

## Pastor's Corner

### Nonviolence in a Violent World



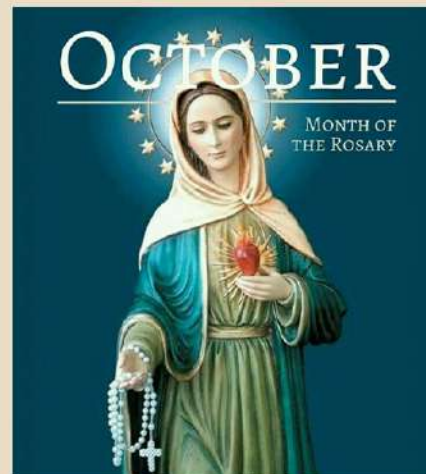
Gandhi Jayanti is on October 2, 2025, marking the national holiday to honor the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

This significant day commemorates the Father of the Nation and his principles of truth and non-violence, and is observed with prayer meetings, cultural programs, and speeches across India. In a time when the world is riddled with wars, terrorism, and hate crimes, Gandhiji's principle of ahimsa (non-violence) serves as a moral compass.

Last week the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on the international community to "silence the guns, end the suffering, build bridges, and create stability and prosperity," in a message on the International Day of Peace, observed annually on September 21. "Peace cannot wait," as the warring world is crying out for peace, said the UN chief. Around the world, lives are being ripped apart, childhoods extinguished, and basic human dignity discarded, amidst the cruelty and degradations of war, Guterres said. "We are seeing an explosion of conflict, International law flouted, and record numbers of people fleeing their homes," he said. "All they want is peace. Peace is everyone's business," said the top UN official, adding that the impacts of war ripple around the world. Guterres pointed out that while sustainable development supports peace, nine of the 10 countries struggling most with development are suffering conflict. He urged the international community to "quell the racism, dehumanization and misinformation that throw fuel on the fires of conflict."

Mahatma Gandhi was not just a leader of India's freedom movement but a visionary who preached truth, non-violence, and self-reliance. You would agree that though he lived in a different era, his ideals remain timeless and more relevant than ever in today's troubled world. On this anniversary of Gandhi's birthday, some key Quotes on Peace are deemed relevant for reflection and action: "There is no path to peace; peace is the path." "An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind." "Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind." "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace." His belief that "an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind" reminds us that peace can never be achieved through violence. Gandhiji is a guiding light for our personal lives, our communities, and our global society. In every challenge we face—violence, inequality, dishonesty, or ecological destruction—there is a Gandhian solution waiting to be rediscovered.

### Month of the Rosary



The Catholic Church dedicates the month of October every year to the Holy Rosary, during which we are reminded that through Mary, Queen of Peace, we are drawn closer to her Son. Pope Leo XIV invites the faithful to join in praying the Rosary every day during October to invoke God's gift of peace,

and announces a Rosary in St. Peter's Square on October 11 as part of the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality. "I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace—personally, in the family, and in community," he said. ACN Germany is organizing "One Million Children praying the Rosary" campaign on 7th October. Their international spiritual assistant, Father Anton Lässer said, "this campaign gives us the opportunity to bear powerful witness to our faith and to ask for the intercession of Mary, Queen of Peace."

+ Lumen, CSC



**"LINK** Wishes Our beloved Bishop Happy Ordination Anniversary!

May your journey as a shepherd of Christ's flock be filled with joy, peace, and divine guidance."



# Editorial

J. Pulinthanath, SDB



## October Thoughts!

Hemmed in on all sides by the hustle and bustle of the Pujas we step into October, a month so variegated, so unique. For us in the Diocese, the month has started off with an important event: the 10th Youth Convention of the Diocese. A large number of young people from all over the Diocese has gathered at St Xavier's Pathaliaghat under the banner of the Agartala Diocese Youth Commission. The Convention, focused on the Jubilee theme, 'Pilgrims of Hope', is expected to be a fitting finale to the many months of preparation that preceded it and also a memorable milestone urging the youth to forge ahead with hope on their pilgrimage of life.

For us Catholic, the Month of October is also the missionary month. Not only on Mission Sunday 19th October, but throughout the month we celebrate the Lord's command to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mk 16:15), a mandate that has made the Church what it is today and also one that continues to urge us to 'go' even today. The theme of Mission Sunday this year is 'Missionaries of Hope among the peoples.' The Pope's message urges every Christian to keep "the spark of hope alive so that it can become a great fire, which enlightens and warms everyone around us..." That our Parishes observe Mission Sunday with great enthusiasm and fervour is surely a sign that our faithful have, over the years, become more aware of the deep significance of mission and their irreplaceable role in it.

October is also the month of the holy rosary for us Catholics. It is inspiring to see that many of our families, even those that have not made recitation of the rosary an essential part of their daily life, take up the beads in October. How widespread is the practice of the rosary among our faithful at other times seems to depend a great deal on how much importance and emphasis each parish gives to it. Considering the centrality of the rosary in the Catholic tradition, one certainly wishes that praying the rosary became a widespread practice in our diocese and a more regular practice in our families.

I end with a quote from St. Teresa of Child Jesus, the Patroness of the Missions: "I would like to travel all over the world to preach your name and plant your glorious Cross on the soil of the unbelievers; but, oh my Beloved, one mission wouldn't be enough for me, I would like at the same time to proclaim the Gospel in the five parts of the world and even in the most remote islands... I would like to be a missionary not only for a few years, but I would like to have been one since the creation of the world and to be one until the end of the ages..."

**MISSIONARIES OF HOPE among the Peoples**

**World Mission Sunday 2025 October 19th**

**YOUR GIFT HELPS SUPPORT:**

|                       |                                  |                          |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 82,498<br>Seminarians | 8,749<br>Shelters and Orphanages | 11,992<br>Health Centers | 843,785<br>Catechists | 258,540<br>Religious Sisters |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|

Leper Colony, Kon Tum, Vietnam, April 7, 2025. (TPMG USA/Margaret Murray)

## Karbook Parish

### Annual Parish Feast



The faithful of Karbook joyfully celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Good Health with devotion and unity. The celebrations began on 3rd September with the traditional flag hoisting and Holy Mass by Fr. Bosco Lathes. A three-day Triduum followed, preached by Fr. Jojappa Pamiseti (4th), Fr. Lawrence Darlong (5th), and Fr. Amalraj (6th). On the 6th, a retreat led by Fr. Amal Raj helped parishioners prepare through prayer and confession.

The feast day, 7th September, was celebrated with solemnity. The Holy Eucharist, presided over by Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, CSC, included Confirmation for 30 candidates and First Holy Communion for the children. Several priests concelebrated, and the Maiya Soanga group welcomed with a dance. After Mass, a felicitation program honored the bishop, priests, sisters, and leaders. Prayer dances by hostel children and youth, cutting of the feast cake, and a fellowship meal concluded the celebration.

Fr. Bala Showry  
Assistant Parish Priest

## Gondatwisa Parish

### Annual Mothers Gathering

#### A time for connection and support



Kamranga (Tripura), 5 September 2025: St. Raphael Catholic Church organized the annual gathering of the Marian Association on 31st August, planned by the parish women's committee. The parish priest created a welcoming atmosphere through a well-structured seminar agenda. Seventy-nine women from various villages participated.

Mrs. Rita Uchoi, president of the diocesan women's association, was the resource person. She highlighted unity, education, and determination, stressing that educating girls in higher education

empowers them, breaks poverty cycles, and fosters social development. Participants were divided into six groups to discuss questions on parish service, neighborhood peace, and strengthening BECs.

Towards the end, elections were held for new parish leaders. Mrs. Ruthi Halam called the seminar "eye-opening," while the newly elected president, Mrs. Jahira Hrangkhaw, expressed joy at the large gathering and requested prayers and cooperation to lead effectively. The event ended with gratitude and renewed commitment to women's empowerment in the parish.

## Empowering Girls for a bright future

### Girl child a blessing



Kamranga (Tripura), 16 September 2025: "A girl child is a blessing, not a burden"—with this message, St. Raphael Parish Kamranga celebrated the Nativity of Mother Mary, Girl Child Day, the Foundation of the SVD Congregation, and the conclusion of its 150th Jubilee. The celebration began at 10:00 am with parishioners joyfully offering flowers to Child Mary, singing Marian hymns, and concluding nine days of Novena prayers.

The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Parish Priest Fr. Ivan D'Silva, SVD. In his homily, he highlighted Mary's presence from the Annunciation to the Crucifixion and urged the faithful to honor the strength, courage, and potential of every girl child. After Mass, cake cutting and gift distribution honored the girls, while PPC members thanked the SVD confreres for their missionary service.

Mrs. Madavi Halam, president of the women's association, shared how inspiring the novena and celebration were for her. The feast concluded with a festive community meal.

Ivan D'Silva, SVD

## Sindukpathar Parish

### Shepherd's Pastoral Visit

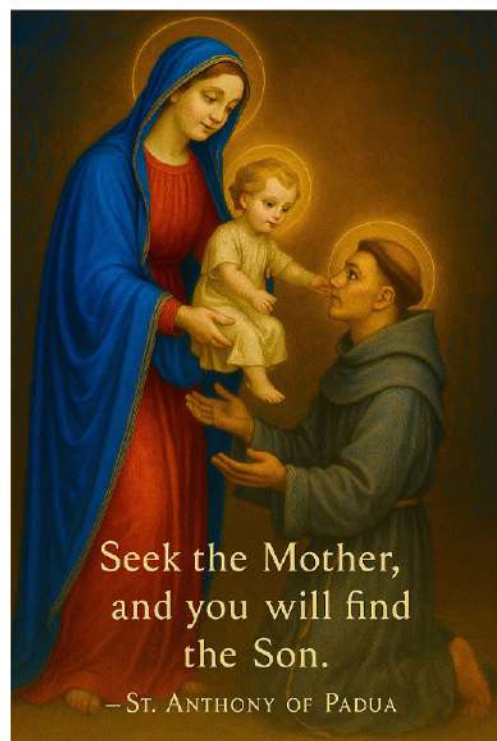


Sindukpathar (30–31 August 2025): St. Francis de Sales Parish joyfully welcomed our beloved shepherd, Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, on his pastoral visit, a grace-filled moment of renewal for the parish community. He was warmly received at the parish entrance by Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Varghese, MSFS, Asst. Fr. Martin Halam, FCC and Holy Cross Sisters, Parish Pastoral Council members, and a large gathering of the faithful. The St. Francis de Sales High School band added beauty and rhythm to the welcome procession, creating a festive atmosphere.

The highlight was the solemn Holy Mass, during which the bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation. Following the liturgy, he met with the PPC, catechists, youth, and children, listening with care, encouraging their efforts, and offering fatherly guidance. His presence strengthened unity and dedication in the mission of the parish.

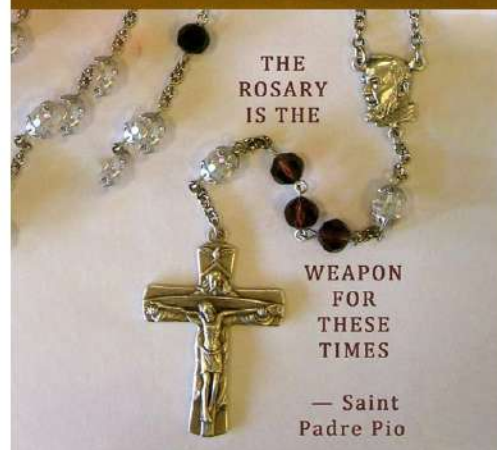
The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal, where all shared joy and communion as one parish family.

Fr. Varghese, MSFS



Seek the Mother,  
and you will find  
the Son.

— ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA



THE  
ROSARY  
IS THE

WEAPON  
FOR  
THESE  
TIMES

— Saint  
Padre Pio

## Sri Krishnastami Celebration by IARF at Agartala



On 31st August 2025, the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) celebrated Sri Krishnastami in Agartala at Sri Sri Ramkrishna Sardeswari Math, Akhaura Road. Religious leaders and speakers from various faiths attended. Fr. Nabin Roshan Lakra, SVD, representing the Catholic Church, Tripura, greeted everyone with "Happy Krishnastami" and wished good health of body and mind.

Fr. Nabin highlighted Lord Krishna's teachings: valuing one's karma, living in the present, overcoming negativity (krodh, dwesh, ahankar), practicing humility, loving one's work, making sacrifices, and keeping trustworthy friends close. Speakers from Islam, Buddhism, and Sanatan Dharma also shared their reflections.

Sri Krishnastami promotes universal love, peace, patience, humility, self-discipline, and compassion, resonating with Christ's teachings. The celebration included bhajans and hymns, followed by a vote of thanks and distribution of sweets.

**Fr. Nabin Roshan Lakra, SVD**  
Commission Secretary for Dialogue and Ecumenism

## Inauguration of Jubilee Memorial Hall and Bell Tower at Moharpara Parish



The community of Moharpara Parish joyfully came together for the inauguration of the new Multi-Purpose Hall and Bell Tower, intended for the faith formation and spiritual growth of the people. As this year marks both the Jubilee Year of the Universal Church and the Ruby Jubilee of the Parish, the Hall has been named Fr. Thomas Thengampally Jubilee Memorial Hall in honor of his dedicated service. The significant event was presided over by Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC. The ceremony commenced with the blessing of the Hall and Bell Tower, symbolizing a new chapter in the life of the Parish and its faithful.

Following the inauguration, the solemn Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Lumen, with several priests concelebrating. In his homily, the Bishop delivered a profound message, urging the faithful to embrace kingdom values. He reminded the congregation that worldly wealth is fleeting and cannot accompany us beyond this life, emphasizing the importance of spiritual riches over material possessions.

The celebrations concluded with a warm felicitation program, honoring the esteemed guests and dignitaries present, making the occasion a memorable moment of faith, unity, and joy for the entire Parish community.

**Fr. Arbok, CSC**

## News Bytes from all Over

### Syro-Malabar Church erects 4 new Provinces: Faridabad, Ujjain, Shamshabad, Kalyan



The Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, via the Apostolic Nunciature, has confirmed four new ecclesiastical provinces in the Syro-Malabar Church. Faridabad, Kalyan, Shamshabad, and Ujjain will have their respective suffragan eparchies, aiming to strengthen pastoral care, administration, and spiritual growth among the faithful.

Source: CBCI News

### Pope Leo XIV Appoints New Bishops in the Syro-Malankara Church

The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has appointed Rev. Kuriakose Thomas Thadathil as Apostolic Visitor for Europe for Syro-Malankara faithful, elevating him to the episcopate. Rev. John Kuttyil of the Major Archeparchy of Trivandrum has been named Auxiliary Bishop of the same Archeparchy.



Courtesy: CBCI News

## Our Distinguished Guests

- Fr. Avirah Kochupurackal from Ambikapur, CG
- Fr. K. D. Joy from OTC, Shillong
- Fr. Pushpa Anbu SVD, from Generalate Rome
- Fr. Jeevan Kennady, SVD Regional Superior from Guwahati
- Fr. Henry, SJ Provincial Superior from Calicut
- Fr. Deepak, SJ Socius from Calicut
- Sr. Sheen Maria, SD Provincial from Gaziabad
- Sr. Celine, SD Councilor from Manipur

## Bishop's Program for October 2025

- 02-05: Diocesan Youth Convention, Pathaliaghat
- 07: Clergy Meet, Agartala
- Consultors Meet
- 08-11: CMHI National Conference, Kerala
- 12: Jampuijala Parish Sabha @ Thelakum
- 13: Fatima Sisters Feast, Damdamia
- 16: Athambagya Chapel blessing, Amarpur Parish
- 19: Thachaiabagan Chapel blessing, Kailassahar Parish
- 24: MSFS Golden Jubilee, Guwahati
- 26: Confirmations, Khumwling Parish