

BHARAT KI JEEWAN

A NEWS LETTER OF THE REGION OF INDIA

NOVEMBER 2024



Annual Retreat (The Region of India)

As Religious Priests, We Are Called to Serve Others

In our vocation as religious priests, we often prioritize the needs of those we serve, sometimes at the expense of our own spiritual vitality. Recognizing this imbalance, we recently had one week transformative Annual retreat from 12th to 16th of November at Mary Mata Shrine in Vishakhapatnam, India led by Fr. Joseph, MSFS. This retreat offered us a sacred and serene environment to recharge our spirits and refocus our energies.

A Journey of Self-Discovery

The retreat opened with a profound invitation to introspection, inviting us to reflect deeply on our priestly ministry. We were inspired by the powerful words from the Book of Joshua 3:5, "Sanctify yourself today, and the Lord will work wonders in your life and ministry." This scripture served as a guiding light throughout our retreat. Through morning meditations led by our retreat preacher, we engaged in honest self-examination.

Nourishing Body and Soul

Central to our experience were daily Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Rosary, which collectively nourished our spirits and reinforced our connection to God. Each Mass was a time of deep celebration and contemplation, where we experienced the profound grace of the Eucharist. Eucharistic Adoration provided us with a quiet space to unwind and connect intimately with the Lord, while the Rosary offered us a rhythm of prayer that brought us into the heart of Mary, guiding us closer to her Son.

Conclusion

Our retreat reinforced the fundamental importance of dedicating time to our spiritual growth, engaging in self-reflection, and fostering community. As we navigated this journey together, we were reminded that we are never alone in our calls to serve. The Lord walks with us, guiding each step of our mission. In nurturing our own spiritual lives, we not only enrich ourselves but also become more effective ministers of His love and grace to those around us.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Annual Retreat

My Ministry
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Arockia Annai
Home for the
Aged

Solemnity of
Christ the King

Celebrating the
Feast of Our
Good Mother
Henriette Aymer

News in Brief
from the
London Pastoral
Community

ST. DAMEIN
PARISH LUDRU

Robert Joshi SSC



My Ministry Experience at Arockia Annai Home for the Aged 09th- 20th Nov 2024, Hosur, Tamil Nadu.

A long-awaited day has arrived for me to experience my first ministry in Tamil Nadu, from November 9th to 20th, 2024. There are seven members in the community: Rev. Fr. Irudaya Raj (the animator), Fr. Thomas, Fr. Joti, Sr. Helen, Sr. Siji, Sr. Nirmala, and Sr. Velankani. Sister Helen, the superior of the community, welcomed us with a warm smile. As I arrived at the ministry site, my heart was exhilarated by the beauty of nature, and the atmosphere allowed me to enjoy the pleasant weather. It was my first time visiting and staying with elderly residents, and I felt a bit jittery at first, often wondering how the work would be and whether I would be happy. However, as the days passed, I was able to connect with the elderly people. Although I initially faced challenges with food and water, I gradually adapted, and my days began to run smoothly. Our schedule was typical, and we participated in English Mass with the residents. On Sundays, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Thomas in Tamil, and we took an active part. After the Holy Eucharist, I rushed to the Marian Garden to see the Indian national bird, the peacock, which I had never seen before.

The tireless efforts of Fr. Irudaya Raj have transformed the Marian Garden into a beautiful space that resembles a Buddhist temple, featuring various Marian statues from different countries. Although it is not yet fully completed, I believe it will be renowned worldwide by next year. I spent time praying the rosary while walking in the garden, followed by breakfast and preparing for work. We were guided by Sister Helen, who assigned our tasks. Much of our work involved cleaning and replanting various types of flowers in the garden. In the evenings, I would spend time with the elderly residents, who respected us greatly, and in return, we showed them love and care. Although there were language barriers, we managed to communicate through actions and gestures. One fine morning, after finishing my work, Sister Helen approached me and asked for my help with Sister Siji. When I arrived, Sister Siji informed me that I needed to clip the nails and clean the wound of an elderly man who had injured his ankle.

The sight was so distressing for me that I felt nauseous and could not stand close to him. I was overwhelmed and could not eat lunch or dinner that day, and at night, I struggled to sleep as the vision kept replaying in my mind. The following evening, while spending time with our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, I sensed something troubling inside me. Gradually, I came to realize that our Lord was conveying a message to me. I recalled the Gospel of St. Matthew 25:40: "The King will reply; I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me." From that day onward, with God's help, I found myself energetically engaging in various tasks alongside the residents.

I felt happy to be with them, sharing my life with the elderly and learning more about their stories. Sister Helen introduced us to some poignant incidents. One was about a young lady who saw her mother collapse and die while working in the field. Fearing she would never marry, her younger sister, who recently married, rejected her. This left the young lady in great distress, leading to her mental breakdown, and the villagers abandoned her at the community's gate. Fr. Irudaya found her and welcomed her as part of the community. Another story was about a software engineer who lost his eyesight due to a project incident. His manager dismissed him, and his family treated him as unwanted, leading to a life of solitude. Eventually, he came to Arockia Annai Sion Spirituality Centre, where he underwent surgery that gradually restored his sight. There was also the tale of a married woman who died during childbirth, leaving her relatives wanting to abandon the newborn. A religious sister intervened, rescued the child, and despite the difficulties, raised both the male and female child. Unfortunately, both children grew up mute, deaf, and dumb. Finally, there was an old woman whose dream was to live with her son and daughter. However, after getting married, they rejected her, forcing her to leave her home. Despite their rejection, her heart longed to return.

Through these stories and experiences, I learned valuable lessons about compassion, resilience, and the importance of community life.

Our food and accommodation exceeded our expectations because Sister Nirmala treated us with such kindness. Whenever we would meet her on the way to work, she would ask, "Brothers, did you eat well? Did you enjoy the food?" Her smile indicated that we were loved by everyone. Sister Siji took great care of us, and whenever we had health issues, she was always there to provide medicine and ensure we regained our health. My ten days of ministry experience made my heart grow fonder. It will remain a cherished memory for me.

Overall, Father Irudaya was very concerned about us, even though he was frequently out of the community. He still dedicated precious time to us and would bring us sweets. My days felt like flowing water in the ocean. Remembering Father Damien and his dedication to helping those rejected by society greatly inspired me. He gave up his own life for them, motivating me to work with people in similar situations in this modern era. I sincerely thank Almighty God for giving me the heart to spend my time in service. I am also very grateful to my director, Father Arockia, for his guidance throughout my ministry days. I would like to thank the community superiors, Father Prem and Father Arul, for their benevolent support and encouragement.

By
Bro. Charels Tudu
2nd Yr Candidate

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

On Sunday, November 24, 2024, we celebrated the Solemnity of Christ the King, a feast that underscores the universal kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ. This celebration has its roots in the Old Testament, where the traditions of priesthood, prophecy, and kingship are deeply intertwined. These three traditions continue to play a significant role in the New Testament.

Our celebration began with a Holy Qurbana led by Rev. Fr. Arockia SS.CC. This was followed by a special adoration and Holy Eucharistic Procession, where we proclaimed the universal kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ through hymns and praises. The procession, accompanied by lighted candles, was a poignant expression of our faith.



As we walked around the house, we sang hymns in various languages and chanted slogans affirming Jesus Christ as the King of the world. Rev. Fr. Arul led the procession, bearing the Monstrance. The celebration was a meaningful and sentimental expression of our devotion to Christ the King.

We concluded the celebration with final blessings and a hymn to Mother Mary.

By Bro. Kartik Minz - 1st year philosophy



Celebrating the Feast of Our Good Mother Henriette Aymer



we came together as a family to gratefully remember Our Good Mother Henriette Aymer ss.cc On Feast Day and to remember and to recall her remarkable legacy, life, and profound relationship with the Heart of Jesus.

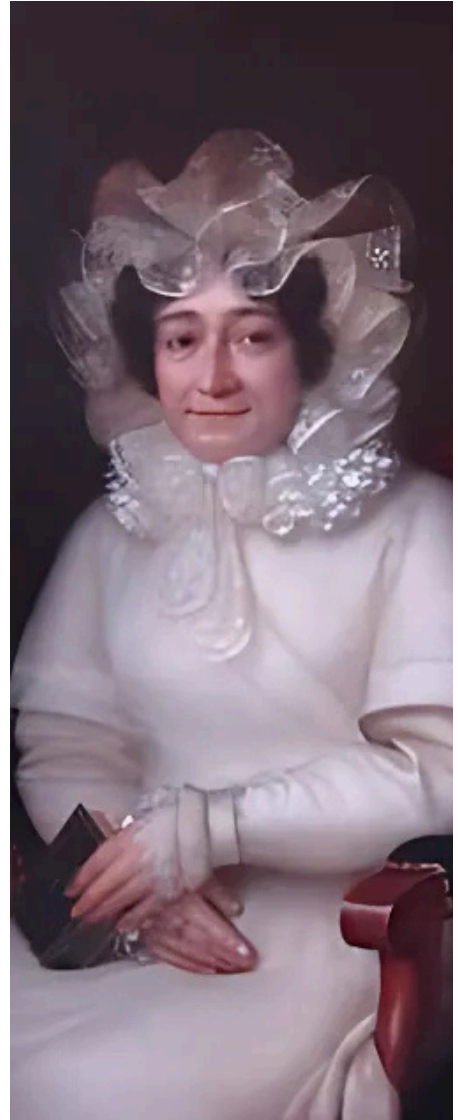
Our day began with a beautiful Adoration early in the Morning, guided by the General Government of our Congregation. The Students of Philosophy from our house led the Adoration, thanking God, praising Him, and praying for the growth of our congregation and mission. The highlight of our celebration was the Holy Mass at 6:30 pm, centered on the life of Our Good Mother Henriette Aymer and her unwavering love for God.

We concluded the celebration with a sumptuous meal, giving thanks for the blessings we have received.

As we reflect on the life and legacy of Our Good Mother, may we draw inspiration from her selfless dedication to God.

May her example guide us as we strive to deepen our relationship with the Lord.

We humbly placed ourselves before the Heart of Our Lord Jesus and before the Immaculate Heart of Mary Our beloved Mother hand in hand with Our Good Mother Henriette Aymer.



***By Bro. Ranjan Kiro
2nd-year candidate***





News in Brief from the London Pastoral Community

Faith Sharing Gathering in the Ealing Community:

The Brothers of South Harrow - Northolt and Ealing area communities gathered together at the Ealing community on the 11th of November 2024 for our Autumn faith sharing. The delegate superior of Ireland – England Delegate, Fr. Michael Ruddy had already sent to us reading materials and questions for personal reading and reflection prior to our gathering. Brothers in the Ealing community have generously been hosting such gatherings so that we could share moments of togetherness. The faith sharing was preceded by lunch as we usually do. The contents of our reading materials were some excerpts from the 40th General Chapter: Documents and Decisions and the General Chapter retreat reflection, "Embracing Fragility in Anti-Fragile Systems" by Sr. Mary Barron, OLA. After lunch with a cup of tea, each Brother shared about his inspiration and surprises, and the striking points from the Chapter Documents and Decisions and from the reflection of Sr. Mary Barron.

Celebration of Parish Lunch:

The parish community held its parish lunch celebration event at St. Gabriel's Church Hall on the occasion of the solemnity of Christ the King on the 24th November 2024. It is an event bi-annually organized with goals of celebrating our life together, building our community and fostering our unity and communion among the parishioners of the parish of South Harrow and Northolt. In response to the occasion, a large number of parishioners turned up bringing their native foods and drinks.

St. Gabriel Table Tennis Club:

St. Gabriel Table Tennis Club, a new initiative, was inaugurated in the parish hall in October 2024. There are three table tennis boards which have been set in the hall. The goals of this new initiative in the parish are: giving an opportunity to the parish adults and youth to come together, bringing their sportive talents out and recreating together to build bonds. Tennis matches are held on every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Table tennis initiative in the parish is also an effort of building community and communion among parishioners. There has been a good response from our interested parishioners to this recreational sportive initiative including players from our neighbouring parish as well.

*News Bits for Bharat Ki Jeevan contributed by:
Alexis Nayak, ss.cc.
27th November 2024*



St. Damien Parish, Iudru



Visit of The Regional Government

We had a meeting with our Regional Superior and his council members, where we discussed our PARL, our current situation, and ways to improve our lives. It was a productive meeting, and we are grateful for their brotherly approach towards us. They listened attentively and offered valuable advice on various matters. At the end of the meeting, we took a group photo at the entrance of the newly built blue and golden gate.

Women retreat in Anugrahapeetha – For the first time in the Berhampur diocese, a three-day retreat for women was held at Anugrahapeetha in Mohna. Many women participated in the event, which was organized by Fr. Chintamani Martin. We had the opportunity to attend this retreat, and some women from our parish also joined and shared their experiences.



Outing to Jirang – Life becomes creative and joyful when we contribute to it. I had a truly joyful moment when I went on an outing with the children from Bondapada. After attending mass, we started our journey to Jirang, praying for a fruitful visit. We all had a wonderful time together. One thing that deserves appreciation is that all the expenses and planning were handled by the children themselves. I was delighted to join them and guide them throughout the experience.

Queen of Mission feast in Berhampur – We had a wonderful day as a community in Berhampur, celebrating the Queen of Mission feast in honor of Mother Mary. The mass was well-attended by numerous priests, religious figures, and devoted faithful, all gathered to witness and participate in this special celebration of our mother, Mary. The procession welcomed all the priests and sisters, and the mass was celebrated by His Grace Rev. Bishop Sarat Chandra Nayak from the Berhampur diocese. After the mass, we enjoyed lunch at St. Ann's Convent, followed by the Rosary procession in the evening



Requiem Mass in Liligada and village feast of Betersing in Mohna- Fr. Subol and Bro. Dildhar attended the village feast of Betersing Qween in Mohna, while Fr. Golok went for a requiem mass at Liligada.

Christmas Angel – We gathered with our youth and children to select a secret angel and pray for them personally.



Work in the cemetery – It is important to stay connected with our family members and relatives who have passed away. While we cannot bring them back, we can honor them with our prayers and love. Recently, it was a meaningful time for us—youth, children, and mothers—to work together in the cemetery in preparation for the Feast of All Souls' Day.

Mass in the cemetery:- The cemetery was well decorated and cleaned to honor our departed souls, and we held an evening mass there. Father Golak went to celebrate mass in the Antarva parish for the people on this All Souls' Day.

Children's program – It is always encouraging and rewarding to do something for children. We organized a children's program at the village level on November 20th. We invited the principal and a teacher from the Ashram School in Ludru. After the program, prizes were distributed, and snacks were provided for the children..



Christ the King feast and Mission Sunday – The mass was celebrated by Fr. Subol, Fr. Golok, and me. We had a procession from our house, followed by prayers, the mass itself, and lunch for the participants who attended. Many people from each village participated and witnessed the celebration of the Christ the King feast.

by Dn Dildhar Jatwar ss.cc.





WORKSHOP ON HUMAN MATURITY AND ANNUAL RETREAT OF THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY IN ODISHA

From October 18th to 20th, the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity in the Odisha region gathered in Janla for a transformative workshop focused on Human Maturity. This workshop was a precursor to their annual eight-day retreat, which took place from October 21st to 28th. A total of 25 sisters from various communities in Odisha participated, highlighting their commitment to spiritual growth and community.

Sr. Stani Rose, the regional superior of the Missionaries of Charity, joined the participants, reinforcing the importance of unity and shared purpose among the sisters. The workshop provided valuable insights into personal and communal development, equipping the sisters to enhance their mission of service.

The theme for this year's retreat was "Put on Christ," encouraging the sisters to deepen their relationship with Christ and embody His teachings in their lives. As the resource person and retreat preacher, I had the privilege of leading the sisters through two talks and a homily during Mass. These sessions aimed to inspire reflection and personal application of the retreat's theme. The retreat format also included daily Eucharistic adoration, allowing sisters to engage in quiet prayer and contemplation from morning until evening. This time of worship provided a sacred space for spiritual renewal and connection with God.

The combination of the workshop and retreat created a holistic experience for the sisters, promoting both personal growth and communal bonding. As they prepared to return to their communities, the insights gained and the grace received during this time will undoubtedly impact their service and ministry in the coming year.

Through events like these, the Missionaries of Charity continue to embody their mission of love and service, rooted in deep spiritual maturity and unwavering faith.

Fr. Ajith,ss.cc.





Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (SS.CC.)

"I HAVE CHOSEN YOU THAT YOU SHOULD GO AND BEAR FRUITS" JN 15:16

पुरोहित अभिषेक
St. Peter & Paul Church
Malkaroda, Sakti
11.01.2025

प्रथम धन्यवाद मिस्सा
St. Peter & Paul Church Malkharoda, Sakti
12.01.2025

श्रद्धेय उपयाचक दिलधर जाटवर SSCC

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LOMANO TONGA FIFITA, SS.CC.

Presided by the Very Reverend Fr. Lane Akiona, SS.CC - Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts - US Province

27TH, JAN 2024 | SATURDAY | 4.00PM

Christ the King Parish, Houmakelikao, Tongatapu

The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him.
Psalm 37:23

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Provincial Superior, USA

Sacred Hearts Seminary, Dangadighila, 29 July, 2024

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