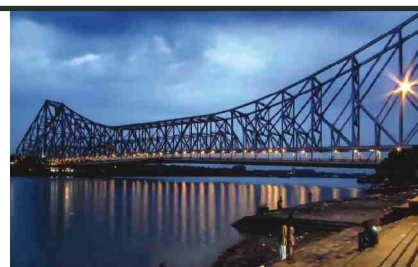




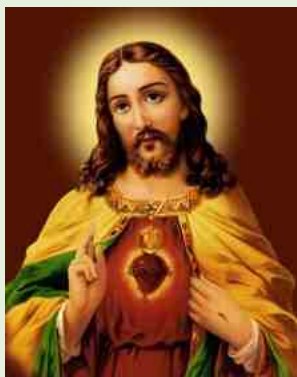
# THE BRIDGE

a newsletter from archbishop's house  
32, Mother Teresa Sarani (Park Street), Kolkata - 700016

JUNE 2022



## Editorial



Ever since the seventeenth century, when St. Margaret Mary Alacoque was granted visions of the Sacred Heart and asked to spread this devotion, the Jesuits, represented by her confessor St. Claude de la Colombiere, played a fundamental role in spreading this devotion.

In recent times, one of the most loved and admired Generals of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Pedro Arrupe was instrumental in reviving this devotion, and placing Jesuits once again at the forefront of spreading it. This devotion, according to Fr. Arrupe, was "the centre of the Ignatian experience." It is an "extraordinarily effective means as much for gaining perfection as for apostolic success."

According to one of the visions made to Margaret Mary, Jesus made twelve promises to those who would have a devotion to the Sacred Heart. Of these, one is of special significance. It reads "Sinners shall find in my Heart the source of an infinite ocean of mercy." This promise is totally in keeping with the message of Jesus on every page of the New Testament. Jesus, the revelation of the father's love, was consistent and constant in His message of the unconditional love of God.

What then does the Feast of the Sacred Heart mean for us today? i) The heart is a symbol of the whole person, and so the Sacred Heart of Jesus represents the whole Christ who is, and will always be, unconditional and eternal love. ii) The feast reminds us of the constant care and concern that God has even now for each one of us and the whole Universe. By celebrating the feast, we make present the self-sacrifice of Jesus for all humankind. Our God is God 'with us and for us' (Mt: 1:23). iii) The feast of the Sacred Heart reminds us of the intimate connection between the Sacrament of the Eucharist and devotion to the Sacred Heart. In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we receive the real, whole and risen Christ, so in the devotion that we profess to the Sacred Heart, we relive this encounter.

The feast is thus not only a privilege and grace, but also carries with it a responsibility. First, the love that we receive from the Sacred Heart of Jesus must be shared with all. Second, the concern that God has for us and our Universe must be a concern which we must show to our world. Third, the intimate connection of the Sacred Heart and Eucharist reminds us that Just as Christ is so easily available to us, we must also be to each other. The Eucharist and the feast of the Sacred Heart ought not to be private and passive devotions, but celebrations that make us ready to reach out in service and availability to anyone who needs us.

- Fr. Rudolf D'Souza



## INSTALLATION OF FR. MOHAN MANDI AS PARISH PRIEST OF HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, KEARCHAND

Fr. Mohan Mandi was Installed as Parish Priest of Holy Family Church, Kearchand by Fr. Reginald Fernandes the Dean of Midnapore on 1st May, 2022.

The celebration began at 10.30 a.m. with an entrance dance. After the homily the installation ceremony began in the presence of three witnesses Mr. Thomas Tudu, Mr. Bhim Hebron and Mrs. Malati Murmu.

Fr. Reginald appreciated the good works of Fr. Michael Adesar and set the hope on Fr. Mohan Mandi to continue the good work with a great missionary zeal. He recalled the great missionary work done by the great missionaries in the past.

There was a short cultural programme to mark the day. Fr. Michael Adesar thanked Fr. Reginald Fernandes, the Dean of Midnapore for his presence and also thanked all the parishioners for their support and encouragement during his tenure as Parish priest. He wished Fr. Mohan Mandi a successful ministry in Kearchand Parish.

## PERPETUAL PROFESSION & GOLDEN JUBILEE

Yesterday Today Forever.....

Called to be the messenger of mercy.

The Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, Province of Kolkata celebrated the twin events with gratitude and joy on 23rd April, 2022. Five Golden Jubilarians - Sr. Elsy Thattil, Sr. Mary Josephine, Sr. Jaya Ambrose, Sr. Philomena Mary Chinappan and Sr. Starlet Cruz who witnessed to 50 years of their religious profession and the Perpetual Profession of six sisters : Sr. Binita Minj, Sr. Lily Tirkey, Sr. Kausalya Nayak, Sr. Snehlata Nayak, Sr. Pranati Mutha Majhi and Sr. Kumari Kalpana , at Holy Cross Convent, Mondalai, Pandua.

With joy and profound gratitude to God the Eucharistic celebration was solemnized by Archbishop Thomas D'Souza accompanied by priests, religious, Sr. Leema Rose the Provincial Superior and the parents of the Sisters. Archbishop gave an inspiring homily on letting our hearts seek and listen to the voice of God that is calling us to respond. We had a meaningful and solemn Eucharistic celebration followed by a short cultural programme and felicitation to the Golden Jubilarians.

We express our gratitude to the Golden Jubilarians for their fidelity to the Lord and for their dedicated service for the past fifty years in the vineyard of the Lord. We also wish the perpetuality professed Sisters many years in the religious life and fruitful service.

- Sr. Arul Selvi

Sisters of the Cross, Provinciate





## SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ZONAL ANIMATION PROGRAMME AT BONGAON

The Diocesan Service Team of Small Christian Communities, Archdiocese of Calcutta organized one day zonal animators' Workshop Programme on " SCCs Evangelizes families " conducted on 30th April 2022 at St.Joseph's Church, Bongaon from 10.a.m. to 4 p.m.

All four diocesan Service team members successfully conducted the programme- Bible enthronement, Importance of SCC, Gospel Sharing in 7 steps, Gospel sharing in groups, Bible readings, group discussion, Story Session related to family problems, and Action plan etc. along with superb active encouragement by Fr. Henry Saldanha, Dean of North 24 Parganas.

There were 40 participants from 5 parishes. The entire group of participants was very active, responsive, able to take responsibility in order to strengthen SCC in their own respective parishes. They also promised to implement their action plan in their respective parishes as early as possible.

There will be parish wise whatsapp group which will be linked through Deanery SCC Co-ordinator Mr. J. C. Lakra with Archdiocese Diocese so that SCC activities/information of parish, deanery, can be shared with one another.



## DIACONATE ORDINATION OF BR. SURAJ SONWANI SS.CC SACRED HEART CHAPEL, DANGADIGILA





## BRBC REGIONAL PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held from 26th to 28th of April 2022 at Loreto Convent School Hall, Darjeeling



Seven Bishops and 55 pastoral council members were present for this annual event from all the 8 Dioceses of West Bengal & Sikkim Region. The inaugural programme consisted of lighting of the lamp, meaningful prayer dance, welcome song and warm welcome address by Most Rev. Stephen Lepcha, the Bishop of Darjeeling who hosted the event. Fr. Robert Johnson, the Deputy Secretary of BRBC presented the report of the last meeting held at Seva Kendra Calcutta, on 2nd and 3rd March 2021.

The inaugural Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Salvatore Lopbo, the former President of BRBC. In his homily he shared Pope Francis' dream of having a synodal Church at every level. He emphasized that Synodality begins from within each person. Every person should live in communion, participation and mission.

The theme for the meeting was "Synodality: A New way of being Church in Bengal & Sikkim region." Fr. Michael Sandip Biswas the contact person of the Archdiocese of Calcutta was the Resource Person. The session was moderated by Sr. Sabrina Edwards, IBVM, the Province leader of Loreto Sisters. Fr. Michael in his power point presentation explained in detail the Kairos of the synod 2023, the theology of the synod and its practical implication in the region.

Each of Commissions presented their reports by the respective Secretaries, Directors, and representatives. The second day commenced with the Eucharistic Celebration. Bishop Vincent Aind, Secretary of BRBC offered the Holy Eucharist along with regional Bishops, commission secretaries and participants. He emphasized on the freedom from fear to proclaim God's Word with courage. Mr. Prabin Kumar Barik from UCPI (United Christian Prayer for India) presented the session on the mission and motto of UCPI. He said that he was convinced that the division among the Christians brings harm to the Church therefore being united in Lord's service bears much fruit.

After the evaluation, there was a felicitation programme for Bishop Stephen Lepcha who celebrates his Episcopal silver jubilee and the diamond jubilee of his Darjeeling diocese, for Bishop Salvatore Lobo who celebrates his Episcopal silver jubilee and sacerdotal golden jubilee, and for Bishop Fulgence Tigga who celebrated his sacerdotal silver jubilee. The meeting came to an end with the vote of thanks by Bp. Vincent Aind, the Secretary of BRBC. He thanked all the generous hands and expressed a special word of appreciation to Fr. Alexander Gurung, the local coordinator and Fr. Robert Johnson the Deputy Secretary of BRBC for organising the event with meticulous planning. He also thanked Fr. Robert for being a deputy secretary for last 4 years and his service for the region and blessed him for future ministry.

- Fr. Robert Johnson

## RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT. JOHN 20:22

1st May, 2022, was an important day for St. John Bosco parish, Liluah as 26 children received Confirmation and 11 children received First Holy Communion from Archbishop Thomas D'Souza. The Archbishop was welcomed by the Mahila Sangh of Liluah unit by a cultural dance. The Holy Mass began at 9 a.m. where the youths of Bhattanagar Unit gave a solemn start to the Mass with the Entrance dance that helped the congregation to prepare themselves spiritually to partake in the Holy Eucharistic celebration. The children receiving First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation marched towards the altar in white dress. Archbishop Thomas D'Souza the main celebrant along with the concelebrants were welcomed by the members of Mahila Sangh of Bhattanagar Unit by washing their hands as a sign of love and respect. Chandmari Unit led the Bible procession towards the Altar.

26 children received Confirmation which was a special moment in the children's lives, where the grace given in Baptism is sealed and perfected by the Holy Spirit. 11 children receiving Holy Communion felt oneness with God as they received the body and blood of our living Christ for the first time.

Soon after the Holy Mass, the certificates were distributed to all the children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

A short felicitation program was organized by the parishioners to welcome His Grace Archbishop Thomas D'Souza and to congratulate the children. A melodious welcome song was sung by Bhattanagar Unit followed by an action song by the tiny tots of Chandmari Unit. The members of Badamtala Ward showcased a dance drama highlighting the life and values of St. Don Bosco and St. Mother Teresa. His Grace Archbishop Thomas D'Souza encouraged all to build a strong spiritual life and to work unitedly. The day ended on a happy note keeping everyone rejoiced and rejuvenated.



By: Fr. Roshan Kullu SDB



## BLESSING OF THE GROTTO AND CALVARY AT PRABHU JISUR GIRJA

On 2nd May 2022, the newly constructed Grotto and Calvary of Prabhu Jisur Girja parish were blessed and inaugurated by his Grace Archbishop Thomas D'Souza, the Archbishop of Calcutta at 6.00 p.m. in the presence of the parish Community and the Priests of Prabhu Jisur Girja Jesuit Community. After the blessing and inauguration ceremony, a thanksgiving Mass was celebrated in the church by the Archbishop along with Fr. Mahananda Singh S.J, the Parish Priest, Fr. Cyriac Sebastian S.J, Fr. Kurian Emprayil S.J and Fr. P. J. Joseph S.J.



By: Fr. Mahananda Singh S.J.





**87 children received First Holy Communion in St. Paul's Church, Kamarchowki**



**Vocation Camp was organised in Midnapore Deanery for 55 student's of class 10 and above from 26th to 28th May,2022 at St. Jude's Centre, Kharagpur.**





**Priestly Ordination of Dn. A. Anthony Jeykumar. Conferred by his Lordship Most Rev. J. Susai Manickam D.D., Bishop Emeritus of Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu On 5th May, 2022 at Our Lady of Refuge Church, Poolangudi, .T. Nadu.**



**Kolkata:** Due to massive heart attack on May 27, Fr. Cyril Fernandes, passed away in his residence at Kanchrapara, where he ministered for nearly five years as priest-in-charge.

Rich tributes were paid during the funeral mass on Monday, June 30 at St. John's Church. His Grace, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza and Bishop Emeritus Cyprian Monis of Asansol Diocese were the celebrants at the altar. Fr. Cyril's nephew a Jesuit priest of Jamshedpur province also came to celebrate mass to bid farewell to his uncle Fr. Cyril.

Fr. Cyril was born on March 18, 1961. He was ordained priest on May 6, 1991. His sudden death shocked everyone in the presbyterium.

Fr. Cyril was found dead in his toilet, in the morning, May 27, when the door was pushed open. A parishioner who cooked and kept the house in order said, "I was shocked to find him dead, when the toilet door was opened. This was most shocking for me. I cried bitterly. He worked very hard during previous day. I could never imagine that he is gone now leaving us behind."

As soon as his demise was announced, the WhatsApp messages kept pouring in. Practically all the priests wrote a line or two to express their grief at the passing away of Fr. Cyril Fernandes. He was loved by all priests, religious and the faithful for his simplicity and open heart. He was not afraid to say, "Spade is spade" "what is right is right and wrong is wrong". He did not compromise with his words and actions. He tried to live a life of integrity and faithfulness to God in ministry.

A few comments are worth pondering.

"Devasted to hear the sad news of the sudden death of Fr. Cyril Fernandes. I am lost for words", said Fr. Leo Jayraj.

"Very sad news and unlucky to miss such an active priest". Fr. Upendra Nayak.

"Very shocking to hear about the sudden death of Fr. Cyril Fernandes." Fr. Neethi Das.

"Shocking news. We were together at St. Joseph's convent, Chandannagar on Wednesday, May 25 for the Jubilee of the

## OBITUARY



**Fr. Cyril Fernandes**

**Born: 18 March 1961**

**Died: 27 May 2022**

Cluny sisters. Looked cheerful that day. Sat next to me. Archbishop also met him. Last expected his un-timely death. May his soul rest in peace!" Fr. Joy Cyprian D'Souza.

His Grace, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza paid rich tributes to Fr. Cyril Fernandes during the funeral mass. In his obituary, he gave Fr. Cyril's biography and his commitment to the Church. He was actively involved in the ministry and he would always walk an extra mile. He was deeply motivated by the love of God and the mission he was called to do as a true missionary.

Fr. Cyril's younger sister also paid rich tributes to Fr. Cyril on behalf of the family. She said, "We never thought that he would become a priest, as he had his own ways. He was always very independent. Though he kept his goal alive, he was misunderstood quite often."

Fr. Cyril joined the minor Seminary in 1980 and after his training in Morning Star Regional Seminary, Barrackpore, he was ordained on May 6, 1991. During his 31 years as priest, he had his twists and turn in his priestly journey. Dissatisfied with some of the structures, he wanted his ways to go about in his priesthood. He went to the ashram once to experience Ashram life. He

moved to another diocese for a couple of years. He served the new diocese Asansol, where his elder brother, Late Fr. Valerian Fernandes also did ministry as Vicar General. After all, those years being away from the home diocese, Kolkata, he thought it would be better for him to continue ministry in the Archdiocese. He came back to serve the Archdiocese. In most of the parishes he was sent, he was made priest-in-charge. He did not mind. This way he did ministry at St. Ignatius' Church, Kidderpore, Sacred Heart Church, Kharagpur, St. Anthony's Church, Kharagpur. At Sacred Heart Church, he was also the In-charge of the Primary School. The teachers loved him for his simplicity and practical ways.

During his last five years of ministry at Kanchrapara, his desire was to start building the Church, after obtaining the permission from the Govt. offices. He lived a simple life and became a friend of all, irrespective of rich and the poor. He was truly a priest of God, a good shepherd of souls. He did smell the sheep wherever he was posted.

His class mate and companion, Fr. Kuriakose paid his tribute to his friend during the funeral mass. He said, "we fought, we argued at times, but we remained good friends all the years in priestly journey." Further he said, "As we know from philosophy, wherever there is smoke there is fire, so also, wherever Fr. Cyril would be, I would also be." It was their bonding friendship. Both understood each other. He also said that very often he was misunderstood by the authorities. Despite all the gossips, he remained quite firm in his views and his focus to serve God in his priestly life.

Soon after the mass, Fr. Cyril's mortal remains were blessed by His Grace, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza, accompanied by Bishop Emeritus Cyprian Monis, he was buried in St. John's cemetery. May his soul rest in peace! "Always loved, never forgotten, and forever missed." "Eternal rest grant unto O Lord! And let perpetual light shine upon him."

**- Fr. Sunil Rosario**



## INAUGURATION AND BLESSING OF ST. PAUL'S ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL, KAMARCHOWKI







## June

01	Fr. Philip B. D'Souza
01	Fr. Robert Johnson
03	Fr. Sunil Kujur
09	Fr. Gnana Peppin
10	Fr. John Soren
20	Fr. Xavier Kujur

## Ordination Anniversaries June

04	Fr. Kamal Kishore Soren	2016	20	Fr. Ananda Anthony Haldar	2015
09	Fr. Anjeet Ekka	2018	20	Fr. Vanathu Raja	2015
09	Fr. Ritesh Kujur	2018	21	Fr. Peter Tigga	2015
16	Sushil Sylvester Murmu	2016	22	Fr. Upendra Nayak	2014
18	Fr. Sandeep Dung Dung	2015	24	Fr. Immanuel Arijit Bar	2015
19	Fr. Michael Sandeep Biswas	2014	25	Fr. Ranjit Bernard D'Rozario	2015
20	Fr. Keshabsen Nayak	2014			

## ARCHBISHOP'S PROGRAMME: JUNE 2022

01	Wed	ABH		
02	Thu	10:00 a.m.	St. Joseph's Ashram, Namasole	Holy Mass; Confirmation
03	Fri	ABH		
04	Sat	09:00 a.m.	Krishnagar Cathedral	Diocesan Bible Day (Youth Programme)
05	SUN	08:00 a.m.	St. Mother Teresa Ch., Dum Dum	PENTECOST: Holy Mass; Confirmation
		06:00 p.m.	St. Mary's Church, Ripon Street	Holy Mass; Confirmation
06	Mon	09:00 a.m.	ABH	Meeting of Formation Team
		10:30 a.m.	ABH	Meeting with Vocation Promoters
		04:00 p.m.	Goethals Health Centre, Dharamtala	GB Meeting
07	Tue	10:30 a.m.	BH, Krishnagar	Meeting of Consultors; Finance Committee
		05:15 p.m.	BH, Krishnagar	Priests' Recollection
08	Wed	10:30 a.m.	BH, Krishnagar	Meeting with priests
09	Thu	ABH		
10	Fri	ABH		
11	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Bishop's Lodge, Barrackpore	WBACS Management Board Meeting
12	SUN	07:00 a.m.	St. Michael's Church, Premnagar	Holy Mass; Confirmation
13	Mon	ABH		
14	Tue	ABH		
15	Wed	10:00 a.m.	Palbari, Midnapore	Holy Mass; Blessing of residence of Holy Spirit Sisters
16	Thu	09:30 a.m.	ABH	Consultors' Meeting
		30:00 p.m.	ABH	Finance Committee Meeting
17	Fri	ABH		
18	Sat	ABH		
19	SUN	10:00 a.m.	St. Joseph's Church, Santragachi	Holy Mass; Confirmation
20	Mon	ABH		
21	Tue	ABH		
22	Wed	04:00 p.m.	ABH	Education Board Meeting
23	Thu	09:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	ABH	Day of Prayer for the sanctification of Priests: Recollection
24	Fri	ABH		
25	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Aradhona Mandir, Krishnagar	Holy Mass: First & Perpetual Profession
26	SUN	10:00 a.m.	St. Patrick's, Dum Dum	Holy Mass; Celebration: World Meeting of Families
27	Mon	ABH		
28	Tue	ABH		
29	Wed	09:00 a.m.	ABH	ABCD Executive Committee Meeting
		10:00 a.m.	ABH	ABCD AGM
		04:30 a.m.	ABH	Meeting of Bengal Regional Bishops' Council
30	Thu	09:00 a.m.	Morning Star Seminary, BKP.	GB-Staff Joint Meeting
		04:00 p.m.	Morning Star Seminary, BKP.	Governing Board Meeting

**SACRED HEART OF JESUS, MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME!**

Kindly send in news of programmes within the Archdiocese and in special regard to Archbishop's visits to different parishes, to Fr. Rudolf D'Souza



*Pray for the deceased*

**Mr. Emmanuel Soren (75)**  
Father of Fr. Kamal Kishore Soren,  
Mariam Phari, Bhagalpur  
on 27.05.2022



**Fr. Cyril Fernandes (61)**  
Kancharapara,  
(Archdiocese of Calcutta)  
on 27.05.2022

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