



सोन-SONE-GANGA वाता

BUXAR DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER



April-June. 2025 (Bishop's House, Nai Bazar, Buxar, Bihar-802101, INDIA) www.buxardiocese.com, Vol. XXNo.II



SHEPHERD'S VOICE

BEING A GOOD STEWARD

All of us are heading towards the sure and certain final moment in our terrestrial sojourn. However, the details of the factors circumventing that crucial moment elude us. "At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come" (Mt. 24:44). St. Paul would say, "The day of the Lord will come like a thief at night" (I Thes. 5:2). Hence, Jesus himself has invited us through the parable of the Ten Virgins to stay awake with oil in the lamp to face the crucial moment. The sudden deaths in a plane crash or in a war, and the 'untimely' demise of those close to us, like Fr. John Bosco S.J. (RIP) keep reminding us that every moment has the potency to be the final one of our journey. The question is, am I prepared to meet the Son of Man at any moment. Am I able to repeat the words of St. Paul, "The time of my departure is at hand. I have completed well. I have finished the race; I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:7)? If so, the FINALE will be a blend of peace and bliss, rendering meaning to "RIP" against our name!

How do I determine if I am wise enough to have sufficient oil to keep my lamp burning for welcoming the bridegroom? The reality check can be done only in reference to our Creator, who caused our existence with a definite plan. People like Prophet Jeremiah, who delved deep into this mystery, heard God say, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you I appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jer. 1:5). Through the parable of 'Talents', Jesus shed much light on our mission of faithful service and diligence in using our gifts to glorify God, as a good steward, ready with full accountability. St. Ignatius of Loyola has the same litmus test in the motto of the Society: AMDG (Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam – For the Greater Glory of God). That is to say, *human being is created to praise, reverence and serve God, our Lord and by this means to save his/her soul*. Here by we are confronted with the fusion of the horizontal and the vertical, which made St. Irenaeus to say, "Gloria Dei, homo vivens – Glory of God is human being fully alive". Therefore, referring to the scenario of the Last Judgment, Jesus has said in unequivocal terms, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me" (Mt. 25:40). It is a glaring reality in Jesus' life.

As there was no dearth of predictions on the mission of the Messiah, Jesus himself must have left no stones

untaken to discern his own identity, to declare, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Lk. 4:21). The clear consciousness and urgency of his mission was reflected in his whole being and doing. "He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives....." (Lk. 4:18-19). Thus, one cannot but see the meticulous planning of Jesus' mission, qualified by St. Luke as the journey to Jerusalem, the place of the summit and fulfillment of the messianic vision and mission as leading people to God, his Father. He did so by being the Suffering Servant sent to reveal the Father's love for humanity not only by his life, preaching, healing, but also most of all by his suffering and death. In his priestly prayer (Jn. 17) he made it clear that his entire life was dedicated to making the name of God known, so that people could come to know the Father.

Today we have been entrusted with the task of following the footsteps of Jesus, carrying the redemptive cross. At the finishing point of our journey, the path we are in will determine our destiny. Hence, what matters is faithfulness to our mission, focusing on our contribution towards the enhancement of God's Kingdom, experiencing the sanctifying effect of the cross and the suffering involved. Fidelity with unwavering perseverance till the last moment is the ultimate criterion of the success of our pilgrimage on this planet. Jesus' prayer, "Holy be your name; your kingdom come" is our prayer too.

Our own death and life thereafter, being wrapped in absolute uncertainties, we are called upon to be wise enough as shrewd and good stewards, ever ready to welcome the inevitable. There exists a "big chasm" between us and those who, with the act of death, have gone before us, transcending time and space. Remember, the final words of Jesus were, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit". How prepared am I for this ultimate act of surrender? Unable to claim absolute faithfulness in our mission, our only HOPE is in the merciful love of God, into whose hands Jesus has submitted us. It is our strong hope that God, who shares our hope and dreams, will never fail us. The Son of God, missioned to save us, knows the way and is the way, has gone before us to prepare our reward (Jo. 14:3). We live in the freedom Christ's finished work, ever ready to say, "IT IS FINISHED" (Telelestai – Greek).

+ James Shekhar

WEAVING

The last issue of SG carried tearful farewells to Pope Francis and two priests and now this one contains shock waves with the sudden demise of **Fr. John Bosco SJ**. Fr. F. Palli SJ, the Superior of Ara has powerfully expressed the unexpressed emotions of the bereaved. Bp. James Shekhar must have picked up the undercurrents to formulate the very pertinent Shepherd's Voice, which is likely to prompt one to write one's own epitaph! "Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning."

Despite the inevitable fact of missing those who are no more with us, our life journey goes on. Hence, we were eagerly waiting to see the white smoke and the declaration, "Habemus Papam" and it happened on the 8th of May. If the last issue shed tears of sorrow, the momentum is maintained, as reports have come in from the parishes, including the Cathedral parish. This issue, however, sheds tears of joy, welcoming the new Pope, **Leo XIV**. If we were blessed with Jesuit and Franciscan spirituality in Pope Francis, now we are blessed with Augustinian spirituality. Pope Leo has recently quoted St. Augustine, "Our heart is restless, unless it rests in you" (Confessions I: 1, 1). In the midst of the Jubilee celebration, bishops also were able to have their own in Holy Land. A report of the same is provided by our Shepherd who was

part of it along with archbishops, William D'Souza and Sebastian Kallupura.

The extracurricular activities and celebration of important events, as reported by many schools, go to vouch for the dedication of the staff and the students as well for the holistic formation of the students, we are entrusted with. As if **permanent ICSE affiliation to St. Mary's English Medium School, Buxar**, was not enough, the school's upgradation to ISC affiliation also has come through.

The social activists engaged in empowering the marginalized have their own stories to narrate. Can we lend our ears?

The Formation Commission has certainly taken seriously the words of Jesus "The harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few." Otherwise would we have more than a dozen candidates to priesthood this year? As we pray for more vocations, we will have to also pray for more committed and persevering laborers in the vineyard.

The summer winds seem to have swept away a few personnel, including principals, from our diocese, but have brought in fresh ones. Hence, deep gratitude and warm welcome have filled the air. "Showers of blessing ..."

JA.

1. MAJOR EVENTS!

Diocesan Pastoral Council 2025



The DPC 2025 met on the 10th of April in Amulya on the theme, "**Jubilee Year 2025: Focusing on the priority areas of Family, Youth and Environment**". A total of 87 members participated. While Fr. Anil Benet Cruz was the resource person for the theme, Family, Fr. Manoj Kumar was for Ecological Preservation and Fr. Susai Raj for Youth. Thereafter, three experts in the field, Fr. James Amakatt, Sr. Sneha CJ and Fr. Albert SJ. rendered their observation and ideas. The thought provoking inputs paved the way for further clarifications and sharing.

Given the context of Jubilee 2025, various aspects emerged in the group discussion held on the three themes: **Strengthening Catholic families** through family centered catechesis, promotion of Catholic marriages and witnessing communities; **Preserving environment** through green culture, No-plastic zone and eco-friendly life style; and **Promoting youth leadership** thorough skill development and job-oriented trainings.

Having resolved to be active collaborators of the Church, and being open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, participants expressed their hope for the future, in seeing a more participatory, sensitive and committed church with the focus on Catholic Family. With these deliberations, the meeting was concluded at 3:00 PM. Thereafter, Chrism Mass was celebrated in Amulya Mata church, solemnized by Bishop James Shekhar and all the priests present concelebrating. Praise and worship services by Fr. Kripal and team from Varanasi followed.

Fr. Anil Benet Cruz

Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Dravidson

On 6th February 2025, Bro. Dravidson was solemnly ordained as a Deacon by Most Rev. Elias Gonsalve of Nagpur. The Diocese of Buxar expresses its heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency, Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, for the kind service. Currently, Deacon Dravidson is pursuing further theological studies in Nagpur. He is expected to return to the diocese in December 2025 for his diaconate ministry.

Fr. Charles Isaac

Catechism Camp 2025

Jubilee year Summer Catechetical camp for class VII students was held from the 25th to the 31st of May



in Sewa Dham. Fighting the heat and sacrificing marriage season celebrations, 24 students from 6 parishes participated in the event. The children, assisted by Fr. Anil with 5 animators, had a variety of activities in order to deepen their knowledge on the sacraments, Bible and church teachings. Action songs, bible based games, competitions and group activities were some of the attractive ones. This year, being the jubilee year, children learnt the elements of Jubilee 2025, and also participated in the Jubilee renewal programs. It turned out to be an experiential and memorable event.

Fr. Anil

Requiem Mass for Pope Francis

At 10:00 am on 26th April, most of the priests and religious serving in the diocese assembled in the Cathedral Church to offer Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. Fr. Bhaskar Bojja delivered an inspiring homily, highlighting Pope Francis' holy life, marked by humility, compassion, and dedication to the Church and humanity.

Welcome to Buxar Diocese

This year 11 candidates for priesthood have been admitted to the diocese of Buxar- 8 of them hail from Odisha, 2 from UP and one from Itarhi parish. The hard labor of the "fishers of men" in the Formation Team, led by the VG, has paid dividends. Special thanks to Fr. Vikas, who took trouble to bring the 'big catch' from Odisha.

Seminarians' Status (2025-2026)

Theology

1. Dn. Dravidson - IV Year theology, Nagpur

Regents (1 year)

1. Sahaya Juhin, Belaon
2. Jackson Lugun, Shahpur
3. Arokia Vasant, Dumraon

Philosophy

1. Rahul Kumar - II Year, Nagpur
2. Premchand Kumar - II Year, Nagpur
3. John Paul - II Year, Ranchi
4. Biraj Lakra - I Year, Nagpur

Spiritual Orientation -Pratiksha, Jamshedpur

1. Jitesh
2. Bishal

Masih Gurukul, Minor Seminary, Varanasi

1. Bhakti Nayak
2. Nelson Digal
3. Vinsen Digal
4. Roshan Ranjit
5. Bablu Digal
6. Lusan Pradhan
7. Mosesh Baliar Singh
8. Simon Dandasena (from Odisha)

Minor Seminary, Chakkaram, Patna

1. Abhishek Kumar (Itarhi)
2. Deepu Bharti (UP)
3. Ayush Kumar (UP)

Fr. Charles Isaac

2. JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Bishops

'Convivence of the Bishops' was held from 22 to 28 April 2025 at The International Center "Domus



Galilaeae". It is located near the summit of the hill known as the mount of the Beatitudes, which rises quite rapidly almost 300 meters above sea level, in front of Capernaum and Tabgah, the place of the multiplication of loaves and fish, and about a Kilometer from the ruins of Korazim, on the so-called plateau of Korazim. 'Convivence of the Bishops' was organized by the 'Neo-catechumenal Way'. There were 250 participants including bishops and laity from five continents. There were

53 Bishops from India. 'Convivence' is living together and experiencing the lives of the early Christian community by walking in the footsteps of the Lord, having Eucharistic Celebrations at the Basilica of Annunciation at Nazareth, at the shore of the Lake of Galilee, the Sacrament of Reconciliation held at the ruins of Korazim, renewal of vows held at the Church of the Primacy of St Peter's. The Holy Eucharist celebrated on 27 April in the Upper Room in Jerusalem crowned the entire experience. The whole programme was sponsored by the Neo-catechumenal Way, through which they promote the Way of life and their spirituality in different parts of the world.

Children

The Kursveer and the Liturgy Committee of Buxar diocese, along with the *krusveer* animators from different parishes came together to conduct a 'Jubilee 2025' programme for the teenagers and children of the diocese. It started from 5th April evening and concluded on 6th April 2025 in the afternoon. Fr. Sebastian A., the Jubilee Coordinator of the Archdiocese of Patna was the resource person of the entire programme. The theme was 'Krusveer Tum Asha Ki Tirth Yatri Ho' (Krusveer, you are a pilgrim of hope). Bp. Shekhar, inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp. There were 235 children along with 25 animators and priests of the diocese present. They accompanied the children throughout their stay in Sewa Dham. After the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation and supper the participants had their grand cultural programme, every parish performing different cultural items. The motivation programme for the animators a month ago by Fr. Bhaskar certainly paved the way for the success of the event. The whole programme concluded with the Eucharistic Celebration by **Bp. James Shekhar**. As a memento of the occasion, participants received Jubilee souvenir rosaries given by Fr. Francis Quodros.

Fr. Alwin V.

Women Empowered for the Mission

A training program for members of *Mahila Sangh* was organized on 10-12 June, at Sewa Dham with the objective of building a strong and sustainable women's cell in each parish. As many as 12 women from seven parishes participated in the program. Sr. Lidwin Fernandes, the executive secretary of the CCBI commission for the women was the resource person. Thanks to Sr. Smitha SSH for organizing the event.

Sr. Smitha, SSH

3. PARISHES

Itarhi



On 13th May, the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima the newly constructed grotto of Our Lady of Fatima, replacing the old one, was blessed and inaugurated. A solemn High Mass at 7:00 am.

offered by Bp. James Shekhar marked the occasion. A rosary procession to the new Grotto followed. There, in the presence of Priests, sisters and all the faithful, Bp. James Shekhar blessed the new Grotto; and Fr. Davis Manipramben, the provincial of the Salesian Province of New Delhi, inaugurated it by cutting the ribbon. Besides the priests of Itarhi community all the priests from Sewa Dham were present on the occasion. People of Itarhi expressed their deep gratitude to Fr. Luke Poothrukayil O.S.H., Archdiocese of Kottayam, Kerala, through whose generous contribution the new grotto became a reality. May God always bless Fr. Luke in his Priestly ministry.

Jubilee Cross: On 28 May the Jubilee Cross of Bhojpur deanery was brought from Koath parish to Itarhi and placed in the church for public veneration. In the entire month of June, it was taken to each of the villages where Mass was celebrated and thereafter the cross was taken to all the families for veneration and blessing. People welcomed the Cross in their homes with great faith, love, reverence and devotion. On 2nd July the Jubilee Cross was handed over to Piro parish.

Fr. Kishore, SDB

Buxar

Catechism Camp in Nadaon Village

In an attempt to provide catechism to the village children the parish team arranged a summer catechetical camp on 4-9 June in the Holy Spirit Convent for the children of Nadaon village.

About 35 children, besides a few women catechumens were taught catechism, which included Bible stories, Mass prayers, saints' life story and hymns. Catechists Anuranjan, Indu, Sr. Cellina Sps and the parish priest, Fr. Anand took classes for them. The parish team was overjoyed with children's response and enthusiasm.

Catechism for the children from other villages and the marriage rectification programme could not be conducted due to extreme heat.

Durgawati

Family Renewal: The Sacred Heart sisters of Jeevan Jyoti province, Delhi, conducted a family renewal program in Durgawati parish from 24 May to 4 June. The first day consisted of awareness sessions followed by the Jericho Rosary in the evening with the parish priest.

The objective of the specific programme was to strengthen family bonds, foster spiritual growth and provide support for the families. Hence, the sisters visited each family, conducted prayers, provided counselling and shared the word of God, applying it to concrete life situations. As a result, there has been a marked improvement in the family life with better communication and bonding. It was certainly a faith journey for the participants who felt supported and connected within the church community.

We are grateful to the family ministry of Sacred Heart sisters and look forward to continuing this programme.

Fr. Ranjit, IMS

Piro

Homage to Pope Francis: On 27th April, the parishioners of Piro came together and paid homage to the beloved late Pope Francis, praying for the repose of his soul.

Mothers' Day: On May 11th Mother's Day was celebrated in the church, with all the women enthusiastically participating in the Mass and the follow up programs. While the women took part in various creative events in the liturgy, they contributed their mite to provide snacks for all present. The women were felicitated during a short programme soon after the Mass and gifted with special rosaries.

Celebrations in June:

The celebrations of the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost provided deep spiritual experience for the



faithful through confessions and charismatic prayers. On the 15th, celebrating the feast of Holy Trinity, 100 people from Piro and over 50 from Jagdishpur parish were given free copies of the full Bible by Hannah Didi, come all the way from Kerala for the purpose. Children received baptism

on the feast day of Corpus Christi. The solemnity of the Parish Day celebrations on the 29th of June, the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul was enhanced with the presence of our Bishop, celebrating the Eucharist, along with many priests and religious from other parishes. Cultural programmes and fellowship meal marked the conclusion of the celebrations. *Kudos* to the hard work of the parish team.

Fr. Anil

4. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/CELEBRATION

St. Joseph's, Kochas

Student Council: The first ever Student Council, elected on 5 April 2025, provides a platform for students to exercise their democratic rights, assuming leadership roles.

The investiture ceremony, held on 12 April, marked the formal induction of the newly elected student council members into their roles. The School Secretary, Fr. Binoy and Principal, Sr. Saritha, bestowed badges and sashes upon the leaders, who pledged to discharge their duties with dedication.

Farewell and Welcome: On May 23 the school bid a fond farewell to its beloved Principal, Sr. Sarita,



expressing deep gratitude for her dedicated service and transformative leadership. During her tenure, the school witnessed significant growth and development, and her legacy will continue to inspire the school community. On 23 June the school welcomed its new Principal, Sr. Naveena along with Sr. Deepika.

CBSE Board Examination Result: The school's first batch of students delivered an outstanding performance in the CBSE board examination, scoring impressive marks in various subjects. Notably, three students scored 100 marks in Computer Science, while one student scored 98 marks in English. The highest percentage scored was an impressive 95%. Proud moment for the young school!

Sr. Naveena, Cfmss

St. Xavier's School, Ara

International Labor Day: To mark the occasion of International Labor Day, a special assembly was held to honor the supporting staff. The teachers and

students organized a short cultural program and felicitated the staff with shawls and handmade cards as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

Mother's Day: The mothers of both teaching and non-teaching staff were invited and felicitated by the students, making it a memorable occasion for all.

Varia: Several other activities were conducted during this period, including the English Handwriting Competition, Spelling Bee Competition, English Elocution Competition, Solo Song Competition, and a Fancy Dress Competition for LKG and UKG students.

The school closed for the summer vacation from 26 May and reopened on 23 June.

The reopening, however, was overshadowed by the sudden and untimely demise of **Fr. John Bosco**, which came as a shock to the entire school community. Most of the students knew him well, having studied under him in middle school. A special assembly was conducted in his memory, during which a heartfelt tribute was paid, and two minutes of silence were observed. As a mark of respect, the school remained closed on the day of his funeral, 30 June.

Fr. Richard D'Souza SJ

St. Mary's School (ICSE), Buxar

A Milestone

On 27 May the school received the long awaited **Permanent ICSE Affiliation**. Soon after that on 13 June its **upgradation to ISC Affiliation** also came along, permitting the addition of Classes XI and XII. Thanks and congratulations to the Principal, Fr. Dominic Amalan on his tedious preparatory works. *Kudos!*

Heartfelt thanks!

A warm Farewell was organized on 28th June for **Sr. Lucia Tete, SSps, Vice Principal**, who completed three years of dedicated service. She was honored for her commitment; and in her address, she thanked the Marian Family for the love and support.

With the opening of the **Academic Year 2025–26** on 1 April, besides the usual activities and celebrations like Ambedkar Jayanti, new features provided a facelift to the institution. The grand **Inauguration** was preceded by a week of foundation classes. The **Nursery Section was launched** with a vibrant orientation session for both students as well as parents.

Class X ICSE results: All **67 students** passed, with 2 of them scoring 92%. During the **Maxtop Scholarship & Prize Distribution Ceremony**,

trophies and certificates were awarded to meritorious students, with one student receiving the top prize of Rs. 3,000 and other 5 students receiving Rs. 1,000 each.



In April students from Classes 1 to 10 participated in a **Yoga Session**, led by **Yogacharya Shri Dharmendraji**. In the same month the **Investiture Ceremony** of the newly elected student leaders took place. The Montessori section celebrated **Balloon Day** on 25th April.

After the celebration of **Labor Day**, recognizing the invaluable contribution of the school's support staff, the other features in the month of May were: A **Magic Show** by Mr. DK Bharat, **Marian Story Writing Competition** and **Marian Kidzone Summer Picnic**. On **23–30 May** 25 students attended an **NCC training camp** at Ramgarh. The Marian **Summer Skill Enhancement Program** was held on **23 May–09 June**, 58 students being trained in Dance, Athletics, Typing, French and Art. On 21st June, NCC cadets participated in the **International Yoga Day** under the guidance of the '**30 Bihar Battalion**'. Two students represented the school at the **ASISC Patna Zonal Level Painting and Creative Writing Competition**.

Fr. Dominic Amalan

5. SOCIAL WORK

BUDSSS

Exposure Programme: We organized a two-day exchange learning exposure for 13 project staff on May 19th and 20th, 2025. The program involved a tour from Sewa Dham Buxar to Sasaram, where the staff members of BUDSSS had an exposure to the activities of Navjeevan Development Center, New Area, Sasaram. The Director of Navjeevan, Sr. Asunta SND, introduced the program and its activities. Thereafter, the participants visited non-formal centers and project areas. The animator Khusbu Devi explained the teaching methods and how the center aimed at helping children from poor backgrounds to get admission to government schools.

The staff expressed positive feedback on the visit, stating that the program was fruitful and they had learned a lot.

Capacity Building Training: BUDSSS organized a two-day capacity building training for peace ambassador group leaders on 30-31 May. The Director of BUDSSS, addressed the trainees, highlighting the increasing unrest and decreased lovingness among people. Social worker Sunil Kumar Gupta spoke on 'Inclusive Society' as the need of the hour.

World Environment Day: On June 5, the BUDSSS



organized a plantation drive in Basudhar, Harpur, and Pithanpura to celebrate World Environment Day. A total of 150 plants were distributed among beneficiaries, and people pledged to take care of the plants and plant trees in the village.

'NO' to Child Labor: On 12th June, the World Day against Child Labor, BUDSSS organized awareness programme in project villages involving 150 students and village elders. Issues connected with child labor were addressed.

Residential Class: A five-day residential special class for deprived children organized by BUDSSS involved 80 students from eight project villages. The resource person, Mrs. Premsheela Devi, focused on personal hygiene, sustaining a clean environment. The children actively participated in the group work. Bp. James Shekhar too took time out to interact with the children. Special thanks to Apostolic Carmel sisters for encouraging children with beautiful action songs, snacks and study material.

Fr. Manoj Kumar

Pragati, ICM Sister's Desk

During the month of May & June, the Government organized Camps in all the *Mahadalit Tolas* to receive applications for 22 government schemes meant for the development of SC/ST. Therefore, *Pragati* was committed to make sure that the *Mahadalits* of our target areas get the benefits of these schemes. Hence, we had awareness meetings in each village on this and submitted the applications during the camps for the following: Indira Awas - 27, cooking gas cylinder (Ujwala) -8, solar street lights - 20, Nali Gali-10, Nal Jal-5, community hall- 12, three cents of land-108, birth certificates-146, elderly & widow pensions-5 and trio cycle (for disables)-2 etc. We are at it with the follow-up.



On the 5th of June we celebrated International Environment Day by planting 400 saplings in 21 *Mahdalit tolas*. After an instruction on the protection of the environment, plants were supplied to all those who asked

for and promise to care for them.

On the 9th June we had Interface Meeting between parents and headmasters of the government Primary Schools & CDPO (her representative was present) under Kochas Block. The women minced no words to express their grievances. They said that their children are deprived of quality education and face discrimination in the class and during mid-day meal. Lactating mothers and pregnant women are not getting due nutrition etc. Responding to the parents' genuine complaints, one of the HMs said "Since teachers are responsible for not providing quality education, you all should organize yourself and come to school and demand your rights".

ICM Sisters, Kochas

6. VARIA

Visitors

Fr. Hemant Minj OFM Cap. the Provincial and the councilors, Frs. Ranjit Toppo, Anil Kullu, Simon Murmu and Oswald Madtha were rendered a warm welcome to the diocese.

Birthday Wishes

August

08 Fr. Thomas Vettukattil
28 Fr. James Amakatt

September

11 Fr. Lourdu
14 Bro. Siluvainathan SJ
23 Bp. James Shekhar

October

06 Fr. Sylvester SJ
10 Fr. Jitender
12 Fr. Kishore SDB
26 Fr. Justin SDB
27 Fr. Anup SDB

OBITUARY

Fr. John Bosco SJ

Today our hearts are filled with deep sorrow and disbelief. It is hard to accept that Fr. Bosco is no longer among us. After his final visit to his dear Jesuit friends in different places during the summer vacation, suddenly on 25 June Fr. Bosco had to be



admitted in the ICU of the local hospital with breathlessness, excruciating pain and vomiting. As his condition deteriorated, he had to be shifted on the same day to Appollo Hospital, Patna. Bp. James accompanied by Fr. Palli went all the way to Patna to be at the side of Fr. Bosco. With multiple organ failure and a mild stroke, Fr. Bosco breathed his last at 7.00 pm on 27 June. On Sunday the 29th Bp. **James** offered memorial Mass for Fr. Bosco in the jam packed church at Ara. About 400 people from all walks of life from Ara joined a huge crowd of priests, religious, family members and well-wishers for the final adieu to Fr. Bosco at XTTL. Most of the priests along with many religious and laity from the diocese of Buxar joined the funeral on 30 June.

Fr. Bosco, who served as the beloved Principal of Catholic Middle School, Ara for the past nine years, was not just an administrator – he was a father, a guide and a true servant of God. His life was a model of simplicity, love and devotion. He was so humble that anyone could approach him freely. He was so loving that he found a place in every heart. He was so spiritual and dedicated that his life itself was an inspiration. He was so personal and warm that everyone felt Fr. Bosco was one's own.

His smile – yes, that Mona Lisa like mysterious smile- has been forever etched in our hearts. He was the most beloved teacher of his students. His words were always gentle, his presence always calm and gracious. He was an extraordinary person indeed! It is truly difficult for us to believe that our dear Fr. Bosco is no more with us. But we know that he has lived his life to its completion. He touched the lives of countless children and left an indelible mark on the hearts of teachers, bringing everyone closer to God.

Today, as we bid farewell, we shed tears; but we also thank God for the gift of the person of R. J. Bosco. May God grant him eternal peace. **Rest in peace, dear Fr. Bosco.** You will live forever in our hearts.

Fr. Francis Palli

Fr. John (Jogesh) Polachirayil has been excardinated from Buxar diocese and incardinated in the Syro Malabar Catholic Eparchy of Thuckalay, Tamilnadu. The diocese of Buxar remains ever grateful to Fr. Jogesh for his nine years of dedicated priestly ministry in the diocese.

POPE LEO XIV: AN INKLING

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost from USA was on 8 May 2025 elected, the first U S b o r n Pope) in the Church's history. He was born in Chicago on 14.9.1955 to parents of French descent. He served extensively in Peru as an Augustinian missionary, Prior General of Augustinian Order and



also Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. His Papal Motto, “**In illo uno unum**” (In the one Christ we are one.) reflects his commitment to unity within the local Church.

The combination of the following factors must have contributed to his election: Experience and leadership, theological experience, the right global perspective and being seen as a unifying figure. He is expected to continue the legacy of Pope Francis, while bringing his own unique vision to the papacy. His background and experiences may influence his approach to global issues, interfaith dialogue and pastoral care.

Former USA Ambassador to H. See, Francis Rooney: “Leo will be a “fantastic Pope, because he can communicate with people in a very clear but non-threatening way. He is not complicated, but he is super smart. He did a great job in running the Augustinian order”. Rooney knew him as Fr. Bob!

Programmes in the pipeline:

- ❖ 5 - 6 August, Diocesan Days
- ❖ 16 - 17 August, Jubilee for youth
- ❖ 07 Sept. Pilgrimage of the Mother of Perpetual help, Buxar
- ❖ 05 Oct. Jubilee for Teachers
- ❖ 19 - 24 October, Annual Retreat for the Diocesan Priests

Bishop's Engagements

July

- 08 BRBC Meeting
- 09 Mass at NJN
- 10 Meeting with Provincials of SND and OFM Cap
- 12 Priests' Council
- 23-24 Ranchi
- 25-27 Jubilee at Jamshedpur
- 28 Meeting with Provincial of AC
- 31 Feast Day Mass at Ara

August

- 04 Vianney Day Celebrations
- 5-6 Diocesan Days
- 17-18 Youth Jubilee

September

- 05 Feast Day Mass at MC Convent, Ara
- 07 Mass at Dumraon
- 13 HolyCross, Amulya
- 24-25 Chennai
- 27-2 Oct. CCBI National Women's Conference at Vailankanni