



A Synodal Christmas in Preparation for the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025

As we approach Christmas in 2024, the Church stands on the threshold of a significant event: the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025. This Jubilee is an invitation for the entire Church to engage in reflection, renewal and a deeper celebration of God's transformative presence in the world. As we look forward to this moment, we are called to approach Christmas through the lens of synodality – a key theme of Pope Francis' papacy. A "synodal Christmas" invites us to reflect not only on the birth of Christ but also on the Church's call to be a community of listening, accompaniment and discernment of God's will for the world.

At its core, synodality is about journeying together as a community of believers. It emphasizes mutual listening, where every voice, especially those on the margins, is valued and heard. The Church, in this understanding, is not a top-down institution but a living, dynamic body of people walking together in faith.

Christmas itself embodies God's desire to walk with humanity. In the humble birth of Jesus, God enters the world not with power or grandeur, but with vulnerability and humility. The Nativity is a radical act of accompaniment. God does not remain distant but chooses to be present in the struggles and joys of human life. This Christmas, we are invited to reflect on how the Church walks with others in the same way – listening to one another, especially those who are suffering and being present in their lives.

The Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 will be a call for renewal within the Church. The theme, "*Behold, I make all things new!*" (Revelation 21:5), speaks to God's transformative love, which continually renews the Church and the world. This Jubilee offers an opportunity to

reflect on the Church's past, acknowledge its failures and celebrate the new life that God is bringing forth. A synodal approach to this preparation is essential because it calls the Church to open itself to the Holy Spirit and to listen carefully to where God is leading.

A synodal Christmas is not only a time to celebrate the birth of Christ but also a moment of spiritual preparation for the renewal the Jubilee will bring. As we enter the season of Advent and prepare our hearts for Christ's coming, we are invited to reflect on how we, as a Church, are being transformed. Are we listening to God's call for a deeper communion? Are we ready to move beyond our comfort zones to build a Church that truly reflects the inclusivity, humility and love that Jesus embodied?

In the lead-up to the Jubilee, a synodal Christmas offers us an opportunity to discern how we can live more authentically as a Church that listens to all its members. This means embracing not only the voices of those who have held power for centuries but also listening to those who have been marginalized or excluded. The Jubilee calls for a conversion of heart – a deeper commitment to building the kingdom of God, marked by justice, peace and love for all people.

The synodal process ultimately deepens the Church's commitment to being a community of discernment and accompaniment. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we are reminded that the Church is called to embody the same humility, love and care that Jesus showed in his life and ministry. The Church's mission is not to wield power or control but to serve, listen and love.

In the present scenario of the earth with so much wars and conflicts, a synodal Christmas

invites us to reflect on how we participate in this mission. How are we contributing to the life of the Church? Are we walking together in solidarity with others, or are we more focused on our personal faith journeys? The Christmas story challenges us to look beyond ourselves, just as the Magi did when they traveled from afar to encounter the newborn King. They journeyed together, offering gifts and showing respect for the divine mystery they encountered. Similarly, the Church is called to journey together, offering our gifts in service to the world and showing respect for the dignity of every human person.

As we approach the Jubilee of 2025, we are called to reflect on how we, as the Church, embody unity. The Jubilee will be a time to celebrate the ways in which God is working in the world, but it will also be a time for the Church to listen to the cries of those who suffer and struggle. The synodal process reminds us that the Church's mission is not about self-preservation but about responding to the needs of the world, which requires deep listening, mutual respect and a commitment to justice.

This Christmas, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us also prepare our hearts for the renewal the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 will bring. A synodal Christmas invites us to walk together as a Church – listening, discerning and embracing the call to be agents of transformation in the world. Through prayer, reflection and accompaniment, we can make this Christmas a time of spiritual renewal, opening our hearts to the ways in which God is calling us to be a more inclusive, listening and compassionate Church. Let us walk together in faith, joy and hope, as we prepare for the Jubilee of 2025.

+ Shyamal Bose

SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFIRMATION CONFERRED UPON CHILDREN

In two joyous ceremonies, a total of 62 children received the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation. These celebrations took place at St. Stephen's Church, Kalyanpur, on November 03, 2024 and at the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baidyapur, on November 17, 2024.

Most Rev. Shyamal Bose conferred the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation upon 43 children at Kalyanpur and 19 children at Baidyapur. The children had been meticulously prepared for this significant milestone by their catechism teachers, whose dedication and commitment to their spiritual growth are truly commendable.

Following the Mass, the newly confirmed children were congratulated and presented with Rosary, Certificates and Divine Mercy Pictures as mementos of this special day.



- Fr. Sarojit Mandal

PALLI UNNAYAN SAMITI BARUIPUR

Gram Panchayet Level Consultation Meeting



A Gram Panchayet Level Consultation Meeting was organized by Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur on November 19, 2024, at Kankandighi, Mathurapur Block II, as part of the CREAM project. The meeting aimed to foster collaboration between community members and the elected

Panchayet Pradhan, while also submitting a community-prepared DRR Action plan.

Key discussions centered on integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives into the village development plan. Mr. Mahadeb Mondal, Panchayet Pradhan and his staff pledged to incorporate DRR measures into their planning. The meeting also highlighted the importance of high-raised platforms for tube wells and houses to ensure access to safe drinking water during floods and protect against disasters.

Day Care Centre Food and Hygiene Kit Distribution

In addition to the meeting, Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur distributed essential commodities to 94 disabled children at the Day Care Center on November 29, 2024 in the presence of DCC Project personnel and 3 Italian volunteers from FADV Italy. The packages included nutritional dry food packets and hygiene kits, providing vital support to the children and their families.

- Fr. Saumen Malik

PARIBAR JYOTI

Paribar Jyoti undertook extensive planning for various programs and activities. A key highlight of the month was the successful conduct of the Training on Marriage Preparation and Young Couples Workshop, which drew a large and enthusiastic group of participants. This programme emphasized the sacredness of marriage as a gift from God and a sacrament.

In addition to this flagship programme, Paribar Jyoti engaged in a series of interactions with key stakeholders, including Panchayats, Pradhans, ASHA, ICDS, ANM-Health Workers, SHGs, Volunteers and Family Cell meetings. These outreach efforts spanned multiple sections of the block and various parishes within the Diocese.

The collective efforts of the staff and animators yielded a notable impact, with a total of 686 participants, comprising 544 women and 142 men, engaging with Paribar Jyoti's programmes during the month.



- Fr. Uttam Naskar

DIOCESAN PRIESTS' MEETING

The Diocesan Priests' Meeting was convened from November 19-20, 2024, at Dishari. The meeting commenced with a hymn seeking God's blessings, followed by a conversation in the spirit.

Fr. Kanauj Roy warmly welcomed Fr. Jayaraj Veluswamy SJ, who delivered a profound spiritual orientation. His guidance focused on discerning and leading the pioneering work of the Diocese through listening to one another.

Following the spiritual orientation, the Bishop opined the need for a moderator to facilitate the meeting. Consequently, Fr. Molloy Mondal was unanimously selected to this role. Fr. Molloy underscored the meeting's objective: to build up the Diocese.

The meeting then proceeded with the review of the previous meeting's minutes, presented by Fr. Himangshu Poti. After considering a few

suggestions, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Subsequently, in-depth discussions ensued, addressing various facets of priestly life and ministry. Concerned priests actively participated, sharing their insights and experiences and responding to pertinent issues.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka

BEC PROGRAMMES AND RECOLLECTIONS

In its ongoing effort to foster spiritual growth and community building, Dishari Pastoral Centre organized a series of seminars and recollections in November 2024.

Two seminars on Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) were conducted, one at Sacred Heart Church, Morapai on November 21, 2024 and another at Amgachiya on November 23, 2024. These seminars introduced the concept of BEC, highlighting its importance and strategies for promoting it in local communities. A total of 146 participants from various villages attended, leaving with a renewed commitment to establish and nurture BECs in their areas.

Additionally, Dishari Pastoral Centre facilitated two Faith Formation seminars. The first seminar, held on November 10, 2024, at Salika, focused on the Eucharist, deepening participants' understanding of this central Sacrament. The second seminar, conducted on November 17, 2024, at Hotar, centered on the forthcoming Advent season, encouraging participants to prepare spiritually for the coming of the Lord. Both seminars were well-attended, with 66 participants at Salika and 132 at Hotar. The events were enriching and impactful, promoting deeper faith and reflection among participants.

- Fr. Goutam Naskar



BENGAL & SIKKIM REGIONAL FAITH FORMATORS' TRAINING AT RAIGANJ



The Faith Formators' Training for the Bengal and Sikkim region took place on November 26, 2024 at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre in Raiganj, with Fr. Vijay Machado as the resource person. The focus of the session was on the methodology of catechesis, aiming to enhance the approach to teach the faith within the region. Fr. Machado provided a succinct yet comprehensive explanation of the six key tasks of catechesis, which serve as a foundation for effective faith formation. These tasks include: a) **Knowledge of Faith** - Ensuring that individuals have a clear understanding of the core tenets of Christian doctrine. b) **Teaching to Pray** - Nurturing the spiritual life of the faithful through the practice of prayer. c) **Liturgical Formation** - Familiarizing the community with the rich liturgical traditions and practices of the Church. d) **Moral Formation** - Guiding individuals to live according to the moral teachings of the Church, promoting ethical behaviour and righteousness. e) **Education to Community Life** - Fostering a sense of

belonging and active participation in the Church as a faith community. f) **Missionary Initiation** - Instilling a sense of mission and evangelization, encouraging individuals to spread the Good News of Christ. The training was well-received and participants left with a renewed understanding of their role as faith formators and a clearer vision for their future catechetical endeavours.

- Fr. Goutam Naskar

MONTHLY RECOLLECTION FOR PRIESTS

Two days of monthly recollection for the priests was held on November 12 & 13, 2024 in the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Baruipur. Rev. Fr. Kanauj Roy, V.G. introduced the recollection guide, Rev. Fr. C.J. Sebastian, SDB to all and extended a warm welcome to him on behalf of the Bishop and priests. Fr. C.J. Sebastian having been introduced to all, led the recollection, sharing his wisdom and insights on the theme, Restoring all things in Christ. His talks, infused with the spirit of Pope Pius X, offered a profound exploration of the ways to restore all things in Christ.

The recollection was a rich tapestry of spiritual experiences, woven together with personal confession, adoration and Eucharistic celebration.

As the recollection came to an end, Fr. Jaswant Nayak proposed a vote of thanks, expressing the priests' deep gratitude to Fr. C.J. Sebastian, the Bishop and the organizers for a truly enriching and rejuvenating experience.



- Fr. Deepak Ekka

SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILEE OF FR. HIMANGSHU POTI



Fr. Himangshu Poti's Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee was a momentous occasion, marking 25 years of dedicated service to the Lord. This milestone was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm, bringing together clergy, parishioners and well-wishers from across the Diocese.

The celebration began with a solemn Thanksgiving Mass, concelebrated by 60 priests from across the Diocese and other dioceses of Bengal. Most Rev. Shyamal Bose and Most Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus, graced the occasion with their presence, adding to the significance of the event.

The liturgy was enriched by devotional hymns composed by Late Fr. Ponkoj Kumar Poti, his uncle, which added a poignant touch to the celebration. The choir's melodious voices elevated the congregation to a realm of profound spiritual connection.

As the Mass came to a close, the Jubilarian was felicitated by the parishioners of Kalyanpur, who gathered around him to offer their congratulations and best wishes. With a humble heart and a grateful spirit, he thanked his mentors, well-wishers and the congregation for their love and support.

This celebration was a testament to his unwavering commitment to his calling and a tribute to his 25 years of dedicated service to the Lord. The Diocese extends its warmest congratulations to him on this significant milestone, praying that his future ministry may be filled with continued joy, peace and fulfillment.

- Br. Rajesh Naskar

Happy Birthday

DECEMBER

02	Fr. Pierre Jacob, SJ
09	Fr. Indrajit Sardar
11	Br. Pabitra Sardar
15	Fr. Faustine Brank

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers & Brothers

Ordination

DECEMBER

06	Fr. Arup Bor
07	Fr. Henry Crasta
16	Fr. Tushar Gomes, SDB
27	Fr. Sandip Mondal
28	Fr. Sunil Lakra SDB
29	Fr. Parimal Kanji
29	Fr. Peter Pradhan, CM
31	Fr. Joseph Toppo, SJ

Congratulations Dear Fathers

NOTICE BOARD

Inauguration and blessing of new buildings at St. Mary's School, Kalyanpur on 17.12.2024.

Paribar Jyoti

Marriage Preparation Course from 13th December to 14th December 2024.

Memorable & Admirable

Month of December

03	Fr. Mathew Jayanth S.J.
16	Br. Shanilal Kumar, HF
30	Fr. Ponkaj Kr. Poti

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of Dec. 2024

For pilgrims of hope : We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

RIP

Mrs. Sarathi Sardar, the sister of Fr. Bablu Sardar departed for her eternal abode on November 19, 2024, at the age of 55, after a prolonged illness of 16 years.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Bablu Sardar and his family during this difficult time. May we continue to pray for the repose of her soul, seeking God's mercy and comfort for those who mourn her loss. May she rest in eternal peace.



Bishop Shyamal Bose's Programme for the Month of December 2024

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
01	Sun		Midnapore	Visit to St. Joseph's Hospital
04	Wed	11.00 a.m.	Gangarampur	G. B. Meeting of the Boys' Town
05	Thu	12.15 p.m.	Dishari, Baruipur	Mass for BEC
07	Sat	10.30 a.m.	Haridevpur	Blessing and Inauguration of "Gnana Nibhas" SSAM
09	Mon	11.00 a.m.	Dishari, Baruipur	G. B. Meeting of Dishari
		03.00 p.m.	PUS Baruipur	G. B. Meeting of PUS
10	Tue	10.30 a.m.	Paribar Jyoti	G. B. Meeting of Paribar Jyoti
11	Wed	03.00 p.m.	Bishop's House, Baruipur	Meeting of the Finance Committee
12	Thu	10.00 a.m.	Bishop's House, Baruipur	Meeting of the Board of Consultors
15	Sun	10.00 a.m.	Balarampur	Inauguration of New Church at Balarampur, Raghobpur
17	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Kalyanpur	Inauguration & blessing of new buildings at St. Mary's School
18	Wed	04.30 p.m.	Keorapukur	Carmel School
20	Fri	08.30 a.m.	Holy Cross School, Baruipur	Holy Cross School - Exhibitions
21	Sat	10.00 a.m.	Diamond Park	St. Mary's School, Diamond Park
22	Sun	11.00 a.m.	St. Montfort School, Balarampur	Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Br. Joseph Regis
24	Tue	11.00 p.m.	Baruipur Cathedral	Midnight Mass for Christmas
26	Thu	05.30 p.m.	Thakurpukur	Christmas Programme
25	Wed	07.30 a.m.	Salika	Christmas Day Mass
29	Sun	02.30 p.m.	Baruipur Cathedral	Inauguration of Ordinary Jubilee 2025
30	Mon	10.00 a.m.	Panchamkhanda	Celebration of Golden and Silver Jubilee

Bishop Salvadore Lobo's Programme for the Month of December 2024

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
05	Thu	03.00 p.m.	Park Circus, Kolkata	Ecumenical Panel Discussion
06	Fri		Baruipur	BEC programme
07	Sat	10.30 a.m.	Haridevpur	Blessing & inauguration of Regional House of Sisters of St. Anne, Chennai
08	Sun	07.00 a.m.	Baruipur	Holy Mass at R. B. Nagar Church
13-14	Fri-Sat			Asansol Diocese
17	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Kalyanpur	Inauguration & blessing of new buildings at St. Mary's School
18	Wed		Midnapore	Visits Fr. Henry Crasta
20	Fri	08.30 a.m.	Baruipur	Christmas Programme at Holy Cross School
24	Tue	06.30 p.m.		Vigil Mass for Christmas
26	Thu	05.30 p.m.	Thakurpukur	Christmas Programme

Most. Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur,
Most. Rev. Salvadore Lobo, Bishop Emeritus of Baruipur,
all the Priests, Religious and people of Baruipur Diocese,
wishes all the readers A Merry Christmas
and A Happy Prosperous New Year 2025.

বিশ্ব খ্রীষ্টের জন্ম উপলক্ষে শুভ বড়দিন উৎসব,
 বারুইপুর ধর্মপ্রদেশের সকল খ্রীষ্টভক্ত, পুরোহিত, সিস্টার, ব্রাদার,
 ধর্মপ্রচারক, শিক্ষক-শিক্ষিকা এবং শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষীদের জানাই
 বড়দিনের আন্তরিক প্রীতি, শুভেচ্ছা, অভিনন্দন এবং আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ।

বিশপ শ্যামাল বোস
 বারুইপুর ধর্মপ্রদেশ