

TEA LEAVES

DARJEELING DIOCESE NEWSLETTER

visit us at : www.darjeelingdiocese.com

Bishop's Message



in me will live even after death." - John 11:25.

The resurrection of Jesus is the victory of all mankind, and there is no greater victory than this. The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are the only sacrifices for the sins of all people. Saint Paul writes, "But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles." - 1 Corinthians 1:23. "The fact of the cross is foolishness to those who have taken the road to destruction. But for those of us who continue on the path of salvation, this is divine power." - 1 Corinthians 1:18

In the name of the resurrected Jesus, miraculous events accompanied the lives of believers. Jesus' disciples Peter and John were going up to the temple to pray. A lame man had been sitting in front of the door of the temple called "beautiful" since birth and he asked for alms from Peter and John. Peter and John looked at the man and Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" Peter took him by the right hand and immediately he got up and started walking. He also entered the temple with them, singing the praises of God while walking and jumping. - Acts of the Apostles 3:1-8

Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day to save all of us who are like this lame man, oppressed by sin, sick, and became the victorious saviour of all. Now the decision is only ours, "Do not be afraid, just have faith," Jesus says. - Luke 8:40. Miracles will happen in the life of those who believe. St. Paul says, "If then you were raised with Christ; seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Let your interest be in things above, not in the things of this world. - Colossians 3:1-2

Happy Easter to all.

+Bishop Stephen Lepcha
Darjeeling-Sikkim Diocese.

"A Just Man"



St. Joseph's Feast Day, celebrated on March 19th, is a significant occasion in the Christian calendar dedicated to honouring St. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus Christ and the husband of the Virgin Mary. This day holds special importance in the Catholic Church and is observed with reverence and joy by believers worldwide. St. Joseph is often referred to as the "Guardian of the Redeemer" and the "Terror of Demons." He played a crucial role in the Holy Family, providing protection, guidance, and love to Jesus and Mary. Despite the limited mention of St. Joseph in the Bible, his quiet strength and unwavering faith make him a revered figure in Christian tradition.

Devotees commemorate St. Joseph's Feast Day with various religious observances, including Mass, prayer services, and processions. Many also participate in acts of charity and kindness as a way of emulating the virtues of St. Joseph. The feast is an opportunity for believers to reflect on the virtues exemplified by St. Joseph, such as humility, obedience, and selflessness. St. Joseph's life serves as a model for all individuals, teaching the importance of trust in God's plan, even when faced with uncertainties.

Traditionally, St. Joseph is regarded as the patron saint of workers, fathers, and the universal Church. His intercession is sought for various intentions, including finding employment, protecting families, and seeking guidance in challenging times. As the faithful celebrate St. Joseph's Feast Day, they not only honour the saint but also deepen their connection to the values he embodied. Through prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness, believers aspire to emulate the qualities of St. Joseph in their own lives, fostering a sense of spiritual growth and community.

Editorial



From a Catholic perspective, Holy Week and Easter are the pinnacle of the liturgical calendar, representing the most sacred events in Christianity. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and continues with solemn observances such as Holy Thursday, when we recall the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist, and Good Friday, which marks Jesus' crucifixion and death. These days are characterized by fasting, prayer, and reflection on the suffering and sacrifice of Christ.

Easter Sunday, the culmination of Holy Week, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, signifying victory over sin and death. It is a joyous occasion marked by festive liturgies, the proclamation of the Easter Gospel, and the sacrament of the Eucharist. For Catholics, Easter is a time of profound hope and renewal, as we rejoice in the promise of new life offered through Christ's resurrection. It is a time of spiritual rejuvenation and a reminder of God's immense love and mercy for all humanity.

As a parish priest, Holy Week holds profound significance. It's a time for deep reflection on the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Throughout the week, let us guide our parishioners through the liturgical journey, helping them understand the spiritual significance of each day, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. It's a time of intense prayer, repentance, and reconciliation, as we remember Christ's sacrifice for humanity's salvation. Holy Week also presents opportunities for outreach and community service, as we strive to live out the message of love and compassion exemplified by Jesus. Overall, it's a sacred time of renewal and transformation for both ourselves and our parish community.

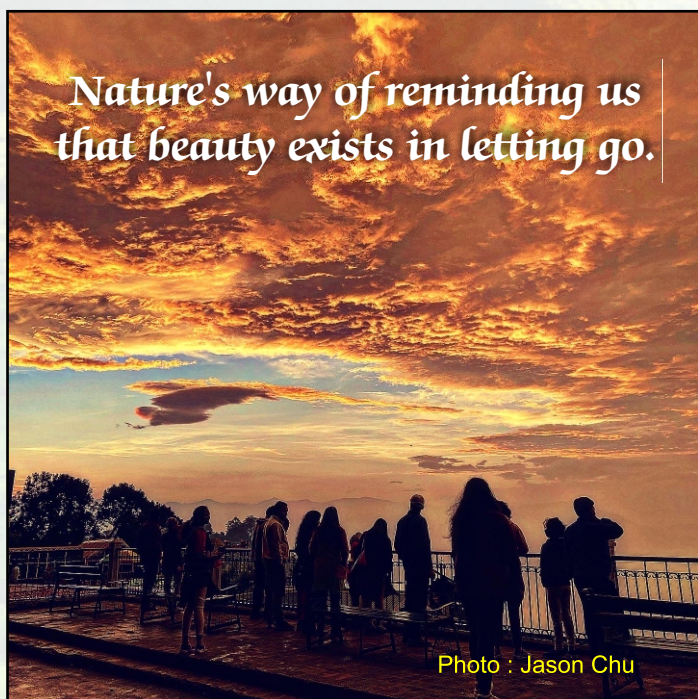


Photo : Jason Chu



For a latest videos visit us at :
 youtube : darjeeling divyavani prastuti
 For all publications, videos & Media
 visit us at :
<https://www.darjeelingdiocese.com/media/>

BISHOP'S PASTORAL VISIT TO LIZA HILL



On the occasion of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11th February, 2024, Rt. Rev. Stephen Lepcha came for His Pastoral visit to Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Liza Hill. He came on the previous day itself and went around to visit 8 families of the Parish in the afternoon, also reaching Holy Communion to the elderly and sick. On the august occasion of the Parish Feast the following day, he celebrated the Holy mass for the Parishioners. During the mass, he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 11 candidates and also gave his special blessings to the Catechist Mrs. Amrita Rai. In his Homily, he encouraged everyone to follow and imitate the faith of Mother Mary. He emphasized on pondering rather than complaining and murmuring when situations get tough and challenging like Mary did, which helped her to understand the greater and bigger plan of God in her life. After the Mass, there was a short Felicitation program organized in honor of the Bishop. In his message, he acknowledged the goodness of the parishioners, especially in committing to educating their children well, and further encouraged them to continue to flourish in all aspects of life. After lunch he once again went on to visit 7 more families, praying for them. He then left for Kurseong at around 4:30 pm.

We were indeed greatly blessed to have our Shepherd amidst us and receive his blessings. May God continue to bless him with good health of mind and body.

-Fr. Sanjok Rai

Thanksgiving Mass for Archbishop Vincent Aind at St. Teresa's Church, Kalimpong



On 13th February, St. Teresa's Church in Kalimpong hosted a Thanksgiving Mass to bid farewell to Rt. Rev. Vincent Aind, the newly elected Archbishop of Ranchi Archdiocese. The

Darjeeling diocese expressed both joy and sadness over his appointment, celebrating his

new role while lamenting his departure from West Bengal region. Bishop Stephan Lepcha, other priests, and parish representatives attended. Following the Mass, Bishop Vincent Aind was felicitated and



expressed being overwhelmed. The community shared an agape meal before dispersing to their respective places



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, Fr. Richard Lepcha,

Darjeeling Diocese Communication Commission, Bishop's House, Darjeeling

E-mail : lepcharichie12@gmail.com, Mobile : 70295 19723 • alecgurung@gmail.com, Mobile : 96418 72925



*Happy Easter
to
Tea Leaves readers*