

CONTENTS

- 1. Editorial
- 2. Diamond Jubilee Celebrations
- 3. Jubilee Symposium
- 4. Assam CM Inaugurates 4th Don Bosco College in the State
- 5. Blessing and Inauguration of Don Bosco Media Centre
- 6. 2nd International Conference on Education
- 7. Inauguration and Blessing of Sophia Hostel, Diphu
- 8. Science and Arts Exhibition at Umswai
- 9. Missionary Month Concluded at Damra
- 10. Blessing and Inauguration of Don Bosco School, Bhooteachang
- 11. DBIM Exposure Programme
- 12. Barpeta Celebrates Fr. Kuriala's Jubilee
- 13. International Child Rights Day Celebrated
- 14. Inauguration of Extension Building of Jyoti Snehalaya, Beltola
- 15. Ambassador for Peace Award to Archbishop Menamparampil
- 16. Prenovices Celebrate Children's Day
- 17. NSS Leadership Development Program at Don Bosco College, Tura

- 18. DBC Tura Organises Mock Civil Services Examinations
- Annual School Festival Held at Don Bosco School Guwahati
- 20. The 2nd National Conference on Social Development
- 21. Visit of Cardinal Charles Bo of Myanmar
- 22. Integrated Farming System

23. R.I.P

- a. Most Rev. Dominic Jala
 Archbishop of Shillong
- **b. Fr Paul Vadakkumpadan** of Shillong Province

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Christmas: Celebration of the dawn of salvation

Dear Readers,

Christmas is a jubilation of the dawn of salvation. With immense joy, I would like to greet you all "Happy Christmas". It is the most beautiful and the loveliest feast that the world has ever known for its charm, for its universality of good tidings for the whole humanity. It generates feelings of beauty, love, peace, unitedness, goodness and joy. Such is the greatness of this feast, such is the expansiveness of its impact on the whole world. So, let no one demean its significance and the role it plays for the creation of universal brotherhood and sisterhood.



Fr. Pojit Marak, sdb

Editor, Newsline

The Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Salesian Province of Guwahati which lasted for three long days from 15th to 17th October 2019 was indeed a jubilation of the birth of the Province on 17th October 1959. It was a celebration of the foundation of the Salesian Charism on the soil of Northeast. The Salesian Province of Guwahati has also given birth to two other provinces: the Province of Dimapur and the Province of Shillong. This is an incredible achievement in terms of growth of the salesian mission, to which a million thanks were paid to the tireless zeal and hard work of the pioneers and missionaries who dared and hoped and above all to the Madonna of Don Bosco who continues to work miracles in this part of the Salesian world.

The present Issue of the Newsline gives the pride of place to Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Diamond Jubilee Symposium. The other news and events covered in this issue are: Assam Chief Minister inaugurating Don Bosco College, Bongaigaon, Blessing of Don Bosco Media Centre, 2nd International Conference on Education for Principals and Educational Administrators, Inauguration and blessing of Sophia Hostel, Diphu, Science and Arts Exhibition held in Umswai, Missionary Month celebrations at Damra, Blessing and Inauguration of Don Bosco School, Bhooteachang, Exposure programmes for the students of Don Bosco Institute of Management, Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Fr. Kuriala, CFG celebration of International Children's Day, Workshop on effective Juvenile Justice system, Peace Award for Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menamparampil and finally remembering all the great personalities who departed from this world to their heavenly abode in heaven – Most Rev. Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong, Fr. Paul Vadakkumpadan of Shillong Province and Fr. Mathew Vellankal.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2020.

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Celebrations

Fr. Robert Faustin, SDB

The Province of Mary Help of Christians, Guwahati celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on 17th October 2019 at Don Bosco School ground. The Province of Mary Help of Christians, Guwahati was bifurcated from the Mother Province of North India (Calcutta) began its journey on 17th October 1959 under the leadership of Fr Anthony Alessi, its first Provincial. Sixty years, down memory lane were years that

witnessed the prolific expansion and growth of the Province in all spheres especially in evangelization and catechesis, parish ministry, youth work, education and vocation promotion. Most importantly, it saw the birth of two new provinces – Dimapur (1981) and Shillong (2012).

The grand finale of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations began in the morning of 17th October, with a spiritual preparation for the Holy Eucharist with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a devout recitation of the





Holy Rosary in different languages. Fr Francesco Cereda then presided over the Holy Eucharist in honour of Mary Help of Christians to whom is our Province



dedicated. As many as 150 priests concelebrated in the Holy Eucharist. In his homily, he spoke of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is our Help and Mother of the Church, as the Woman for difficult times, as the Woman of the fullness of time, and as the Woman of the hour. He also said, "Mary teaches us how to live the preventive system that is the sacrament of presence: to be with the young and the people. We too, like her, must be a Help, help to God's grace, to bring into the lives of young people, lay people and families, the love of Jesus and of the Gospel." At the end of the Eucharist, Fr Cereda released the books, History of the Catholic Church Among the Garos by Fr George Plathottam SDB and pictorial life of Don Bosco in English, Assamese, Bodo and Garo languages published by Don Bosco Communications Department of the Province.

The Cultural Extravaganza took place at 2.00 pm in the same venue. Bosco Mount Band escorted Fr Cereda, the Chief Gue



event, the Province had the opportunity to honour Former Provincials, Vice Provincials, Economers and the Major Superiors of the Salesian Family and confreres who completed 60 years or more of religious life from all the three Provinces of the North East: IND, INS and ING. Fr. Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial, the Chief Coordinator, in his vote of thanks expressed his gratitude to all the communities of the

and other dignitaries from the Provincial House to the pandal with their beautiful band pieces. Youth from the vrious parts of the province performed the beautifully prepared cultural dances on the stage. It was truly a cultural extravaganza. During the



province who had actively participated in the jubilee celebrations. He thanked the Chairman and Provincial, Rev. Fr. Januarius S. Sangma, and all the Council Members. He thanked the School Community and the DBI for their whole hearted support and cooperation in making the event a grand success. Commenting on the celebrations, Fr. Provincial said, "We celebrated 60 years of God's grace and human collaboration. The celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee were truly spiritual and grand, befitting of people. We celebrated the Jubilee in the background of our preparations for the Centenary of the presence of Salesian charism in the Northeast (1922-2022)."

Jubilee **SYMPOSIUM**



On the 15th and 16th October 2019, the Province of Guwahati under the leadership of Dr Fr. Biju Michael organised the Diamond Jubilee Symposium on the theme, "Evangelization and Catechesis" at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati. 180 participants took part in this well conducted symposium.

The proceedings began with a brief inaugural function in which Rev. Fr Francesco Cereda SDB, Vicar of the Rector Major, inaugurated the Symposium and presented a Paper entitled: Evangelization and Catechesis: Perennial Mission of the Church. Prof. David Syiemlieh, a renowned historian, presented a brief history of the

Salesian presence in North East India with special emphasis on the Salesian Province of Guwahati.

There was a panel discussion on the theme, Educating through Evangelization and Evangelization through Education, moderated by Rev. Fr Kuriala Chittattukalam, a veteran Salesian missionary and educationist. The panellists dwelt on themes such as the roles of schools, colleges, technical & non-formal schools and hostels. Wellorganized moral education, counselling and guidance were thought to be important aspects of evangelization and catechesis.

Basing on the Gospel of St Matthew, Fr Jose Varickasseril, an eminent scholar in Sacred Scriptures, stressed on the importance of progressive catechesis for anyone engaged in pastoral work. The second panel

discussed on the theme of the role played by women religious belonging to the Salesian Family in the Salesian Evangelizing Mission in the North East and it was moderated by Mother Philomena Mathew, Mother General, MSMHC. The panellists dwelt on the roles played by the women religious belonging to the Salesian family in the evangelizing mission in the North East.

The second day of the deliberations began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati. In the first session of the day, Rev. Fr Philip Barjo, former Provincial of Guwahati, spoke about The Prominent Salesian Personalities who Shaped the Evangelizing Mission in the Province of Guwahati. Fr Francis Hembrom, Provincial Delegate for Mission of Guwahati Province, presented a





paper on The Possibility of a Resurgent Catechesis in North East India. Later the members dispersed in groups for a discussion in order to identify priority areas for various regions of the province in the fields of evangelization and catechesis.

In the last panel discussion, moderated by Rev. Fr Charles Sangma, Provincial Councillor, the panellists presented the roles of past pupils, co-operators, catechists and lay teachers to the educative and evangelizing mission in the North East. In the last session of the symposium, Rev. Fr Thomas Chenginiyaden, a veteran missionary, talked on the role that money plays in the evangelizing mission and Fr Paul Kuttikadan, another veteran missionary, on the strategies the missionaries need to adopt for effectively carrying out evangelisation and catechesis in our parishes.

As a follow-up of the symposium on evangelization and catechesis, the participants resolved to carry forward some lines of action in order to revitalise the ministries of Evangelization and Catechesis in the various settings of the Province of Guwahati. It was decided that the various regions of the Province will take up whatever lines of action that are suited to them and work upon them in a time-bound manner in the coming years of preparation for the centenary of the arrival of Salesians in the North East.

Rev. Fr. Januarius S Sangma, Provincial expressed his thanks to Fr. Biju Michael for shouldering the responsibility to organising this wonderful seminar in preparation for the Diamond Jubilee of the province and in view the Centenary of the arrival of the Salesians to Northeast India. He also expressed his thanks and appreciation to Don Bosco Institute for hosting the symposium and making a it a memorable event for all the participants.

Assam CM Inaugurates 4th Don Bosco College

in the State

Fr. Paul Rabha, SDB

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Monday, 4th of November 2019 inaugurated Don Bosco College Bongaigaon, which is at Chapaguri in Chirang district in the presence of number of Government officials and Church Authorities.

The dignitaries present at the event included: Minister for Forest, Soil Conservation etc. Govt. of Assam - Smti Pramila Rani Brahma; Chief of Bodoland

Territorial Council, Kokrajhar - Shri Hagrama Mohilary; Deputy Chief of BTC, Kokrajhar - Shri Kampa Borgoyary; Cabinet Minister, Government of Assam - Shri Chandan Brahma; Vice Chancellor, Bodoland University Kokrajhar - Prof. Laishram Ladu Singh, Fr. Januarius S Sangma, Provincial of Salesian Province of Guwahati, Priests, Religious, large number of Salesians, Teachers, students and the people of the locality.

This is the fourth Don Bosco College in Assam after Azara, Diphu and Golaghat. The Chief Minister in his inaugural address



10 December 2019



congratulated the Don Bosco Fathers and Brothers for providing quality education to the student community, and for nurturing talents and for inculcating discipline in the students. He said, "I am a product of Don Bosco School, Dibrugarh and I know the type of quality that Don Bosco offers to the people all over the world."

He did not hesitate to add, "Don Bosco has set up this college for you and you must promise to do your best." He also made the students to promise that they will become the best in the region and even in the country.

The college building was blessed by Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil of Bongaigaon who thanked the Salesians for setting up the college in his region and particularly in his diocese. While praising the Salesians for the great work they are doing in the Northeast and the bishop told the people to take

advantage of their services. The Provincial of Guwahati province Fr. Januarius S Sangma, in his address dedicated the college to the people of the region and thanked the Salesian Communities for their generous contribution towards the building up of the college.

Principal of the college Fr. (Dr.) Alex Mathew, welcomed dignitaries and the invited guests and presented an overview of Don Bosco works in the world and in the Northeast and Bodoland area in particular.

The much acclaimed Band of Don Bosco School Bengtol who took part in the Republic Day function in New Delhi welcomed the Chief Guest and performed at the event. A variety of cultural items added solemnity to the occasion which concluded with a meal for all.



On 17th October 2019 at 9.45 am on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, the Salesian Province of Guwahati, Rev. Fr. Francesco Cereda, Vicar of the Rector Major blessed and inaugurated Don Bosco Media Centre and gave the first interview. He talked about the need to communicate effectively the Gospel, the gospel values and the Salesian Charism together with the young and for the young in the areas where the young people are found.

Others present on the occasion were Rev. Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga, the Regional Councillor for the South East Asia, Rev. Fr. Jose Kuruvachira, the Provincial of Dimapur, Rev. Fr. Januarius S Sangma, Provincial of Guwahati, Rectors and

Leaders of Communities, invitees, friends and well wishers.

Fr. Kanaga said that social communication is the best means of reaching out to the young people. Fr. Provincial congratulated and appreciated Fr. P.D. Johny, the Director of Social Communications in the Province for the renovation work and for all the plans and projects lined up to make this venture effective and successful.

Soon after the inauguration, a special interview with Fr. D. John of Shillong Province took place in the media studio conducted by Fr. Biju Michael. Fr. D. John was the first Communication Director of the undivided Province of Guwahati. The blessing and inauguration ended with tea and snacks for all.

2 ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

Nancy Yeppo

Don Bosco Institute organised the 2nd International Conference on Education from 8th - 10th November, 2019. 150 participants from Indian, Bhutan and Nepal participated in the conference. The theme of the conference was "The Power of Design Thinking and Mindful Living". The chief resource person was Anand Pillai, Managing Director, Leadership Matters, Inc. New Delhi. Mr Anand said that Design Thinking is being taught today at leading universities around the world. It is a process of creating new and innovative ideas to solve problems using a 5-step process namely, Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype and Test.

TERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "Mindfulness", he said, "is about being present, paying attention to the present moment in a non-judgmental way, being mindful of everything that surrounding us and what is happening inside of us. It is the art of living consciously."

According to Anand, "Excellence is not being the best but excellence is doing your best." Striving for excellence can motivate you but striving for perfection can be demoralizing. The pursuit of excellence keeps you focused on what matters, fills you with energy and can act as your cheerleader. There is no damage to self-esteem, like that found in perfectionism. Perfectionism diminishes your productivity, your efficiency and effectiveness, and worse still, damages your peace of heart and mind. On the other side, productivity is built into the





pursuit of excellence. People don't put in their best effort despite their best intentions. They put in their best effort under compulsion. Teacher's role is to bring out the best in their students. Thus everyone can be excellent!

Other resource persons were Fr. John Parankimalil, Executive Director of DBI who spoke about 21st Century Education and Future of Learning and Fr. Joseph Manipadam, CBCI Secretary for Education and Culture who spoke on the latest developments in the New Education Policy. The panel discussions were moderated by

"Cyber Security and Impact of social Media in Education" by Prof. Chandan Dutta.

The 2nd International Conference ended with words of gratitude from participants and the Conference Secretary, Sr. Magdalene Gonmei, FMA. Certificates and

mementos were distributed to all

participants.

ADBU. Separate sessions were organised for the international participants on

"Dealing with change in the Education

system by Prof. Amal Dev Sarma and

Inauguration and Blessing of **SOPHIA HOSTEL, DIPHU**

Fr. Benny Alex, SDB

On 12th November 2019, the blessing and inauguration of Sophia Hostel for girls took place at Don Bosco College, Diphu, in the district of Karbi Anglong, Assam. The hostel building was blessed by Rev. Fr. nuarius S. Sangma, Provincial of

Guwahati and was inaugurated by Sr. Mabel Joseph, MSA, Provincial of St. Francis Province, Ajmer in the presence of Fr. V.M. Thomas, former Provincial of Guwahati, Fr. John Timung, Vicar General of Diphu Diocese, Fr. Joseph Teron, Vice



Provincial, Fr. Benny Alex, Provincial Economer and several fathers, sisters and students of the college. Fr. Provincial in his speech said that it was another step towards further growth of the region and the college.

He thanked the MissionSsisters of Ajmer for collaborating with the Salesian Province of Guwahati towards providing quality higher education in Karbi Anglong, one of the most backward Districts of Assam.

SCIENCE AND ARTS EXHIBITION at Umswai

Fr. Albert Thyrniang, SDB

An impressive Science and Art Craft exhibition was held in Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Umswai in West Karbi Anglong on 5th November, 2019. The Annual exhibition was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. AT Tomey, SDB, Rector and Parish Priest of Don Bosco Mission, Umswai.



Speaking on the occasion, Fr. Tomy, Rector and Parish Priest noted the tremendous changes in the area in the last 30 years or so. This has been possible because of education provided by institutions like Don Bosco School which had prayed a leading role in this regard. He said that an exhibition of this sort would provide further impetus for change as it enables the student community to think creatively for solutions for different challenges facing the area. Reminding the students that great scientists like Thomas Edison faced with repeated failures before they finally succeeded, he urged them never to give up. He also congratulated the school authorities, the staff and students for putting up such a splendid show in a remote area.

The guest of honour, Shri Darius Durong, assistant headman of Umswai Model village was all praise for the school for the excellent exhibition. As a past student and teacher of the institution he was encouraged to see

positive changes in the school. In his lively speech he cited the example of former president A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and urged the students to cultivate an interest in science and instil a scientific outlook for progress and development.

The Chief Guest, other guests and parents were highly taken up the exhibition that included Science Experiments, Handloom, Reuse and recycle of Waste Materials, Embroidery, Clay making, Computer models, Traditional houses, Langkhon, Tradition dustbins, Tiwa and Karbi literature. Don Bosco School, Amkachi and other neighbouring schools also participated in the exhibition.

The exhibition was preceded by a brief inaugural function the highlight of which was the much appreciated Karbi traditional dance. Earlier Fr. Albert Thyrniang, Principal, welcomed everyone to the annual exhibition.



16 December 2019

MISSIONARY MONTH CONCLUDED

at Damra

Br. Benedict Sangma, SDB



Eighteen Parishes of the Archdiocese of Guwahati participated in the grand Eucharistic get together on 3rd November 2019 at Damra, Mother Parish of the region to give a fitting conclusion to the Missionary Month. The gathering was jointly organized by the Archdiocese of Guwahati and Damra Parish. Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati presided over the celebration. Rev. Fr. K.O. Augustine, SDB, Rector and Parish Priest welcomed the large gathering of 2500 and narrated the history of the Damra Mission from its beginning in 1946 with Fr. Colzani as the Pioneer. Fr. Stadler, Fr. Busolin, Fr Curto, Fr. A Victor were also great pioneers.

As Pope Francis had declared that this year the theme for the Mission Sunday would be "Mission and Evangelization", so to mark the event and to celebrate this papal request a large crowd of faithful gathered together with many priests and religious from 18 Parishes right from Kamrup district Loharghat Parish to the west of Goalpara district upto Panishali parish and towards the south Damas and Chimaimpel parishes of Meghalaya gathered together around the Archbishop of Guwahati his Grace Most Rev. John Moolachira, DD., at Damra Parish, the mother parish of all the parishes of Goalpara zone.

The faithful welcomed the Chief Guest Archbishop Most Rev. John Moolachira DD of Guwahati at 10.00 am. In different musical beats, singing and attired in various cultural costumes, they welcomed him in procession from Colzani Don Bosco School gate upto the main pandal. Before the start of the Holy Mass, Fr. K.O Augustine, Rector and Parish Priest of Damra narrated the history of the coming of Missionaries and the beginning of missionary work

Damra. He also educated the gathering by elaborating the Church history and the missionary work in North-East region.

Archbishop John Moolachira presided over the Holy Eucharist. In his homily he reminded and invited the faithful with the same words and the message of Pope Francis "CHRISTUS VIVIT" or Christ is alive. Further he said "we need to put on the light of Christ or to be like Christ". The entire celebration was well organized and there was well-disciplined crowd through programme. From 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. a cultural programme was organized in which variety of cultural items were put up which added more colour and the solemnity to the occasion.

BLESSING AND INAUGURATION

of Don Bosco School, Bhooteachang

Sr. Magdalene Gonmei, FMA



On the occasion of Children's Day, 14th of November, Don Bosco School, Bhooteachang was blessed and inaugurated by Most Rev. Akasius Toppo, Bishop of Tezpur in the presence of Fr. Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial, Fr. Benny Alex, Provincial Economer, Fr. Marcus Lakra, Rector and

Parish Priest of Tangla, Fr. John Parankimalil, Executive Director of DBI, and many fathers, sisters, laity, teachers and children. During his welcome address, Fr. P.D. Johny told the gathering that the Don Bosco School, Bhooteachang was a joint venture of DBI and the Province of

Guwahati and dedicated the new school building to the children of Bhooteachang region. Bishop Akasius profusely thanked Don Bosco Institute and the Salesian Province of Guwahati for setting up such a good school in one of the most backward and remotest area of his dioces for the least privileged tea garden people. He expressed his hope that this school will produce leading, enlightened men and women in the future and in due course this will become a Higher Secondary School. He also requested the parents to take the education of their children seriously as it is the only way to prosper in life. The bishop and dignitaries were welcomed and felicitated by the students of Don Bosco School, Bhooteachang, All those who were present were wonderstruck by the awesome performances of the students throughout the programme. The children were found to be extremely talented and especially in talking English language fluently and correctly. It was almost unthinkable that a rural school with students from villages could pick up foreign language so well. Forty selected teachers and students of DBI participated in the event. Lunch was served to all invited guests and tea and snacks were provided to all parents, staff and students.

Mr. Tanmoy Roy, MBA student

The network that Don Bosco institutions created in the North East was visible clearly when the second year students of MBA had their outreach programme to some of the most remote rural villages of Assam. Our journey began on the 28th of October at 9:40 in the morning from Don Bosco Institute of Management, Kharghuli and they headed straight to Don Bosco School, Barpeta Road. This school hails itself to be one of the oldest institutes in that region and is now having an Assamese Medium School and an



English Medium School. Fr. Anugraha, Rector of the centre welcomed us with warm hearts and fed us with delicious lunch. The students also had a chance to visit the Bosco Skill Training Centre as well as St. Mary's Assamese and English Medium schools.

The next stop was at Don Bosco College, Bongaigaon where Fr. Alex Mathew greeted us, showed us around and provided us tea and snacks. We rested at Don Bosco School, Amguri for the night after a grand evening get-together with the students of Amguri and a heavy dinner. Fr. Ignatius Gari of Amguri gave the students a briefing of what they were about the experience on the second day, before they began their journey to Saralpara. The students visited Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre, Amguri, our Outreach centre of DBI and interacted with Fr. Francis, the Centre Manager and the students.

We reached Salbari, Lungsung, our final destination. We were baffled to see the crowd of students and people present there. The people cheered for the Director of

DBIM as well as its students for being present there. The welcomed Fr. PD John and Dr. Martin Kasper and all of us according to their custom. All of us were felicitated with respective Gamochas and enjoyed the cultural show presented by the people of Salbari. The area is still quite terror-stricken and we were accompanied by proper police security, but being there we could somewhat guess what the people went through in the past and is going through now.

The people and their children enjoyed the games and activities that we organized for them and it filled their faces with broad smiles. Mr Lucas was quite brilliant and helpful in organizing this event with the management students. The students put up their best even under the blazing sun just to see the smile on the faces of children. This was a new experience for the students of MBA where they faced certain conditions which were quite different from their own, and how they adjusted showed that everything is possible only when people put their minds to it.



Barpeta Celebrates FR. KURIALA'S JUBILEE

Fr. Victor Tigga, SDB



The Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination of Rev. Fr. Kuriala Chittattukalam was celebrated with grandeur on 16th November 2019 in the Salesian community of Barpeta Road. A solemn mass and a beautiful gathering were organized to mark the occasion. For the celebration many

confreres, priests, religious and his own companions were present. Among those present were Fr. Edward D'Souza, Fr.VM Thomas of Dimapur Province, Fr. Mathew Thayil, Fr. Micheal Elango, VG of Bongaigaon Diocese, Fr. Joseph Almeida, Salesian Provincial of Sri Lanka. The entire programme was well organized and meticulously executed. We thank and congratulate him for his great

contributions to the growth of the Salesian missions in the field of evangelization and education. Fr. Kuriala held various positions in the Province and he was also former National Secretary for CBCI Commission for Education and Culture, New Delhi.

International CHILD RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATED

Fr. Thadeus Kujur, SDB

A Rally was organized by Child Friendly Guwahati on the occasion of International Children's Day to mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is the time to celebrate and a time to demand action for child rights.

World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. Since 1990, World Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights.

Snehalaya-Child Friendly Guwahati took out a Rally with 500 children from all pockets where CFG has been working. Children started gathering in the Peris'



Hall at Don Bosco Provincial House campus early in the morning from around 8 a.m. Children were accompanied by CFG Social Educators from the respective areas. 100 CFG staff and volunteers were part of the Rally too. All were given breakfast before the starting of the rally.

The Rector- Director of Snehalaya CFG, Fr. Thadeus Kujur had been present among the children to motivate them before the rally started. A prayer was said by all. The senior Program Coordinator of CFG, Mr. Deba

Kumar Dutta gave away the necessary instruction to the social educators regarding the Rally.

The Rally started at 11.30 am from the gates of Don Bosco Provincial House, Panbazar after the flag off by the CFG Director, respected Fr. Thadeus Kujur. It was a colourful Rally as all the children were in their CFG yellow t-shirt. Children carried placards with strong messages written there advocating the rights of children and for



preventing crimes against children. The route followed was St. Joseph's Church, Panbazar- Dighalipukhuri- CJM Court - Fancy Bazar- Lakhtakia- BSNL- Don Bosco Church Gate.

The Rally attracted a huge crowd. As the Rally moved with slogans raised, people stopped to take note of the cause. Students from college and university that fell in the route, lawyers, policemen, shopkeepers and pedestrians stopped by to take note of the huge Rally. Traffic police and Policemen accompanied the Rally in its procession. CFG van was also used to explain the reason for taking out the Rally; slogans were

raised to explain the significance of 20 November as well as for raising awareness regarding the rights of children and the need of the hour to protect children from any kind of abuse and violation.

At the end of the Rally, everyone gathered back in the Parish Hall. The Director, Respected Fr. Thadeus Kujur entertained the children and all present with his magic tricks. He appreciated the CFG staff for their whole hearted effort and involvement to make the Rally successful one. Packed lunch was provided to all and the day came to an end.

VOCATION CAMPS Come and See **REGION DATES VENUE** 1 **Assam Plains** 27th to 31st December Tangla 2 | Karbi Anglong Region 7th to 10th January Sojong 11th to 14th DB Junior College, Tura **Garo Hills Region** January 4 BTAD Region 20th to 23rd **Bengtol** January Those from Guwahati Region may join any of the above vocation camps. Contact: +91 8638395329/9401550050

INAUGURATION OF EXTENSION BUILDING

of Jyoti Snehalaya, Beltola

Fr. Thadeus Kujur, SDB

On October 30, 2019 the extension building of Jyoti Snehalaya was blessed by Rev. Fr. Januarius S Sangma, the Provincial, in the

presence of Dr. Martin Kasper, President of Childaid Network, Andreas Tietz of Terra Company, Sewali Devi Sarma, Joint



Secretary of Elementary Education, Assam and Rajlakhi Deuri, the District Child Protection Officer, Kamrup Metro. The extension part of the house was inaugurated jointly by Dr Martin Kasper and Andreas Tietz by cutting the ribbon.

Fr. Thadeus Kujur, the Director of Snehalaya in his welcome speech appreciated the presence and participation of everyone in the programme. He expressed his thankfulness to Dr Martin Kasper and Andreas Tietz for helping financially in the construction of the extension part of the house. All the guests were felicitated with Assamese traditional Gamocha.

There were some wonderful cultural items by the children of Snehalaya like prayer dance, Assamese folk dance, modern dances etc. The audience was delighted to watch the children performing well. There were three German volunteers in the event who performed varieties of acrobats and gymnastics which left the audience awestruck.

Dr Martin Kasper appreciated the lovely children who fill up Snehalaya. Andreas Tietz too spoke highly about the beautifully constructed building and the hard works of the management.

AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE AWARD

to Archbishop Menamparampil

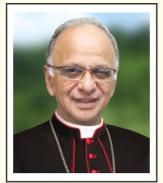
Fr Maria Anthuvan, SDB

International Human Rights Council, a Delhi Based organization has conferred "Ambassador for Peace" Award to Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menamparampil of Guwahati on 9th December 2019. The award was given at a function attended by many

national and international delegates and invitees.

The world today recognizes him as an outstanding champion for peace and communal harmony. Asked when he began his initiative for peace, he said he was drawn into it in 1996 when almost two-and-a-half lakh people fled into relief camps around Kokrajhar having lost their dear ones and property. Fortunately, he says, like-minded people came together to help from different Churches and communities. With the encouragement and support of the State Government and the general public, relief work made progress and an atmosphere for peace was created.

Archbishop Thomas admits that after that experience he was called to help in several other instances of conflict in the region where ethnic violence had taken away several lives, destroyed houses, and caused immense suffering to people, e.g. to Churachandpur, Haflong, Diphu, Udalguri,



Mendipathar, Sarupathar. He insists that his contribution was small, but those who were working for peace in those contexts have greatly valued his initiatives. He rejoices that certain measure of peace has come to the Northeast, and hopes it will last.

He has been invited to several universities in India and abroad to speak on themes like inter-community understanding, healing of historic memories, and the arduous path to peace. He made a very useful contribution at the World Congress of Philosophers last year in Beijing. He often repeats, "Peace comes when all of us recognize that we need each other."

The eighty-three year old Archbishop Thomas took up office in 1992 as the first Catholic bishop of Guwahati. Prior to that, he had been the bishop of Dibrugarh for eleven years. Earlier he was in the field of education, working for many years in Don Bosco Technical School, Shillong, and St. Anthony's College. Several of his students have emerged as prominent leaders at Northeastern and national levels.

From 1986 to 1992 Menamparampil was elected chairman of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference for Evangelization and

later as Secretary for the Asian Synod (1998). In 2006, he was elected Chairman of the Regional Bishops' Conference of Northeast India. In 2008, he was elected Chairman of the CBCI commission for Education and Culture.

The Archbishop has authored several books and articles on Evangelization, Culture, Peace, Religious Life and Pastoral Ministry, Ecology, Becoming Peace-makers etc. Some of his books like, 'All Creation Groans with Pain', 'Never Grow Tired,' 'A Path to Prayer', 'Let Your Light Shine', 'Challenge to Culture'

and his latest book, 'Stored Anger' contains profound depth, insight and wisdom.

The Province of Guwahati, of which the Archbishop is a member, want to acknowledge, appreciate, congratulate him for his painstaking effort towards peace and communal harmony in the region, for his insightful writings, for his austere living, and persuasive ways that have set him apart as a living legend of our time and a true ambassador for peace.

PRENOVICES CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S DAYWith The Poorest Of The Poor Children

Cl. Peter Canisius Sangma SDB

Along with the whole nation, our Prenovices celebrated uniquely the Children's Day on 14thNovember 2019 with 300 poorest of the poor children of Saralpara (Bhutan Border).

This day-long program was organized as a Youth Ministry experience for the Prenovices, to inculcate in them love for the poor youth. Fr. Thomas Lakra, Fr Lukose, Br Firstjoy and Cl. Peter Canisius accompanied them.



26 December 2019

The children from Nursery to Class X, 300 in all, from different Care-Schools came with their parents. Assisted by their teachers they welcomed the Prenovices enthusiastically with songs and dances. The Prenovices in turn, conducted chances games with attractive on-the-spot prizes. They also entertained the children with action songs, and instructed them in three vernacular languages on the need for education and the

importance of good character. A delicious lunch followed. All the children were given a warm blanket each and pens and pencils as gifts.

After this positive and formative experience, many of the 29 Prenovices said that they understood better the salesian services to the poor youth. Thanks to the benefactors for their financial support.

National Service Scheme (NSS) **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**at Don Bosco College, Tura

Fr. Bivan Mukhim, SDB

The Inaugural Programme of the Five Day Residential NSS Capacity Building of Youth on Leadership and Personality Development through Life Skills was held on 04th November 2019 at Don Bosco College, Tura. Altogether 50 NSS volunteers from different colleges of Garo Hills took part in the programme.

Shri Ramakrishna Chitturi IAS, ADC, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya was the Chief Guest. In his speech he encourages the students to develop the skill that is needed in their lives. He motivated the students to distinguish between Empathy and Sympathy. He spoke on the need to develop problem solving skills, creative thinking skills and how to become aware of oneself. He added that one should always strive to be better and aim higher in life.

The Guest of Honour, Prof. C.P Suresh, Head Department of Horticulture, NEHU Tura Campus spoke on being entrepreneur and develop the skill for it. He shared life experiences on how young people have become successful after starting their own business. He encouraged students to think about their future and build their dreams on success.

Fr. Bivan Rodriques Mukhim, Principal welcomed the guests and wished success for the programme. Present at the inaugural programme was Shri Terence D Marak, Principal Tura Government College, Tura. Programme Officers (POs) of Tura Government College, Tura, Durama College, Tura and Don Bosco College, Tura were present at the programme. The NSS



Volunteers of Don Bosco College presented a welcome song and sang a prayer song.

The NSS Volunteers took the oath pledging to maintain unity and integrity in the

country. The programme is being funded by the Government of India, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and NSS Regional Office, Guwahati.

DBC Tura Organises MOCK CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATIONS

Fr. Bivan Mukhim, SDB

A mock test on the lines of the Union Public Services Commission was conducted in the college on 16th November 2019 with an aim to prepare the young aspirants of the college and the region to appear for their civil services examinations with confidence. As many as 70 candidates appeared for the tests.



Organised by the college in collaboration with district administration of West Garo Hills and Don Bosco Academy, the candidates were required to complete a series of papers within a span of three hours in order to obtain the required 250 marks. Deputy Commissioner Ram Singh said that the government aims to encourage as many students as possible from Garo Hills to appear for the UPSC and other allied examinations. He reminded the aspirants that in order to appear for the UPSC examination tests in Delhi, candidates have to pay two thousand rupees for each paper whereas the same is being provided free of

cost for the students of the region in Tura.

The DC also informed the candidates that their test papers would be evaluated by IAS officers of the district and that one-on-one discussions will be held with the candidates. These discussions will guide them on how to go about writing the descriptive answers during the exams. Meanwhile, the college extended its appreciation to the government, particularly the West Garo Hills District administration for taking the initiative to conduct the tests and prepare the students.

ANNUAL SCHOOL FESTIVAL Held at Don Bosco School Guwahati

Fr Pauliamung Joseph, SDB

The two-day annual festival of Don Bosco School, Panbazar was inaugurated on 28th November 2019 with thumping colours.

The theme of the festival was 'Joy of Sharing and Caring'. Kamrup (Metro) Deputy Commissioner Biswajit Pegu was the Chief





Guest during the inauguration program along with former Principal of Pragjyotish College, Dr. Dayananda Pathak as the Guest of Honour. On the 2nd day (29th November), Rev. Fr. Januarius Sangma, Salesian Provincial was the Chief Guest and Shri Arobindo Kalita, IPS, DGP, Law and Order was the Guest of Honour.

More than 1400 Students from Class KG to Class 11 took part in the two day events. Mr. Mukesh Mour, one of the parents of the school talking to G Plus said, "The festival

gives an opportunity to our children to think and perform creatively. A lot of aesthetics are involved in the festival and we enjoy seeing the children p e r f o r m i n g professionally."

It needs to be mentioned that despite several national and

international schools coming up in Guwahati, Don Bosco remains one of the most sought after schools by city parents. Father Sebastian Mathews, Principal, Don Bosco Panbazar speaking to G Plus said, "We make sure that the students are not only academically strong but creatively active. The annual festival allows children to showcase their creative strength and every child in this world is someway or other creative. We just need to identify the creative talent of the child and support accordingly".



The 2nd National

CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Fr Jayaprakash, SDB

The Salesian Province of Guwhati and Bosco Reach Out stepped up efforts to including children with disabilities in education. On October 24-25, 2019, more than 100 stakeholders gathered in BRO to discuss inclusion of children with disabilities in education, based on a survey done on Don Bosco schools of Guwahati Province.

The overall aim of the conference was to share ideas, actual practises, research finding field experiences, academics for understanding and improving curriculum access to meet the learning needs of children with disability. The purpose was also to better our understanding of including children with disabilities in education: What does inclusive education entail? What

is the present situation on inclusion? Legality: What are the legal ramifications of inclusive education? The Way forward: How do we prepare our schools to be inclusive?

The Inauguration of the Conference began with Fr. Jayaprakash (Executive Director BRO) welcoming and felicitating the Guest of Honour, Shri Siddhartha Bhattacharya (Education minister, Govt of Assam.), and also Shri R C Jain IAS Retd (SEBA, Chairman), Mr. Arman Ali (Executive Director at National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disable People) and Fr. Januarius s Sangma, SDB (Provincial of the Don Bosco province of Guwahati.)



In the opening session, Fr. M A Joseph enlightened us on the history of Child Rights intervention, the Indian initiative for safeguarding children and two important acts, viz. the Right to Education and the Amendments to JJ act (RPwD). In his talk, Fr Joseph stressed the importance of being passionate about inclusive education and not only indulge in discussing about it.

Ms Bertha G. Dkhar shared on the achievement and the learnings of making Jyoti Stoat school into an inclusive school. She started by saying 'Every child is born to learn; and that all children can learn and all children should learn together'.

Dr. Aloka Guha shared stories of PWDs, and focused on the need and importance of education. She mentioned that every child could and does learn, and that no child is learning impaired. She stressed that it was every child's right to food, play, education and love.

Carmo Noronha helped the group to draft incisive school policies.

In a closing ceremony Fr. Dr. Benny P. Basil SDB. (Economer – Don Bosco Province of Guwahati), welcomed James Sangma (Home Minister, Government of Meghalaya).

VISIT OF CARDINAL CHARLES BO

of Myanmar, President of FABC Fr Maria Anthuvan, SDB

His Eminence Cardinal Charles Maung Bo SDB, Archbishop of Yangon, Myanmar and the President of FABC, accompanied by Fr George Plathottam, visited Guwahati on 8th November 2019, on his way to Shillong for

the Eucharistic Procession. A special dinner was hosted by the Provincial in his honour, in which Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil too participated. The next day, 9th November, Cardinal Bo celebrated



Holy Mass at the MSMHC Generalate, Hatigaon and then made a quick visit to Assam Don Bosco University, Tapesia Campus and proceeded to Shillong to officiate at the Annual Eucharistic Procession. On his return from Shillong, on 12th November, the Cardinal gave a conference to the Salesian Family Members of Guwahati Region. He shared his beautiful experience of people's manifestation of faith during the Eucharistic Procession in Shillong. He spoke of the difficult political

situation of his country Myanmar and the various peace initiatives taken by the Catholic Church in Myanmar. There are around 750,000 Catholics in Myanmar—approximately 1% of the total population. Myanmar has sixteen dioceses including three archdioceses. Before his departure from Guwahati, he celebrated the Holy Mass with Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, and the confreres of Provincial House.

INTEGRATED FARMING SYSTEM

Fr Jayaprakash, SDB



Bosco Reach Out in collaboration with Bethany Society, Shillong is implementing Integrated Farming System at two centres of **BRO** Agriculture Training Centre Joropara and BRO Rongjeng Centre in Garo Hills

district of Meghalaya under Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya, ADP and Meghalaya Skill Development Society. The overall aim of the training is to promote sustainable

livelihoods which will lead to an enhancement of household income of the farmers/youthin Meghalaya.

There were 500 trainees which includes women and men with age group ranges from 18 to 70 years. Few of them cannot read or write. The training session usually started at 6:30 in the morning with prayer service and concluded at 8:00 in the evening at two Bosco Reach Out Training Centres of Joropara and Rongjeng. Before ending the day session, the trainers would recap the topics discussed during the day.

Natural farming technologies being the focus of training various natural farming inputs like Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB), Indigenous Microorganism (IMO), Fermented Bio Concoctions, Bamboo Vinegar and Liquid manure were taught to the students. Following the demonstration, the trainees prepared the inputs working in

groups with the assistance of the trainers. The results of the inputs prepared by the trainees turned out excellent thus fulfilling one of the objective of the training. Various composting techniques including Vermi Compost, Vertical Compost, Traditional Compost and Bokashi Compost, Nursery Techniques, Mushroom Cultivation, Rice Husk Charcoal, Livestocks (Bokashi Piggery and Poultry) and Livestock feed management (Fermented food and hydroponics fodders) were part of the curriculum.

The sessions ensured that each trainee gets a hands-on experience on all the above technologies. Informative talks were also organized on Permaculture and Seasonal planning to motivate the trainees to design the farm and plantation cycle to work towards making agriculture climate resilient and sustainable.

MOST REV. DOMINIC JALA

Archbishop of Shillong

Fr. Robert Faustin, SDB

The funeral Most Rev. Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong was held two weeks after the Archbishop died in a car mishap at Colusa County, Oakland in California, USA on October 10 (Oct 11 as per Indian time). Fr Mathew Vellankal, who served at St. Bonaventure, Concord in California, died



along with the Archbishop. The mishap took place after a Toyota Prius, they were travelling in, was hit by a tractor-trailer truck. Fr Joseph Parekkatt of St. Anne Parish in Walnut Creek, USA, was seriously injured in the accident.

The mortal remains of the Archbishop reached Shillong from USA on October 20 after completing all formalities in California. The funeral began with the celebration of the Holy Mass at the Cathedral Church of Mary Help of Christians, Laitumkhrah here at 1 pm. Guwahati Archbishop and the President of the North East India Bishop Conference, Most Rev John Moolachira was the main celebrant in the presence of other 15 Archbishops and Bishops from the Northeast and other dioceses in India.

The funeral was also attended by hundreds of priests, sisters and brothers besides church leaders from other denominations and various dignitaries. Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma and other ministers, leader of opposition, Mukul Sangma and members of the State Legislative Assembly and autonomous

district councils attended the funeral. Priests from the Archdiocese of Oakland, USA also attended the Archbishop's funeral.

This was perhaps one of the biggest funerals ever held in Shillong. The service continued for about four hours, amid emotional scenes, as people shed tears for having lost one of the tallest Church leaders and an intellectual. He was also the face of the Catholic Church and Christians from the Northeast and the country.

Archbishop Dominic Jala, 68, was born at Mawlai on July 12, 1951. He was ordained priest from the congregation of the Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB) on November 19, 1977. On December 22, 1999, Jala was entrusted by Pope John Paul-II to shepherd the Shillong Archdiocese, and subsequently ordained as Bishop on April 2, 2000. Prior to his appointment as Bishop, he was the Provincial of the Province of Guwahati.



Rev. Fr. Januarius S Sangma, is his speech during celebration of Holy Mass at Guwahati on 20th October 2019, after the arrival of the mortal remains of Archbishop Jala to India spoke of him as a great pastor and leader who could lead with conviction and authority. As a true pastor close to the heart of people, he was able to contribute much to growth of the Church in the Archdiocese of Shillong and the North East during his 19 years as the Archbishop of

Shillong. As the Chairman of the Liturgy Commission of North Eastern Bishops Conference, and a Member of the International Commission for English Liturgy, besides other responsibilities, he generously contributed to the organization and development of the Church in numerous ways. Fr. Januarius said that the Archbishop was rich in human qualities of humility, simplicity, approachability, and a brilliant person in terms of intelligence'

FR. PAUL VADAKKUMPADAN

Editor of Mission Today

Fr. Michael Makri, SDB



Rev. Fr Vadakumpadan, SDB, or Father VV Paul as popularly known in North-East India, the Editor of Mission Today and President of the "Sacred Heart Theological College" in Shillong, who passed away on 18th November, was laid to rest on 21st November, in the Salesian Cemetery at Laitumkhrah amidst hundreds of faithful, priests, religious and his relatives.

The Funeral Mass was held at Mawlai Parish presided over by Father Paul Lyngkot, the Provincial of the Province. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Januarius Sangma, the provincial of Guwahati Province, Father John Madur the Archdiocesan Administrator of Shillong Diocese, and hundreds of priests, religious, sisters, brothers, novices, aspirants, his relatives

and the faithful who throng to the Parish at 1:30pm. The whole service was also telecasted live on YouTube and Facebook of the Don Bosco Media Network channel.

Father Roy Anthony, the Parish Priest of Sohra and the Novitiate companion of Father VV Paul, gave the homily in which he characterized Father V.V Paul as "A silent and hard working person in his mission". Father Roy further added that Father V.V Paul was a very good Missionary with Missiology as his professional subject. Father Paul worked silently to fulfil his mission entrusted to him in various places in Khasi Hills. Hearing confession and visiting people in interior villages without much of publicity were most of his missions.

Father Paul Panachickal, another novitiate companion of Father VV Paul recalled in his condolences the early life at "Savio Juniorate" where they lived together as boys aspiring themselves to be Salesian Priest.

Father Paul is known as a man of perfection. He had been the chief editor of the Mission Today for more than 17 years. He was also the Spiritual Director of the Visitation Sisters of Don Bosco (VSDB) since 1997-2001 and guided their first general chapter on September 1998. It was under his direction and guidance that many

documents were written and well preserved. The people who gave their condolences were, Father Januarius S Sangma (ING Provincial), Father Nazarius Lakra (IND Vice Provincial), Sr Redina Marwein VSDB, Rangbah Balang Mawpat, Br Jerry, Father Paul Panachickal, Father Philip Barjo, Sr Lisette SMI and his nephew who came all the way from Kerala.

Lastly, Father Paul Lyngkot, the Provincial of Shillong, gave the Funeral Oration and proposed the vote of thanks. After the Holy Mass, the mortal remains of Father VV Paul was taken to Laitumkhrah Salesian cemetery to be laid to rest for eternity. Father VV Paul had published over 12 books, 31 scholarly articles on missiology and theology and edited 50 issues of Mission Today Journal. Some of his books are used as textbooks in various Theological colleges across the country. Besides being involved in the parish and pastoral ministry in different Parishes of Shillong, Fr. VV Paul was a much sought after teacher at Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong and visiting professor to many colleges and universities. And in spite of his busy academic and pastoral duty schedule, he even edited the Newline of the then undivided Guwahati Province.



Invitation PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS 2020 SALESIAN PROVINCE OF GUWAHATI

DN. JOHN PAUL TIRKEY

Motto: "I chose you" (Jn 15:16) 5th January 2020; 9.00 a.m. St. Xavier's Catholic Church Parish, Salana Diocese: Tezpur (Assam) Ordaining Bishop: Most Rev. Michael AkasiusToppo DD

Thanksgiving Mass: 6th January 2020; 9.30 a.m. Contact number: 8638327121





DN. A ANTONY DHASON

Motto: "I have called you by name, You are mine" (Is 43:1)

15th January 2020; 5.00 p.m. All Saints Church Parish, Muttom Diocese: Kottar (Tamil Nadu)

Ordaining Bishop: Most Rev. Nazarene Soosai DD Thanksgiving Mass: 16th January 2020; 8.00 a.m.

Contact number: 8011230974



DN. AMIT TETE

Motto: "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20) 16th January 2020; 8.00 a.m. Krus Vijay Catholic Church Parish, Bihabandh Diocese: Rourkela (Odisha) Ordaining Bishop: Most Rev. Kishore Kumar Kujur DD

Thanksgiving Mass: 17th January 2020; 8.00 a.m.

Contact number: 8787605929



DN. KISHOR MOSHAHARY

Motto: "The Lord is My Shepherd; there is nothing I lack" (Ps 23:1).

18th January 2020; 10.00 a.m. Mary Mother of God Parish, Soraibil Diocese: Bongaigaon (Assam)

Ordaining Bishop:Most Rev. Thomas Pulloppillil DD Thanksgiving Mass: 19th January, 2020: 10.00 a.m.

Contact number: 9101262990



DN. FRANCIS XAVIER KUJUR

Motto: "I have called you by name, You are mine" (Is 43:1) 18th January 2020; 7.30 a.m.

Don Bosco Parish, Kuarmunda Diocese: Rourkela (Odisha)

Ordaining Bishop: Most Rev. Kishore Kumar Kujur DD Thanksgiving Mass: 19th January, 2020; 8.00 a.m.

Contact number: 8794066701



DN. KLISTERWEL SONGTHIANG

Motto: "Not my will but Yours will be done" (Lk 22:42). 18th January 2020; 1.30 p.m

Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians, Laitumkhrah, Shillong

Diocese: Shillong (Meghalaya)

Ordaining Bishop: Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh DD
Thanksgiving Mass: Good Shepherd Parish, Jongksha

19th, January, 2020; 10.00 a.m. Contact number: 9113684342



Motto: "I know the plans I have for you plans to give you a future and a hope" (Jer 29:11)

May 2020

Contact number: 9840529757



Rev. Fr. Januarius S. Sangma SDB Salesian Provincial Guwahati



