



Eparchy of Jagdalpur

**Bastar
Dhwani**
July- August '26



Presenting Christ, Our Hope

EDITORIAL

Bastar Dhwani, the news bulletin of the Eparchy of Jagdalpur, seeks to strengthen communication and communion within the diocesan family, keeping members connected and united in Christ. This July-August issue celebrates the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, a significant moment in God's plan of salvation. Mary, chosen to become the Mother of the Saviour, welcomed Jesus into her life and presented Him to the world as the fulfillment of humanity's hope. Her life demonstrates that receiving Christ is inseparably connected with the responsibility of sharing Him with others.

The celebration invites reflection on our own vocation and mission to bring Christ, the source of hope and joy, to those we encounter. Through pastoral ministry, educational apostolates, charitable activities, missionary endeavors, and various services to society, the Eparchy has countless opportunities to make Christ's presence and love visible.

The events reported in this issue witness the dedicated collective efforts of the Eparchy in reaching out and radiating the Gospel's joy. Mary's humble "yes" to God made her the bearer of Christ. Her example inspires us to become Christ-bearers in our families, communities, and workplaces, offering hope, reconciliation, and joy in a world marked by uncertainty and division.

Fr Jomet Chakkalayil
Editor in Charge

Bishop's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Warm greetings and prayerful wishes on the Feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother!

The birth of a child is always an occasion of joy and hope. The Church celebrates the Nativity of Mary because, through her, God was preparing the way for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Her birth is therefore rightly celebrated as "the hope of the whole world and the dawn of salvation."

In the liturgical tradition of the Church, the birthdays of only three persons are celebrated: Jesus, Mary, and St John the Baptist. This is not accidental. Jesus is the Saviour; Mary is the mother of the Saviour; and John the Baptist is the one who prepared the way for the Lord. Their lives are intimately connected with the mystery of our salvation.

Mary's birth marks the beginning of a new chapter in God's saving plan. From the very beginning of her existence, she was graced and preserved from sin in view of her unique vocation to become the mother of Jesus. Her life reminds us that God prepares people and circumstances for His purposes long before we ourselves understand His plan. The humble girl of Nazareth would become the mother of God and, at the foot of the Cross, the mother entrusted to the disciples of Christ.

The Nativity of Mary invites us, therefore, to rediscover the virtue of hope. We live in a world where many people experience uncertainty, fear, conflict, loneliness, and discouragement. The birth of Mary reminds us that God can bring light even when the world appears to be waiting in darkness. The dawn may begin quietly, almost unnoticed, but it announces that the night will not have the final word.

Mary teaches us that hope is not merely optimism. Christian hope is the confident trust that God is at work even when His presence is not immediately visible. Mary herself did not know everything that God would accomplish through her. She simply trusted, listened, and said her generous "yes" to God. Her "Let it be done to me according to your word" became the doorway through which the Saviour entered our world.

The theme of Mary's Nativity also speaks powerfully to our families and communities. Every child is a gift of God and a bearer of hope. Every young person has a vocation and a place in God's plan. As a Church, we are called to create families and communities where children and young people are welcomed, protected, accompanied, and helped to discover the gifts God has placed within them. As we celebrate the Nativity of our Blessed Mother, may we ask ourselves: What kind of hope are we bringing into the lives of those around us? Are our words and actions sources of encouragement? Do our families radiate faith and hope? Do our Christian communities make people feel welcomed and valued? Are we, like Mary, willing to say "yes" to God even when His plan is not completely clear to us? On this beautiful feast, let us rejoice with Mary and place our hope once again in the Lord. May the dawn that began with Mary's birth continue to shine in our Diocese, our families, and our hearts, leading us ever closer to Jesus, the Light of the World.

May Our Blessed Mother, whose Nativity we joyfully celebrate, bless and accompany each one of you.
With my prayerful blessings,

+Joseph Kollamparampil CMI





MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV

FOR THE 112th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

27 September 2026

Even Just One of These Children (cf. Mt 18:10)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Each year the World Day of Migrants and Refugees invites us to turn our attention to different aspects of the complex phenomenon of migration. For this 112th World Day, the theme, “Even just one of these children,” draws our attention to the minors directly involved in the experience of migration and flight, to the care owed to them, and to the Lord’s promise that “whoever receives one such child in my name receives me” (Mk 9:37).

Displaced minors: a complex reality of vulnerability

Minors are the most vulnerable group within the global movements of migration. They are concrete faces, who have unique stories, and call on our conscience. Every year, millions of children and adolescents are forced to leave their homeland because of war, poverty, violence, environmental disasters and other tragedies. Sadly, their number continues to grow. The economic, political and military consequences of this disaster are immense. The suffering of migrant children does not end with their relocation. There are very young children who have lost parents, brothers, sisters and friends, and who have witnessed unspeakable acts of violence. Others, separated from their families for long periods, try to reunite with them while enduring the anguish of separation. There are also minors who make the journey together with their parents, yet are exposed to extreme and traumatic conditions. Finally, we cannot forget the tragic situation of those separated from their parents because of repatriation.

To this already appalling situation are added further tragedies: deaths along migration routes, trafficking and exploitation, the recruitment of minors for use in armed conflicts, sexual violence, forced marriages, and the atrocities they have suffered or witnessed during their travels. Their dignity is trampled upon in countless ways.

In his Message for the 2017 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, dedicated to the theme “Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless”, Pope Francis recalled that migrant children “in a threefold way are defenceless: they are children, they are foreigners, and they have no means to protect themselves. I ask everyone to help those who, for various reasons, are forced to live far from their homeland and are separated from their families.”

Yet, amid so much darkness, the light of solidarity is not lacking. Individuals, families, civil institutions and ecclesial communities choose not to pass by on the other side (cf. Lk 10:29-37). We think of the families who open the doors of their homes in order to restore to these children the warmth of a family hearth; the educators who serve in reception centers; the volunteers and aid workers who each day devote themselves to healing the invisible wounds of these little ones along migration routes and in our cities. They bear witness through their commitment that love can overcome indifference.

Even just one of these children

Before this tragic reality, my thoughts turn to the words of Jesus that profoundly challenge our consciences: “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me” (Mt 18:5). It is not a question of numbers or statistics. The Gospel invites us not to calculate: even one. Every child, every human being, possesses an infinite dignity. Each is created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26); each is a presence of the Lord. Before every migrant child, we are called to make an act of humanity and faith, for we are able to welcome and encounter the Lord. This call becomes even more pressing in the light of another of the Lord’s affirmations in the Gospel of Matthew: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Mt 25:35).



Sadly, migrant children are more easily ignored, because they lack adults capable of protecting and supporting them. It is necessary, then, to intervene in their countries of origin in order to remove the causes that compel them to flee, while at the same time offering protection and welcome in the countries of transit and destination. The cry of displaced children rises to God today, just as did the cry heard in the Book of Exodus: “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them” (Ex 3:7–8). God hears their cry and, in order to bring about liberation, he forcefully appeals to the conscience and action of each one of us, just as he did with Moses. We cannot remain indifferent, nor can we become accustomed to such suffering.

An appeal to the responsibility of all

Even just one of these children calls each one of us, in our personal lives, to open our eyes and heart to a profound listening to his or her story, fears and dreams, overcoming that detachment which reduces the human person to a statistic that does not directly concern us. It is an invitation to recognize the dignity of each child, even before considering the condition of being a “migrant,” and to safeguard his or her fundamental rights: the right to life, education and a standard of living that enables full physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

Even just one of these children calls us, in the life of the Church, to transform welcoming from an abstract concept into a stable pastoral practice. We cannot simply delegate this task to institutes or associations endowed with a particular charism. Before the concrete faces that confront us in daily life, the entire Christian community is called to regard these children as its own sons and daughters, and to engage with the concrete story of each one of them. Christian communities should be encouraged to promote the integration of refugees and migrants and to value them as full members of the ecclesial family, fostering new educational and spiritual paths, including personalized ones, which go beyond the mentality of mere assistance. In particular, it is essential to prevent the solitude, isolation and rejection that not infrequently also affect the children of migrants; and to promote opportunities for encounter and integration in which local young people and young migrants can support each other along a path of mutual respect, solidarity and friendship.

Even just one of these children, within the horizon of the different religions, reminds us that the vulnerability of the young knows no religious boundaries and unites us in a shared humanitarian and spiritual responsibility. This becomes fertile ground for a concrete interreligious dialogue, in which believers, drawing upon their own sense of transcendence, cooperate in weaving networks of protection. Faith communities are called to create spaces in which every boy and every girl is respected and valued in his or her own cultural identity, thereby preventing the risk of radicalization by extremist groups. Ultimately, to protect a child is to safeguard the divine image imprinted within him or her.

Even just one of these children, in the context of civil institutions, calls us to reaffirm the principle of the best interests of the child. Public and private institutions are bound to prioritise the protection and dignity of every single child and adolescent. This requires the adoption of effective legal instruments of protection, the promotion of family reunification, and the prevention of the trauma caused by separation. An urgent change of perspective is needed: the focus of the debate must shift from the mere management of migration to the full and immediate protection of human rights, adopting “a coordinated, supportive and effective response, capable of guaranteeing protection, welcome and genuine opportunities for integration to those who migrate” (Address to the Spanish Parliament, Madrid, 8 June 2026).

Let us entrust migrant and refugee children to the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary who, together with Saint Joseph and the child Jesus experienced the cruelty of Herod’s violence and the tragedy of exile in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-15). May she accompany their steps and help our communities to become living and credible signs of the Gospel.



POST-SYNODAL CIRCULAR Mar Raphael Thattil

**The Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Consecrated Men
and Women and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church.**

May the grace of the Lord be with you all!

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

The II Session of the XXXIV Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church was held from 17 to 28 August 2026 at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church. The Synod deliberated in detail on various ways of renewing and strengthening the faith life and pastoral activities of the Church so as to respond more effectively to the challenges of our times. Marked by prayer, fraternity, and ecclesial communion, the Synod was a blessed occasion on which the Bishops, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, sought together to discern the will of God. I gratefully remember all those who prayed for the success of the Synod.

Strengthening the Church Community

In continuation of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Assembly held at Pala in 2024, we are observing this year as the Year of Community Empowerment. The realization that the spiritual and social strengthening of the members of the Church is essential for meeting the various challenges of the contemporary world led us to observe this special year. What binds the members of our community, scattered across various countries, into one community of believers is their communion with the Church and their sense of pride in belonging to it.

Demographic decline, a weakening of ecclesial spirit, the lack of interest among the younger generation in the agricultural and commercial sectors, and our insufficient presence in the mainstream of society are the major challenges being faced by our community. These challenges should not frighten us but inspire us to discover new ways of responding to them. As the chosen people of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ, we must strive to become more powerful witnesses to the Gospel by deepening our spiritual convictions. At the same time, we must continue to make more diligent efforts to strengthen the younger generation in faith and in their sense of belonging to the community, while helping them develop their talents and resources. The Synod observed that the various initiatives undertaken in our eparchies during the Year of Community Empowerment would contribute greatly to strengthening both the Church and the community. I congratulate all those who are working selflessly toward this goal.

Deepening the Life of Faith

The faith formation and spiritual strengthening of families, young people, and children form an integral part of the Church's pastoral care. It is undeniable that the faith and zeal of our faithful in the diaspora have contributed significantly to the growth of the Syro-Malabar Church throughout the world. It is a matter of joy that the majority of parents of the new generation strive to raise their children with the same fervour of faith that inspired their ancestors. However, in an age increasingly marked by cultural atheism and profoundly influenced by digital technologies, especially social media, which have become an integral part of daily life, the faith formation of our families assumes particular importance. Our convictions concerning Jesus Christ, the one and only Saviour, and the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, must be continually deepened and firmly rooted in our life of faith. I urge everyone to organize pastoral activities in ways suited to the changing times and conducive to the faith formation of families, young people, and children. At a time when our families face numerous challenges, including the erosion of values, individualism, economic pressures, the widening gap between generations, and the influence of digital culture, we must prepare young people to recognize and cherish God's call to family life and to receive worthily the graces of the Sacrament of Marriage. At the same time, we must intensify our efforts against social evils such as alcohol and drug abuse, which destroy families and society, while promoting greater awareness of their harmful consequences.

Revival of Missionary Work

Since being granted the right to exercise pastoral ministry and undertake evangelization throughout India, the Syro-Malabar Church has been carrying out its mission of evangelization amid many limitations. We must be convinced that to be a Christian also means to be an evangelizer (CCC 900). Since we have been commanded to “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation” (Mk 16:15), evangelization is an integral part of our life of faith. The right to profess, practise, and propagate any religion is guaranteed by Article 25 of the Constitution of India. The Church’s various fields of service arise from our faith but embrace everyone, irrespective of religious belief. However, we must also be aware of the efforts to hinder our life of faith and our charitable and educational ministries under the allegation of forced conversion are not in keeping with the secular character of India.

In accordance with the directives of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly of 2024, a lay missionary movement called Jeevan Jyoti has been initiated in our Church. Jeevan

Jyoti envisions a programme that will give fresh impetus to the missionary endeavours of the Church in view of the Great Jubilee of the Salvific Event in 2033. As part of this movement, we call for the initiation and strengthening of missionary activities in every eparchy. The Church warmly greets all missionaries who bear witness to Jesus even in the most difficult life situations.

Challenges Requiring Resolution

The Synod Fathers had the opportunity to interact with several Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly from Kerala, to bring to one another’s attention the various problems faced by the Church and society, and to explore possible solutions. Following the necessary consultations, the people’s representatives were requested to ensure that the report of the Justice J. B. Koshiy Commission is implemented within a definite timeframe, that a permanent solution is found for the serious problems affecting the education sector, including the dispute concerning the appointment of teachers, and that the longstanding issues related to Ecologically Sensitive Areas are resolved. Along with these matters, the Synod Fathers also expressed their concern regarding the attempts of legislation that could adversely affect educational and social institutions operating in accordance with the law. It is deeply worrying that legal provisions are being introduced that adversely affect institutions functioning in accordance with the laws and constitutional rights of the country. At the same time, we must not forget that the Church has always remained the light of the world, even while journeying along difficult paths. Let us carry forward the Church’s mission at the heart of society with renewed strength, overcoming crises and raising our voices in defence of truth, justice, and human dignity.

Unity is Our Responsibility

Despite the crises and challenges we face, our hope rests in our Lord, to whom “all authority in heaven and on earth has been given” (Mt 28:18). As the people of the Lord (Ex 33:14), we must move forward with greater determination. Unity at the altar was a significant step in our Church’s journey together. Efforts toward this unity began in 1999 with the realization that the different modes of celebrating the Holy Qurbana had seriously affected the sense of unity within our Church. It is painful that this unity has not yet been fully realized. But we must understand that unity can never be achieved by hurting one another through our words. As Pope Leo XIV has exhorted us, “we must all, therefore, examine our conscience regarding the words we use, the prejudices we have and the explicit or implicit aggression that lies within them” (Magnifica Humanitas, 214).

Only constant prayer, personal repentance, and mutual reconciliation can lead us to lasting peace. While acknowledging the truth that there can be no peace without justice, everyone must realize that peace in the Church cannot be achieved through court cases. Salvation is attained not through victories and defeats but through obedience to the Crucified Lord. Relying on the grace of God, let us strive to become messengers of unity by accepting the guidance of our Eparchial Bishops. “The grace does not magically eliminate conflict, but instead it inspires active resistance to evil and an astonishing creativity in doing good (Magnifica Humanitas, 211). Let us strive to overcome our limitations by seeking new ways of engaging in acts of benevolence.

Priestly Formation in Tune with the Times

Let us give thanks to Almighty God, who enriches the Church with vocations to the priesthood. The Synod discussed the various challenges faced by priests in the modern world and entrusted the Commission for Clergy with the responsibility of making the necessary interventions in this regard. It is gratifying that the curriculum designed to renew the formation of seminarians in accordance with the needs of the times has already been introduced in the minor seminary. The Gospel will reach the ends of the earth only when priests, filled with the fervour of faith, are able to bear witness to Christ as men of the Church.

The Church also gives thanks to God for vocations to consecrated life. How abundant are the blessings that God bestows upon us through consecrated communities! Consecrated persons, who serve sacrificially in the fields of charity, education, and missionary work, spread the fragrance of the Gospel throughout the world. Therefore, we must encourage vocations to consecrated life and pray for their growth. The meeting with the Major Superiors of the consecrated communities held as part of the Synod was very fruitful.

Syro-Malabar Heritage and Research Centre

We have been able to open to the public the Heritage and Research Centre, which promotes the preservation, teaching, and scholarly study of the ancient and rich heritage of the Syro-Malabar Church. The St. Thomas Heritage Museum, established within this Centre, has come out as one of the important Christian museums in Kerala. Everyone is cordially invited to visit the Heritage and Research Centre and the Museum at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad.

Auxiliary Bishop for the Archeparchy of Kottayam

The appointment of Rev. Fr. Thomas Animoottil as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Kottayam is a matter of great joy for the entire Syro-Malabar Church. We pray that Fr. Thomas may receive the fullness of God's blessings, and we extend to him our prayerful best wishes for his episcopal ministry.

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Synod, held under divine providence, awakens within us a renewed sense of responsibility to form our Church in accordance with the will of God. Without being discouraged by crises or shaken by challenges, let us move forward in faith, communion, and missionary zeal, placing all our hope in the Lord.

The Synod expressed heartfelt solidarity with the families of all those who are suffering because of the disasters caused by the monsoon rains in Kerala. It also shared in the sorrow of those who have lost their loved ones in the tragic natural disaster in Nepal, and continues to pray for all those who have lost their homes and livelihoods.

Let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Thomas the Apostle, and all the saints and blessed of our Church, and entrust our Church and our families into the hands of the Lord. May the Holy Spirit guide us on our journey and bless us to bear witness to the Gospel with greater power as a Church united in Christ!

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on 28 August 2026.

+Raphael Thattil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

This circular shall be read during the Holy Qurbana on Sunday, 6 September, 2026, in all parishes, institutions, religious houses, formation centres, and major seminaries of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Eparchial Curia News

Ongoing Priestly Formation Programme

Ongoing Formation Programme for the Priests of the Ujjain Province of the Eparchies of Ujjain, Sagar, Satna & Jagdalpur will be organised during the following dates:

The details of the programme are as follows:

- 1. September 23-24 (Hosted by Sagar Diocese)**
Venue: Dayasagar Shrine, Khajuria, Sagar
Participation from each Eparchy: 15 priests
- 2. November 17-18: Diocese of Jagdalpur**
Venue: Good Shepherd Pastoral Centre, Aghanpur
- 3. January 20&21: Archdiocese of Ujjain**
- 4. March: 28&29 : Diocese of Satna**

Those who wish to participate in the First Batch in September are kindly requested to give their names to Rev. Fr Thomas Philip, the Protosyncellus, on or before 10 September 2026, so that the necessary arrangements can be made accordingly. All the priests are to avail themselves of this opportunity for ongoing formation, spiritual renewal, fraternity, and the deepening of our priestly commitment and ministry.

Know our Priest: Fr Libin Veliyappallil CMI

I belong to the CMI Nirmal Province, Jagdalpur. I began my seminary journey on 5 June 2013 Chavara Sadan at Kolachoor, where I completed my aspirancy under the guidance and care of Rev. Fr. James Erasseril CMI as Rector. I then joined the novitiate at Bhanpuri and made my First Religious Profession on 8 December 2015.

Following my First Profession, I pursued my philosophical studies at Dharmaram from 2016 to 2018. After completing my philosophy studies, I was sent to pursue Licentiate in Philosophy (LPh) from 2018 to 2021. Subsequently, I completed my regency at Palligaon Suman Ashram and Asha Ashram.

After completing my regency, I was sent to Pune JD for my theological studies. I received the ministry of the Subdiaconate on 20 February 2023 and was ordained a Deacon on 21 February 2024 by His Excellency Bishop Mar Thomas Elavanal. I was ordained to the priesthood on 31 December 2025 by His Excellency Bishop Mar Joseph Kollamparambil.

My first priestly appointment was at Asha Ashram, Palligaon, a centre dedicated to the care, development, and empowerment of differently abled and gifted boys. As I continue my religious and priestly journey, I seek to entrust my entire life and ministry to the Lord, drawing inspiration from the Word of God, especially Psalm 37:5: "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act."

This verse continues to guide me in surrendering my life, vocation, ministry, and future into the loving hands of God.



Inauguration of the Golden Jubilee Year of the Eparchy of Jagdalpur (1977-2027)



It was in the year 1977 that Jagdalpur, along with the other North Indian Syro-Malabar Missions, was raised to the status of an Eparchy. The year 2026–27, therefore, marks the Golden Jubilee Year of the Establishment of the Eparchy of Jagdalpur, commemorating fifty years of its ecclesial journey, missionary witness, and growth in faith.

The Jubilee Year was officially inaugurated by Mar Joseph Kollamparampil CMI, on 6th August 2026, on the 36th death anniversary of Mar Paulinus Jeerakath CMI, the first Bishop of the Eparchy. The Jubilee Year is being celebrated with the meaningful motto “Smaran, Samaroh, Sankalp” – Cherish, Commemorate, Commit- inviting the faithful to gratefully remember the past, celebrate the blessings of God received over the years, and renew their commitment to the mission of the Eparchy.

A variety of spiritual and pastoral programmes have been planned throughout the Jubilee Year with the aim of fostering spiritual renewal, deeper faith, and greater missionary commitment among the clergy, religious, and faithful of the Eparchy.

As part of the preparations for the meaningful observance of the Jubilee Year, an Orientation Programme on our vocation to be rooted in the Word of God was conducted by Rev. Fr. Cyriac Kochalumkal CST. The programme helped the participants to reflect on the call to deepen their personal and ecclesial life through a renewed encounter with the Word of God.

The programme also included group discussions on the practical aspects of observing the Golden Jubilee Year making the Jubilee Year a time of genuine spiritual renewal, communion, gratitude, and renewed missionary commitment throughout the Eparchy.

Maria Sangh

Meeting of Maria Sangh Office Bearers Held at Aghanpur

A meeting of the office bearers of the Maria Sangh parish units, together with the Central Committee of the Catholic Diocese of Jagdalpur, was held on 26 August 2026 at the Good Shepherd Pastoral Centre, Aghanpur.

The meeting was graced by the presence and guidance of the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Josey Thamarassery CMI. Priests, religious sisters, Central and Zonal Committee members, and parish leaders from various parts of the diocese actively participated in the meeting.

A review of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Maria Sangh was undertaken, with the members reflecting on the achievements, experiences, and future direction of the organisation. This was followed by a detailed discussion on the Action Plan for 2026–27, focusing on strengthening the ministry and coordination of Maria Sangh at the parish, zonal, and diocesan levels.

Among the major matters discussed were the Regional Annual Convention 2026 at Kunkuri, the CCBI Zonal Leadership selections, parish contributions towards the Women's Commission and Central Fund, and the initial preparations for hosting the Regional Annual Conference in Jagdalpur in October 2027.

The meeting concluded fruitfully with valuable reflections, encouragement, and guidance from the Director, Rev. Fr. Jins Madathilparambil, and the Maria Sangh Committee President. The gathering provided an important opportunity for collaboration, evaluation, and renewed commitment to strengthening the role and mission of women in the life and pastoral ministry of the diocese.



JCYM / SMYM JAGDALPUR

In the last month, the Jagdalpur Catholic Youth Movement (JCYM) successfully conducted three major programs under the theme "MASHAL RAH".

1. Zonal Youth Fest - Bijapur

The first program was conducted at Bhairamgarh in the month of July. More than 200 youth participated. The entire Diocesan team was present along with other dignitaries. Fr. Josey Thamarassery CMI, Vicar General, was the Chief Guest for the event.

2. Mashal Rah Bible Quiz - 2026

The second program was the Bible Quiz 2026, conducted across all seven zones of the diocese. Around 99 people registered for the quiz and about 70 people appeared for the examination.

3. Charity & Outreach Program

The third program was the Charity and Outreach Program conducted in different villages as per the convenience of the local teams. The main focus was to uplift the downtrodden people in the villages through various charitable activities.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS - YOUTH FEST 2026

The culmination of all these programs will be the grand Youth Fest on October 19, 20, and 21 at Nirmal Vidyalaya, Jagdalpur.

As preparation for the same:

- Parish-level Programs will be held in all parishes on September 20. The programs include Flag Hoisting, Banner Presentation and Special Prayer in all parishes and youth communities.

Online Registration for the Youth Fest will start on September 20.

The registration fee is Rs. 700/-

This year, the ministry has planned 25 main programs under different names like Charity Fest, Spiritual Fest, Sports Fest, Cultural Fest and Youth Fellowship, and more than 55 sub-programs were conducted throughout the year under the same theme - MASHAL RAH.

The Youth Fest in October will be the grand culmination and a celebration of our unity as one people of God.



Beyond a Hostel: Nurturing Young Lives Across the Diocese (Department of Hostels)

Across the Diocese of Jagdalpur, our hostels continue to be more than places of residence for children coming from remote and tribal communities. They are spaces where education, care, discipline, culture and hope come together.

With hostels spread across the different districts of the Diocese, children receive a supportive environment to pursue their schooling while developing good habits, confidence and a sense of responsibility. Regular study, tuition, prayer, sports, cultural activities and creative pursuits form an integral part of hostel life.

The recent months have once again reflected this vibrant spirit. Children participated enthusiastically in Independence Day celebrations, Adivasi Day programmes, cultural events, drawing and painting, sports and various competitions. Such occasions give them opportunities not only to celebrate but also to discover and express their talents.

Particularly meaningful is the effort to keep children connected with their culture and roots. Celebrations and cultural programmes provide a space for children to value their traditions while growing with a wider sense of belonging to the nation and society.

Behind these activities is the quiet, everyday commitment of hostel directors, wardens and staff, who accompany the children through their studies, routines and challenges. For many children, hostel life becomes an important journey towards greater confidence, discipline and independence.

A Ministry of Hope

The hostel ministry of the Diocese is ultimately about people, not buildings. Every child who enters a hostel carries a story, a family, a culture and a dream. Our responsibility is to provide an environment in which that dream can grow.

From remote villages to classrooms, from daily routines to new opportunities, our hostels seek to give children the confidence to learn, the freedom to grow and the courage to dream.

The hostel is not merely a place where children stay.

It is a place where young lives are nurtured for the future.

36th death anniversary of Mar Paulinus Jeerakath CMI

The 36th death anniversary of Mar Paulinus Jeerakath CMI, the first Bishop of the Eparchy of Jagdalpur, was solemnly observed on 6 August 2026. A concelebrated Divine Liturgy was offered for the eternal repose of the departed soul, with the participation of priests, religious sisters, and faithful from different parts of the Eparchy.

Mar Joseph Kollamparampil CMI, Bishop of Jagdalpur, was the main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist. Rev. Fr Thomas Valavananickal CMI, Provincial of the CMI Congregation, preached the homily, recalling with gratitude the missionary vision, dedication, and pioneering contributions of Mar Paulinus Jeerakath CMI. He highlighted how the first Bishop's deep missionary commitment and pastoral vision laid a strong foundation for the growth and development of the Eparchy of Jagdalpur.

The celebration was an occasion to remember with gratitude the life and ministry of Mar Paulinus and to renew the missionary spirit that continues to guide the Eparchy.



FROM RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

MSMI



Training on sickle cell anemia medicine (ayurvedic)

CMC



First profession of Sr.Madhusmita & Sr Basanti



Province day celebration

DBS

Founders' Day Celebration - 6 August 2026

The Founders' Day of Deen Bandhu Samaj was celebrated with profound gratitude, prayer, and spiritual fervour throughout the Congregation, with the principal celebration held at the Generalate. The observance was preceded by Forty Hours of Eucharistic Adoration, providing a sacred opportunity to remain in the presence of the Lord, give thanks for His faithfulness, and seek His grace for the continued growth and mission of the Congregation.

On 6 August, the inmates of Bishop Paulinus Memorial Seva Sadan presented a meaningful cultural programme, adding joy and warmth to the celebration. A fraternal gathering with Most Rev. Bishop Joseph Kollamparambil, CMI offered an opportunity to gratefully recall the life, faith, vision, and missionary legacy of our revered founder, Bishop Paulinus Jeerakath, CMI.

The celebration concluded with a joyful fellowship meal, expressing the spirit of fraternity and communion. The day became a profound occasion of Eucharistic thanksgiving, remembrance of our founding heritage, spiritual renewal, and a renewed commitment to live and witness the charism and mission entrusted to Deen Bandhu Samaj.

Four-Day Spiritual Renewal Programme for Superiors

Four-day Spiritual Renewal Programme for the Superiors of Deen Bandhu Samaj was conducted under the theme “Leading Like Christ: Renewing Ourselves to Renew Our Communities,” animated by Rev. Fr. Wilson Abrahamnders’ Day Celebration – 6 August 2026. The Founders’ Day of Deen Bandhu Samaj was celebrated with profound gratitude, prayer, and spiritual fervour throughout the Congregation, with the principal celebration held at the Generalate. The observance was preceded by Forty Hours of Eucharistic Adoration, providing a sacred opportunity to remain in the presence of the Lord, give thanks for His faithfulness, and seek His grace for the continued growth and mission of the Congregation.

On 6 August, the inmates of Bishop Paulinus Memorial Seva Sadan presented a meaningful cultural programme, adding joy and warmth to the celebration. A fraternal gathering with Most Rev. Bishop Joseph Kollamparambil, CMI offered an opportunity to gratefully recall the life, faith, vision, and missionary legacy of our revered founder, Bishop Paulinus Jeerakath, CMI.

The celebration concluded with a joyful fellowship meal, expressing the spirit of fraternity and communion. The day became a profound occasion of Eucharistic thanksgiving, remembrance of our founding heritage, spiritual renewal, and a renewed commitment to live and witness the charism and mission entrusted to Deen Bandhu Samaj.





Theme: "Leading Like Christ: Inspiring, Serving and Transforming"

Motto: "Renewed in Christ, Empowered to Lead, Committed to Serve."

A Two-Day Spiritual Leadership Programme for Principals was conducted by Rev. Fr. Libin CMI, focusing on the Transfiguration of Jesus. The principals were encouraged to encounter Christ through prayer, experience transformation, and return to their institutions with a spirit of service. They were reminded that they are the face and light of their institutions, called to remain faithful rather than merely successful. The key message was "Ascend in prayer and descend in service." The programme concluded with Confession and Eucharistic Adoration, providing a meaningful time of spiritual renewal.



SNEHATMA REGION

With deep gratitude to God, we, the Snehagiri Missionary Sisters, Snehatma Region, present the report of our apostolic activities for the year 2025–2026. By God's grace everything is going on well in our mission. This year the Lord blessed us with the first profession and vestition of our 4 novices.

1. OLD AGE HOME - ASHA BAHVAN, NAKTISEMRA

Asha Bahvan Old Age Home at Naktisemra is a home of love and care for the abandoned elderly. Presently we have 18 men and 7 women residing with us. The daily life of Asha Bahvan includes morning and evening prayer, which gives them strength and hope. To keep their minds and bodies active, we organize recreational activities, indoor games, singing, and psychotherapy sessions. We ensure that each resident receives nutritious food prepared with care, timely medical check-ups, medicines, and comfortable accommodation. Sisters are present to attend to their needs. Festivals are celebrated together as one family, bringing smiles to their faces.

2. HEALTH CARE CENTRE - MARIYA BHAVAN,

BANDAMMariya Bhavan Health Centre is a sign of God's compassionate love for the poor and sick. Through this centre, we try to be the healing hands of Christ, especially for the tribal poor who have little access to medical facilities. Our services include Daily out-patient care and first-aid for villagers Distribution of basic and essential medicines at minimal cost. Care for the elderly and bedridden through home visits. Conducting small village health camps in interior and remote villages for early detection of illness, BP and sugar check-ups, and health education. With the support of the Government Health Department, we are actively collaborating in vaccination programmes for children, mothers, and for the prevention of seasonal diseases, Referral services and assistance for serious cases to the district hospital. Many poor families find comfort and care at Mariya Bhavan. For them, it is not just a dispensary, but a place of hope, healing and human touch.

3. NEW COMMUNITY CENTRES

By God's providence, four new community centres were started this year in the interior villages of our mission area. Our presence there includes Holy Mass celebrated every Sunday in all four centres. Regular prayer meetings, Rosary, and Word of God sharing with families. Catechism classes for children and youth. House visits, family prayers, and preparation of the faithful for the Sacraments. Animating Small Christian Communities and strengthening active participation of laity. These centres have enabled us to reach the unreached, accompany families in their faith journey, and nurture a vibrant praying community.

4. FORMATION HOUSE - Snehatma Regional House

At present we have 3 postulants and 4 'Come and See' candidates who are pursuing their higher secondary education. Daily Eucharist, prayer, and spiritual direction, Classes on Bible, Constitution, Liturgy and also, they are Completing their higher secondary education. Our young sisters are formed in prayer, study, and service to become true missionaries.

By God's grace, all our ministries are functioning smoothly this year. We continue to trust in Divine Providence for our needs.

We sincerely thank His Lordship Bishop and the Diocese for the constant support, prayers, and guidance. We assure our prayers for the Diocese and recommit ourselves to serve God's people through our apostolates.



Healing hands of Christ – At Asha Bhavan –
Nakti Semra



Caring for a sick elderly during home visits



Village Health Camp and Awareness for Women



Klesis 2026

conducted at Kolchur Samanvaya in collaboration with CRI and CMI Theologians. Two days gathering of seminarians and formees of different congregations in the Eparchy. 98 participants took part.

Theme was celebrating the vocation received. Date August 22nd & 23rd.



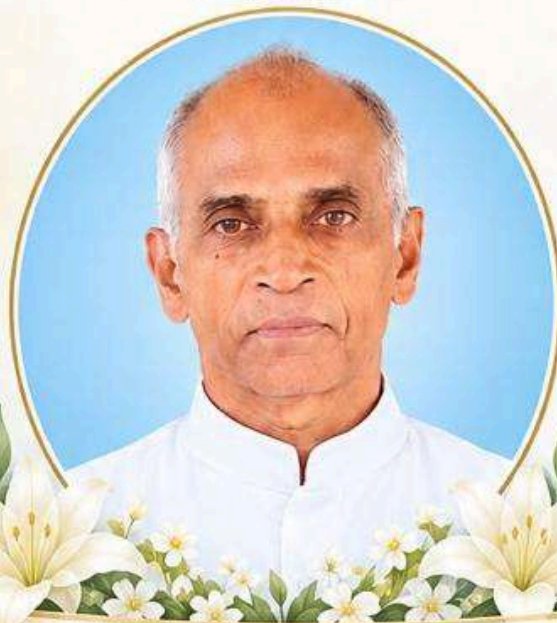


Eparchy of Jagdalpur

We are a family in Christ

EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST
CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS

FOR



Fr Alexander Maramattam

Matthew 25:23

*“Well done, good and faithful servant;
you were faithful over a few things,
I will make you ruler over many things.”*

Message:

Eparchy of Jagdalpur unites in sorrow with the bereaved family,
relatives, CMI Nirmal Province and all who mourn this great loss.

We commend the soul of

Fr. Alexander Maramattam

to the loving mercy of God.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.



Bishop's Programme

SEPTEMBER 2026



DIOCESE OF JAGDALPUR

DATE	PROGRAMME	TIME	PLACE
3 September	Holy Eucharist	5:00 PM	Valankanni Church, Nayunda
4 September	Major Superiors' Meeting	10:30 AM	Bishop's House
6 September	Requiem Mass for the late Sr. Cicily MSMI	5:30 PM	Mariguda
7 September	Holy Eucharist	6:30 AM	SABS, Tellimaranga
8 September	Holy Eucharist <i>Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	6:45 AM	Vinayalaya, Bhanpuri
	Holy Mass at St. Mary's Shrine	6:30 PM	Bodhghat
10 September	Engaged	—	—
12 September	Holy Eucharist <i>Retreat Conclusion</i>	3:00 PM	Junawar
13 September	Holy Eucharist & Jubilee Celebration <i>of Sr. Margareta SDB</i>	9:30 AM	Junawar
14 September	Engaged	—	—
15 September	Engaged	—	—
17 September	Departure to Kerala	—	—
19 September	SABS Vestition & First Profession	10:00 AM	Punnakunnam
21 September	Dharmaram	—	Bangalore
22 September	Dharmaram	—	Bangalore
23 September	Return to Jagdalpur	—	Jagdalpur
24 September	Diocesan Commission's Meeting	—	Bishop's House

"I am with you always, to the end of the age."

— Matthew 28:20 —