

PASTOR'S CORNER

St. Francis of Assisi - The Saint who still Disturbs the World

Eight centuries ago, a young man from Assisi asked a question, how much is enough? His answer changed not only his own life but the history of the Church. His name was Francis. Born into comfort and privilege, Francis of Assisi walked away from wealth, prestige, and security –not because he had discovered a treasure greater than all earthly riches, but because his encounter with Christ transformed him from the son of a wealthy merchant into one of history's most beloved saints. Today, as the Church celebrates the Jubilee of Francis on 4 October, his life continues to speak with astonishing relevance to a generation searching for meaning in an increasingly noisy and distracted world.

God's Troubadour is a title used to describe St. Francis of Assisi because he travelled and shared the joy of the Gospel through songs, poetry, and a joyful spirit instead of traditional dry sermons. In an article *The Saint Who Still Disturbs the World* Sijo Thomas writes, "St Francis did not merely preach poverty; he embraced radical freedom. By serving the little, he discovered that he lacked nothing. By serving the poor, he encounters Christ. By calling the sun, moon, birds, and every creature his brothers and sisters, he taught the world that creation is not a resource for exploitation but a gift to cherish... Yet Francis was more than a lover of nature. He was a builder of peace. His courageous meeting with Sultan al-Kamil during the Crusades remains one of the most remarkable examples of dialogue across religious boundaries. At a time when swords spoke louder than words, Francis chose conversation over confrontation,

respect over hostility. He reminds us that authentic faith never fears dialogue because it is rooted in truth and love.

As we celebrate this 800th Jubilee of St Francis, may we do more than admire his story. Let us imitate his spirit. Let us choose simplicity over excess and generosity over self-interest. Let us care for the poor of God's creation and become instruments of peace wherever we live.

Gandhi Jayanti – Celebrating his enduring legacy

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat. He was one of the most influential leaders of India's struggle for independence from British rule. His legacy extends far beyond India's struggle for independence. His greatest contribution was the development and practice of non-violent resistance, or *Satyagraha*, as a means of confronting injustice. He demonstrated that political change could be pursued through courage, truth, civil disobedience, and disciplined non-violence rather than through armed conflict. His approach influenced leaders and movements around the world, including the civil-rights movement led by Martin Luther King Jr. Ultimately, Gandhi's enduring legacy lies in his challenge to humanity to ask whether truth can be pursued without hatred, whether injustice can be resisted without violence, and whether political freedom can be accompanied by moral responsibility. His life continues to provoke reflection on peace, justice, human dignity, and the responsibilities of citizens and leaders.

Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated on 2 October, commemorates his birth and is also observed internationally as the United Nations International Day of Non-Violence.

+ Lumen, CSC



EDITORIAL

J. Pulinthanath, SDB

The Good Old 'Swmai Kwtal'

For Christians in Tripura, particularly those speaking Kokborok, the year 2026 is significant because it is the Golden Jubilee Year of the publication of Swmai Kwtal (the New Testament) in 1976. For 50 years now, nearly all Churches, including we Catholics, have prolifically used Swmai Kwtal in both formal and informal situations. Many non-native users of Kokborok got the first taste of that language through the pages of Swmai Kwtal. There is no doubt it has accompanied the believers in their five-decade-long faith journey in numerous invaluable ways.

Tripura's Baptist Church who brought out the 1976 Swmai Kwtal has lined up celebrations later in the year to commemorate this important event. We wish the celebrations all success and also express our gratitude and appreciation to those who painstakingly laboured to bring out Swmai Kwtal at a time when facilities and the language itself were rudimentary. In the absence of an alternative, we Catholics gratefully adopted it for our own purposes. It was, in fact, the one indispensable 'ingredient' found in all our Kokborok liturgical celebrations and faith-related occasions for the past 30 years. We have seen both its usefulness and also the enormous impact it has had on the Church and on individual Christians. The humble submission I make in this editorial is that in the future, for the Word of God to have at least as much, if not more, impact on our faithful and our youth, there is much that needs to be done. In other words, the future is going to be very different from the times we have come through. Our ground realities and surroundings hardly resemble those of earlier decades, even slightly.

Today, we live amidst an explosion of voices and possibilities. Kokborok resources aren't as scarce as they used to be; the digital world buzzes with options and computations that awaken a thousand questions and thoughts in the minds of the faithful, especially the young. The mobile phone today has become their teacher, the internet their teacher.

Unlike earlier, today they are being bombarded with questions about the existence of God, the necessity of belief, the need for the Church and sacraments, subjective morality, personal freedom and the basis of authority etc.

We would be very naïve to presume that at such moments of doubt and confusion, they will automatically turn to Scripture or to Church teaching for light and guidance. Ultimately, the chitchat on social media will resolve all their doubts. Truth be told, there is an urgent need today to impart catechesis and faith teaching to all sections of our faithful.

The Gospels show us a Jesus who often taught the people. Sometimes for days he continuously taught. He taught in various places: in open fields, on the mountain, from a boat in the sea, in the home of people, in the synagogue etc. He explicitly commanded his apostles to go throughout the world and teach all that he had taught them.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who was beatified a few days ago, saw himself as a teacher even when he was preaching. He turned television into an 'electronic classroom'. He has likened faith education to a 'compass' that helps one navigate through life. Today the young person has more information than ever, but information is not the same as direction. Only a compass can provide direction, and that compass is his faith.

As a Diocese, may we renew our commitment to place before our faithful the lights they need to walk the journey of faith.

ST. ARNOLD PARISH GONDATWISA

Girl Child Day celebrated



Our Parish joyfully observed Girl Child Day, known locally as *Brwi Bwsarokni Sal*, on 6 September. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist, by Fr. Praveen the Parish in-charge. Deacon Chinnaiah offered a brief introduction and warmly welcomed the resource persons—Sr. Veronica FS and Madam Praheli Debbarma. In his homily, Fr. Khakchang reflected on the significance of the day and reminded the congregation that every girl child is a precious gift to be cherished and protected. After Mass, the girls and women proceeded to the school hall. Ms Praheli Debbarma spoke on the importance of modesty in dressing, encouraging

the participants to value self-respect and dignity. Sr. Veronica then conducted a practical session on making candles, washing powder (surf) and phenyl. She explained how these simple skills can be practiced at home, helping women generate a modest income and move towards greater self-reliance. The hands-on training generated keen interest and was received with enthusiasm. The program concluded with a shared lunch for all.

Dn. Chinnaiah

HOLY CROSS PARISH BAGBASA

Two-day Youth Seminar



A two-day Youth Seminar was organized at Bagbasa Holy Cross Parish on 29th and 30th August to bring together the parish's young people for spiritual renewal, fellowship, faith formation, and joyful participation in the life of the Church. The program began with a session on spiritual renewal through praise and worship, with an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Ivan, SVD, delivered a spiritual address. After lunch, the participants engaged in a variety of group activities designed to foster friendship, cooperation, teamwork, and mutual

understanding. This was followed by a vibrant cultural dance competition. The first day came to an end with the evening Rosary. On 30th August, the Seminar commenced with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, officiated by Fr. Akshi, CSC. Subsequent to the Holy Mass, Fr. Lancy CSC conducted an insightful session on the significance of the Church and the responsibilities of individual Christians within it. Following this, participants engaged in a Bible quiz. The program concluded with a prize distribution ceremony. The two-day Youth Seminar concluded with a hymn to Mother Mary, entrusting the young people, their families, the parish community, and their future endeavors to her loving maternal care.

Fr. Newton, CSC

Annual Parish Feast celebrated



Sunday 13th September 2026 Holy Cross Parish, Bagbasa celebrated its annual Parish feast with festivity. Fr. Godwin OFM. Cap, Parish Priest of Kahnmun Parish presided over the Mass, joined by six priests from the Kumarghat Deanery and many Women Religious. The Parish Priest Fr. Lancy CSC welcomed all the Priests, Women Religious and the Parish faithful for the Holy Eucharistic celebration. Throughout this year God has blessed us through the Holy Cross and we are grate full to God for His loving protection and care. During the homily Fr. Godwin highlighted the Holy Cross and its importance in our daily lives. After the final blessing the Fr. Lancy CSC and Parish Council Secretary Mr. Romeo Halam thanked all those who came for the feast and their

presence added joy to the celebration. After the Mass all the faithful wished happy feast day for all the Priests and the Women Religious and all participated in the festive agape.

Mr. Romeo Halam

ST. RAPHAEL PARISH KAMARANGA

Mary's Nativity, Girls' Dignity

Kamranga (Tripura) September 8, 2026: St. Raphael Parish in Kamranga joyfully marked three special occasions: the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Foundation Day of the SVD Congregation, and Girl Child Day. In preparation, the

community observed a nine-day novena in honor of the Child Mary, during which the Mothers' Association led prayers and the faithful presented floral offerings.



On the feast day itself, parishioners of all ages—children, youth, and elders—came forward with flowers as a sign of devotion. The parish priest, Fr. Ivan D'Silva, presided over the Holy Mass. In his homily, he reflected on the humility of Mother Mary, who accepted God's Word, and highlighted the mission of the SVD Congregation, founded by St. Arnold Janssen to proclaim that same Word. He also emphasized the significance of Girl Child Day, calling the community to honor and pray for its girl children. Following the Mass, the girl children were invited to cut a cake and were honored with gifts. The celebration concluded with the distribution of snacks and sweets

and feastal greetings.

Ivan D'Silva

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL AGARTALA

Laxmilunga Village Feast



The feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated with great faith and joy at Laxmilunga village under St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Parish, from 5th to 8th September. The celebration began with the flag-hoisting ceremony on the 5th marking the beginning of the feast. This was followed by a three-day Triduum, during which Holy Masses were celebrated by Rev. Fr. George the Parish Priest. Each day provided the faithful with an opportunity for prayer, reflection and spiritual preparation for the feast. The Feast Day was celebrated solemnly on the 8th with the Holy

Eucharist presided over by Fr. Prasad Rao, Financial Administrator, along with Fr. George and Dn. Anvesh. During the Triduum, Fatima Sisters conducted various games and community activities for children, youth and adults. These activities brought much joy and helped strengthen friendship among the members of the community. Prizes were also distributed for the winners. The celebration concluded with short cultural gathering and agape meal.

Deacon Anvesh

ST. MARY'S PARISH TUIKARMAW

Parish Feast Day Celebrated Women's



St. Mary's Parish, Tuikarmaw, celebrated its annual Parish Feast Day with great joy, faith, and devotion on 13th September 2026, under the theme "*Mary – Our Spiritual Mother.*" In preparation for the feast, a nine-day novena was observed from 4th to 12th, bringing together the faithful in prayer, reflection, and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast day was marked by a solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration, with Fr. Alois MSFS, Parish Priest of Amarpur Parish, as the Main Celebrant. He was accompanied by Fr. Jerome Chorei, Parish Priest of St. Mary's Parish, and Fr. Vicky L. Gayang CSC. Following the Holy Mass, a brief felicitation

ceremony was held to honour of all the former Parish Secretaries in recognition of their dedicated service and valuable contributions to the growth of the parish. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal, bringing together the faithful in a spirit of unity, gratitude, and brotherly love.

Fr. Jerome CSC

ST. ANTONY PARISH TWITHAMPUI

Women's Empowerment Program



A special Women's Empowerment Program was organized at Twithampui Parish on 13 September 2026, with the aim of strengthening women's role in the family and promoting their health, skills, and socio-economic empowerment. The program was conducted by Sr. Veronica FS, Secretary of the Diocesan Women's Commission, along with her team Mrs. Chinarung and Mrs. Prehali. The sessions focused on important and practical themes such as the role of women in the family and health care. The participants were encouraged to recognize their

dignity, responsibilities, and valuable contribution to the well-being of their families and communities. The team also demonstrated various skill-development and income-generating activities, including surf-making, candle-making, and

phenol-making. A total of 67 women from different villages of the Parish actively participated in the program. The program was a meaningful step towards empowering women through awareness, education, health care, skill development, and community life.

Twithampui News Desk

GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH KATHALCHERRA

New Village Chapel at Demdum mondoli blessed



It was a day of Joy for the members of Demdum Mondali under Kathalcherra Parish on Sunday, 30th August 2026. Besides the local *Mondali*, quite many parishioners had gathered at Demdum to witness and share the joy at the inauguration and blessing of the chapel which was a long-desired dream fulfilled. Bishop Lumen Monteiro CSC blessed the Chapel after it was inaugurated by Fr. Abraham C., the former Parish of Kathalcherra. Demdum is one of the sixteen villages under Kathalcherra Parish. The construction was started under the supervision of Fr. Abraham C. a few months before he was transferred from the Parish. A solemn high

Mass followed after the formal blessing. There was good participation with the Parish choir taking the lead with impressive and active singing. There was a short gathering after the Mass. Bishop Lumen was thanked and honored for his presence in this remote village. Other Fathers and dignitaries were also honored at the function. The village Demdum is situated about 15 Kms. away from the Parish, close to the national highway. All the people who were present were served with a delicious lunch.

Fr. Jose Varkey, CSC, Parochial Administrator

Our Lady of Good Health Parish Karbook

Holy Family Chapel blessed at Panchakumar Para



A new chapel dedicated to the Holy Family was blessed at Panchakumar Para, a newly emerging Catholic *mondoli* under Our Lady of Good Health Parish, Karbook, on September 12. The chapel, built through the initiative of Joseph Songo and generous contributions from various individuals, is a significant step forward for the small but growing Catholic community of Panchakumar Para. The chapel was blessed by Fr. Derrick Augustine, Assistant Priest of Depacherra Parish, followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In his homily, Fr. Derrick reflected on the importance of the Holy Family and encouraged the faithful to strengthen family life through love, unity, prayer and faith. After the holy Mass, the Parish Priest Fr. Antony Balan expressed gratitude to the leaders of the parish, representatives of other *mondolis*, and all those who contributed towards the construction of the chapel. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal.

Annual Parish Feast celebrated with tremendous joy



Our Lady of Good Health Parish, Karbook, celebrated its annual parish feast on September 13 with faith and devotion. The celebrations began on September 8 with the hoisting of the feast flag by Fr. Lawrence Darlong. The Triduum began on September 9 wherein Fr. Jerome, CSC, was the main celebrant, followed by Fr. Kachang Uchoi, on September 10, and Fr. Jojappa, on September 11. During the Triduum, the priests shared reflections on various themes centred on Mother Mary, encouraging the faithful to grow in faith and devotion. On September 12, the parish community gathered for a Marian Rosary procession at 6.00p.m. The feast day was

celebrated on September 13 with the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Lawrence Darlong, while Fr. Bala Showry delivered the homily. After the Eucharist, Fr. Antony Balan, Parish Priest of Karbook, expressed his gratitude to all the priests, parish leaders, and faithful for their participation and support. He also felicitated the parish leaders and representatives of the various *mondolis*. The celebration concluded with a Fellowship meal.

Fr. Bala Showry

SACRED HEART PARISH BISHRAMGANJ

Sagri Group organizes a parish renewal program

On 18th September 2026 the Prayer Group of the Parish also known as Sagri (Disciples) organized a two and half days program in the parish. There were 45 participants from 7 parishes. The resource persons were Br. Siby and his wife. The program began at 5.00pm with the Holy rosary, praise and worship and the Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev Fr Joel



Ekka SDB. A short Adoration was conducted which was followed by a dinner. After dinner they resumed the program in the Hall till 10.30pm. The following day the Sagri group gathered at 5.30am with a day filled with prayer, talks and sessions. Each session was given an appropriate interval to allow members to participate attentively and prayerfully. They concluded the day of prayer with a one-hour adoration. On Sunday morning the Sagris gathered for meditation and for praise and worship during which time the parishioners started to come. Br. Siby and his wife prepared the people well for the sacrament of reconciliation. Six priests helped in the confession. The church was packed numbering 250 people. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by the Parish Priest Fr Christopher SDB. The program ended at 3.00pm and a light meal was served for everyone. **Fr. Nicholas, SDB**

ST. ALPHONSA PARISH KHUMULWNG

Mothers' Day cum Girl Child Day Celebration



On September 6th 2026, the Khumulwng Church celebrated Mother's Day cum Girl Child Day with great joy and enthusiasm. The event was organized by the Parish Women's Group and the members of Khumulwng Church. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Clement Quadras the Parish Priest, as the main celebrant, concelebrated by Fr. Valentine Dung Dung and Fr. Benjamine Minj. In his homily, Fr. Valentine highlighted the selfless role of a mother and importance of girl children in Christian families. After the Mass, a short cultural programme held with traditional dances, a song dedicated to St. Monica, and special greetings to mothers and girl children with inspiring messages from different people. As a token of love mothers presented a small gift to every girl child present on the occasion. The celebration was concluded with a sumptuous community meal prepared by the Khumulwng church members. **Fr. Clement, SVD**

"One Faith, Different Traditions"



On 20th September 2026, Fr. Balan, the Parish Priest of Korbuk Parish, celebrated the Holy Mass at Khumulwng Parish and proclaimed the Word of God through a meaningful and heart-touching homily on faith and Christian living. After the Mass, he conducted a session on "One Faith, Different Traditions." He explained the Catholic faith and the different *Rites* within the Church, especially the Syro- Malabar and Syro- Malankara Rites, who are present and very active in our mission area. The Session continued until 1pm. and witnessed active participation and meaningful interactions.

The participants had many questions and clarified their doubts with great interest and enthusiasm. We sincerely thank Fr. Balan for his valuable time, generous sharing of knowledge, and selfless service for the betterment of the mission. The session was truly enriching and beneficial for all who participated. **Fr. Clement, SVD**

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH AMBASSA

Girl Child Day observed



The celebration of the birthday of Mother Mary began with novena. On 8th of September, we began the celebration with the Holy Eucharist at 5:30pm. The celebrant highlighted the significance of the birth of Mother Mary in the salvation history. We prayed for all the girl children on this day that Mother Mary becomes their model. We felicitated all the girl children by cutting of a cake and singing songs. It was a day to show our love, respect and honour to all girl children.

Mothers' Day celebrated

The Mothers' Day celebration began with the solemn Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am on 30th August. Mothers from all sub-stations gathered for the event. The celebrant thanked God for the gift of mothers to the families and the society. He also thanked mothers for their great sacrificial love, care and compassion. We appreciated their commitment and dedication to the family, society, and the nation. There was felicitation programme after the Mass. Dr. Ashok Debbarma reiterated the importance of health and hygiene. The celebration ended at 2pm.

Fr. Arun Minj SVD

HOLY SCHOOL TUIKARMAW – NEW BUILDING BLESSED AND INAUGURATED



A significant milestone was marked in the history of Holy Cross (South) English Med. Hr. Sec. School, with the solemn Blessing and Inauguration of the new school building, the “Fr. Jose Sarpathil CSC Block,” on Monday, 14 September 2026. The program was graced by Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, as the Chief Guest, who solemnly blessed the new building. Rev. Fr. K. J. Abraham CSC, President of the Holy Cross Educational Foundation, formally inaugurated the new building. The ceremony was also honoured by the presence of Shri Pramod Reang, MLA of the Santirbazar Constituency, who is also a proud alumnus of the school. The Block

has been named in honour of Fr. Jose Sarpathil, CSC, whose contribution and service to education and the mission of the Holy Cross congregation continues to be remembered with gratitude. A special moment of gratitude was offered to our dear Bishop on the occasion of his 30th Episcopal Anniversary. Adding further joy and pride to the occasion, the school also felicitated two of its distinguished alumni who brought laurels to the school through their outstanding performance in the NEET examination 2026. Jewel Tripura secured 1st Rank among the Tribal candidates in Tripura State, while Mitandra Reang secured 3rd Rank.

Principal, Fr. Vicky L Gayang, CSC

SOUTH DEANERY YOUTH SPORTS MEET 2.0



The Depacherra Deanery Youth Sports Meet 2.0 was held on 18 September 2026 at St. Mary's Parish, Twikarmaw, bringing together many young people from different parishes of the deanery for a day of sports, fellowship and community building. The event featured Football for boys and Throwball for girls, providing an opportunity for the youth to showcase their sporting talents while strengthening friendship and unity. A large number of enthusiastic young people participated in the various matches, creating an atmosphere of energy, excitement and healthy competition. The program

began with a welcome song and welcome speech by Fr. Jerome, Parish Priest. The sports events officially began with the kick-off at 10:00 a.m. The participants competed in different rounds of football and throwball, followed by the semi-finals and finals. The gathering provided a platform for young people from different parishes to meet one another and build stronger bonds within the deanery. The program concluded with the Vote of Thanks and Prize Distribution.

Fr. Derrick Augustin

Orientation Program for Non-Formal Educators

JUST organized an orientation program for educators working in its coaching centres under the Non-Formal



Education initiative. The program focused on “Training Educators to Support the Education of Children, Focusing on Culturally Relevant Pedagogy.” JUST currently manages

10 coaching centres across Gomati district, providing basic educational support to children from rural and under-served families. The centres aim to bridge learning gaps and create opportunities for children who may face challenges in accessing quality educational resources. The Resource Person was Mr. Ashim Uchoi, Asst. Inspection of Education, Karbook R.D Block. The orientation program provided educators with an opportunity to reflect on their teaching practices and explore approaches that are sensitive to the cultural and social backgrounds of the children they teach.

Teachers Day – Recognizing the Contribution of Rural Educators

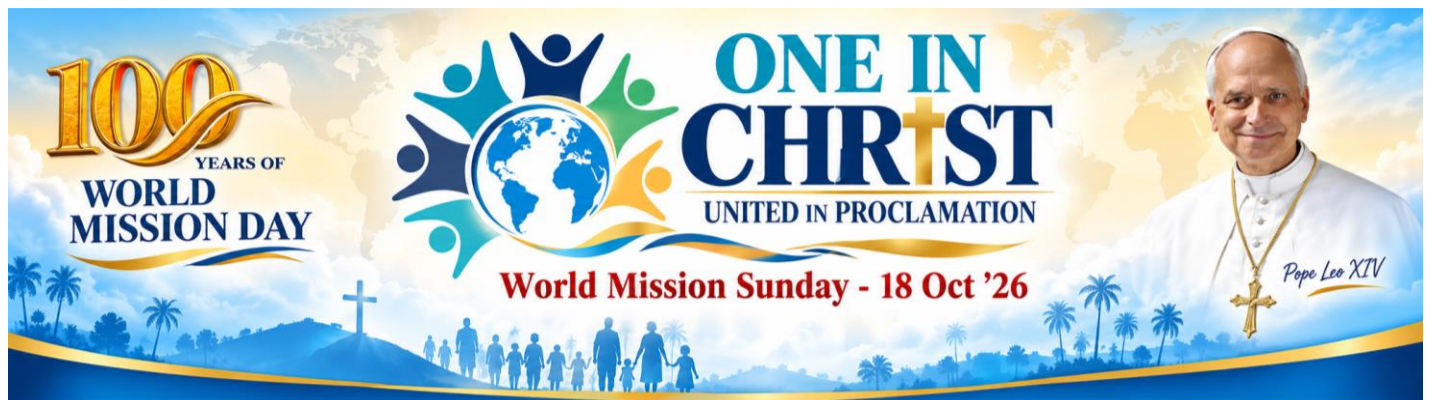
JUST celebrated Teachers' Day by recognizing the dedication and contribution of educators working in its Non-Formal Education coaching centres in Gomati district. The celebration brought together educators who provide



essential educational support to children from rural and underserved communities. Through its 10 coaching centres, JUST provides basic education and strengthens the learning foundation of children from some of the most rural families in the district. The Teachers' Day celebration

provided an opportunity to appreciate the commitment of educators who work closely with children and families, often in challenging circumstances. As part of the celebration, students expressed their appreciation and affection for their teachers by preparing small gifts and organizing a short cultural program. The program included lively songs and dance performances, creating a joyful and memorable occasion for both students and educators. The celebration also highlighted the important role teachers play beyond the classroom. Educators encourage children to remain connected with education, build confidence, develop positive values, and participate actively in the learning process.

Robert Lushai



Our Distinguished Guests

- Fr. Joy Pallikunnel from Dibrugarh
- Fr. Emma's relatives from Kerala, NZ & Ireland
- Fr. Pius Thomas, SVD Mission Superior from AP
- Sr. Zeena D'Souza, SRA Superior General from Vienna
- Sr. Regis SRA General Councilor from Vienna
- Fr. Valerian Vaz from Goa
- Fr. Henry, SJ Provincial from Kerala
- Fr. Sunny, SJ, Councilor from Kerala

BISHOP'S PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 2026

- 02: BEC Regional ToT for Leaders @ ASHA
Meet CMC Provincial
- 03: St. Francis of Assisi Transitus @ Gachirampara
- 04: St Francis of Assisi Feast @ Gachirampara
- 05: Clergy Meet @ Agartala
- 06-09: DFNEI @ Diphu Diocese
- 10: SJA Jubilee program@ Hospital
- 11: New Parish Priest Installation @ Kathalcheria
- 12-30: Health checkup @ Goa