



A Season of Shared Spiritual Awakening

In the sacred rhythms of the world's religions, there are moments when their spiritual calendars draw strikingly close to one another. This year offers such a moment of reflection. The Christian season of Lent and the Islamic holy month of Ramadan began almost simultaneously, while the Hindu observance of Chaitra Navratri follows shortly afterward. Though rooted in different religious traditions and theological foundations, these sacred seasons share a remarkable emphasis on prayer, fasting, repentance, charity, and spiritual renewal.

Across continents and cultures, millions of believers are entering periods of discipline and devotion. Christians begin the forty-day journey of Lent, Muslims observe the month-long fast of Ramadan, and Hindus soon prepare for days of prayer and fasting during Chaitra Navratri. While these traditions differ in doctrine and expression, they reveal something deeply shared in the human spirit: a longing to draw closer to God through self-examination, purification of the heart, and a renewed commitment to live a righteous life.

The Christian Journey of Lent

For us as Christians, Lent began on Ash Wednesday, inviting us into forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for the celebration of Easter. This sacred season recalls the forty days that Jesus Christ spent fasting and praying in the desert before beginning His public ministry.

Lent is not merely about external sacrifices or temporary abstinence. It is a journey of the heart a call to conversion. When ashes are placed upon our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, the Church reminds us of two profound truths: our human fragility and God's infinite mercy. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," the words echo. Yet within this reminder lies hope, for God never abandons the repentant heart.

Lent invites us to step away from the noise of daily

life and listen again to God's voice. It challenges us to examine our conscience, mend broken relationships, show compassion to the poor, and renew our commitment to live as disciples of Christ.

The Sacred Discipline of Ramadan

At the same time, our Muslim brothers and sisters are observing the holy month of Ramadan, a period marked by fasting from dawn until sunset, increased prayer, and generous charity. During this month, Muslims seek to deepen their obedience to God and strengthen their spiritual lives through discipline and compassion for those in need.

Fasting in Ramadan is more than abstaining from food and drink. It is a spiritual exercise intended to purify the heart, cultivate self-control, and foster solidarity with the poor. The month concludes with the joyful celebration of Eid al-Fitr, when families and communities rejoice in spiritual renewal.

While our beliefs differ, we can still recognize the sincerity of this devotion and the shared human desire to seek God with humility.

Devotion in the Hindu Tradition

Soon after, many Hindus will observe Chaitra Navratri, a sacred period of fasting, prayer, and reverence for the Divine. For nine days, devotees dedicate themselves to spiritual discipline, reflection, and worship.

In Hindu spirituality, fasting is seen as a way of mastering human desires and purifying the mind so that one may grow closer to God. It reflects a universal spiritual intuition: that restraint of the body can awaken and strengthen the soul.

A Universal Call to Renewal

When we look at these traditions together, a meaningful pattern emerges. Despite differences in theology and worship, these sacred seasons share common spiritual practices:

- Fasting and self-discipline
- Increased prayer and reflection
- Acts of charity and compassion

- Repentance and moral renewal
- A deeper commitment to God

In a world often filled with noise, competition, and distraction, it is remarkable that millions of people freely embrace silence, restraint, generosity, and prayer. This convergence reminds us that true renewal in society begins with the renewal of the human heart.

A Message for Our Time

We live in an age marked by conflict, misunderstanding, and moral uncertainty. In such a world, these seasons of repentance speak with quiet but powerful wisdom. They teach humility and remind us that every human being stands in need of mercy. As followers of Jesus Christ, we remain firmly rooted in our faith. At the same time, our faith calls us to respect the dignity of every person and to appreciate the sincere devotion found in others. This convergence of sacred seasons offers us an opportunity not only to deepen our own spiritual lives during Lent, but also to grow in understanding and respect toward those who seek God in different ways.

Renewal of the Heart

Lent ultimately leads us to the Cross and to the empty tomb of Jesus Christ. There we discover the deepest meaning of repentance: not sorrow alone, but transformation; not merely sacrifice, but new life. May this sacred season inspire us to pray more sincerely, forgive more generously, serve more compassionately, and walk more faithfully with Christ. And as people of different faiths around us also seek God through fasting, prayer, and charity, may this shared longing for holiness become a seed of peace in our world.

May this season bear abundant fruit within our hearts, our families, and our communities, so that justice, compassion, and harmony may flourish among all people.

+ Shyamal Bose

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation at Chuprijhara Church



On February 01, 2026, a memorable and spiritually enriching event took place at Chuprijhara Church, where sixty candidates, well-prepared through prayer and catechesis, received the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation. The candidates, coming from the communities of 6 No. Sonatikari, Vasa and Moipeeth, gathered together in faith to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

The solemn Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Shyamal Bose, who, with great reverence, sealed each candidate with the Holy Spirit. The ceremony was filled with joy and devotion as the candidates took a significant step in their spiritual journey. This sacrament marked a deepening of their faith and commitment to living as disciples of Christ. A heartfelt gratitude is extended to the Parish Priest, Fr. Ujjwal Mondal and the catechists, whose dedication and guidance helped prepare the candidates for this important occasion.

- Fr. Ujjwal Mondal

Kalahrdaya Launches Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Kalahrdaya inaugurated its Silver Jubilee celebrations on Sunday, 01 February 2026, at 5:00 pm. Most Rev. Shyamal Bose inaugurated the year-long celebrations by lighting the ceremonial lamp, while Fr. Saju George SJ welcomed the gathering. The programme featured a traditional Chenda Melam followed by a cultural presentation. In his address, Bishop Shyamal Bose appreciated Kalahrdaya's 25 years of service in promoting Indian art, culture, spirituality and social welfare. He noted that Kalahrdaya is an integral part of the Diocese of Baruipur and expressed hope for its continued contribution to art, culture and faith formation.



A special highlight was the participation of 11 Jesuit artists and a Claretian dancer-priest from different parts of the country. Around 120 priests, religious, artists and well-wishers attended the celebration. Fr. Saju informed the gathering that Br. Kuriakose Vellingat SJ has joined Kalahrdaya as Minister and Administrator, while Fr. K. Thottam SJ continues as Treasurer and Spiritual Animator. The day ended with the invitation for the annual cultural programmes of Kalahrdaya to be held on 14 and 15 March 2026 at 5:00 pm.

- Fr. Saju George SJ

Paribar Jyoti

Along with the residential workshops and training programmes, Paribar Jyoti continued its efforts to motivate and strengthen the Family Cells across the Diocese. Our Parish Priests actively encouraged parishioners, especially Family Cell members, to grow in commitment and service. During the month, various discussions, meetings, orientations and seminars were organised in different parishes to promote active participation and support families in need. Each gathering was marked by joyful participation and meaningful life-sharing by couples, inspiring faith and growth among the members.



The programmes included the Marriage Preparation Course, Young Couples Workshop, Family Cell Orientation Seminar, Animators Workshop and Family Cell meetings in parishes. A total of 281 participants attended these programmes, including 79 men and 202 women, reflecting the growing enthusiasm and commitment of families in the diocese.

- Fr. Uttam Naskar

Dishari at a Glance

During the month of February 2026, Dishari Pastoral Centre organised and animated several faith formation programmes across different parishes, fostering deeper understanding of the Word of God, the Holy Eucharist, and the spirit of communion within the Church. A Parish Level BEC Seminar was held at Bamunpukur Parish on 01 February with 93 participants, led by Rev. Fr. Abonindra Das, Mr. Ajay Naskar, and Mr. Dipankar Sardar. Another BEC Seminar took place at Baidyapur Parish on 8 February, animated by Rev. Fr. Abonindra Das and Mr. Dipankar Sardar, with 88 participants.

An Altar Servers Animation Programme was organised on 15 February at Radhanagar Church under Morapai Parish, where 63 children from nearby villages participated. The session was conducted by Rev. Fr. Uttam Naskar and focused on the importance of the Holy Eucharist and the liturgical items used during Mass.

The month concluded with a Diocese-level Training of Trainers (TOT) Programme on 25 February at Dishari Pastoral Centre, beginning with a Bible procession and veneration. Rev. Fr. Paneer Selvam led a session on Basic Ecclesial Communities and Synodality, highlighting the importance of communion, participation and mission in the Church, with 38 participants attending. All programmes concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

- Br. Subilash Bor



RIP



Mrs. Mangali Panja, beloved wife of Mr. Swapan Panja, went to her eternal rest on 09 February 2026 at the age of 54. She had been suffering from asthma since last year. As she leaves behind her husband,

children and grandchildren, we entrust her soul to the infinite mercy of God and pray that she may enjoy eternal peace in His presence. May the Lord grant strength, comfort and consolation to Mr. Swapan Panja and the grieving family during this time of sorrow.

The catechist of Dheknanari, a substation of Nazat Parish, **Mr. Deepak Sardar** (37), passed away on 11 February 2026. Mr. Deepak Sardar faithfully served the Christian community of Dheknanari as a dedicated catechist for 7



years. Through his commitment, he played an important role in nurturing the faith of the faithful, especially in guiding children and youth in catechism and supporting the spiritual life of the community. We pray that the Lord may grant eternal rest to his soul and comfort to his family.

- Deepak Ekka

Diocesan Youth Commission

The Diocesan Youth Commission of Baruipur organized a series of Youth Orientation Programs on the theme "Community Building" across few parishes in February 2026, bringing together young people for faith formation, reflection and fellowship.

The first parish-level program was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Sajnaberia on 8 February 2026 with around 71 youth from Sajnaberia, Thakurpukur and Keorapukur parishes. The event coincided with the feast of St. Gonzalo Garcia, patron saint of ICYM. The program included an inspiring session by Mr. Sarbeshwar Chakrabarty on facing contemporary challenges with faith and responsibility. It was followed by interactive activities and prize distribution. A second parish-level orientation was conducted at Canning Parish on 15 February 2026 with more than 71 youth participating. Mr. Raj Bagh led an engaging session on "Identity Crisis – Who Am I?", highlighting the importance of self-identity, values and purpose while addressing challenges faced by young people today. The program continued with competitions that encouraged creativity and teamwork among the participants.



The Zonal Level Orientation Program was held at Khari Parish on 22 February 2026 with over 122 youth from Baidyapur, Morapai and Khari parishes. Fr. Ujjwal Mondal opened the sessions with a reflection on resilience using the metaphor of

a tree followed by the ZEXCO election. All the programs were strengthened with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Rajen Singh.

- Mr. Mrinmoy Sardar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH

03	Fr. Stefan KiskuSj
05	Br. Anshu Ghoroi
08	Fr. Rajen Simon Singh
24	Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose
25	Fr. Kanauj Roy



MARCH

22	Fr. Kuruvilla Thottam, SJ
31	Fr. Uttam Naskar

Priestly Ord. of Bishop

19	Rt. Rev. Salvadore Lobo
----	-------------------------

Memorable & Admirable

Month of March

01	Fr. Le Jeune Jean Pierre S.J.
05	Fr. Van Hove Joseph S.J.
15	Fr. Ernst Albert S.J.

Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer - Month of March 2025

For disarmament and peace: Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur

Visit of Well-wishers



On 23 February 2026, a delegation comprising Ms. Paola Maugeri, Ms. Manuele Paradiso, Ms. Rosanna Maugeri, Ms. Sara Galeone, Ms. Arianna Favalli, Mr. Biplab Chakraborty and Valeria from FADV Italy, visited Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur. The guests were warmly welcomed by the PUS

team with flowers. During the visit, the delegation observed the ongoing activities of the Day Care Centre (DCC), which provides special care and support for children with disabilities. The visitors interacted with the staff and gained insight into the services offered to the children and their families.

The team also visited the Tailoring, Beautician and Computer Training Centres run by PUS. These centres provide need-based vocational training aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities for youth and young women from marginal farmer families and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. A discussion was also held regarding the construction of the new DCC building, focusing on the future development and expansion of services for children with special needs. The visitors interacted with the parents of the DCC children and later visited two beneficiary families to better understand their living conditions and the impact of the programme. The delegation appreciated the initiatives undertaken by PUS and expressed their willingness to continue supporting the organization in its efforts to improve the lives of poor and marginalized communities.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the Radhaballavpur Learning Centre under Sonarpur Block. The programme at the centre began with a prayer song and meditation. The visitors later engaged with the students and teachers through interactive ice-breaking games, creating a friendly and encouraging environment.

- Fr. Saumen Malik

NOTICE BOARD

Transfers of the Priests 2026 (Circular No: 04/2026)

Sl. No.	Name	Place From	Former Designation	To Place	New Designation
1.	Fr. Kanauj Roy		Parish Priest	Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur	Director
2.	Fr. Saumen Malik	Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur	Director	Keorapukur	Curate
3.	Fr. J. Pathinathan	Kumrakhali	Curate	Sonarpur	Curate

Fr. Kanauj Roy will assume the responsibility of Palli Unnayan Samiti Baruipur as Director from March 01 2026.

Fr. Kanauj Roy will also continue with his present responsibilities till further notice.

Fr. J. Pathinathan will come to Sonarpur as Curate.

Fr. Bablu Sardar will help Fr. Molloy Mondal at Baidyapur till Easter.

Paribar Jyoti: # Marriage Preparation Course from March 06-07, 2026
Young Couples Workshop from March 27-28, 2026