



Darjeeling-Nepal Jesuits



NO. 08

PRABHU JISU RESIDENCE, POST BOX 3, MATIGARA – 734 010, DT DARJEELING.

AUGUST 2026

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

AUGUST

- 01: Consult
- 02: Mass at PJG, Matigara
- 05-06: Gayaganga
- 07: KTM
- 08: Baniyatar
- 09-10: Visitation: St Xavier's, Maitighar
- 11-12: Visitation: St Xavier's, Godavari
- 14: GB at Rajganj
- 20: Singamari
- 21-22: Sadakbari
- 23: Maheshpur
- 24-26: Visitation: St Joseph's, Darjeeling
(College, Hayden Hall, Parish)
- 28-29: Meeting of those not gone for Tertianship
at Deonia

SEPTEMBER

- 01: Consult
- 05: Meeting of the Social commission
- 08: Final Vows
- 11-12: ToT for Shared Vision
- 15: Meeting with Socii
- 23: MC at HH
- 25-27: Visitation Kurseong
- 28-29: Superiors' Meeting

COMMON PROGRAMS

- 28 - 29 August: Accompaniment meeting with
Pre-tertianship group
- 28 - 29 September: Superiors' Meeting/Extended
Consult
- 15 - 16 October: Accompaniment meeting with
those awaiting Final Vows
- 20 November: Ordination

PROVINCE RETREAT

THEME: CONSTITUTIONS AND THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

- 16-24 October: At Woodcot, Kurseong
(Director: Fr R. C. Chacko)
- 4-12 December: At Inigo Bhavan, Matigara
(Director: Fr R. C. Chacko)

SHARED VISION

For our collaborators in our parishes:

- 23 August: Infant Jesus Parish, Gungaram
- 29 August: St Ignatius Parish, Baniyatar

For our collaborators in schools and colleges :

Shared Vision Training of Trainers for our schools and colleges will be conducted at Matigara from September 10 to 12, 2026. Teachers from 20 schools and 4 colleges will participate in the program. A total of 45 teachers have enrolled. Fr Shajumon and Fr Amrit will be the resource persons, besides Fr Kennedy and the Shared Vision team.

THE LAST MISSIONARY RETURNS TO CANADA...

WHEN GOD CLOSES ONE DOOR,
HE OPENS ANOTHER

AMRIT RAI SJ

"When God closes one door, He opens another." This saying proved remarkably true in the life of Fr. Michael James Parent, SJ. After serving in Tibet for nearly two decades, Fr. Mike returned to what was then the Darjeeling Province. However, due to visa complications, he was unable to continue his ministry there. The door to Darjeeling had closed, but God had opened another door – then the Nepal Region. Readily accepting this new mission, he arrived in Nepal on April 14, 2017, on a tourist visa and remained there until April 26, 2018. On April 27, 2018, he received his working visa. It was indeed God's way of opening a new door for him.

Fr. Mike, as we affectionately called him, was a gold mine of experience, wisdom, and missionary zeal. His virtues of simplicity, poverty, availability, obedience, and love for frontier missions were truly inspiring. Soon after arriving in Nepal, he asked whether he could be assigned to the Tipling Mission. Knowing the challenges of the mission and considering his age, I explained why Tipling might not be the most suitable place for him. His response revealed his heart: "From Tipling, I can get the smell of Tibet." Those words expressed how deeply he loved the frontier mission. Tipling is a remote village with very limited facilities. Yet Fr. Mike lived there joyfully and willingly, undertaking even the most ordinary and physically demanding tasks despite his age. His life there is an example worthy of emulation by our younger Jesuits. His greatest contribution was catechizing the faithful and teaching basic English to students in the local government school. He served in Tipling until Easter Sunday 2021.

In May 2021, he moved from the northern hills of Tipling to Deonia, Jhapa, in the eastern plains of Nepal. Many of us thought the intense heat of Jhapa would be too much for him. Once again, however, he surprised us. He said, "From Deonia, I get the smell of Gayaganga, India," where he had spent many years teaching.



Even in a new place, he found connections to the missions he loved. In Deonia, he served as Vice Superior and Counsellor. The staff and students continue to remember him with gratitude, especially for his compassionate counselling and gentle presence.

Perhaps the heat of Jhapa eventually persuaded him to move to Kathmandu. From April 2024 until May 17, 2026, he served as Vice Superior at Campion House and St. Xavier's College, Maitighar. Here too, he became known as a gifted counsellor. There was often a line of students waiting patiently outside his office, seeking his guidance, encouragement, and wisdom.

Among the Jesuits, Fr. Mike will be remembered as a loyal friend, a spiritual mentor, and an exemplary community man. Conversations with him were always enriching, both intellectually and spiritually. He had the rare ability to make one think deeply while remaining remarkably humble and approachable. I often told him, "If I live to your age, I hope I can grow old as gracefully as you have." He embodied discipline in every aspect of life. He was faithful to his daily physical exercise, punctual in community life, and deeply committed to his prayer and spiritual practices. His disciplined life was itself a silent witness to the Gospel.

One incident vividly illustrates Fr. Mike's missionary zeal. I once accompanied him to the Immigration Office for his visa interview. Before the officer began asking questions, Fr. Mike said, "If I return to Canada, I will be useless. Here I can still contribute." The immigration officer looked at both of us and replied, "In your schools, employees retire at the age of sixty. Father, you are eighty-two." He then paused. It was an anxious moment for both of us. After what seemed like a long silence, he continued, "Yet I will recommend that you be granted a visa because you still have the desire to contribute to society." That brief exchange perfectly captured Fr. Mike's lifelong passion for service.

When he turned eighty-three, obtaining a working visa became nearly impossible. Although he could still have remained in Nepal on a tourist visa, he did not wish to do so because he wanted to continue working and serving. Believing that he could still contribute meaningfully in Canada, he made the painful decision to return home.

On July 10, 2026, we bade farewell to Fr. Mike with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which he himself presided over, followed by a farewell dinner. We were grateful that Fr. Shajumon, our Provincial, was present to bid him farewell. The following day, July 11, 2026, Fr. Mike departed from Kathmandu.

His detachment from material possessions and even from personal attachments was deeply admirable. He left Kathmandu carrying only one small handbag. After his departure, he did not send messages or updates. The only communication we received was a photograph of the trees outside his room in Pickering. Such simplicity and freedom characterized his entire life.

Fr. Mike's life reminds us that the true missionary is not defined by comfort, age, or recognition, but by an unwavering willingness to go wherever God calls. When one door closed, he never looked back in disappointment. Instead, he joyfully walked through the new door that God opened, serving faithfully until the very end. For that witness, we remain profoundly grateful.

MIKE'S EARLY YEARS PRIOR TO LIFE IN NEPAL (FOR THOSE OF US WHO DO NOT KNOW ABOUT HIS EARLY LIFE)

PETER PAPPU SJ



Fr Mike Parent was missioned to Darjeeling in 1963 and on his arrival, spent a few months in Kurseong and moved to Gayaganga to learn Hindi; He did his Philosophy in Pune (1964-1966) followed by two years of regency (1966-68) in Gayaganga and a year at NP before going to Marquett University, Milwaukee, USA, for his graduation (1968-71). Mike returned to do his Theology at St Mary's College, Kurseong, (1971-73) and as a member of the last batch there, rendered his strong hands in the shifting of things from Kurseong to Delhi, and ended his theological studies in Delhi (1973-74). He was ordained on 8 June 1974 at Regis College, Toronto, Canada. Mike's life has always been simple, humble, passionate, practical, always joyful and available. His 52 years of priestly life (10 years in Gayaganga; 14 years in Kurseong; 19 years in Tibet; 9 years in Nepal) may not appear eventful but always adventurous, precious and priceless. He always enjoyed Jesuit companionship and that was the cross he carried while in Tibet, living alone for nearly 20 years, learning Tibetan and working for the blind people. I often remember his words, "The fellows in the community may be cranky, irritating and even troublesome but thank God, they are there!" Now you can share your experiences/stories, Mike, and continue to live with us in the mission.

The solemn celebration of the final vows of seven Jesuits: Frs Jose Ollukaran, Justin Bage, Dilip Kumar Toppo, Peter Chettri, Thomas Nedumparambil, Xavier Binay Kandulna, and Leo Alphonse Raj was held at Prabhu Jisu Girja, Matigara, on 31st July. The Eucharistic Celebration was led by Fr Shajumon, (Provincial) along with Rt Rev. Paul Simick, (Bishop of Bagdogra) and concelebrated by 70 plus priests. Religious sisters, Mission Partners, friends and relatives of those taking the vows, and parishioners filled the church.

Thanks to our ever-reliable musicians, Frs Kalyan Tirkey and Edward Arokiaraj for making the liturgy devotional and meaningful. The altar was beautifully and appropriately decorated for the triple celebrations (Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, Final Vows and the first anniversary of the unified Darjeeling-Nepal Jesuit Province) by the Sisters of Notre Dame. We are grateful to Fr Samuel Simick (Parish Priest) and his team of parishioners for their hard work in making all the arrangements, both within and outside the church. Credit goes to Frs K.J. Jose, Siby Joseph and Br Clarence for making all the arrangements for the delicious meals and comfortable accommodation.



The SJES South Asia Convention 2026, organized by the Jesuit Social and Ecology Secretariat (SJES), South Asia, and hosted by the Madurai Jesuit Province, was held from 15 to 17 July 2026 at Sacred Heart College (SHC), Shembaganur, with the theme "Our Role in Nation Building". The convention was attended by 111 delegates: 82 Jesuits and 29 Mission Partners including 9 women. The Darjeeling and Nepal Province was represented by Frs Shiju Mathew (Jesu Ashram), B. Rajasekaran, and Mr Bijoy Damean Gurung (Hayden Hall).

The inaugural session was attended by Fr. Stanislaus D'Souza SJ, President of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA); Fr. Thomas Amirtham SJ, Provincial of the Madurai Jesuit Province, and Mr. R. Sachithanantham, Hon. Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Dindigul, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest highlighted the importance of nation building through inclusive development, social responsibility, and collaborative efforts that uphold justice, human dignity, and sustainable progress.



Fr. Thomas Amirtham, SJ, Provincial of the Madurai Jesuit Province, welcomed the delegates and Fr Stanislaus D'Souza SJ, in his keynote address called upon participants to reimagine Jesuit Social Action in response to the rapidly changing realities of today's world. A thought-provoking session was presented by Dr. V. Suresh, Advocate and General Secretary of the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), on "Our Role in Nation Building: Current Context and Our Response." He challenged participants to respond creatively to India's contemporary socio-political realities by promoting constitutional values, human rights, social justice, ecological responsibility, and inclusive development.

One of the most inspiring moments of the convention was the sharing by Mission Partners, whose personal testimonies reflected the profound impact of the Jesuit mission in their lives. Their witness reminded everyone that Jesuit Social Action is not merely an institutional ministry but a shared vocation rooted in faith, justice, human dignity, and selfless service.

The convention concluded with a renewed commitment to reimagining Jesuit Social Action through deeper collaboration, strategic planning, and courageous engagement with contemporary realities.

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, PREMANJALI

ASHISH SOY SJ

Dr. Pavanbir Kaur is teaching communication skills to our pre-novices. They are learning both verbal and non-verbal communication skills, especially how to express themselves effectively through gestures, body language and interpersonal communication.



After a span of forty years Fr. Paul Champarathi visited Darjeeling and Kurseong and came back relaxed and renewed. He directed a six-day retreat for three FCC Sisters from 3 July. On 12 July the pre-novices visited the Anand Mela at Matigara, and had a glimpse of local culture.

During a football game, one of the pre-novices sustained a head injury, and another suffered leg injury, and both were rushed to the hospital. The regent and two other pre-novices donated blood for a religious sister admitted in Neotia hospital. Novena to St Ignatius started on 22nd July.

MANRESA JESUIT NOVITIATE

NOVICE WILSON KULLU

On 2 July, the first-year novices concluded their First Probation and Triduum under the guidance of Fr Xavier, the Novice Master. On the following day, the community celebrated the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle together with Cassock Day. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr Xavier, who, in his homily, reflected on the significance of the cassock as a visible sign of one's commitment, dedication, and readiness to serve God with humility and fidelity. Soon after breakfast, the community went to Gandhi Ashram School for a picnic. We express our sincere gratitude to Fr Santy Mathew for his warm hospitality.

After his retreat, in preparation for his final vows, Fr. Thomas, the Socius, returned to the community on 7 July. On 18 July, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was organised for the Novices. Fr. Xavier delivered an enriching talk on the theme, "Relying on God's Providence", inviting all to deepen their trust in God's loving guidance and care like St Ignatius.



The Manresa community joyfully celebrated the birthday of Fr Xavier on 20 July. The novices expressed their heartfelt gratitude for his dedicated guidance, spiritual accompaniment, and cheerful presence, which continue to inspire and strengthen our formation. On 22 July, we began the Novena to St. Ignatius of Loyola as part of our spiritual preparation for the celebration of his feast, seeking his intercession to deepen our commitment to the Jesuit vocation.

SITTONG-MANGPOO MISSION

PETER JONG LEPCHA SJ



Fr Peter Jong made his annual retreat from June 28 to 6 July, at Woodcot under the direction of Fr John Kennedy. On the 12th, faithful from Mangpoo-Sittong went on a pilgrimage to the Most Holy Name of Jesus Chapel in Matigara, where the relics of fifty saints are kept for veneration. Fr Shajumon offered the Mass and delivered a homily on the lives of the saints.

The school resumed classes on the 13th after the summer break. Fr Peter Jong and the teachers have been visiting the families of students for better accompaniment.

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA CHURCH, BANIYATAR

ARUL SELVAM SJ



Youth Recollection



Fr. Pankaj with the youth

Thirty-six parish youth participated in a one-day recollection at Godavari Ashram. The four participants who attended the Youth Retreat at Matigara, shared their inspiring experiences with the other parish youth, encouraging them to deepen their faith. We sincerely thank Sr. Lenita for accompanying the youth and Fr. George for arranging the food and accommodation.

The parish community was delighted to welcome Fr Pankaj Kerketta, who celebrated the Holy Mass on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. After the Mass, he spent some time interacting with the parish youth.

The Parish Priest continues to visit Catholic families and enthrone the image of the Sacred Heart. Each family prayed the novena before the installation, making it a meaningful occasion of faith and family prayer.

Bishop Stephen Lepcha DD came on his pastoral visit to St Mary's Parish, Kankebong, on 11–12 July 2026. The faithful joyfully welcomed their shepherd. The visit began with the Bishop celebrating the Holy Eucharist at Sumbuck, for all the three communities of Sisters of Notre Dame, on the occasion of the birthday of their Spiritual Mother, St Julie Billiart. He then reviewed the parochial registers at the presbytery.

On Sunday, after meeting with the Parish Priest to discuss the pastoral life and future mission of the parish, Bishop Stephen presided over the Eucharistic celebration at St Mary's Church, Kankebong. Before Mass he heard confessions, offering the faithful the opportunity to experience God's mercy. The parish community warmly felicitated their shepherd after the liturgy. The Bishop then travelled to Rimbick, one of the substations, where he celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the faithful who warmly welcomed him. His pastoral visit left the parish renewed in faith, strengthened in communion, and inspired to continue its mission with hope and joy.

TIPLING**PETER CHETTRI SJ**

The schools are closed for the monsoon holidays, giving the children the opportunity to help their parents in the farming activities. Special coaching classes were arranged for Classes 8 to 10 at Dongden Devi High School. Thanks to Messers Ashish and Abhishek, students of St Xavier's Campus, for taking the special classes. Rain or no rain, pastoral activities carry on. While Fr Peter along with some parents and youth went to assist the faithful in Linjo and visited Namsa, Fr Norbert along with Mr. Phalam visited the faithful at Somdang and offered Mass for the shepherds at Pangsang. Fr Peter left for Kathmandu to make his retreat and to prepare for his Final Vows.

July commenced with the Darjeeling Diocese Catholic Association (DDCA) meeting on 6th, bringing together Christian elders and lay leaders from across the Diocese for dialogue, collaboration, and renewal of their shared mission. On the 13th, Priests of the deanery gathered for the Clergy Recollection at St. Mary's Hill, Kurseong, where Fr T. B. George offered reflections on the stages of clerical life and the need to focus on "Now". A time of prayer, fraternity, and spiritual renewal concluded with a welcome to the two Jesuit deacons, Rajan and Reuell to the deanery.

The Parish youth continue to show up in good numbers, bearing witness to Christ beyond the campus walls through their regular visits to Eden Hospital, praying for the sick and accompanying them in hope. Daily fellowship meetings also remain a source of spiritual growth and unity. A friendly football match on 18 July between the brothers of JTMI and the parish youth concluded with a spirited victory for Sacred Heart youth.



Preparations for the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola began on 22 July with the novena centered around the theme "९ दिन, ९ शब्द" (Nine Days, Nine Words), drawing timeless virtues and life lessons from the spiritual journey of St. Ignatius and inviting the faithful to a deeper personal renewal.

The parish also rejoiced in the achievement of Mrs. Subeksha Chettri, who brought honour to the community by winning the titles "Icon of Bengal" and "Most Photogenic Face" in a prestigious beauty pageant held earlier this month.

A significant milestone in the life of the parish was marked on 27 July as Fr. Patrick Pradhan officially assumed the pastoral and spiritual responsibilities of the Christian Life Community (CLC-EA). We assure him of our prayers and sincerely thank Fr. John for his faithful stewardship.

The crowning celebration of the month was undoubtedly the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne on 26 July. Nearly 95 senior parishioners were lovingly felicitated with garlands and gifts in a heartwarming programme organised by the Holy Childhood Association, paying tribute to those whose lives have become the living roots from which the parish continues to flourish. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Pius Marcus, while the gathering was further blessed by the gracious presence of Fr. Joseph Pappadil, whose venerable years among the people lent a special dignity and warmth to the occasion.

JESU ASHRAM

SHIJU MATHEW SJ

On 5 July 2026, Jesu Ashram and Hayden Hall jointly organized a Free Medical Camp at Kheripara, Rajganj. The initiative brought much-needed healthcare services closer to the rural community and both the institutions had an enriching experience in the service of those most in need. The medical team consisted of Dr. Ramesh Anand, Dr. Samyukta Liu, Bro. Herman Anthony, Fr. Julius, Sr. Sanjita FC, nursing staff, students, and support personnel from Jesu Ashram, together with Fr. Rajasekaran, Sr. Racheal, nurses, and staff from Hayden Hall.

A total of 159 patients received free medical consultations, health assessments, blood glucose testing, medicines, and health education. Those requiring further investigations, hospitalization, or specialized care were referred to Jesu Ashram for continued treatment. The camp concluded at 1:30 p.m., followed by a fellowship meal at St. Xavier's College, Rajganj. The spirit of cooperation and mutual support made the camp a meaningful experience for everyone and demonstrated what can be achieved when institutions join hands for a common mission.

Another free medical camp was conducted at Infant Jesus Community Hall, Gungaram TE, on 12th July. Thanks to Dr. Ramesh Anand, Dr. Samyukta Liu, Scholastic Anup Minj, Sr Jeya, nursing students and support staff for their voluntary service. A total of 132 patients benefitted from this camp.

A staff meeting was held on 6 July 2026 under the leadership of Fr. Shiju Mathew, Director, to review the ongoing healthcare services, administrative responsibilities, and upcoming programs of Jesu Ashram. Jesu Ashram organized a Staff Training Program on 8 July 2026 as part of its commitment to continuous learning and quality patient care. The session was led by Dr. Samyukta Liu, who shared valuable insights on patient-centred care, effective communication, teamwork, and good healthcare practices.



Nutrition is an essential part of healing and healthy living, and Jesu Ashram continues to make it an important component of its community healthcare ministry. As part of our Nutrition Support Program 34 children received nutritious food kits on 18 July. Practical guidance was provided on making nutritious food choices using affordable and locally available ingredients.

The month also carried a special spiritual significance as we began the Novena, on 22nd July, in honour of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Through prayer, personal reflections, and shared experiences, we were invited to recognize God's presence in our patients, in our work, and in one another.

WOODCOT, KURSEONG

JOHN KENNEDY & PETER BHUJEL SJ

As part of the Substance Abuse Awareness Campaign about addiction and its complex dynamics and its negative consequences affecting individuals and their families, Fr Peter Bhujel had fruitful and interactive sessions for the following: 19 JTI seminarians and St Robert's School hostel boys in Darjeeling; 37 Hayden Hall ladies, DTH students and 3 Shantiniketan internship students in Darjeeling; and for students of classes 7 to 10 of St Joseph's school, Mungpoo. Besides counselling a few suffering alcoholics both offline and online, he continues to visit families and offer guidance and solace to suffering alcoholics. These meaningful encounters not only help create right awareness about Substance Abuse, but also give hope to suffering addicts.



- On 3rd July, Fr. Pascal, with his team, came to conduct a survey of the social works.
- On 4th July, the Kurseong CLC group had two days of recollection.
- A group of families come periodically for spiritual renewal and recollection.
- ASHA induction program for new ASHAs started from July 25th onwards.
- On 25th, our Regents had a monthly recollection on the theme "Conversion of St. Ignatius"

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAITIGHAR

AMRIT RAI SJ

July was packed with high-profile events, national achievements, and intensive academic growth across multiple departments. St. Xavier's proudly celebrated its 38th Foundation Anniversary on July 15, honoring nearly four decades of academic excellence. The Partnership in Education (PIE) Club marked its 22nd anniversary with cultural performances and community tributes. PIE is an outreach program that supports underprivileged children from neighboring government schools by providing tuition classes, with A Level and National Examination Board (NEB) students serving as volunteers. Academic Departments actively engaged students through targeted skill-building workshops, non-credit courses, and Media Talk Series, which featured Dr. Danielle Meuwly, Swiss Ambassador to Nepal, as the special guest.

Marking a historic milestone for both the college and the country, alumnus Saurya Shrestha (NEB Batch 2023) earned a Silver Medal at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 in Colombia—securing Nepal's best-ever result at the prestigious global competition. Further showcasing student talent, Rajarshi Adhikari and Nayan Bhandari (B.Sc. Physics) secured seed funding from the University Grants Commission (UGC) Nepal through the ESP Incubation Center.

Demonstrating its commitment to expanding educational horizons, the college signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kathmandu University School of Education (KUSOED) to foster research and innovation. Sustaining these dynamic activities was the introduction of the 2026/2027 academic theme, Cura Personalis (care for the whole person), highlighted by an original song written by Fr. Amrit Rai, S.J., to promote spiritual, mental, and physical harmony. Complementing this vision, Principal Fr. Dr. Augustine Thomas, S.J., shared reflections cautioning the community against six subtle "Leaks" - emotions, intellect, time, relationships, finances, and ethics - reminding students and faculty that lasting personal strength comes from safeguarding what matters most.

Campion House was delighted to host Mr. Martin and his daughter, Agatka, from Slovakia, whose visit was a true blessing to the community.



Workshop on Further Mathematics and its application in Physics



Media Talk Series



22nd Partnership in Education (PIE) Foundation Anniversary Celebration



SSH Community, Barh



Welcome Sr Arti

On July 4, the Arrupe Niwas Deonia Community made an overnight visit to the Siraha Mission. It was the first visit after the Siraha Mission became part of the Arrupe Niwas Community. The visit provided a welcome opportunity to spend time together and strengthen our bonds of fraternity.

Sr Arti Kumari, SSH, arrived on 20 July, accompanied by her previous community members from Barh, Bihar, to replace Sr Reema SSH, as a member of the teaching staff of St. Xavier's School, Siraha. As we bid farewell to Sr. Reema, we express our heartfelt gratitude for her four months of dedicated service and wish her God's abundant blessings in her next mission.

Classes are now in full flow, and the teachers are diligently preparing students for the First Term Examination, scheduled to begin on August 3. Having completed three years since its establishment, St. Xavier's School, Siraha, is gradually moving toward stability, although its resources remain limited.

We have received significantly more rainfall this year than in the previous four years. The rains have brought welcome relief from the intense summer heat, making the weather considerably more pleasant than in recent years.

The increased rainfall has also raised concerns about the condition of the western boundary wall, which has been weakened by soil erosion caused by the rains this year. Timely repairs and appropriate protective measures will be necessary to prevent further damage and ensure the safety of the school premises.

LOYOLA, UTTAR SALBARI

VALERIAN KUJUR SJ

During the months of June and July, our school and parish witnessed several significant events. On 27 June, a staff meeting was held to review the school's academic progress and discuss plans for the upcoming activities. The Inter-House Tournament Finals for the High School section, both boys and girls, took place on 3 July. Weekly Tests were conducted on 6 and 13 July. Parents-Teachers Meeting for Classes IX and X was organized on 11 July, providing opportunity for parents and teachers to interact for the holistic development of the students. Our school emerged as runners-up in the Subroto Cup Zonal Tournament, on 14 July. The Primary Section Inter-House Tournament Finals were held on 15 July.

On 19 July, Fr Pankaj visited our community and on the following day, interacted with the youth of the parish on the theme of Vocation. On 20 July, we began the Novena to St. Ignatius of Loyola as a spiritual preparation for the celebration of the feast day. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) met to deliberate on various pastoral initiatives and future parish activities.

ST XAVIER'S SCHOOL, JAWALAKHEL

LEO ALPHONSE RAJ SJ

On July 4, The Hiking Club organized a hike to Champadevi, Dakshinkali, for its club members. The hike provided the students an opportunity to explore nature, enjoy the outdoors and to develop a deeper appreciation for the environment. On July 10, the JS Principals' Meeting was held at St Mary's School in which the past activities were reviewed and the upcoming activities were discussed. The meeting brought together school principals, vice-principals and coordinators for discussion and collaboration on matters related to school leadership and administration.

On the same day, nine students accompanied by two teachers from the Netherlands visited the school for a cultural exchange programme. During their visit, they engaged in various activities and participated in friendly matches with students from SXJ. The programme provided the students, an opportunity to share their experiences and build friendships.

On July 11, a Parent-Teacher Meeting for Classes 7 and 8 was held. During the programme, School Counsellor Mr. Ram Hari Shrestha delivered a presentation on "Connection before Correction." The presentation was followed by an interaction between the parents and subject teachers.

Unit Tests were held from July 13 - 20, for the students of Classes 11 and 12; and from 16-24 for Classes 6-10 respectively.

The SXJ Alumni Association conducted the "Healthy Body, Healthy Mind" programme for students of Classes 1 through 5 from 20 to 24. The programme helped the young students develop healthy habits, understand and express their emotions, build positive relationships, and learn simple ways to care for their mental and physical well-being.

The school celebrated PI Day on 23 through activities related to the significance of the mathematical constant π and on 29, Guru Purnima, (a day dedicated to express students' respect and gratitude to teachers and mentors), respectively.

On July 31, the school celebrated St Ignatius Day and hosted the 3rd Fr. James E. Chambers Inter-School Table Tennis Tournament. The tournament provided an opportunity for students from different schools to demonstrate their sporting skills and compete in a spirit of healthy competition.

On 18th Fr Leo SJ went to Matigara to make his retreat in preparation for his final vows. The Novena to St Ignatius of Loyola is in progress from 22 July. On 25th the community members joined the birthday celebrations of Fr Juel at HRDRC.

On 27 June, 18 of our house captains and school captains, accompanied by three teachers, attended a one-day Leadership Orientation at Woodcot, Kurseong. The resource persons for the day were Dn. Reuell Paul, Frs Peter Bhujel, and Nicholas. Fr. Kennedy warmly welcomed the group and provided a delicious meal. Through his friendly approach and creative games, Dn. Reuell made his sessions highly interactive and impressive. Overall, the students thoroughly enjoyed all the sessions.

The school reopened on 10 July, and the first-semester results were distributed on the same day. While the top three students from each class were honored in the assembly the remaining students received their results from their respective class teachers in the presence of their parents.

On 19 July, a grand program was organized by the "Sanyukth Samaj" to felicitate two of our alumni for their remarkable achievements: Prerna Tamang, who successfully completed her MBBS, and Simran Gurung, who completed her Masters in Music with a Gold Medal. The Cinchona manager, local doctors from Mungpoo, and principals from various schools were invited to the event. In their speeches, the honorees spoke highly of the School's contribution to their success.



Fr. Peter Bhujel conducted an insightful seminar on substance abuse and its harmful effects for students of Classes 7 to 10. We extend our sincere thanks to Fr. Peter Bhujel for his voluntary initiative in conducting this seminar at St. Joseph's School, Mungpoo.

Our students won the Runner-up trophy in the Joraj Memorial Under-8 Football Tournament, organized by St Joseph's School, North Point. Biswas Sharma of Class 7 was awarded the Best Player trophy of the tournament. Currently, the students are preparing for the feast day celebration of St. Ignatius on 31st July, with the Loyola House taking the lead in planning and organizing the event.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, DEONIA

ARRUPE NIWAS CORRESPONDENT

The last of the Teachers' Professional Development Program was conducted on 19, 20, and 21 of July. The two resource persons from Kathmandu University conducted sessions on exam-free assessment and micro-teaching, followed by evaluation and monitoring of each participant's implementation of what they learned through TPDP in their classrooms. Teachers will now have to prepare a PPT of their learning and present it online to the evaluation team before they are eligible for certification. Activities of the month included the handwriting and drawing competition, the diyo daago making competition, the mental maths contest, and the plus two talent hunt competition. Since the first-term examinations are around the corner, revision for the same has begun.



Diyo Daago Making Competition



Juniors: Drawing Competition



Mental Maths Contestants



Winners with Trophies

Our community made an overnight visit to Siraha during the first weekend of July. Jiju, as the national chaplain of IMCS Nepal, attended the Global Chaplains and Animators Formation and Exchange Program 2026 (July 13- 19) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, organized by IMCS Pax Romana International. He was accompanied by Mr. Subbe Ghale, the Vice President of IMCS Nepal. Broney and Bipin both visited Siliguri for health-related issues. We got to celebrate Juel's birthday on the 15th since he was with us conducting data collection for his PhD thesis. Other visitors who stayed with us were the two resource persons from Kathmandu University.

ST VINCENT'S, HATIGHISA

VINCENT GEORGE SJ

Our youth celebrated the Parish Youth Day grandly on the feast of St Aloysius. Regular catechism classes for First Communion and Confirmation for children keep enlivening all. On July 26 our Parishioners celebrated the feast of St Ignatius. Fr Shajumon C, our Provincial, graced the occasion. 46 Children received First Holy Communion. On the 19th we brought the Diocesan Convention Cross from Panighatta Parish. Under the care and leadership of our Parish Youth the Cross is being venerated village-wise till August 16.

On 16th our footballers defeated Batasi High School and Khoribari High School and reached the Final of the Subroto Cup Naxalbari-Khoribari Zonal Tournament and lost to Nepali High School on 17 July. SVS brought home the Runner up Cup. SVS girls won Fr William Pinto Cup in Mailanijote, defeating St Mary's School, Gayaganga in the final. Our class 5 and below won Bro Anil Tirkey Memorial Trophy at St Joseph's, North Point, defeating St Peter's, gayaganga, in the final. Playing matches on a field with artificial grass was exciting for them!

On the 18th we gave Miss Ruku Mazumdar a befitting farewell. Her presence in the campus made a significant difference among our students.



Fr William Pinto Cup



Subroto Cup

After summer break school reopened on 1st July. On the same day, a new 125 KV Kirloskar generator was installed. While the school gave farewell to Fr. Sebastian and welcomed Fr. Lalit on 6 July, the priests and nuns of Damanpur did the same on 8 July. On 10 July, about 50 Alumni/ae gathered in the school for an input session on Alumni Association followed by a football match with current students. The highlight of the month was the 4th edition of SXS, Model United Nations (MUN)2026 with theme: 'Build to Change' which was inaugurated by Shri Mathias Lepcha (Alipurduar District Planning Officer). About 252 delegates from six schools besides SXS participated on 24 and 25 July. Chief guest Shri Manoj Tigga, Honourable Member of Parliament (MP), Alipurduar Constituency, gave away the awards for the best students.

In the community, Fr. Tej Kalyan enrolled himself for the B.Ed studies while Fr. Lalit gave a Triduum to the Daughters of St. Anne in preparation for their feast.



We are back to normal routine now after the school working hours were rescheduled from 7.30 to 11.40 AM due to excess heat wave. It was surprising to note the increase in students' daily attendance during that period. Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital organized an eye camp in our premises and provided thirty-six free-spectacles to deserving students. Two of our senior students were enlisted into the Agniveer programme of the Indian Army. We congratulate Master Jenson Paul Kerketta, a former outstanding science student of the school, who has recently been handpicked by Bharat Chemicals & Petroleum Ltd (BPCL), Chennai as an Asst. Engineer.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the school organized a tree-planting drive in which both staff and students actively participated. International Yoga Day was observed on 21 June, and special yoga sessions were organized for the school and hostel students.

63 football players from St Peter's Primary and the High school participated in Bro Anil and Master Joraj Memorial Football tournaments organized by St Joseph's School, North Point. While the Class 8 and below were the winners, our Class V and below team were the runners-up. Even our Primary (Class IV) school students had some initial success. The under 17 Boys' team was the Cluster level Champions in the State-organized Subroto Cup Football tournament. The journey was a tough and demanding one as the team had to go through a series of tournaments at the Zonal, District and finally the inter District (Cluster) level. The Cluster level involved all 9 Districts of North Bengal. Sepen Nagesia and Aryan Toppo were adjudged the best player and best goal-keeper respectively.

The community played host to about fourteen former Jesuits and a few theology students from Madurai and Chennai provinces recently. Fr Sundeep Beck and Fr Jose Ollukaran made their retreats in Nepal and Matigara respectively. The community congratulated Fr Jose who pronounced his Final Vows (along with others) in the Society on July 31st.



Fr Alvin Minj was the main celebrant for the feast day Mass in the primary school on July 30. Rt Rev Fabian Toppo, Bishop of Jalpaiguri Diocese presided over the Eucharist on July 30 for the staff and students of Classes IX –XII. He was also the chief guest for the cultural programme of the day. Thanks to his great availability. More than 2000 students/ staff were served lunch for the feast days.



Infant Jesus Parish, Gungaram celebrated the feast day Mass on July 26 while Gayaganga parishioners will celebrate it on August 2. About a hundred priests, religious-sisters and members of parish associations gathered for a short prayer service and luncheon for the Feast on July 31 at St Peter's Jesuit Community.

ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE, DARJEELING

DONATUS KUJUR SJ



Parish: Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) prayer meetings continue to be held daily in different villages. Sr Kusum CMC and Sr Dibya CMC are staying at Niche Line and Kuchia Line of Gayaganga Parish and are engaged in family counselling. Around 162 children received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion on 28 June. Bishop Paul Simick presided over the celebration.

Accompanied by Frs Simon Kerketta and Nabor Dungdung, the parish youth went on a pilgrimage to various parishes in the Dooars. The Parish and community jointly organized the Novena to St Ignatius, in preparation for the feast day on 31 July.

Fr Cherian made an effort to familiarize the staff and students with some important Ignatian themes such as AMDG, the Examen, Magis, Finding God in All Things, etc. Fr Pankaj Kerketta was the main celebrant for Mass for students of Classes VII and below on July 29.

The Admission Committee of St. Joseph's College conducted the undergraduate admission process for the 2026 academic session from 15-31 May 2026, followed by the verification of applications on 22 and 23 July. The committee, headed by Frs. Binay Xavier Kandulna and Sanjiv Lakra, worked diligently to prepare merit lists across the various admission categories. The process ensured transparency and adherence to the college's selection criteria, facilitating the equitable allotment of seats to eligible candidates. All Humanities programmes reached full enrolment. In contrast, Science programmes, particularly Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science, recorded low enrolment. These enrolment patterns suggest a declining student interest in pure science disciplines, a trend that merits consideration in future curriculum planning.

The college organised induction programmes at multiple levels to welcome and orient the newly admitted students. A general induction programme was held on 23 July, attended by the Principal and all faculty members, who addressed the students and their families. He urged them to make books their best companions throughout their college years and to remain disciplined in the pursuit of academic excellence and personal growth.



Induction Programme



A day-long programme



Football Match - Winner

Departmental induction sessions were conducted on 25 July, during which students received subject-specific orientation. Heads of Departments and faculty members introduced the course structure, assessment methods, academic expectations, and where applicable, laboratory and practical requirements.

On 13 July, SJC hosted a day-long programme under the Freedom 250 Project, jointly organised by the U.S. Consulate and the Department of English and Mass Communication. The first session, social media & Civic Futures: Conversations on Digital Storytelling, was led by Sukrit Sen, Kolkata Chapter Lead of the Living Waters Museum. Another session, Modernism & Jazz: The Great Gatsby, featured a film screening and discussion led by Dr. Subhasree Basu, Assistant Professor at Loreto College, Kolkata.

Students participated in an engaging discussion on fashion, changing social norms in the United States, jazz, and drinking culture, connecting the novel's themes to the broader cultural transformations of the Jazz Age.

This year, Darjeeling embraced the spirit of world football as the hill town came alive with roaring cheers. At the heart of it all, St. Joseph's College fielded a spirited side in the Super Division 2026, organized by the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Sports Association. At Lebung's Gorkha Stadium, the college team battled through tense fixtures to reach a thrilling final against Darjeeling United Club. In a remarkable display of skill, teamwork, and unwavering determination, St. Joseph's stormed to a commanding 5-4 victory, transforming the stadium into a scene of jubilant celebration.

In the Arrupe community the Ignatian Novena was held from 21st. On 31 July the Feast of St. Ignatius was celebrated by the Catholic students of Xavier Hostel, Fairview Hostel, and AICUF members. A solemn Eucharist was organized by Fr. Sanjiv Lakra in which Fr. K. L. George was the main celebrant. After the feast day breakfast for nearly 200 students of the two hostels and the AICUF members, a meeting and a cultural celebration was conducted by Fr. Sanjiv Lakra for the students in Campion Hall. We congratulate Fr. Binay Xavier Kandulna for taking his final vows. Fr. Donatus Kujur made a quick visit to his eldest sister who continues to be critically ill.

NB ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAJGANJ

JULIUS KUJUR SJ

North Bengal St. Xavier's College witnessed several significant milestones during June and July 2026, reflecting its continued commitment to academic excellence, leadership, and community building. Five students, Satyajit Roy, Ashmita Ghosh, Suhani Das, Sneha Sharma, and Asmita Tirkey proudly represented the college at SXS MUN 2026, held on 24-25 July 2026 at St. Xavier's School, Alipurduar. Their remarkable performance brought laurels to the institution. Sneha Sharma received the Special Mention Award in the UNHRC, while Asmita Tirkey earned a High Commendation in the International Press Corps (IPC). The college congratulates all the participants for representing North Bengal St. Xavier's College.



The college community also marked an important transition in leadership. On 29 June 2026, the staff bid farewell to Fr Lalit, who served as Principal for the past 7½ years. His calm leadership, commitment to quality education, and significant contributions to the development of the college's infrastructure have left a lasting legacy. On 1 July 2026, in the presence of the Fr Provincial, Fr Lalit formally handed over the responsibility of Principal to Fr Dennis, symbolically inviting him to the Principal's chair.

Further strengthening the academic community, Deacon Aloysius Antony joined North Bengal St. Xavier's College as a faculty member on 14 July 2026. On 24 July, an orientation programme for faculty members was conducted with the theme of the year, "Together for God, People and Planet," inspiring renewed commitment to the institution's mission and values.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING

JUSTIN BAGE SJ

Fr. Justin made an eight-day retreat at Inigo Bhavan, Matigara from June 28 to July 6, in preparation for his Final Vows, under the guidance of Fr. Frederick Baraik SJ. Fr. Provincial was at North Point on his annual visitation from July 6 to 8. The newly formed Jesuit community led by the new Rector, Fr. Boniface Tigga received valuable guidance, encouragement, and support during his visit.

After a short summer break following their First Semester Examination, the boarders returned to their second home on July 5. To strengthen the boarding staff, Mr. Pravesh joined the team of Sub-Prefects on July 4. A Senior Division Inter-Class Debate Competition was held on July 8 providing students with an opportunity to showcase their critical thinking and public speaking skills. On July 10, a Parents-Teacher Meeting was held simultaneously with the distribution of the First Semester Report Cards.

A team of 15 boys from the Upper Division (UD), accompanied by Messers Yusuf and Soumyadeep Dutta, participated in a Student Exchange Programme at Smt. Sulochanadevi Singhania School, Mumbai, from July 6 to 17. The programme provided the students with valuable exposure to diverse cultures, enriched their learning experiences, and fostered lasting friendships.



On July 11, students from the Lower Division (LD) and Upper Division (UD) participated in the 'Van Mahotsav Environment Fest' held at Loreto School. Their creativity and teamwork earned them the top position in the 'Creative Presentation' category. In the AIS Table Tennis Tournament held at Victoria Boys' School on 18 July, our boys secured a remarkable victory.

The much-awaited Dual Memorial Football Tournament, held in memory of Bro. Anil Tirkey and Joraj, concluded successfully on 25 July. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from St. Joseph's School, Mungpoo; St. Alphonsus' School, Kurseong; St. Peter's School, Gayaganga; St. Vincent's School, Hatighisa; St. Robert's School, Darjeeling; St. Augustine's School, Kalimpong; Mount Hermon School, Darjeeling, along with the host school, making the memorial tournament a grand success.

The Bro. Anil Memorial Under-Class V Final was contested between St. Peter's School, Gayaganga, and St. Vincent's School, Hatighisa. After a closely fought match, St. Vincent's School successfully retained the championship title for the second consecutive year. In the senior category, the finalists were St. Peter's School, Gayaganga, and St. Joseph's School, Mungpoo. After an exciting contest that went into extra time, St. Peter's School, Gayaganga, emerged as the champions.

On 24 July, the Nutshell Quiz Competition for the Primary Division (P.D.) boys was held in the JMJ Auditorium. Mr Felix Brinkers, a German volunteer who taught German for nearly a year to the North Pointers was given a farewell on July 27 by the boarding and by the school and the Jesuit community the next day.

ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, GODAVARI, NEPAL

GEORGE P.M SJ

On the Foundation Day (1 July), the contributions of Jesuits who served in Nepal were gratefully remembered. In the morning, the photograph of the founding Jesuit, Fr. Marshall D. Moran, was garlanded and honoured. The Class 5 and 6 Family Day was celebrated successfully on 11 July. Parents and guardians appreciated the students' wonderful performances, making the event a memorable occasion for the entire school community.

Bhanu Jayanti was celebrated during the morning assembly on 13 July by garlanding the photograph of Adikavi Bhanu Bhakta Acharya. Students paid tribute to his remarkable contribution to the Nepali language and literature. Class 6–10 students appeared for their First Term Examinations, while Classes 11 and 12 completed their Cycle Tests from 14 to 24 July. Continuous Evaluation for Classes 1–5 continued throughout the term as part of the school's assessment system.

A two-day Captains' Seminar was held at Godavari Ashram for the Class 12 student captains of St. Xavier's School, Jawalakhel, and St. Xavier's School, Godavari, from 24 to 25 July. Conducted in an interactive workshop format, the seminar focused on leadership development, positive thinking, teamwork, and responsible student leadership. The participants actively engaged in the sessions and gained valuable insights for their leadership roles. The English Department organised an Extempore Speech Competition for students of Classes 9–12 to enhance their public speaking, critical thinking, and communication skills on 30 July.

St. Ignatius Day (31 July): The Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola and Guru Purnima were combined and celebrated with special prayers and school activities. The Annual Junior School Swimming and Diving Exhibition, featuring students up to Class 6, was also a part of the day's celebrations.



Class 5&6 Family Day

June marked the beginning of a new academic year with the arrival of 28 first-years from various Jesuit provinces. Together with the 31 second-year students and 11 staff members, 5 of them new, including two diocesan priests, the community began the year with renewed energy and enthusiasm. To welcome the newcomers, a two-day orientation program was held on 5 and 6 June under the theme “ODYSSEY – The Endless 67.” Through sports, cultural activities, and community orientation, the program helped foster fraternity. Sch. Binod warmly welcomed Schs. Anurag, Praful and Sunit, who are first year philosophy Students.

The academic year was formally inaugurated on 8 June with the Schola Brevis, presided over by the Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, followed by academic orientation on 9 and 10 June. Regular classes for both first and second years began on 11th, setting the course for the year ahead.

On 13 June, the first-years went for a Chennai Darshan, while the second-years visited Mahabalipuram. The month concluded with RR Workshop on 25 June, bringing the community together for reflection and renewal as they continue their philosophical and formative journey.

On 3 July, all the scholastics and priests went on a pilgrimage to St Thomas Mount to celebrate the feast of St Thomas the Apostle. The entire community celebrated the Holy Eucharist led by Fr K. Amal, the Rector of Satya Nilayam.

On 18 July, as part of the Pedro Arrupe Endowment Lecture, Dr M Anthony SJ, director of social centre, Ranchi, delivered an inspiring talk on Stan Swamy: an Epitome of courageous resistance. The lecture highlighted Fr. Stan Swamy’s unwavering commitment to justice, human rights and the dignity of marginalized communities, inspiring the audience to stand for truth and compassion.

The Orientation for the newcomers, with the theme “Divine Voice in Digital Noise”, was held from 2 to 4 July, which helped us reflect on how to recognize and listen to God's voice amidst the distractions of the digital world. The inaugural Mass on 6th was presided over by His Grace Most Rev. Anil J.T. Couto, Metropolitan Archbishop of Delhi, with His Grace Most Rev. Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Diocese of Faridabad. Rev. Fr. Stany D'Souza, SJ, Vice Chancellor and President of JCSA, and Fr. Soosai Mani, Provincial of the Delhi Province were present. On this occasion, we felicitated His Grace Most Rev. Anil J.T. Couto on his Episcopal Silver Jubilee. His words of encouragement and wisdom motivated us to remain steadfast in our vocation and mission.

The inaugural lecture was delivered by Professor Manoj Kumar Jha, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and National Spokesperson of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). His thought-provoking address challenged us to become people who stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized and in dire need.

Scholastic Deepak participated in the Collaborative Theology Initiative organised by a consortium of Jesuit theologates, from June 14 to 10 July. The monthlong program at Hekima, Kenya, was guided by Frs. Chris Staab and Somy Mannur and attended by 28 participants including Jesuits, other religious and lay people. Fr. Roshan Kiro attended the Faculty Development Programme (FDP) along with the Vidyajyoti staff members, on the theme “Ascent of AI in the Innovative World, at XLRI, Jhajar, from 10 to 12 July 2026. The programme aimed to familiarize the faculty members with contemporary developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and to explore its effective and ethical integration into teaching and research.

We began the novena on 22 July in preparation for the feast of St Ignatius. The prayers and reflections of the novena offer fresh perspectives on our life mission and invite us to respond more creatively.



On 1 July Fr. Sayju Thomas took charge as rector of SCC, replacing Fr Anil Aind who served SCC for about 10 years in different capacities. This month we had classes on the letters of St. Ignatius by Fr Sajeev, our tertian instructor. We were divided in groups to read the letters of St Ignatius and to make presentations. This was followed by classes on the Spiritual Diary of St Ignatius by Fr Ignatius Tete. Fr Lawrence Eucharist enlightened us about Buddha's Psycho-spirituality and Ignatian Spirituality, leading us to practical classes on meditation.

Frs R.C. Chacko and M.I. Raj took us on "Inward Journey through Spiritual Exercises", a good preparation for the long retreat.

On 18th July we went on a pilgrimage to Fr. Livens' Mission land. We were enriched by the visit to the place where he lived, worked and evangelized. We celebrated Mass in Bendora with the faithful of the village where Fr Livens lived. We visited Bagaicha, where Fr. Stan Swamy lived and worked. We also visited various communities of Ranchi Province. We request your prayers as we 25 Tertians begin our month long retreat on 1 August.



As part of our preparation for the thirty days Ignatian retreat we made a five kilometre pilgrimage on foot from Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur to the Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Kodaikanal for imploring God's blessing through the intercession of our lady. We celebrated the inaugural mass of the retreat at the shrine on 26 July 2026. The retreat group consists of 23 tertians from 15 Jesuit provinces, accompanied by our three spiritual guides- Frs Arul Sivan, Ilanko Xavier and Jacob Jose. Under their guidance we began the inner journey of prayer and discernment, opening our hearts to experience God's unconditional love. Throughout the retreat, the Lord gently led us from darkness into the light of new life. We encountered God's transforming grace, deepened our experience of His love, mercy, and forgiveness. We learned to see our vocation and mission through God's eyes. The retreat strengthened our commitment to follow Christ with greater humility and renewed our desire to serve the poor and those in need with generous hearts. I am grateful to everyone who continuously remembered us in prayer throughout this sacred journey.

"In the light of Magnifica Humanitas, the 4Cs open new perspectives for an education that forms, in the present, for the future. **Competence** now includes digital literacy and choosing the ethical use of technology. **Conscience** must also extend into the digital realm, with the capacity to discern what truly serves human dignity. **Compassion** must reach those excluded by the digital divide, as well as by other forms of social exclusion. And **commitment** must include the struggle for just regulation of the use of artificial intelligence and of the whole digital world."

Fr. Arturo Sosa in the XI World Union of Jesuit Alumni (WUJA) Congress, Yogyakarta, 30 July 2026

Living the Magis Beyond the Vows: Finding Ignatian Grace in the Daily Rhythms of Hostel Life

When people ask me how my life changed after stepping off the formal path of religious life, I often pause. External routines certainly shifted—the absence of the community bell at dawn, the change in daily structure, and a different set of professional titles. When people ask me how my life changed after stepping off the formal path of religious life, I often pause.

External routines certainly shifted—the absence of the community bell at dawn, the change in daily structure, and a different set of professional titles. Yet, as I walk the corridors of our school hostel today, surrounded by the energetic chaos, quiet homesickness, and boundless potential of our boarders, I realize something profound: you can leave the Society, but the Society never truly leaves you. The Jesuitness that was nurtured in me during my years in the Society remains the very compass by which I navigate my daily work. Ignatian spirituality was never meant to be confined to chapel walls or formal apostolates; it was designed by Ignatius to be lived in the midst of the world. In the daily rhythms of running a school hostel, that spirit isn't just alive; it is essential.

Cura Personalis in the Hallways

The heart of Jesuit education has always been *cura personalis*—care for the whole person. In a classroom, care is often measured through academic progress. But in a hostel, where we hold space for a child's entire lived experience away from home, *cura personalis* becomes tangible, visceral, and personal. It is seen when sitting down with a young boarder who is quietly shedding tears over missing home, offering not just a word of advice, but a patient, listening heart. It is present when noticing that a student's academic slip isn't laziness, but a reflection of a burden they are carrying from family back in the hills or valleys. Paying attention to the unique dignity, background, and emotional landscape of every single child is pure Ignatian pedigree.

The Examen at the End of a Noisy Day

Any hostel warden knows that days are unpredictable. An evening can move swiftly from broken dorm lockers and minor spats to heartfelt conversations during study hours. In the quiet of the night, after lights-out, I find myself instinctively returning to the Daily Examen. I ask myself: Where was God present in the noise today? Did I respond to that restless teenager with patience or with irritation? Where did I see light?

This habit of reflective discernment—learned during my Jesuit formation—keeps my work from becoming a mere administrative chore. It transforms hostel management into an ongoing prayer, reminding me that even the most mundane logistics can be a place of divine encounter.

Finding God in All Things—Even in Messy Dorms
Ignatius challenged us to "find God in all things." It's easy to find God in a quiet retreat house in the Darjeeling hills or during a solemn Mass. It is considerably harder to find God in a room full of unorganized laundry, misplaced shoes, or during a sudden midnight fever call! Yet, that is precisely where the grace lies. To see the sacred in the ordinary friction of community living—to recognize that teaching a young student responsibility, respect for their roommates, and integrity in study hours is building the Kingdom of God—gives deeper meaning to the work. We are not just managing a boarding facility; we are helping form men and women for and with others.

A Gratitude That Remains

To my Jesuit brothers, companions, and colleagues across the Darjeeling-Nepal Province: the seeds you helped plant continue to bear fruit, often in fields you might not directly see. The vows may have changed, but the mission remains standard: to serve with love, to strive for the *Magis* (the greater good), and to accompany young people as they grow into compassionate human beings.

As I prepare for another day in the hostel, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude for the Ignatian spirit that still lights my path. The habit may be gone, but the heart remains Jesuit.

Fr Rajasekaran and Mr B Damean Gurung represented Hayden Hall at the SJES South Asia Convention 2026, held from 15–17 July at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur.

One of the most significant achievements of the month was the successful rescue and reunification with the family of a 22-year-old woman from Sangsey, who had been reported missing on 18 July 2026. Working in close coordination with the concerned authorities, the Hayden Hall team supported the rescue efforts, leading to her safe recovery on 22 July. She has since been reunited with her family, underscoring the Institute's steadfast commitment to safeguarding the rights, dignity and well-being of women and vulnerable individuals through timely intervention and collaborative action.

The Institute also continued to strengthen awareness on rights, health and social justice. Representatives from the Jalpaiguri Programme participated in a workshop organized by the Hon'ble Committee of the High Court at Kolkata and hosted by the District Administration, Jalpaiguri, focusing on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, gender sensitization, and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. In Kalimpong, an awareness programme on menstrual hygiene was organized in collaboration with the Glenn Family Foundation, while Fr Peter Bhujel conducted a motivational session addressing alcoholism and healthy lifestyle choices.

Health camps were organized in Rajganj and Munda Sonada, providing medical consultations to 76 community members, while blood donation camps conducted in collaboration with Bethany Hospital inspired 56 voluntary blood donors to donate blood and support life-saving healthcare. Hayden Hall Institute also extended care to 75 residents of Shishu Bhawan through a community meal sponsored by the Kim Bastian family. Continuing its commitment to environmental stewardship, the Institute carried out a follow-up clean-up and maintenance drive at the Heritage Cemetery.

Women's economic empowerment remained a central focus throughout the month. The Memorandum of Understanding with the National Jute Board was finalized, with training scheduled to commence on 1 August 2026, enabling 20 women to receive technical training in jute product design and manufacturing. Two women from Gitdubling continued their Training of Trainers programme in carpet weaving at Hayden Hall, Darjeeling, and upon completion will lead the newly established Carpet Weaving Centre at Gitdubling, Kalimpong, creating opportunities for many more women in the community. The tailoring unit at the Kalimpong Centre also successfully completed the production of 60 garment orders, demonstrating the growing capacity and sustainability of the Institute's livelihood initiatives.



REST IN PEACE

- *Fr. Seraphim John Lal (PAT 69/47) died on 04.07.2026 at Xavier Bhawan, Patna.*
- *Fr Henry D'Cruz (BOM 91/72) died on 12.07.2026 at the Arrupe Niwas, Mazagaon.*
- *Fr. Sebastian Kanekatil SJ (PAT 89/71) died on 16.07.2026 at Kurji Holy Family Hospital, Patna.*
- *Fr. Robert Athickal, SJ (PAT 73/52) died on 19.07.2026 at Xavier Bhawan, Patna.*
- *Fr Henry Barla SJ (RAN 80/60) died on 25.07.2026 at Manresa House, Ranchi.*
- *Mr Alexius Xaxa, maternal uncle of Scholastic Bipin Tirkey, died on 04.07.2026.*
- *Mr Irudayaraj (91) father of Fr Divyanandam died on 11.07.2026.*
- *Mrs Veronica Beck, sister-in-law of Fr Sundeep Beck, died on 24.07.2026, in Ranchi.*
- *Mrs Mariamma George (68), elder sister of Fr Shaji Joseph died on 27.07.2026 in Kerala.*
- *Mr Mariya Diraviyam, brother of Fr Divyanandam's father died on 30.07.2026.*



Happy Birthday

01 Vincent George

02 Jagdish Parmar

08 Alphonse Lepcha

08 Stanley Karakkada

10 Lalit Tirkey

10 Joseph Victor

13 Sawan Rai

13 Tomson Amakkatt

15 Amrit Rai

15 Boniface Tigga

15 Iyappan Mudiappan

16 Ignatius Hemrom

21 Jeyaraj Solomon

21 Manu Piravomkunel

25 B Rajasekaran

27 Kalyan Tirkey

28 Nikhil Ekka

30 Niroj Minj



In Memoriam: August



**Fr. Rufino
Coutinho SJ**

09 - 08 - 2022



**Fr. Lawrence
Wimpenny SJ**

10 - 08 - 1967



**Fr. John
Coffey SJ**

14 - 08 - 1993



**Fr. Edward
McGuire SJ**

15 - 08 - 2005



**Fr. James
Donnelly SJ**

17 - 08 - 2009



**Bro. Janez
Udovc SJ**

19 - 08 - 1978



**Fr. Edwin
Saxton SJ**

22 - 08 - 1990



**Fr. Murray
Abraham SJ**

28 - 08 - 2012



**Fr. Joe
Brennan SJ**

28 - 08 - 2017



**Fr. John
Henrichs SJ**

29 - 08 - 1986

"What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived:
the things God has prepared for those who love him"

I Corinthians 2:9

POPE'S INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2026



FOR EVANGELIZATION IN THE CITY

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.