



TEA LEAVES

DARJEELING DIOCESE NEWSLETTER

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2023

Bishop's House, Darjeeling - 734101 INDIA

FEBRUARY



Bishop's message

Lenten Message

Lenten liturgical season comes back every year with gift of Gods infinite mercy for those who are ready to amends their old ways of life. "During Lent we are invited to ascend a high Mountain in the company of Jesus and live a particular experience of spiritual discipline based on Gospel text (Mt.17.1) Pope Francis's Lenten Message.

CCC: 1469: "Sin damages or even breaks fraternal communion. The sacrament of Penance repairs or restores it. "Every act of sin destroys the relationship with God and with one another. How painful experience can be when man or women remain in the state of Sin. He or she freely chooses to commit sin but one cannot pardon himself or herself one's own sin. CCC: 1441: "Only God forgive sins. The son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins and exercise this divine power: "Your sins are forgiven" .Further, by virtue of his divine authority he gives this power to men to exercise in his name.

The only way to be saved from sins is conversion. Conversion is a gift from God. Jesus calls to conversion. CCC: 1427: This is an essential part of the proclamation of the kingdom of God. It is by faith in the gospel and by Baptism that one renounces evil and gains salvation that is the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of new life.

What's a true sign of Conversion? CCC: 1431; "Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, and ends of sin, turn away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed." Example of true repentance or conversion is found in Zaccheus. Lk: 1-10. Conversion is a work of the grace of God who makes our hearts return to him.

CCC; 1473. The forgiveness of sins and restoration of communion with God entail the remission of the eternal punishment of sins, but temporal punishment of sins remains. While patiently bearing sufferings and trials of all kinds and the day comes, serenely facing death, the chrsitan must strive to accept this temporal punishment of sin a grace. He should strive by works of mercy and charity, as well as by prayers and various practices' of penance to put off completely the "old man and put on the new man. Let us practice Lenten observances of fast and abstinence more meaningfully. "Be merciful as your heavenly father is merciful: Lk6.36. Let our Lenten observances be more act of love towards of needy brethren. "Above all, let your love for one another be sincere, for love covers as multitude of sins: 1 Pet: 4:8.

Wish you a grace-filled Lenten season.

+Bishop Stephen Lepcha
Bishop of Darjeeling-Sikkim.

SMNCA Felicitates Bishop Stephen



St Michael's Nepali Catholic Association (SMNCA) Kolkata celebrated the Episcopal Silver Jubilee of our Bishop Stephen Lepcha on Sunday, 22nd January 2023.

Bishop Paul Simick, Vicar Apostolic of Nepal, Bishop Salavadore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus of Baruipur & Fr. Raphael Hyde SJ, provincial of Calcutta Jesuits concelebrated the Mass with our Bishop. Darjeeling brothers from Morning Star College & our Scholastica didi made the Eucharistic Celebration more meaningful with their beautiful singing. The Mass was attended by a large number of our members. All of us were blessed to have three bishops & a provincial offer Mass for us, this itself was unique for SMNCA.

After Mass we had a small felicitation program where all the dignitaries were presented with flower bouquets & khadas. All sang a song specially written for the occasion by our dear Scholastica didi followed by a beautiful dance by her. Brothers of Morning Star also sang a song.

Thereafter all of us present shared a tasty lunch & dispersed.

Anselum Namchu

Editorial

From the editor's desk



Among the many symbolic significances of the Lenten season, it is also a reminder of our mortality, it is a reminder of death. The imposition of ashes on our forehead with the incantation: "You are dust and to dust you shall return.", is a stark reminder that life is running out. One more day has slipped through our grasp. However young or old we are, we are one day, a step closer to the grave.

Reflection can be a good thing. Especially if that reflection leads us to living a better life. Some may say, "I will never forgive him! I will hate him for the rest of my life and I hope he rots in Hell." What a bitter, soul-killing, unfruitful way to live out each day! Would it not be better to remember that our days today are fewer than they were yesterday and that each day remaining can be lived to the full?

So, as we begin this Lenten journey let us get right with God and our fellow humans. Love more, forgive all, embrace God, be kind, and be the man or woman God has called us to be. Time's a-wasting but we still have some time. Let's not waste any more of it. Let us live really live our lives loving God with all our heart, mind and spirit and loving our neighbour as we love ourselves

Blessing of St. Mary's Church, Arubotey



'I told them how the hand of my God had been favourable to me and also about the king's word which he had spoken to me. Then they said. "Let us arise and build ". So they put their hands to the good work'. Nehemiah 2/18.



These words of prophet Nehemiah came true symbolically with the blessing and inauguration of the newly built St. Mary's Church in Aurobotay by Bishop Stephen Lepcha on the 8th of February 2023. This day also marked the postponed celebration of the Silver Jubilee of mission in Aurobotay. The reason to postpone the celebration being the devastating landslide which caused the total ruining of the former Church and school building and the vicinity requiring a total relocation of many houses and families. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Bikash Rai and Mr. Ganesh Gabriel Rai who donated their land for the cause of Sacred Heart School and the church and all the donors who came forth resulting in the building of a new church and now school to follow.



The hard work and tireless efforts of Fr. Swid Singh, Parish priest and Fr. Danish Lepcha, Assistant parish priest is highly laudable along with the zealous support of the parishioners.



CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL WINTER CAMP 2023 St. Teresa's Parish Kalimpong



St. Teresa's Parish Kalimpong organised a four-day Spiritual Winter Camp for the parish children from 23rd January to 26th January 2023. The theme for the camp was taken from the Matthew 19:14- "Let the Little Children come to me." Around 90 children participated in the camp.

The main objective of this camp was to encourage Spiritual growth in children through a Bible-centred environment, allowing them to focus on their relationship with Jesus and fellow kids. And these objectives were met through daily Eucharist, Sacraments, Music, Movies, Singing, dancing, Dramas, Input-Sessions, Group

Discussion, Drawings, Games, Picnic etc.

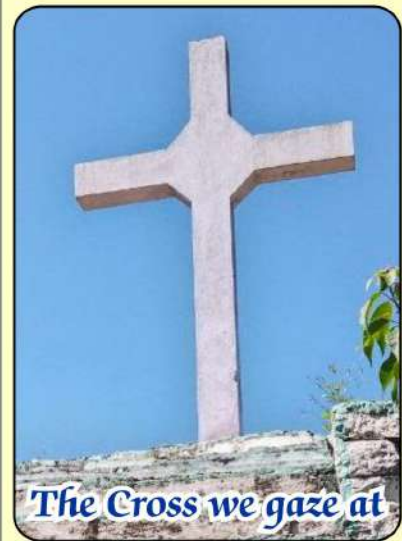
It was a joint effort of the whole parish community driven by the love and concern for our little ones where their physical nourishment was taken care by the Naari Sangh, Babu Samaj, and Roja Mystica Group and the parish Youth who were present throughout the camp assisting in various capacity and specially organising the theme based fun activities on the final day. To cater the children's spiritual needs, we had generous priests and nuns from religious communities located around the parish specially the Cluny Novitiate, St. Augustine's School, and the Jesuit Community. Under the able leadership of our Parish Priest Rev.Fr. George VV, Associate Parish Priest Rev.Fr. Stephen Lepcha and the Holy Childhood Animator Rev. Sr. Rebecca Khaling SJC this camp was a great success.

Suman Gajmer PPC Secretary



**Our steps are slow,
Our breathing ragged,
Our burdens heavy.
This walk to the cross,
It is not easy,
Yet Christ walked it for us.
For the joy
that was set before him,
He despised the shame,
He bore our blame,
And shared our pain,
Now let us build on the rock,
That is Christ.
Let us walk the way of the cross
together,
Moving forward without fear,
Into God's eternal purposes.
For Christ himself is with us,
every step of the way.
Let us trust in God alone,
And find the joy that Christ did,
Obedience to our loving God.**

PIC OF THE MONTH



The Cross we gaze at

DARJEELING DIOCESE PASTORAL PLAN 2023

DATE	NAME OF THE COURSE	FOR WHOM	VENUE	ANIMATOR
Feb 22-25	Marriage Preparation Course	Prospective Couples	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Laban Lepcha & Team
Mar-08	Liturgy	PLT - Pedong Deanery	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Edward Baretto
Mar 16-18	Introduction to the Bible	Catechists (Group 1)	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Frank Subba, SJ
Mar-18	Rights & Duties of Lay Faithful	Dar-Kur Deanery	Divya Vani, Darjeeling	Fr. Edward Baretto
Mar 23-25	Introduction to the Bible	Catechists (Group 2)	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Frank Subba, SJ
Mar-30	Liturgy	PLT - Kalimpong Deanery	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Edward Baretto
Apr 13-14	Introduction to the Bible	SCC - PAT (Dar-Kur Deanery)	Divya Vani, Darjeeling	Fr. Frank Subba, SJ
Apr-14	Rights & Duties of Lay Faithful	Kalimpong Deanery	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Edward Baretto
Apr 17-20	Marriage Preparation Course	Prospective Couples	Divya Vani, Darjeeling	Fr. Laban Lepcha & Team
Apr-22	Altar Servers Training	Kalimpong Deanery	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Felix D'Souza
Apr-29	Altar Servers Training	Pedong Deanery	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Felix D'Souza
5th May	Introduction to the Bible	SCC - PAT (NE Deanery, Sikkim)	St. Paul's, Tadong	Fr. Frank Subba, SJ
5th May	Rights & Duties of Lay Faithful	Pedong Deanery	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Edward Baretto
5th May	Youth & Mass Media	Youth of Dar-Kur Deanery	Divya Vani, Darjeeling	Fr. Chrispin Tamang + Fr. Alex Gurung
May-20	Altar Servers Training	SW Deanery, Sikkim	St. Peter's, Namchi	Fr. Felix D'Souza
May 25-27	Introduction to the Bible	SCC - PAT (SW Deanery, Sikkim)	St. Peter's, Namchi	Fr. Frank Subba, SJ
May-27	Altar Servers Training	Dar-Kur Deanery	Divya Vani, Darjeeling	Fr. Felix D'Souza
May-29	Liturgy	PLT - Dar-Kur Deanery	Divya Vani, Darjeeling	Fr. Edward Baretto
Jun-10	Youth & Mass Media	Youth of SW Deanery, Sikkim	St. Peter's, Namchi	Fr. Chrispin Tamang + Fr. Alex Gurung
Jun-10	Altar Servers Training	NE Deanery, Sikkim	St. Paul's, Tadong	Fr. Felix D'Souza
Jun 08-10	Introduction to the Bible	SCC - PAT (Kpg. Deanery)	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Frank Subba, SJ
Jun 21-24	Marriage Preparation Course	Prospective Couples	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Laban Lepcha & Team
Jul 06-08	Introduction to the Bible	SCC - PAT (Pedong Deanery)	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Frank Subba
Jul 13-15	Introduction to the Bible	Family Commission	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Frank Subba, SJ
Jul-22	Rights & Duties of Lay Faithful	SW Deanery, Sikkim	St. Peter's, Namchi	Fr. Edward Baretto
Aug 03-05	Sacraments, Bible Study, Counselling	Young Couples (All Sikkim)	St. Peter's, Namchi	Fr. Frank Subba
Aug 09-12	Marriage Preparation Course	Prospective Couples	Divya Vani, Darjeeling	Fr. Laban Lepcha & Team
Aug-26	Basic Legal Education	Kalimpong Deanery	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Stanley Varghese, SJ
Aug-31	Rights & Duties of Lay Faithful	NE Deanery, Sikkim	St. Paul's, Tadong	Fr. Edward Baretto
Sep 07-09	Sacraments, Bible Study, Counselling	Young Couples (Kpg-Ped Deanery)	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Frank Subba, SJ
9-Sep	Basic Legal Education	Dar-Kur Deanery	Divya Vani, Darjeeling	Fr. Stanley Varghese, SJ
9-Sep	Youth & Mass Media	Youth - NE Deanery, Sikkim	St. Paul's, Tadong	Fr. Chrispin Tamang + Fr. Alex Gurung
Sep-16	Basic Legal Education	Pedong Deanery	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Stanley Varghese, SJ
Sep 21-23	Sacraments, Bible Study, Counselling	Young Couples (Dar-Kur Deanery)	Divya Vani, Darjeeling	Fr. Frank Subba, SJ
Oct-02	Liturgy	PLT - NE Deanery, Sikkim	St. Paul's, Tadong	Fr. Edward Baretto
Oct-05	Liturgy	PLT - SW Deanery, Sikkim	St. Peter's, Namchi	Fr. Edward Baretto
Oct 05-07	Introduction to the Bible	Youth	Divya Vani, Darjeeling	Fr. Frank Subba, SJ
Oct 23-26	Marriage Preparation Course	Prospective Couples	St. Xavier's, Pakyong	Fr. Laban Lepcha & Team
28-Oct	Youth & Mass Media	Youth - Kalimpong Deanery	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Chrispin Tamang + Fr. Alex Gurung
4-Nov	Youth & Mass Media	Youth - Pedong Deanery	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Chrispin Tamang + Fr. Alex Gurung
Dec 06-09	Marriage Preparation Course	Prospective Couples	Pushpika, Kalimpong	Fr. Laban Lepcha & Team

Abbreviations

PLT = Parish Liturgy Team
 SCC = Small Christian Community
 PAT = Parish Animation Team (for SCC)
 NE = North East
 SW = South West

How many may attend from a parish?

1	Introduction to the Bible	10
2	Marriage Preparation Course	Open
3	Liturgy	10
4	Rights & Duties of Lay Faithful	10
5	Altar Servers Training	10 + 1 Animator
6	Youth	10
7	Basic Legal Education (Lex terrae)	10

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Kindly Communicate!!!

Tea Leaves is the medium through which the individual parishes, communities and institutions can share with others, about the activities and events of your areas of work. So please send in the reports of your initiatives and programmes to:

Fr. Alex Gurung, Darjeeling Diocese Communication Commission,
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