

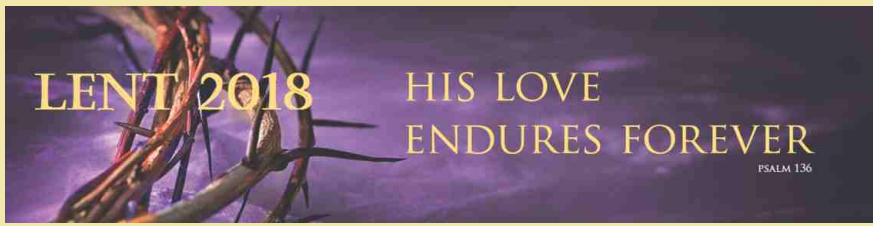
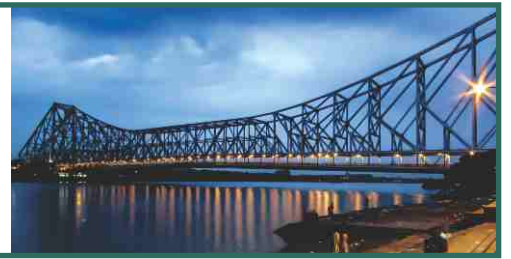


THE BRIDGE

a newsletter from archbishop's house

32 Mother Teresa Sarani (Park Street) Kolkata 700016

FEBRUARY 2018



Jesus waits patiently! By being patient, He shows us His love. The season of Lent is a time of reconciliation with the Lord. It is an opportunity to pour out our hearts to God and strengthen our relationship with Him. Our Lord loves us immensely. He is utterly humble and kind. One of His biggest gifts to us is forgiveness. God waits patiently for us to return to Him.

Let us try to make a conscious effort to reconcile with God during this Lenten Season. We must remember, it's never too late and we shouldn't bow our heads in despair at the fact that too much time has gone by. Let us not think that we have committed a deed so grievous that God will not forgive us. Let us have hope and faith in Jesus. It is never too late to explore a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Jesus. Through prayer, we must ask the Lord for the strength to do what we have to do. During this time, while we make a promise to fast and abstain from eating certain things or practice almsgiving, let us make it more meaningful by improving our relationship with our parishioners, families, relatives and friends. Let us also channel our efforts to reconcile with God by helping the poor, the sick and those on the street. In this way, we build the road that brings us closer and leads us to our Father, our best friend and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

FR. DOMINIC GOMES
(Vicar General)



Seminarians from the USA along with Rev Fr. Stephen Borcello met the Archbishop of Calcutta on 8 January, 2018



Justice of Supreme Court of India visits Sacred Heart Church, Chandannagore on 7 January, 2018

Sr. Luciana, FC celebrated her 104th Birthday on 14 January, 2018 at St. Catherine's Convent, Kidderpore.



Archbishop Thomas celebrated the Holy Eucharist and blessed her. Congratulations dear Sister and Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Christmas Celebration for Goethals Health Centre



The Christmas gathering for the doctors, sisters and staff members along with their families was held at Archbishop's House on 7 January, 2018. The Archbishop began the program with a prayer and Christmas message. His Grace also thanked Sr. Elsa, Sr. Valsa, Sr. Magrita and all the

doctors for their selfless service in the Goethals Health Care Centre. Thereafter all joined in a sumptuous lunch followed by Housie. On leaving a token of gratitude was distributed to all present.



A Visit to the Apostolic Seminary at Amghata, Krishnagar

The Bengal Regional Bishops visited the Apostolic Seminary, Amghata (Krishnagar) on 11 January, 2018. The Holy Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Archbishop Thomas D'Souza along with the Regional Bishops of West Bengal. In his Homily, His Grace spoke on the rich experience he had with the Holy Father Pope Francis in Bangladesh in the month of December, 2017 and said that vocation is given by the Lord and it has to be nurtured always. The liturgy was very well prepared and much appreciated by everyone. Later the formees spent time with their own respective Bishops followed by a sumptuous lunch.



After the Meeting at the Amghata Apostolic Seminary, the Bengal Regional Bishops visited Archbishop Lucas Sirkar SDB at 'Aradhana Mandir.'

ARCHBISHOP'S PROGRAMME: FEBRUARY 2018

01	Thu	11:30 am	To St. John's, Bengaluru	CBCI Plenary Assembly
02 - 09	Fri-Fri		At St. John's, Bengaluru	CBCI Plenary Assembly
09	Fri	08:35 pm	Arrival: Kolkata/ABH	
10	Sat	04:00 pm	St. Mary's Sch., Ripon St.	Holy Mass: Closing of Golden Jubilee
11	Sun	08:00 am	O.L. of Lourdes Church Barasat	HOLY CHILDHOOD Sunday Holy Mass; Confirmation
12	Mon	04:00 pm 6:00 pm	ABH Seva Kendra Calcutta	GB Meeting: CALCUTTA SEED Governing Board Meeting
13	Tue	a.m.	Midnapore	Land Registration
14	Wed	6:30 a.m.	Cathedral of Holy Rosary	ASH WEDNESDAY: Holy Mass for People
15	Thu	10:00 am 06:30 pm	ABH ABH	Priests' Council meeting GB Meeting: Marian Edn. Centre
16	Fri	ABH		
17	Sat	03:30 pm	ABH	Inter-Faith Prayer & Meeting
18	Sun	09:00 am	Auxilium Church, Gobra	Holy Mass; Confirmation
19	Mon	ABH		
20	Tue	10:05 pm	To NJP (from Sealdah)	
21	Wed	10:00 am	Loyola Centre, Matigara	Reg. Pastoral Coun.Meet (till 22nd noon)
22	Thu	08:00 pm	To Sealdah (from NJP)	
23	Fri	10:00 am 03:00 pm	Bandel To Kolkata/ABH	Holy Mass:SCC Regional Council Meeting
24	Sat	10:00 am	Dankuni	WBACS Management Board Meeting
25	Sun	08:30 am	Imm.Heart Church Kanchrappara	Holy Mass; Confirmation
26	Mon	ABH		
27	Tue	09:am 11: a.m. 04:00 pm	ABH ABH ABH	Consultors' Meeting Finance Committee Meeting Boys' Towns GB Meeting
28	Wed	10:00 am	Seva Kendra Calcutta	State Conference on Human Trafficking

Fr. Felix Raj, SJ saluted with a prestigious Award

Fr. Felix Raj, SJ, Vice-Chancellor of the new St. Xavier's University, was honoured with the prestigious Nihil Ultra Award of Excellence 1918 at the eleventh Convocation of the College on January 16, 2018, for his long and dedicated service for the college in particular and Bengal in general. Fr. Felix served St. Xavier's College, Kolkata for 33 years, he was the Vice-Principal of the Commerce Department for 12 years and then served as the Principal of the College. The Archdiocese wishes Fr. Felix Many Happy Years in the new University of St. Xavier's and pray for God's Blessings on all his work and the help of Our Lady in his endeavours.



Seminar for the Heads of Schools and Colleges at Seva Kendra, Calcutta

A Seminar for the Heads of Schools and Colleges was held at Seva Kendra on 13 January, 2018. Archbishop Thomas D'Souza in his opening message stressed on the implementation of the POCSO Act 2012, latest by 31 March, 2018 in all the Schools and Colleges of the Archdiocese. Session 1 was taken up by Sr. Cyril, IBVM who spoke on the effectiveness of a Catholic School. Thereafter, the CBCI National Commission for Education, who had completed the Evaluation for the All India Catholic Education Policy 2007, received certificates. This was followed by Session 2- a talk on the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offenses 2012, given by Advocate S. K. Baid and Fr. Benny Thomas, SJ (Principal of St. Xavier's Collegiate School). The Seminar was organised by Fr. Joy Cyprian D'Souza, Secretary to the Commission of Education and Culture, Archdiocese of Calcutta.



Bhalobasha Delegates reside at Archbishop's House, Calcutta



The Bhalobasha group from Italy resided at Archbishop's House from 16 to 19 January, 2018 and visited the different Bhalobasha Centers. The members were led by Bishop Andrea of San Miniato and Don Armando.

Bishop Andrea and Fr. Armando visit the Sacred Heart Church, Chandannagore



On 20 January, 2018, Mons. Andrea, the Bishop of San Miniato, accompanied by Fr. Armando and Fr. Orson Wells blessed the grotto of Our Lady of Fatima. The felicitation of Bishop Andrea and Fr. Armando was followed by them, leading in the singing and dancing of the Sunday school children of Sacred Heart Church, Chandannagore. The Bishop later visited the sick and spent time with a few families of the Parish.

Christian Unity Octave Prayer Rally at Rashmoni Avenue



A Christian Unity Octave Prayer Rally was organised by the Commission Head, Fr. Timir Singha, SJ and the Ecumenical Commission of the Archdiocese of Calcutta on 19 January, 2018. Archbishop Thomas D'Souza gave a beautiful message that "Jesus is love". Rt. Rev. Ashoke Biswas of the CNI gave a message in Bengali and Bishop Cyprian Monis of Asansol said a prayer in Santhali. The others who participated actively were: Bishop Salvadore Lobo of Baruiipur, Bishop Issac Mongalraj of ECI Church, from the Baptist Church Rev. Tapas Mondal, from the Methodist Church Rev. Kamalaksha Sardar, from the Assembly of God Church Rev. Kalyan Moitra, from the All India Christian Council Rev. Madhu Chandra and from the National Christian Council Rev. Emmanuel Singh. Choirs from around the Bengal region and from far off places sang in between the Messages. The Prayer of the Faithful was said in four languages: Bengali, Santhali, Hindi and English. The Choir from the Archdiocese of Calcutta was led by Fr. Dominic Gomes, VG.

German Delegates from ACN International meet the Archbishop of Calcutta



On 20 January, 2018, a group of 8 delegates from the CHURCH IN NEED, Germany had an interview with Archbishop Thomas D'Souza followed by a sumptuous dinner. The delegates present were Ms. Veronique Vogel, Ms. Maria Lozano, Ms. Magdalena Lira, Ms. Julieta Appendini M, Mr. Javier Menendez Ros, Ms. Raquel Martin, Ms. Ana Gonzalez and Ms. Carla Diez de Rivera. The following day the group participated in the Holy Eucharist at Mother's Tomb and later visited the slums at Belighata.

Triennial Evaluation

On 24 January, 2018 the long awaited Triennial Evaluation of the Provincial Conference of India (PCI) was held at Auxilium Convent, Dum Dum comprising of seven FMA Provinces which commenced with a well-prepared Morning Prayer and the solemn Eucharistic celebration presided by the Archbishop. In his homily, the Archbishop highlighted the tenderness and compassion greatly desired by St. John Bosco, the father and founder of the Salesians. St. John Bosco drew inspiration from the life of St. Francis de Sales and gave him as Patron to the Salesians whose Feast they had celebrated. The PCI was blessed and honoured to have with them Rev. Mother Yvonne Reungoat and four members from the General Council: Sr. Alaide Deretti, Sr. Runita Borja, Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and Sr. Phyllis Neves. Mother General spoke about the beauty of the Sisters' vocation as believers and she said 'let ourselves be found by the Lord Jesus'. Only an encounter with Jesus would help them encounter others was her exhortation to the 35 religious and lay Salesians present. The day came to an end with the evening prayer and dinner.



Republic Day Celebration



At the Republic Day Celebration held at the Governor's House on 26 January, 2018 at 4.00 p.m. the Archbishop and Vicar General of the Archdiocese met the Governor of West Bengal, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee and various Ministers, Consul Generals, Army Heads and many other Dignitaries of the city of joy.



- 03 Rodney Borneo
- 12 Maurice Moses Rozario
- 17 Reginald Fernandes
- 18 Elias D'Mello
- 28 Francis Laborde
- 28 Fr. A. Ambrose

Ordination Anniversaries



- 02 Joachim Dungdung
- 05 E. Godfrey Fernandes
- 19 John Mohandas
- 20 Valerian Nazareth
- 20 Hansel D'Souza
- 20 Reginald Fernandes
- 20 Franklin Menezes
- 27 Nagen Tudu

Golden Jubilee of Religious Life of Sr. Louisa

Sr. Louisa Thennadiyil from the Congregation of St. Joseph of Cluny has spent 38 years of her life in selfless service for the girls at Lavinia House, Kolkata. On 20 January 2018, Sr. Louisa celebrated her Golden Jubilee in the company of the sisters, family members, past and present pupils and friends of Lavinia House. The climax of the day was the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Archbishop Thomas D'Souza and con-celebrated by Fr. Dominic Gomes, VG, Fr. Joy Cyprian D'Souza, Fr. Sunil Rozario and Fr. Sushad. The Lavinia House choir swelled out in melodious singing lifting up everyone's heart to God. The chapel was filled to capacity and everyone enjoyed the day with a festal meal.



St. Paul's Feast Day Celebration

St. Paul's Feast Day Celebration was held on 25 January, 2018, at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Kamarchowki. Mostly all of the priests and religious from the whole of the Midnapore Deanery were present for the Celebration. The liturgy as very well organized. On this day, 30 children received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Heartfelt thanks to Fr. Sudhir Tudu, Parish Priest and Dean who coordinated the arrangements for the Feast Day Celebration and appreciation to his entire team for their cooperation.



Healing Deliverance and Exorcism Seminar

A Seminar was held on 27 and 28 January, 2018 at Nitika Don Bosco. The Archbishop inaugurated and delivered the keynote address. The main resource person was Br. Christopher Correya, the VP of the Asian Deliverance Association. The Vicar General, Fr. Dominic Gomes presided over the Eucharistic Celebration on 28 January and thanked all the organizers, Fr. Jose Aymanathil SDB and his team for the enriching seminar and Br. Christopher Correya for an inspiring and enlightening talk.



Fellowship after the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration at St. John Bosco Parish, Liluah, on 28 January, 2018



Sr. Anita AASC (New Provincial) with Sr. Jessie AASC (outgoing Provincial). Congratulations and thank you!!

Thank you for reading **The Bridge**

Kindly send in news of programmes within the Archdiocese and in special regard to Archbishop's visits to different parishes, to Fr. Dominic Gomes, VG.



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