicious lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the distinguished guests. The formal welcome has accorded by our Manager Rev. Fr Antony Panachinkal. The theme was presented meticulously by our students. The cultural items of yoga, group song, value based Hindi and English skits and theme based dances captivated the audience. The dignitaries of the day gave away the prizes to the students who excelled in academic performance in the year 2018-19.

The entire school participated wholeheartedly towards the success of this great event. The audience comprising of parents and guests were impressed by the impeccable performance of the students. The props and costumes added color to the festive occasion.





GLIMPSE FROM PANNA

● Fr Antony Pullan ●

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

In preparation for Christmas one day retreat was organized for the parishioners. Rev. Fr Joshy Pullokar, Administrator of Dayasagar led the retreat. It was a day of great blessing from the Almighty God.



St Joseph's Church, Panna celebrated its Feast on 23/02/2020 with great devotion. The Festal Celebration started on 21/02/2020. Rev. Fr Antony Pullan, Parish Priest, hoisted the flag and offered the Holy Qurbana followed by the Novena for three days. There was occasion for confession for all the parishioners on 22/02/2020 for which Rev. Frs Cyriac Puliampallil and Joseph Parayil were available. Rev. Fr Joseph Parayil offered the Holy Qurbana and Fr Cyriac spiritually enriched the faithful with his homily. On Sunday, 23/02/2020, Mar Joseph Kodakallil, Bishop of Satna Eparchy, was the Main Celebrant who offered the Holy Qurbana, along with Rev. Fr John Thoppil, the Protosyncellus, Rev. Frs Antony Pullan, Francis Mattathil, Jacob Adambakalil and Thomas Kanjirathummootil. Many Fathers and Sisters from the neighbouring parishes blessed us with their esteemed presence on the occasion of the Feast. The Church and its premises were beautifully decorated and illuminated.

There were a few cultural programmes put up by the Catechism students which were very interesting. Everyone enjoyed the colourful programme. Mar Joseph Kodakallil, Bishop of Satna Eparchy, and Fr John Thoppil, the Protosyncellus gave away the certificates and awards to the winners of the Catechism students for the academic year. For the first time the Catechism teachers were also awarded. It was an appreciation for them for their dedicated service. Our Bishopji delivered a short message with his words of blessing. At the end a grand festal delicious meal was served for the Guests and Parishioners.



St. Joseph's Church celebrated its *Good Shepherd's birthday* on 28/02/2020 with enthusiasm. Rev. Fr Antony Pullan offered the Holy Qurbana for the Parishioners and celebrated the birthday with the faithful by cutting the cake.

LISIEUX ANAND ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL

GLORIA 2019

The annual day of the nursery, LKG and UKG students was held on 22 December 2019 which was named "GLORIA." The chief guest of the programme was Rev. Fr Augustine Chittuparambil, the newly appointed Education Secretary of the eparchy. The little stars rocked



the stage with a variety of Christmas programme. In fact, the gathering appreciated the talents and performance of the little ones.

SEMINAR AND CAREER GUIDANCE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

The School Management organized a career guidance orientation class for class X and XII students on 08/02/2020. The programme was presided over by Mr Balaguru IAS, CEO of Panna. He guided the students how to handle the exam anxieties and to prepare for Civil Service Exams. The resource person had given us chance for enlightening interaction with him. The Upper Collector gave new insights and clarified their doubts with apt examples and incidents from his own life. It was really a wonderful opportunity for us to come in contact with an enthusiastic and exemplary person.





PRAYER AND BLESSING

A day was set apart for prayer and blessing for the Class X and XII students. The Holy Qurbana was offered for the students in St Joseph's Church, Panna by Rev. Fr Antony Pullan. The intention of the Holy Qurbana was to invoke God's blessings for the success in the upcoming board ex-



aminations of the children. Every one participated in the Holy Qurbana very attentively. The entire staff too took part in *Pooja Balidhan* wholeheartedly. Fr Antony Pullan explained the meaning of the Holy Qurbana and interceded to God to grant their wishes and prayers during the Holy Eucharistic celebration. It was really a new experience for the children. Each student was given blessings individually by Fr Manager, Sr Principal and Teachers at the end of the Holy Qurbana. All Teachers stood in row in the church to give them blessings which were really a touching experience for the students. All were distributed *laddu* as '*prasad*' at the end of *Puja Balidhan*.

FAREWELL TO CLASS XII STUDENTS

The School Management along with the students of Class XI arranged a farewell programme which was christened as "**Cheerio- Bash**". It took place on 15/02/2020. There were a lot of cultural programme besides interesting games to entertain the outgoing students. Fr Manager and Sr Principal spoke on this occasion.



At the end of the programme, the outgoing students were served delicious food. Some of Class XII students shared their experiences, danced and joined joyfully with everyone.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

The School Management distributed prizes, awards and certificates to the winners for the scholastic year of 2019-20. Awards of excellence



are also given away to the students who performed well in studies.

MANAGER'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Lisieux Anand family celebrated Father Manager's birthday with immense joy. There was a colorful programme organized at the school level. Father cut the cake which enhanced the beauty of the day.



LISIEUX ANAND HINDI MEDIUM SCHOOL

Lisieux Anandans returned to school feeling fresher and lively in the winter. As we all know education and competition are the two universal ingredients of all human cultures. Lisieux Anandans are very much enthusiastic and bagged a number of prizes in inter house and inter-school, cultural, literary, sports and games. Rev. Fr Antony, the manager and Rev. Sr Celine SABS, the principal gave away the prizes in the month of January. The Principal congratulated their efforts and advised them to accept victory with dignity and defeat with humility.

This year it was the term of Hindi Medium School to host the Christmas programme. On 23 December we celebrated Christmas in the school in which Dr. Gunjan Malviya was the guest of honor. Fr Manager gave the Christmas message stressing that Jesus Christ is the light of the world and He came to the world for the entire world so that He is the God everyone.

On 31 January the Principal's Day was celebrated in a wonderful way because it was the Feast Day and Birthday of Sr Celine. This time





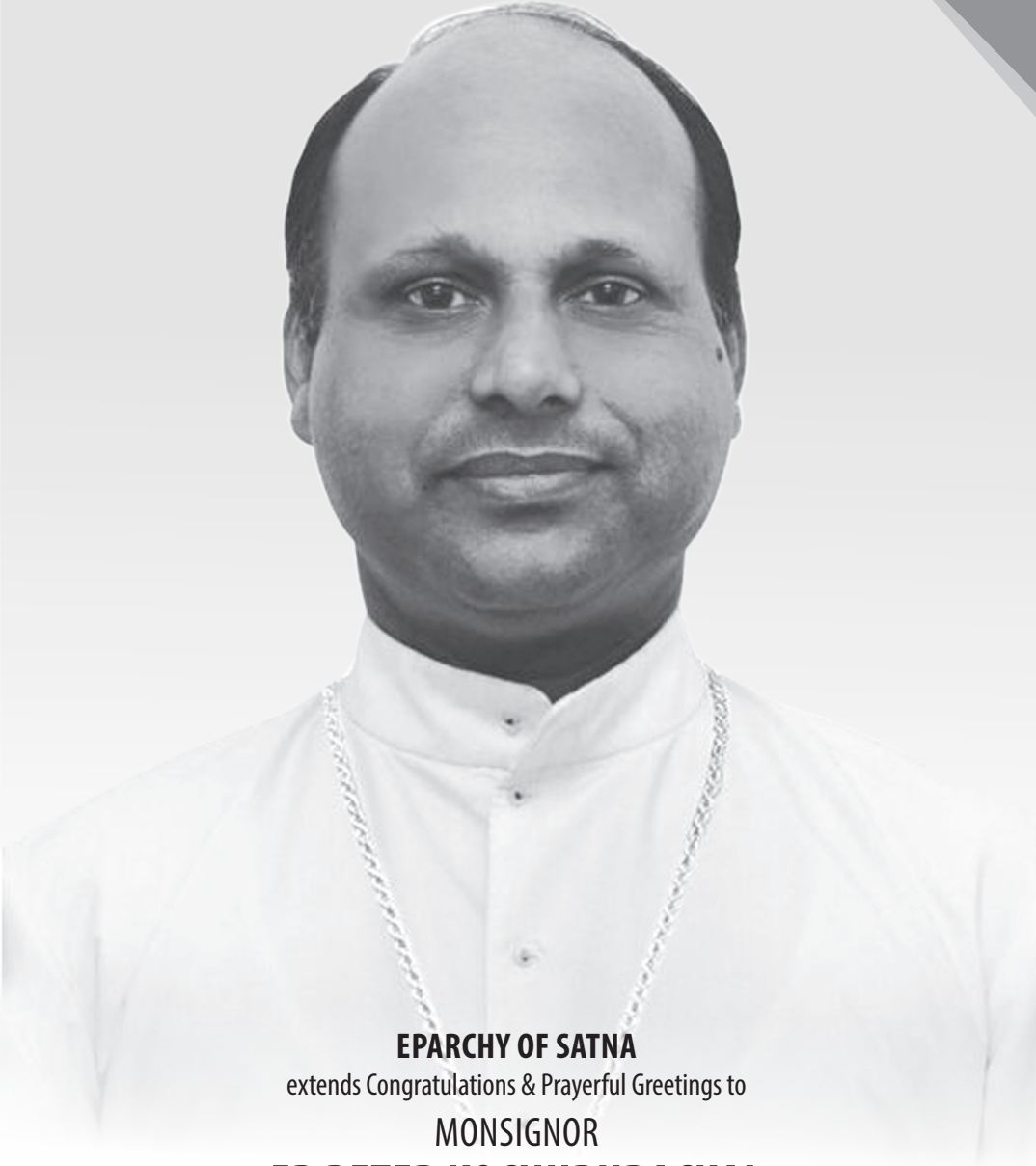
Lisieux Anandans witnessed a fabulous February because on 15 February for the first time there was Holy Eucharist offered for the students of Class X and XII who appear for Board Examinations. It was indeed a day of showers of blessings from God and teachers. It was a heart touching event for the staff and students. The day was filled with spiritual power packed with enormous blessings that flowed into tears of peace and joy. Everybody in one voice thanked our Manager Rev. Fr Antony for arranging the day to enable the students to score good victory and to face the examinations without fear and anxiety.

The evening of 22 February was an ever-memorable time for the outgoing students because our students of class XI prepared a touching farewell program to honor their seniors. The theme of the day was "Fly High." The chief guest of the day was Rev. Fr Cyriac Pulliyampallil. He delivered a beautiful message to the outgoing students. In his speech he highlighted continuous hard work as the prime duty of a student to come out in flying colors. A variety of cultural programs were held in which everybody appreciated the slide show "Fly High". Fr Antony, the Manager extended his paternal blessing to students and encouraged them to use their talents for a good future. Speaking on the occasion the Principal, Rev. Sr Celine exhorted them to "fly high" as an eagle and dream daily about their fine future. Amazing games followed by grant refreshment as the curtain lowered gently.

Manager's day was celebrated with variety of programmes. It was a colorful day for the school.

The Lisieux Anand Hr. Sec. School family raises our hearts to thank and praise our God and we wish all the best for all the students for the fast approaching exam.





EPARCHY OF SATNA

extends Congratulations & Prayerful Greetings to

MONSIGNOR

FR PETER KOCHUPURACKAL

the **Auxiliary Bishop** of the diocese of
Palakkad.



GLIMPSE FROM SATNA

● Sr Beena SH ●

The 70th Anniversary of the adoption of our Constitution was celebrated as the Constitution Day on November 26, 2019. A special morning assembly was conducted on the significance of the Constitution Day. The guiding values mentioned in the Preamble were explained. The pledge of the Preamble to the Constitution was read out and all the students and teachers reaffirmed their commitment to the Indian Constitution by taking the pledge.

The Annual Sports Meet was organized on 07 December 2019 and Rev. Fr Cyriac Puliampallil, the Chancellor of the Eparchy was the chief guest of the ceremony. In his message he motivated the students to develop sportsman-spirit and camaraderie. The day was filled with exciting victories and near misses for all the Houses.



After the events for the students, the staff members also participated enthusiastically in the events scheduled for them.

We celebrated Christmas on 21 December 2019 with great fervour and devotion. The entire school vibrated with the echoes of Christmas carols. Rev. Fr Mathew Tharakunnel was the chief guest of the day. The students of primary classes enthralled the audience with their spectacular performances and made the day memorable. The significance of the festival was explained through the Christmas Dance Drama.



The Republic Day was celebrated in all its solemnity and grandeur on 26 January 2020. Rev. Fr Davis Joseph, the Manager of our school addressed the students in a thought provoking speech and reminded



everyone to be a true citizen of our Country. Students performed colourful cultural items based on patriotic themes. This was followed by the Prize Distribution Ceremony which has always been an inherent part of the Republic day Celebrations. Rev. Fr Davis Joseph gave away the prizes to the students of class XII and class X for their excellent performance in various subjects.



Annual prize distribution was conducted on 30 January 2020. Prizes were distributed to the meritorious students by the school Manager and the Principal.



Filled with curiosity and zeal, teachers and students of class XI gathered on 08 February 2020 to bid farewell to the outgoing class XII Batch. The day was a fiesta devoted to the years spent together with friends and teachers as well as to reminiscent joyous moments. Neha Acchara and Shashwat Mishra were awarded as Miss CJS and Master CJS respectively of 2019-20. Rev. Fr Davis Joseph, our Manager gave an inspiring and enriching message on the occasion.



GLIMPSE FROM SINGRAULI

● Fr Joseph Varickamackal ●

BLESSING DAY

"May the good Lord bless and keep you whether near or far away ..."
Blessing Day of class XII was celebrated on 03 February 2020. The outgoing students and their parents were welcomed with *Tilak* followed by prayer dance, welcome song along with various other colourful



program. A melodious farewell song was also sung by the teachers. The students of class XII were given memento and badges as a token of love by Rev. Fr Joseph and Rev. Sr Sajana. Class XII students shared their experiences at Christ Jyoti and indeed it was an emotional moment. Heart touching message was delivered by the Manager to the students of class XII. Parents and teachers blessed the students for their bright and successful future.



CHURCH FEAST

We celebrated the church feast on 09 February 2020. His Excellency Bishop Joseph Kodakallil was the main celebrant. On the same day we inaugurated the Golden Jubilee of our Parish and celebrated Silver Jubilee of Sr Sajana.



GOLDEN JUBILEE INAUGURATION

The Golden Jubilee of Christ Jyoti School Singrauli was solemnly inaugurated on 10 February 2020. The school was started in 1971. Christ Jyoti School has grown and now stands tall and proud. The chief guest of the day was His Excellency Mar Joseph Kodakallil, the President of Satna Diocesan Society. Rev. Fr Joseph, the Manager of the school wel-





comed the Bishop with a bouquet. The Bishop inaugurated the Golden Jubilee by lighting the Jubilee candle. In his address, the Bishop extended jubilee greetings to the management, staff and students of Christ Jyoti School and underlined the importance of qualities of honesty, truthfulness and commitment in the life of the staff and students.

The students of the school were enriched with the importance of the day by bringing to their attention that a journey of thousand miles begins with a single step. CJS had a simple but great past. It has crossed several tidings to reach to the present status. At this juncture, the school gratefully remembered the former Managers who rendered their valuable services, namely Rev. Frs John Kavunkal VC, Varghese Chakkumkuzhy VC, Varghese Vandanakara VC, Zacharias Paranilam VC, John Punnilil VC, Varghese Naickomparambil VC, Jose Parayaruthottam VC, Joseph Muthuplakal, George Mangalapilly, Thomas Thelakkat, Mathew Thottakkara, and Augustine Chittuparambil. The Principals who nurtured this plant from the stage of a tiny seedling were Rev. Srs Beena, Annes, Rosie, Symbrose, Jaisy, Prabha, Rasanto and Pavana. At present we have 1898 students, 60 teaching staff and 11 non teaching staff. Students from nursery to class XII are the beauty of the school.

GLIMPSE FROM TIKAMGARH

● Fr Erosiyan Ekka ●

ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM

Road safety awareness program was held on 08 January 2020 by the police department of Tikamgarh. It was conducted in the Hindi Medium Pushpa School for the students from classes VIII to X. In this modern era people are using different types of high speed vehicles for daily transportation and hence ensuring the observance of rules and regulations of the road safety is important and applicable to both the one who drives and the one who walks on the road. The police department of Tikamgarh took keen interest to make the students aware that life of the people is very precious.

The drivers should always make sure that they drive safely respecting the others and the life of others. The Police department elucidated that while driving the use of helmets and seat belts highly reduces the number of casualties in case of accidents. For a practical around 20 stu-



dents were taken to the Hospital Junction to observe those who violate the traffic rules and stop them and thereafter make them aware that traffic rules and use of helmets are very important. The students of the Pushpa School were happy and did their level best to instruct the people to follow the rules and regulations while driving.

SPORTS DAY

It is one of the largest co-curricular activities that offers an extensive opportunity to all the students to enhance the social interaction and to test their physical capacity. Physical education is an important and an integral part of the total education system.

It helps the students to attain the ultimate goal of education which is an achievement of the holistic development.

Together with the intellectual knowledge sports and games occupy a vital role in the life of a student. It is obvious that a student does hard work to be successful in the examinations. But he also should play



games and sports to enjoy good health and vigor of life. Taking these principles into consideration, the annual sports day for the primary, middle and high school sections was held on 31 January 2020.

Mr Abhijeet Singh, the Deputy Collector of Tikamgarh was invited to be the chief guest of the day. He was escorted to the stage with the school band, thereafter a march past and cultural events. In his message he emphasized that education is not only intellectual learning but also engagement in extra-curricular activities like sports and games. According to him, education is incomplete without sports and games. A number of competitions were held and the students actively encouraged the participants with a good team spirit.





ONE DAY SEMINAR FOR STUDENTS

Observing the current situation of the world, on 20 January 2020, one day seminar was arranged for the students on the topics of child harassment, sexuality and child abuse. The program began with the lighting of the lamp. Rev. Sr Albin, the Principal of Hindi medium welcomed the resource person. Rev. Fr Cherian gave a brief introduction about the resource person, Rev. Fr Johnson from Jhansi diocese. With his rich wisdom and knowledge about child harassment, Fr Johnson could explain clearly and make the students aware of what is happening at present with children. Giving a lot of real examples of child abuse he threw deep insights about child harassment. The students were very much interested to listen to him because many of the students were not aware of such relevant topics. The students appreciated the seminar and proposed to conduct such programme often in the school.

FAREWELL GATHERING

A touching farewell was arranged in Pushpa School ground in the cool morning of 13 February 2020 with the warmth of





outpouring of God's abundant blessings upon our outgoing students.

The event began with a prayer in the Little Flower Church led by the Principal interceding God's grace for their future life and for the success in further studies. Thereafter all the outgoing students lit their candle in front of Mother Mary with their personal intentions. On this gracious occasion the students of class IX conducted beautiful cultural programme including singing, dancing, comedy shows in order to honour and to entertain the outgoing students. Some of the outgoing students spoke about their joyful memories in the school and they were so touching and heartwarming.



Rev. Fr Cherian invoking God's special blessings gave a profound message to the outgoing students encouraging them to work hard and pursue their studies for a bright future. There was a delicious lunch and memorable gifts arranged by the students of class IX.

GLIMPSE FROM WAIDHAN

• Sr Lisa SABS •

CELEBRATIONS AND FUNCTIONS

Techno Zone (Arts & Science Exhibition) was conducted in St. Joseph's Hr. Sec. School on 14 December. It was inaugurated by Mr Rishi Pawan, SDM of Waidhan and blessed by Rev. Fr Dennis. It was an expe-





rience of amazement for students and they learnt many lessons like team work, co-operation, mutual adjustment and inculcated curiosity to learn new things.

Christmas day was celebrated very solemnly in the school as a family event. We distributed Christmas *Prasad* 'cake' to all the parents and students on the contact day and on 21st we had Christmas lunch with all the teaching and non-teaching staff.

23rd January was the appreciation day. All those who scored above 90% in the academic year 2018-19 were honoured along with their parents. It was really an encouragement for the parents as well as the students.

Republic day was solemnly celebrated with patriotic zeal and enthusiasm. Rev. Fr Dennis was the Chief Guest of the day who unfurled the flag and gave an inspirational patriotic message to the students and to all who gathered on the occasion.



VISITATION

On 10 December 2019. Bishop Mar Joseph Kodakallil made a short visit to us.

IN MADA ADVENTURE PARK

A different day with the helping staff was arranged on 05 March. It was a wonderful day with our helping staff with lots of amusements, fun, game, sharing and so on.

ADIEU

The St. Joseph family gave a blessed goodbye to class XII students. There was a family gathering with some cultural programs; staff and students of High school and Hr. Sec. Students participated in it. It was concluded with a prayer session and blessing ceremony. It was a memorable event for all.



BIBLE CONVENTION

Almost all the parishioners along with Rev. Fr Dennis and Sisters attended the retreat in Ogdady on 01 March 2020.



CSN GENERAL TEAM



CONGRATULATIONS.....

Rev. Sr Terecine
who is elected as the
Superior General of
the Congregation of
Sisters of Nazareth



Counsellors:

**Rev. Sr Grace Maria CSN, Rev. Sr Gladys CSN
Rev. Sr Pushpa CSN, Rev. Sr Divya CSN, Rev. Sr Alphin CSN**



CSN CHRIST JYOTI PROVINCE



CONGRATULATIONS.....

Rev. Sr Lata CSN

who is elected as the Provincial of the Christ Jyoti Province of Congregation of Sisters of Nazareth.



Provincial Team

**Sr Saly Jose CSN, Sr Tracy CSN, Sr Geetha CSN,
Sr Reji CSN, Sr Moncy CSN**



The Satna Samachar

DIOCESE OF SATNA

Mar Joseph Kodakallil
Bishop of Satna



Bishop's House
P. B. No. 22
Satna - 485 001
M.P., India

Prot. No. 81/2020

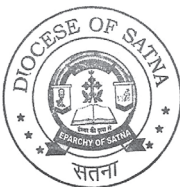
02 May 2020

NOTICE

This is to notify that Father Cherian (Roshy) Kadakkarappally, a Priest ascribed to the Eparchy of Satna is deposed from clerical state as per provisions of CCEO 1453:2 with immediate effect. Hence he is forbidden to exercise priestly ministry in any Diocese or place.

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Mar Joseph Kodakallil
Bishop of Satna



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Fr. Cyriac Paliyampallil
Chancellor



FIRST ODGADY BIBLE CONVENTION 2020





FIRST ODGADY BIBLE CONVENTION 2020



Bishop's House

P.B. No. 22, Rewa Road, Satna - 485 001, Madhyapradesh

Ph: 07672 - 224167, Fax: 07672 - 400454

Web: www.satnadiocese.org, E-mail: satnadiocese@gmail.com