

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



Christmas is the season of joy and celebration of gift giving and union with family members. "When we live Christmas every day, Peace will dwell on Earth." One who does not have Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree." When we talk about the life, it

makes us aware of two realities that are happiness and sadness. When we say happiness, it reminds us of peace and joy, whereas sadness it reminds about the pandemic situation the deadly virus covid-19; which shook the entire world and made a bad impact on the Church. Though it was pandemic, people showed their enthusiasm toward prayer ready to come for mass to the Church by following guidelines given by Local Ordinary. This Christmas season gave us the real joy in finding out joy in the midst of Corona virus and stepping ahead to receive our real king and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Radhelal Jatwar and people from Badabagan came and attended the mass. During the mass we all Brother renewed our vows as remembrance to the foundation of our congregation. After the Mass we all had a good conversation. Brothers prepared delicious food. In the evening we went to one of the houses in Badabagan to share our joy and love to them. We prayed there and had Supper, we wished each other a Merry Christmas. And on 31st of



December, the mass was celebrated by Fr. Radhelal Jatwar. After having breakfast, we all were preparing the lunch. In the afternoon, after having lunch, we cleaned the house and the Chapel; in order to prepare ourselves for the prayer before the New Year. We had an adoration followed by the Holy Eucharist as Bishop's guidelines and we had the symbolic burning of our old self (effigy). We prayed to God for the prosperous New Year 2021. And following day it was more joyful because people came for Holy mass. After that we gave them some snacks. After wishing people New Year we brothers shared our gifts to our secret Angels for whom we were praying personally in our heart. The day was filled with joy and happiness.

- **Dildhar,SS.CC.**

The Parish Community Picnic



The parish community has a special role in promoting participation in the life, mission and work of the community. *"The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the Gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the home of the Christian community; they are the heart of our Church. Parishes are the place where God's people meet*

Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church's life." - *Communities of Salt and Light, p. 1*

Faith in God was celebrated, knowing that the purpose of parish life is to provide opportunities to strengthen the faith of the parish community through participation in different events. The parish community provided opportunities for faithful social activity, such as the annual 'Parish Picnic'. Although our sense of faith was of the utmost importance, it was also important that we spent time together relaxing and just enjoying each other's company. We had a parish picnic; we invited family and friends to come together on Sunday, January 24, 2021, for our annual parish family picnic, which was held at the Immaculate Conception Church in Serampore, Kolkata.

The picnic started shortly after Sunday Mass at 10:00 am with great humor. We had many games and action songs with the help of our youth. This was an encouragement for all of us to have our lively picnic. We had a good time with a lot of fun. From morning until 4:00 pm we had the opportunity to enjoy delicious food, children's games, games for parents, music, dance, etc., which provided an

atmosphere of our Parish Family. It was very important that ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS actively participate in this fun-filled day.

This was one of the great social events for our parish and I was very much looking forward to seeing everyone there! The time we spent together helped us to continue to help each other and even to have a better reflection of the Kingdom of God here at the parish.



- **Robert, SS.CC.**

News-in-Brief from DSDI

Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) on-field and direct person to person contact ministries has taken a toll ever since the spread of coronavirus pandemic. Our direct ministries among the patients in the leprosy colonies, community building programs in leprosy colonies and in urban slums, and in non-formal education centres in these colonies and slums has been put on hold till the government eases the restrictions. There has not yet been any official announcement from the government about easing of the restrictions. We are still waiting for it. There is a buzz that the restrictions might be eased sometimes on or after February 14, 2021. Once the restrictions are lifted, we will resume our on-field and person to person contact ministries in the said operational areas/locations. However, our health ministries among the leprosy patients in Damien Clinics continue to be operational.

Fr. Tileshwar Nayak, ss.cc. and pre-novice (regent) Susanto Badaset in Coudrin Hostel, Choudwar, continue to remain engaged in the new ministries of spoken English and coaching classes for students from the locality and from the adjacent leprosy colony. A few college-going students, who are accommodated in the hostel, have already arrived in preparation for their final year board examinations.

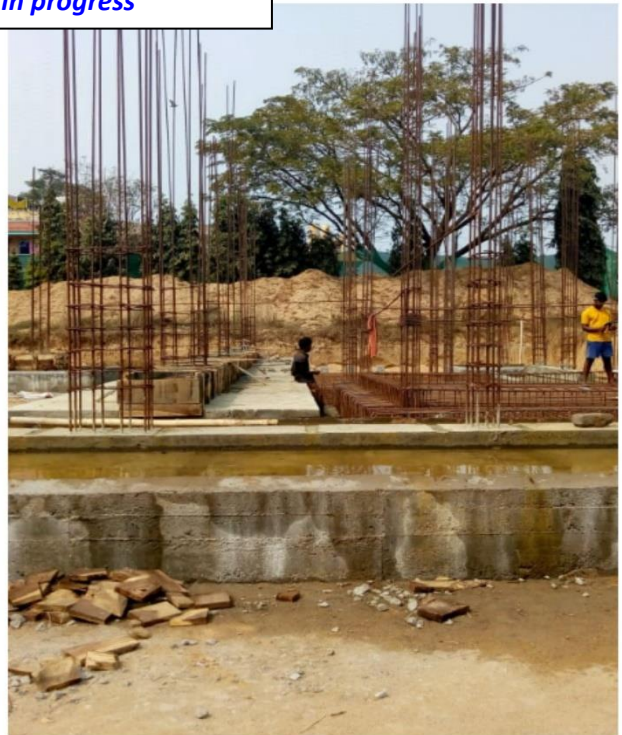
Women Empowerment Project 2021, funded by Saint Elizabeth Fund (Swiss League Catholic Women) and coordinated by Sr. Goretti Nayak, ss.cc. through and in collaboration with DSDI, is set to begin in February 2021. The project is in its second consecutive year now. It takes up the issues and cases of vulnerable women and children in rural villages in the districts of Gajapati and Kandhamal of Odisha state. The project will focus on the objectives of: strengthening of SHG leaders and PRI members on issues of women trafficking, sexual assault, child marriage and filing RTI; training of SHG women on country chicken farming, mushroom cultivation and kitchen gardening; motivation programs for women on tailoring training and marketing; and conducting tutorial classes for adolescent women.

Damien Memorial Multipurpose Building project Phase I “Construction of Foundation” work in Damien Social Development Institute (DSDI) campus is in progress. The Phase I work is expected to be completed by mid-February 2021.

- ***Alexis, SS.CC.***



***Construction of Multipurpose Building
in DSDI is in progress***



**More Pictures of Parish Picnic,
Serampore**

