



BHARAT KI JEEWAN

A news letter from the Region of India

AUGUST - 2024 Issues- 38



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SNOW

Our Lady of Snow Church is located in Rayappanpatty, in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. Every year the feast is celebrated in the beginning of August. The Panimalar Trust members of the parish came up with the idea of making chariot in the upcoming years' feast from the contribution of the faithfuls. This year, the feast was celebrated on 17th August. Thy grace Antony Pappusamy, the archbishop of Madurai blessed the chariot and presided over the Eucharist. The Hindu people from nearby villages developed a special devotion to the blessed mother as more than sixty two of them experienced the fulfilment of their intentions through Our Lady of Snow.

The Church and Chariot

The attached link comprehensively explains about the history of the church and the newly made chariot within three minutes. The interpretation in English is written after the link.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EjBNhpHLmz4&t=1s>



The Church is 123 years old. The village, Rayappanpatty is called as 'little Rome' by the people those who know it well. The height of the Church is 142 feet. The construction began in 1902 and ended in 1925. The Gothic style of Lourdes in France is reflected in the building. The two bells in the Church were exported from Germany. Its sound can be heard up to ten kilometres. In 1938, the church was extended to accommodate more people. The Chariot's height is 29.7 feet and its weight is 10 ton.

It was made out of teak wood and surrounded by the twelve apostles made out of teak wood and our lady of snow, placed at the centre of the chariot. People from different religions come to this church to pray. A huge marble statue of our lady of sorrow was donated by a Hindu man. Pulling chariot for goddess is rooted in Tamil culture. Tamil people became Christians and inculturated Christian faith in their indigenous cultural worship in many ways and strengthening their faith in Jesus through Mother Mary.

-Nahshon Kulandai,sscc.

Fr. Michel (Zacharie) Gregoire, the SS.CC Missionary to Pondicherry, India in 1819

Fr. Michel Gregoire, ssc volunteered to be a missionary to a faraway country. He was sent by our Good father Joseph Coudrin in 1819 along with a Parish Missionary Society (MEP) to Pondicherry. He served in the villages, Karikal and Nellattour under the leadership of Mgr. Hebert, the Bishop. After years of service, he passed away in 1828 and was buried beside Immaculate Conception Church, Pondicherry. His name was inscribed on a tomb stone along with other missionaries buried there. Mgr. Hebert's tomb is also in the same site.

Mr. Kamal, the manager of the archdiocesan curia office and Fr. Melchizedek, the archivist confirmed that Fr. Michel Gregoire, ssc was buried in that place. Fr. Melchizedek said that he did not have any further information about the missionary. But he referred MEP in Paris, France where his further details can be obtained. The missionary journey of Fr. Michel Gregoire, ssc at that challenging time, needs to be honoured. He is considered to be the first SS.CC foreign missionary.

The inscription on the tomb stone about Fr. Michel Gregoire, ssc is as follows.

- 1783 - The year of his birth.
- 1813 - The year of his ordination.
- 1828 - The year of his death.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Fr. Brian, ssc for highlighting the missionary in one of his books, 'The Picpus Missionary Story.' Fr. Michael Marie Shanahan also played an important role in exposing the presence of the missionary in Pondicherry. Thanks to Fr. Felipe Lazcano Hamilton, ssc and Fr. Eric Hernout, ssc for sharing further information about him. All these sources matched the finding 'to assure' the burial place.

The attached are the photos of the tombs of Fr. Michel Gregoire, ssc and the Bishop Hebert beside the Immaculate Conception Church in Pondicherry, India.

-Nahshon Kulandai, ssc.



NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY

The Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM) is an incredible initiative that unites young people from diverse backgrounds. It's a celebration of faith, wisdom, and community that leaves a lasting impact on all attendees. The energy, inspiring performances, and meaningful experiences make it an unforgettable event. Additionally, ICYM provides a range of religious, moral, and personal development education and discussions, offering young people the opportunity to interact with peers from different denominations and form lasting friendships. The community service activities have a positive impact on society. ICYM's services are a testament to the power of faith, humanity, and youth to make a difference. ICYM aims to support young Catholics, promote spiritual development, encourage integrity, and develop youth leadership through various programs and initiatives. The program described above is just one of the many activities organized by ICYM, which hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including retreats, camps, sports competitions, and community service. These programs provide a platform for youth to connect with their faith, build relationships with others, and contribute to their communities. ICYM also offers opportunities for youth to develop leadership and career skills. Youth can learn about their faith, develop self-awareness, and contribute to the world by participating in ICYM programs. ICYM is committed to helping youth become active members of their communities and churches.

On Sunday, August 11th, 2024, the Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM) program was successful, dynamic, and exciting, demonstrating a deep understanding of the community. The event took place at St. Paul's Boarding & Day School in Kidderpore, Kolkata, where around 350 young boys and girls from the diocese came together to celebrate and share their faith.

The day started with an introductory concept that set the stage for a day of fun and inspiration. The highlight of the event was a performance called "Gospel Melody", designed to inspire joy and hope. The video was followed by a spectacular presentation showcasing the skills and creativity of the young participants. The final performance was a gospel song with beautiful harmony and powerful voices. To deepen the spiritual dimension of the event, the archbishop and priests from various parishes joined the Mass. Groups from various churches participated in this unique performance that demonstrated their ability to convey the power and emotion of gospel music through body language, facial expressions and storytelling. Nineteen youths from St. Damien of Molokai Church in Dum Dum participated. In the competition, St. Damien of Molokai parish from Dum Dum came in third place for their ideas and skills. The DJ party made the last day the most exciting. The dance floor was filled with young people dancing to the music and energy. The party was a perfect day full of fun, laughter, and friendship.

Dumdum Youth- Anubhav Baske



Celebration of St. Monica's Feast and Mother's Day St. Damien Church, Dum Dum



The St. Damien of Molokai church in Dum Dum celebrated the feast of St. Monica's Day and Mother's Day on August 25, 2024. The event was characterized by an innovative and thoughtful approach, as mothers were warmly welcomed with flowers at the start of the service.

The church entrance was adorned with beautiful flowers, creating a welcoming atmosphere as the congregation gathered. Each mother received a flower and Chandan Tika, and had religious symbols drawn on their foreheads as symbols of blessing and protection. These heartfelt gestures set the stage for a day filled with love, gratitude, and respect.

The service began with the choir uplifting the congregation with beautiful music, including hymns and modern devotional songs. The congregation sang together, fostering harmony and inspiration with their voices.

The Rev. priest delivered a sermon that modernized the reflection on the life and virtues of St. Monica. He spoke of her unwavering faith, love for herself, and her son St. Augustine.



Following the sermon, a special song was sung in honor of the mothers present. Each mother received a blessing as the priest placed his hands on her head and prayed to express gratitude to God. This touching act was observed with respect, admiration, and reverence for the women who unconditionally cherish and love their families.

The celebration continued with a gracious reception, offering parents an array of snacks and fostering opportunities for bonding and connection. Families gathered to share stories, laughter, and hugs, creating an atmosphere brimming with warmth and joy.

The celebration concluded with a gathering of the faithful, fostering a sense of community and belonging. The church became a sanctuary of joy and gratitude, while parents received love and appreciation from their loved ones.



The joint celebration of St. Monica's Day and Mother's Day showcased the power of mothers and their steadfast faith within society. Today, there is an outpouring of joy, gratitude, and appreciation for the women who have profoundly impacted our lives. The flower gifts bore immense meaning and represented love and respect. This extraordinary celebration would not have been possible without the dedicated assistance of Fr. Umakant Porichha and Fr. Suraj, and we are truly grateful for their service and commitment to the people of God.

- DUMDUM YOUTH

St. Damien Parish, Ludru

1. BAPTISM OF 6 CHILDREN IN LUDRU PARISH

It was a joyous and precious moment for the parents to baptize their little ones. Six children were baptized in our parish in Ludru. The parents were happy to see their child baptized. Father Subol Francis blessed the children and baptized them.



2. BLESSING OF A HOUSE IN BONDAGUDA

We were invited to bless the beginning of the construction of the foundation house in Bondaguda, which comes from the Government Scheme – Indravas.

3. Funeral of an Elderly Mother in Balia Sahi

It is always very sad and heartbreaking when a family member passes away, especially when it's an elderly mother who has been ill for a long time. The moment of her passing was very emotional for all of us. We attended the funeral service, where Father Subol prayed for the deceased and the family.



4. VISITS TO VILLAGES TO PRESENT CHILDREN'S NAMES IN THE COMPETITION

We organized competition programs in various villages for children and youth, including activities such as drawing, singing, general knowledge, oratory, and dance. All the children and youth enthusiastically participated in these competitions, and parents were also involved.

5. MEETING AND BIBLE TEACHING FOR CATECHISTS

Father Subol conducted a Bible class for all the catechists in our parish of Ludru. After the class, a mass was celebrated with them, followed by a meeting and lunch at our house.



6. DEANSHIP MEETING

The day was set aside for all the diocesan priests and religious to gather and share their experiences. We discussed various issues including problems within our parishes, challenges with parish priests and catechists, difficulties with sacraments, certificates or affidavits, as well as issues involving youth, parents, and other important matters.

7. CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

In the morning, we went to our parish where all the students from the neighboring school came, and we hoisted the national flag with a parade. The principal, teachers, and people were present there. After finishing, we were invited to the school. We all gathered together and gave respect and honor to our national flag. We were asked to share something about Independence Day. After this, we had mass at Ludru and Kunkuni. In the afternoon, we held a speech and dance competition. All the catechists, guests, parents, and children were invited. One by one, everyone participated and showed their talents. After we were done, we distributed the prizes for the first, second, and third place. They were happy to receive the prizes.



8. AWARENESS PROGRAMME IN ALL VILLAGES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

We took the initiative to engage the youth and children in active and collaborative activities. We visited all the villages to raise awareness among parents about the importance of instilling moral values in their children, and conducted innovative classes for them. Our efforts are aimed at guiding the youth and children in our community, teaching them discipline, and helping them enhance their knowledge. Additionally, we strive to raise awareness about their basic knowledge, talents, and gifts and how to utilize them effectively.

BY- DN. DILDHAR JATWAR SS.CC.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY, 2024

The 8th Edition of the National Youth Sunday (NYS) took place on August 11, 2024, at St. Paul's Boarding and Day School, Ekbalpur. The event was organized by the Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM) under the guidance of Fr. Sandeep Michael Biswas, the Diocesan Youth Director. The convenors, Ms. Akanksha Kerketta and Mr. Lawrence Prince Biswas, played a key role in coordinating with all the organizing committees to ensure a successful day.

The day started with registration at 8:30 am, followed by the Inaugural Ceremony at 9 am. The event began with a Theme Reveal video and a welcome address by Ms. Sushma Budding, the acting Youth President of the Calcutta Archdiocese. The theme for the event was "Hope Does Not Disappoint," taken from Romans 5:5 of the Holy Bible and was symbolically represented through the lighting of candles and the planting of saplings, marking the spirit of hope. The inauguration was concluded by the Inaugural Emcees, Ms. Arockia Swamy and Ms. Sharon Sharma.



The first competition of the day, "The Exhibit Extravaganza," saw participation from 11 parishes, including the Church of Immaculate Conception, Serampore. The parish was represented by 10 members led by Br. Amit, appointed by their Parish Priest, Fr. Sujay Sardar. After the exhibit, participants attended the Holy Mass at St. Ignatius Church, Ekbalpur, celebrated at 11:30 am by the Archbishop of Calcutta, Most Rev. Thomas D'Souza. A delicious meal of Chicken Biryani followed the mass.

The highlight of the day was the on-stage competition, "The Gospel Melody," which began with a Thematic address by Fr. Sandip Michael Biswas. The competition featured performances by 10 parishes and was emceed by Mr. Kartick Sarkar and Ms. Eliza Ghosh, who also closed the event with tokens of appreciation for the dignitaries, judges, and guests. The day ended with the distribution of awards, managed by Ms. Trinella Currie and Mr. Kevin Tewari. After speeches by the dignitaries, Ms. Angela Perris, the Diocesan Youth Secretary, gave a vote of thanks on behalf of ICYM.

The event concluded with a lively music and dance session led by DJ Chase, featuring Mr. Steve S. Patra and his twin brother, Mr. Frank S. Patra, the Diocesan Media Secretary. The NYS 2024 ended on a high note, with participants leaving with new memories and friendships formed throughout the day.



by- serampore parish

August 15, 2024, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Independent day

Today, on August 15, 2024, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary as well as the Independence Day. The mass started at 8 a.m. and was led by our parish priests Fr. Sujay Sardar and Fr. Robert Joshi. The whole ceremony lasted for an hour. During the mass, Mr. G.P. Kujur read the 1st reading, and Mrs. Sangita read the 2nd reading. The Gospel was proclaimed by Fr. Sujay and Fr. Robert. The main celebrant Fr. Robert preached from the Gospel of St. Luke 1:39-56, emphasizing the passage "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." He also shared an example from the Olympic motto "FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER." According to Catholic faith, the Virgin Mary was "taken up to heaven" in body and soul after her death. It's worth noting that August 15th is a public holiday in parts of Europe and South America.

After the Holy Eucharist celebration, the parishioners gathered outside the church campus for the flag hoisting ceremony. Members of Shanti Rani, Chesire Home for the elderly, and the NGO group "ROTARY CLUB OF SERAMPORE" joined in. The flag was hoisted by the NGO member Mr. Chaudhary, followed by the singing of our NATIONAL ANTHEM "JANA GANA". A beautiful speech was given by NGO member Mr. Uttam Bhattacharya and our parish priest Fr. Sujay, highlighting the significance of Independence Day and the symbolism of the tricolor flag: Saffron indicates the strength and courage of the country, white signifies peace and truth, green symbolizes fertility and the auspiciousness of the land, and the Blue Wheel (Ashok Chakra) represents constant movement and progress. The program concluded with a vote of thanks and the distribution of chocolates and cakes.

by Fr. Sujay ss.cc.



SEPTEMBER

7 Fr. Prem Singh

8 Mother Mary

23 FR. J. Micheal



GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SS.CC. MISSION IN INDIA

INAUGURAL HOLY EUCHARIST

(1975-2025)

Main Celebrant
Rev. Fr. Lane Akiona, SSCC
Provincial Superior, USA

**Sacred Hearts Seminary,
Dangadighila, 29 July, 2024**

Bharat ki Jeewan is Published only for SSCC
Published by Fr. Robert Joshi ssc
Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (SSCC) Contact : 9748537549
E-mail robertjoshi1994@gmail.com

Kindly share the News letter with Brothers in community.