



SHEPHERD'S VOICE

FOLLOWING THE STAR

We are just concluding the festival season and the winter is setting down. We have learnt to follow the star with the wise men, and to adore the Master with the simplicity of the shepherds. If the lowly shepherds were the first recipients of the "Good News" of the birth of the Shepherd of the world, it is a sure indication of God's option for the marginalized and the people at the periphery. The shepherds wasted no time to rush to the scene of nativity witnessed the historical event and thereupon became missionaries. It calls us and reminds us that the synodal Church's priority is to bring those in the periphery to the mainstream.

The Magi, who spotted the extraordinary star, dared to follow without the help of Global Posting System. They were guided by the Scripture and the Creation, unmindful of the fourth king, who stayed in his palace, fuming and plotting to annihilate his probable 'rival'. As Holy Father Pope Francis says, "Like the Magi, every person has two great 'books' which provide the signs to guide this pilgrimage: the book of creation and the book of Sacred Scripture. What is important is that we are attentive, alert, and listen to God who always speaks to us." It is very true, as Elizabeth Barrett Browning puts it, "Earth's crammed with heaven, and every common bush afire with God, But only he who sees takes off his shoes; the rest sit round and pluck blackberries". It is, therefore, of

paramount importance to keep following the star, creation, and the Scripture in order to find the Saviour. At this juncture we recall that for the last two years our special attention was on prayer and study of the documents of Vatican II; and now we are at the Jubilee Year 2025, focusing on hope. Celebrating this historic blending events, we are, freed from despair, determined to be people of hope.



How can we ever forego the invitation of the star to move forward on the untrodden path, persevering in hope, knowing well that "Hope does not put us into shame" (Rom. 5:5)? After all, the incarnation is the fruit of what the fathers, prophets and the people of God for ages waited and hoped for, clinging on to the promise of Yahweh. We shall ever be proud of this legacy of hope. With the

transforming experience of the retreats and spiritual exercises in 2024 our diocese has begun the Jubilee Year 2025 with a big bang and we are to make use of the God-given opportunity for a total spiritual renewal. So, let this Jubilee Year be one of blessing to all, and let us be a beacon of hope to each other.

I thank all of you for your support and encouragement in our mission. Let the **NEW YEAR** be for you one of good health, prosperity, coupled with opportunities for success and goodness. Blessings!

+James Shekhar

WEAVING

Though the Christmas edition of *Sone Ganga* could not emerge at the expected time, its vibrations of Christmas as well as New Year greetings must have been felt by all the readers. Going through the reports of the last three months of 2024, one is liable to exclaim in Hindi, "Anth bhala, to sub bhala" (Everything that ends well is good). Now that we are already into the New Year, the saying goes, "Well begun, half done".

Buxar and Koath schools made use of the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti for cleanliness drive. The themes chosen by Piro school for the its Annual Day as "Earth Is Our True Home", Kochas and SMS Buxar as "Vasudeva Kudimpam" (The World Is A Family) speak volumes on inclusive. Influencing the tender minds to plant more trees and say 'No' to plastic as done by Dumraon school; and Deeya and Rangawli making as part of Diwali celebration by Jagdishpur school will help to foster communion, shunning exclusivism. Reports also show that the holidays were well used to organize retreats, seminars and training programmes. October being the month of rosary, this year too the Marian devotion had its role for the spiritual boost with common rosary in the parishes.

The month of November being dedicated to remember those who have gone before us, reports of adhering to the traditional practice of Mass on the 2nd have come in. If nobody thought of celebrating Constitution Day, the ICMS in Kochas did that. How? The reports herein speak of all that, not to mention the training programmes for the villagers. Happily the LCC has created some ripples! BUDSSS is sustaining the efforts to be a solace to the marginalized.

After the activity filled months of October and November, the diocese slowly slipped into the Advent season and then to the Christmas celebrations. The reconciliation services and the carol singing were conducive enough to create an aura of love and peace. It looks like that the whole neighbourhood in thousands was waiting for the "Bada Din" (Big Day) to rush into the church campus seeking blessings from Baby Jesus, the line of devotees continuing till late at night. "We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage" (Mt. 2.2). Our preoccupation to touch the life of non-Christians and the less privileged brethren is precious flame to be fanned.

The deanery, youth and clergy retreats, recollections (village level at Piro), Kruz Veer rally and the spirit of sharing with the less privileged at Christmas provided a solid spiritual ground for the inauguration of the Jubilee Year 2025. The master plan drawn up by the diocesan team, led by the bishop, provides ample reason to hope for a grace filled Jubilee Year. A day (23/11), as per the Jubilee Calendar, is set aside for Khris Bhaktas (Catechumens) too. Pilgrimages to the Minor Basilica at Mokama and to the Cathedral Church, Buxar will certainly be sources of grace. Needless to say that the diocesan inauguration of the Jubilee Year could be the litmus test for the same.

If the reported and unreported activities in the diocese, creating a new horizon of listening and inclusion, have caught up with the spirit of Synod on Synodality, that has concluded without much specific conclusions, and have been motivated by "self giving and unconditional love of God" (Dilexit Nos – Encyclical), then the local Church has ample reasons to hope for the days to come as the Jubilee Year is ushered in. Our Shepherd's Voice, 'not to lose sight of the star of hope', is loud and clear. JA.

1. MAJOR EVENTS

Diocesan

Inauguration of Jubilee Year 2025: A large number of the faithful from the parishes gathered at Buxar



Cathedral Church early in the morning on 29 Dec. to participate in the historic event of the inauguration of the Jubilee Year 2025. Bishop James Shekhar, who meticulously planned the inauguration months in advance, led the celebration with the support of a diocesan Jubilee committee and parish-level organizers from the Cathedral Parish.

The ceremony was meticulously planned and executed by Bp. James Shekhar and Jubilee Committee supported by the local organizers. The ceremony began with an hour of adoration, followed by the hoisting of the Jubilee flag, the formal declaration and the recitation of Jubilee Prayer. The blessing of the specially carved wooden Jubilee cross, which was carried in a solemn procession and now erected in the Cathedral Church, added to the significance of the occasion. The event concluded with a Solemn Mass.

Cathedral Parish priest, Fr. Anand Kumar along with the parish community ensured the smooth execution of the event. Priests from across the diocese contributed responsibly, fulfilling their respective roles with dedication. The Cathedral Church is to serve as a pilgrim centre. The whole diocesan event has set the tone for a year of grace, renewal and celebration for the faithful.

Bhojpur Deanery Retreat: The Bhojpur Dean, Fr. Francis Palli SJ organized a three-day deanery level retreat on 21-24 Nov. at Dumraon. It was led by Fr. Satya SJ and his team from *Fatima Susamachar Kendra*, Patna.

It was heartening to see the devotion of the retreatants, more than thousand in number from 8 parishes and especially the enthusiasm of our young diocesan priests. It is true that 'great things happen when God mixes with man'.

The Eucharistic procession, celebrating the feast of Christ the King was the icing on the cake. The peaceful long winding serpentine Rally along the busy streets of Dumraon, invoking the Eucharistic Lord's blessings of peace, prosperity and unity for the town, while loudly acclaiming Jesus as the Lord and King, will ever remain etched in our memories.

Fr. Francis Palli, Dean of Bhojpur

Marriage Preparation Course: The Diocesan Family Commission, headed by Fr. Charles Isaac (V. G.) arranged the much sought after marriage preparation course from 6 to 10 November at Sewa Dham. The twenty participants guided by the resource parsons benefited much from the programme. It will definitely help these young men and women to negotiate with the challenges of marriage life in years ahead.

Annual Youth Retreat: The Diocesan Annual Youth Retreat took place from the 15th to the 17th of November 2024, bringing together 60 enthusiastic youth from various parishes. The theme for this



spiritual gathering was "Anubhav" (Experience), which focused on fostering a deep connection with God's love.

The retreat was led by the dynamic preacher Mr. Ajin Joseph, who inspired and enlightened the youth on the transformative power of God's Love, Confession, and the Holy Spirit. His sessions resonated deeply with participants, providing them with spiritual nourishment and an opportunity to experience the divine presence in a profound way. The participants expressed immense gratitude for this enriching spiritual journey.

This retreat not only rejuvenated the spiritual lives of the youth but also strengthened their faith, leaving them motivated to live as true witnesses of Christ.

Fr. Jitender Kumar
Youth director, Buxar Diocese

Priests' Recollection: On 12th of December the priests of Buxar Diocese had their recollection, guided by Fr. Richard D'souza SJ.

Rohtas Deanery Retreat: The Rohtas Deanery hosted its annual retreat and Marian pilgrimage on 7 and 8 December, uniting clergy, religious, and laity, above 700 in number, for spiritual renewal. The event attended by many priests, religious and lay faithful was inaugurated by Fr. Binoy Thomas, the Dean of Rohtas.



The retreat, held at St. John's Church, Durgawati, featured inspiring talks by Frs. Ranjit IMS, Vikas, and IMS. On 7 December the Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Archbishop Emeritus William D'Souza, SJ. Eucharistic procession in the church campus followed.

The feast day Mass on 8 December was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Charles, Vicar General. Special thanks to Fr. Pritam IMS, the PP and his team guided by Fr. Dean. Many participants reported spiritual renewal and blessings through this meaningful event.

Annual Krus Veer Rally:

The diocesan level Annual Krus Veer Rally took place from 3rd to 5th November 2024 at the Cathedral Church, Buxar. Fr. Charlie, the VG inaugurated the same by hoisting the Krus Veer flag. Its theme was "Let the Children Come to Me" (Mk 10:14). This year the



event consisted of a retreat which was led by Mr. Rohit Sharma from Chattisgarh. On the second day we had Krus Veer Rally, followed by the Eucharist celebrated by our Bishop, James Shekhar. Two hundred Krus Veer children participated in the program.

Fr. Susai Raj

LCC: Inter School Competition for classes V-VIII was organized by LCC, Bhojpur on Nov. 30 for three events: Quiz, Speech (English and Hindi) and Folk Dance. Twelve Schools participated. CMS students stood First

in Hindi Speech and 2nd in Quiz. Student of St. Xavier's, Ara Yashwasini secured 2nd Prize in English Speech in this competition while dance was awarded to the SMS, Buxar. Leading the event from front was the LCC Bhojpur President, Fr. Anand, supported by his team members and the SMS ICSE, Buxar who ensured a smooth conduct of the event in their maiden attempt.

2. PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

Amolia

Youth: Our parish was honored to send Uttam Kumar, our parish boy for the regional level Bible Mahotsav, held from 10th to 12th October at Navjoti Niketan, Patna. Eight youths from the parish actively participated in the youth retreat at Buxar held from 15th to 17th Nov,

Christmas: Our Christmas celebrations started with carol singing in the villages, spreading Christmas messages, 'Crib' making by the parish youth, Christmas get-together with the school, domestic staff and the hostel children, besides reaching out to our Hindu friends and the government officials, sharing our Christmas joy with them, were the main highlights at Amolia.. At the Christmas Vigil Mass, our church was packed with people from far away villages. They all were filled with joy like the shepherds seeing Baby Jesus, Mother Mary and Joseph in the Crib.

Fr. Alwin

Piro

Mission Mela/Fete: Fund raising was aimed at in organizing Mission Mela on the 27th of October at Piro. After the solemn Eucharistic celebration, *mela* was conducted in the school premises, in collaboration with all the organizations in the parish. There were 6 games stalls, 7 food stalls, a religious articles stall along with lucky draw and trampoline. Along with the parishineors, school children also participated with full enthusiasm. In lucky draw, winners received bicycle, bag, casserole, bed sheets and clothes. The event that started after the Mission Sunday Mass lasted till 2:30 pm. A decent amount was saved as surplus, which has been handed over for the purpose of Mission Sunday.

Marriage Rectification: Six couples were catechized, initiated into Christian faith and finally incorporated into the Christian community fully, through the ceremony of marriage rectification. The Jubilee Year, being a time of mercy, is attracting people from different backgrounds, to experience the joy and intimacy of God in their lives.

Christmas: Regular confessions, carols and village masses preceded the actual celebration of Christmas this year too. The committed efforts by the youth are highly appreciated. A day of recollection organized in Rajeyan village was well attended by the people. Nisha Didi from Jagdishpur helped the people in their preparation, while Fr. Lourdu and Fr. Anil were present for the sacrament of reconciliation. The greater number of participation of the people in the vigil and Christmas masses added greater joy in our hearts. The Christmas fete mood remained colourful throughout the day. Sharing the Christmas joy, 50 desperately poor, mostly widows and differently-abled, were identified and were given of a blanket each and a sack of grains as Christmas gift. Their face reflected the true Christmas joy.

Fr. Anil

Ara

Christmas: The parishioners were delighted and passionate in decorating the campus and church. They prepared the crib and the youth went around all the Christian families singing carols led by Bro. Siluvainathan SJ. The Vigil Mass was followed by cake cutting, dance, and carol singing till late night. Parishioners came in big numbers for the midnight Eucharistic celebration. After the liturgy everyone participated in singing and dancing around the bonfire. Fr. Kootinal SJ offered the Mass on 1 January and delivered a beautiful homily.

MAGIS – 2024: After the *Diwali* celebrations in the schools both the campuses were decked up with a lot of theme decorations for the mega event MAGIS – 2024, ARA. All the arrangements show-cased the best in Ara youth and their immense potential. The three days of fun and frolic, singing and dancing mixed with learning and interaction among the Catholic youth from different dioceses of Bihar, numbering about 250 of them, were highly appreciated by the youth themselves. They went back energized and empowered, joy writ large on their faces. The devotion with which they prepared and participated in the Eucharist each day, led by Bp. James Shekhar, Fr. Provincial, Vimal Kishore SJ and Fr. Bosco SJ indicated their commitment and faith. The Rosary Procession, with lighted candles carrying the statue of Our Lady, on the penultimate day helped to deepen their Marian devotion. Br. Siluvai, SJ definitely deserve a pat on his back for the way he involved the youth and got their whole hearted support in the planning and execution of this mega event. Kudos to Fr. Antony Prakash, SJ the Youth Commission Chair and his team for the way they mingled with the youth to inspire and guide them to

bring out the best in them. An event that will be written in golden letters in the history of Ara Parish, for sure!

Fr. Francis Pali, SJ

Buxar

Christmas: It was a big occasion at Christmas to assemble the youth and the parishioners to proclaim the message of God being with us in the villages through carol singing. On 25th during the day there was an in-flaw of visitors and curious onlookers to the campus. The parish members stayed around the campus to distribute *Prasad*, communicate the message and to manage the crowd. The security personnel were equally on board with us and stayed the whole day ensuring peace and harmony.

We can definitely say that Child Jesus, the Prince of peace was the reason and source behind those who allowed things to go peacefully. Hail the Emmanuel!

Jagdishpur

Christmas: While the parishioners, sisters and teachers went for the carol singing in different villages from 16th to 23rd December, Christmas in the school was celebrated on 21st of December. After an impressive Christmas play, cakes were distributed among the students. They were very happy as Santa distributed sweets to them. After sending the students, teachers exchanged wishes and gifts to their Christmas friends. Refreshment was given to the teachers and all staff members.

Sr. Daniya, Cfmss

3. EDUCATION & POSTOLATE

St. Mary's (CISCE), Buxar

Activities: We celebrated *Gandhi Jayanti* with a cleanliness drive involving Class 8, 9, and 10 students, who participated in a procession, raised slogans, and cleaned the school premises. On 19th Oct. a Rhymes Recitation, Solo Song Competition, and Duet Song Competition were held. The second School Management Committee meeting also took place on the same day, discussing plans and current activities. From October 24th to 30th, the 3rd Unit Test was conducted.

Annual Day: The Annual Day celebration for Grades 3-10 was held on 15th December, blending cultural



performances, academic achievements, and inspiring moments with the theme *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. The event began with a warm welcome to guests by Fr. Anand Kumar, the Secretary of the School. The Principal, Fr. Dominic Amalan in his Annual Report highlighted the school's accomplishments and its focus on holistic education. Awards were presented to the best parents and the best Students, recognizing excellence in academics and co-curricular activities. The new book authored by Fr. Dominic was unveiled on the occasion. Students showcased their talents through dances, skits, and musical performances, earning applause from the audience. The grand event left everyone feeling inspired and proud – yet another successful year for the school!

Annual Sports Meet: It was all fun and cheer when the event of School Sports Day for classes LKG to 2 arrived on 20 Dec. the featured various fun activities like sack races, obstacle races, and a parent-child relay, showcasing teamwork and energy. Its highlight was the parent-child relay race, which added extra excitement. The meet overall promoted physical fitness, perseverance, and sportsmanship among the students.

Twin Birth Days: The pre-Christmas days in the school were marked with an artistically prepared crib and festive mood elevated by the beautiful decorations. The anticipated celebration of the birth of Jesus consisted of prayer, Christmas carols and a nativity play performed by junior students. Christmas carnival featured games, treats and a modern Santa Claus making a joyous appearance on the car. Fr. Anand, the secretary of the school whose birthday also was simultaneously celebrated with cultural programmes, while thanking the school community, delivered an impressive Christmas message. The event ended with a joyful dance, sharing of Christmas gifts and a sumptuous meal, leaving everyone in high spirits.

Fr. Dominic Amalan

Mount Carmel, Koath

Vibrant School Activities: On the occasion of **Gandhi Jayanti** fancy dress competition for classes I to V and a cleanliness drive was launched. On 26th of October, celebrating **Diwali**, Rangoli making competition was organized. The 11th of November brought us joy, as on that day the approval of our school registration for three years was granted. Celebrating **Children's Day**, on 14th of November a prayer service was conducted and a small cultural program presented by the teachers. Thereafter, children along with their teachers enjoyed a day of picnic in the campus.

The theme of the **Annual Day** celebrated on 14th of December was “**Equality Has No Gender.**” The Chief Guest, our Bp. James Shekhar, attending the function for the first time was specially felicitated. The hard work and cooperation of the teachers and students came in for appreciation by one and all. **Celebrating Christmas** on 20th of Dec. along with the staff and the students the Christmas message was conveyed to the students through a skit presented by the teachers. The secretary of the school, Fr. Francis too gave an inspiring Christmas message.

Kochas

Annual Day: St. Joseph Catholic School celebrated its Annual Day on 29th Nov. with the theme, “*Vasudeva Kutumbakam*”, emphasizing the importance of unity, harmony, and global citizenship. Cultural programs, including music, dance, and art performances,



showcased the students' talents and creativity. Students' academic achievements were recognized by the prize distribution ceremony. The highlight of the event was a captivating drama presentation titled "The World is A Family." It conveyed a powerful message about the paramount importance of preserving nature, upholding relationships, and promoting a world without religious differences and violence. The drama emphasized the importance of breaking down barriers and embracing diversity to create a more inclusive and compassionate world.

The chief guest, Bp. James Shekhar commended the students for their outstanding performances. He invited everyone to live in harmony with one another and preserve the environment by minimizing the use of plastic, electricity and water. The Annual Day celebrations facilitated promotion of the values of *Vasudeva Kutumbakam*, inspiring the students to become responsible global citizens.

Sr. Sarita, Cfmss

Piro

Teachers' Seminar: A two-day seminar on Teaching Methodology and New Education Policy was organized for the teachers of Pushpa High School on 29th and 30th of October. Mr. Deep, faculty from St. Xavier's college of Education, Patna was the resource

person. He helped the teachers with many skills for effective teaching and also guided them for incorporating many systems and methods in order to meet the requirements of NEP. Demo methods, role plays and presentations were used along with teaching in order to impart knowledge and skills effectively.

Annual Sports Day: The Annual Sports Day on the theme, “Earth is our true home”, was organized on the 20th of December. The Piro SDM, Mr. Anil Kumar was the chief guest, while Fr. Charles Isaac Sah, the VG of the Diocese was the guest of honour. Thirty two sports items were performed and winners were awarded in a highly systematic program. Needless to say that all present were well appreciative of the program and the school.

Fr. Anil

Dumraon

Annual Day: The highlight of the Annual Day celebration in St. Joseph's Girls High School on 21st December was the Hindi Drama on the theme “*BADON KA SAMMAN EVAM SEWA MANAV KA DHARM*” which touched the hearts of the audience. The English



Medium students performed equally well their items, conveying the messages such as 'plant more trees', 'say no to plastic', 'save water', and 'save life'.

Bp. James Shekhar was appreciative of the efforts of the management, teachers and students. The guest of honor, Mr. Rakesh Kumar SDM, Dumraon was very much pleased with the discipline and performance of the students. The audience fell in line with prolonged applause.

Sr. Karuna, CJ

Jagdishpur

Annual Day: James Shekhar, our Bishop was the Chief Guest and SDO and SDPO of Jagdishpur Block the Guests of Honour for the Annual Day celebrations of the School Day on 23 Nov. More than 800 students participated in the same. **Dharohar** – Our Heritage, Our Pride was the theme and the school presented with excellence the whole culture of India.

School Inspection: Fr. Binoy, the Diocesan Education



Director visited our school on 28th & 29th Oct. for the inspection of the school.

Diwali and Chatt Puja: On the occasion of Diwali and Chatt festivals several competitions, such as Diya and Rangoli making and notice board decoration, were organized on 30 Oct. It was a useful forum for the students to exhibit their creativity and skills.

Children's Day: Celebrating Children's Day on 14 Nov. in the school premises the teachers conducted the school assembly and then entertained the children by songs and dances. After a prayer, tributes were paid to our first Prime Minister, *Chacha* Nehru. The children enjoyed the program and also the sweets and gifts received. An Inter-house football match was organized on 31 Dec. towards Championship 2024-2025.

Sr. Daniya, Cfms

ARA

Christmas Celebrations: The students of CHS and CMS presented on 21 Dec. a spectacular Christmas program featuring Christmas carols and dances. On the same day in St. Xavier's they had an inter-religious prayer service to mark the occasion. Mr. Sudhama Prasad, MP of Arrah was the Chief Guest for the programme. On that day, Ara Jesuit Community invited all the teaching and non-teaching staff of all the three units for Christmas gathering. There was carol singing by the teachers of all the three schools and Christmas gifts distributed to all.

Annual Day: In December Catholic Middle School had its Annual Sports Day celebration. The students put up an excellent and exciting show. Catholic Higher Secondary School organized its Annual Prize Distribution Day on December 20th. The feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of St. Xavier's school, was celebrated on December 3 with much solemnity. A special assembly was organized to honor the saint.

Affiliation: The provisional affiliation for St. Xaviers arrived as a Christmas gift on the eve of Christmas, marking a time of celebration and jubilation. The community solidly supported the Principal in securing this affiliation. Special thanks go to Fr. Peter Arokiasamy SJ, whose efforts in obtaining the NOC for our school ensured that we could apply for the affiliation on time without facing significant difficulties.

Amolia

On 26th October, St. Mary's School, Amolia, celebrated its **Annual Sports Day** competition for the students. It was an enthusiastic moment for all the school



children and the management committee that they wholeheartedly participated in it.

Fr. Alwin

4. SOCIAL APOSTOLATE

BUDSSS

Training: A residential leader's training was held for 30 women support group leaders in Buxar on 7th and 8th October 2024. The DKA Austria project, a social development project, emphasized women's rights and income-generating activities. The training



covered topics like women's rights, wage discrimination, and small-scale business opportunities, highlighting the importance of equal pay and benefits.

Meeting: On 13th November 2024, a one-day in-person meeting was held with school management communities to discuss improved Mid Day Meal. The objective is to develop the marginalized *Musahar* communities with the government's support schemes for these children.

Childrens' Day: The Kindermissionswerk project, run by Shahabad Parish Society Buxar, with study centers for children in 20 villages celebrated Childrens' Day. The celebration included a rally, cultural program, quiz, and drawing competitions, with prizes distributed to the participants. Over 575 students from all study centers participated, and parents were benevolent enough to extend their support.

A residential special class for 150 children from 20

villages was held at Sewa Dham, Buxar from 22nd to 26th October 2024. The event was graced by Bishop, James Shekhar and other guests. The children's session continued with the discussion on the importance of education.

Fr. Manoj Kumar, Director, BUDSSS

Pragati, Kochas

Indian Constitution: Celebrating November as the month of our Indian Constitution, the ICM Sisters at Pragati, Kochas, celebrated it by taking out Constitution Rally to Mahadalit Tolas of 22 villages.



The programme lasted from 15th to 29th November. The awareness on the Fundamental Rights enshrined in our constitution was given through Street Play, "Our Constitution and our Rights". The 6 fundamental Rights were depicted with different scenes based on their issues: 1. Right to Equality 2. Right to Freedom 3. Right Against Exploitation 4. Right to Freedom of Religion 5. Cultural and Educational Rights 6. Right to Constitutional Remedies.

The whole campaign was effective making people participate and bring awareness on their situations and the remedies that our constitution provides.

Christmas: On 24th Dec. we celebrated Christmas with our neighbors, staff and collaborators. There were 150 children, women and men to whom a message of Peace in our present disturbed world was given. Our non-Christian mission collaborators too shared their messages on the life of Jesus and Christianity as a religion which promotes equality and serves the most disadvantage groups.

Pragati, ICM Sisters, Kochas

5. VARIA

- Bro. Basant, hailing from Tamil Nadu has joined Buxar Diocese for "come and see" programme, not period. Presently he is placed at Belaon Parish.

Visitors who graced our Diocese

- On 23rd of October Congregation of SMI Sisters' General, Sr. Jane Nadackal, Assistant General, Sr. Daisy Andrade and the Provincial of Delhi Province, Sr. Stancy Vettickamalayil
- On 13th of November Patna Jesuit Provincial Fr. Vimal, SJ
- 9th December, Holy Spirit Sisters: Sr. Bindhu-Provincial, Vilma Noronha- Ex Provincial, Sr. Vimala- Counsellor

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME

January

- 02 Planning for Jubilee Year
- 04 AGM Education
- 11-12 Pastoral Visit Koath
- 14 Online meeting with Agency
- 15 Mass at Holy Spirit Convent
- 16 Migrants Commission
- 17 Education Council
- 23-24 Mokama
- 27- CCBI Bhuvneshwar

February

- 05 Return from Bhuvneshwar
- 09 Ordination
- 11-12 Manos Unidas
- 15 Mass for ICM Sisters
- 20-22 Superior General SHJ
- 28 Dumka

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February

- 11 Fr. Habil (Rosarian)
- 28 Fr. Albert Abraham, SJ

March

- 07 Fr. Augustin Fernandes, Cap
- 14 Fr. Ferndinand Tigga
- 19 Fr. Susai Raj
- 29 Fr. Milagres Periera
- 29 Fr. Edward Dundung
- 30 Fr. Alwin Varuvel

April

- 07 Fr. Vikas Nayak
- 25 Fr. Dominic Amalan

STOP PRESS

SG condoles the death of Fr. Sebastian Puthenpura (93) of the Archdiocese of Patna, who went to his heavenly abode in the morning of 6 Jan 2025. Bp. James with a few priests and religious from the diocese of Buxar joined Fr. Sebastian's twelve family members at the Mass and funeral at Kurji parish on the following day. The diocese of Buxar owes much to Fr. Sebastian, whose missionary efforts in the places like Sasaram, Dumraon and Itarhi have laid the foundation for what we are in today. If he was on his feet till the last week of his life, it is a clear proof of his disciplined and ascetic life – a role model for the new generation on priestly faithfulness, spirituality and availability to administer Sacraments. It is said that he breathed his last, reciting the prayer, "Soul of Christ....", **RIP.**