PURNEA DIOCESE
Newsletter

Bishop's House, Maharajaji Hata, Purnea - 854 301 Bihar, INDIA

Vol. XIX No. 4 | For Private Circulation only | December 2017

Let the spirit of love gently fill our hearts and homes.
In this loveliest of seasons may you
find many reasons for happiness.
The Local Ordinary & Diocesan Curia wish you a
Merry Christmas & a Prosperous New Year 2018!

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME

November

2 : Purnea: Holy Mass at cemetery
4 : Thakurganj: Visit
7-8 : Recollection
12 : Jhunukpotta: Blessing of the Village Chapel
26 : Purnea: Feast of Christ the King
27-29 : Patna: BRBC meeting

December

2 : Baghmara: St. Mary's English Medium School, "Day for the old and forsaken"
3 : Baghmara: Annual day - St. Xavier's School
10 : Kishanganj: Blessing of the Grotto and Holy Mass
17 : Purnea: Sports day - St. Peter's English Med. School
19 : Munsibari: Blessing of the new addition building in the School
20 : Christmas Gathering
21 : Kishanganj: Annual Day - St. Xavier's English Medium School
24 : Purnea: Christmas Vigil Mass
25 : Christmas

January

1 : New year 2018

NEWS AROUND THE DIOCESE

BLESSING OF THE VILLAGE CHAPEL AT JHUNUKPOTTA, SATMI

A solemn ceremony of the blessing of the village chapel at Jhunukpotta was held on 11th October 2017. It was the day of blessing for the diocese and particularly for the faithful of Jhunukpotta village in Satmi parish. The chapel was blessed by **Bishop Angelus**

Kujur SJ, and dedicated the Chapel to the **"Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary"**. The villagers had been waiting for long to have a Chapel. Their aspiration was fulfilled with the construction of a beautiful Chapel. The faithful were enthused as the ribbon on the entrance was cut by the Bishop. The mothers of the families brought little water *(LOTTA DA)* in procession and poured it in a big jar to make the Holy Water, by which church was blessed. Children from St. Vianney High School Satmi took part very actively in the liturgical ceremony. The choir was led by the students of the place. After the Eucharist, a small felicitation program was put up by the children and the villagers. Thereafter a festive meal was served to all.

We thank all who contributed to make the village chapel of Jhunukpotta, especially the family who donated the land, The Church in Need - Germany, the diocesan authorities and all the workers. Especial thanks to the parish priest **Fr. Benjamin Minj, Fr. Sahayaraj, Fr. Michal Kisku, FCC sisters** and **students of Vianney School** for their hard work in preparing the chapel and people for the day of the blessing.

FEAST OF ALL SOULS DAY

The feast of all Souls day on 2nd November was celebrated in all the parishes in the diocese. **Bishop Angelus Kujur SJ** presided over the Eucharistic celebration at cemetery in the Cathedral parish, Purnea. A beautiful arrangement was made for the Eucharistic celebration. The choir was led by the Ursulines. A good number of faithful attended the service and prayed for the departed souls.

Similarly in all the parishes the cemeteries were blessed. The cemeteries at the far fetched villages were blessed on different days by the local Clerics.

Thanks to all the priests for their untiring service to the faithful in their parishes.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

The feast of the **"Christ the King"** was celebrated in all the parishes on 26th November 2017. There were the solemn Eucharistic celebrations and then the Procession of Christ the King, in decorated *Palki,* Jeep etc., the processions proceeded to the destinations which were prepared for the Eucharistic Adoration. The procession proceeded in singing the praises of the "Christ the King" and with rosary. In Purnea parish the Eucharistic celebration was presided over by **Bishop Angelus Kujur SJ** and he carried the Eucharistic Lord during the procession. The choir of Sipahi Tola, Purnea very beautifully conducted the singing and the prayers during the procession. The children from Amla Ashram and St. Peter's Girls Hostel dressed as angels spreading the flowers in reverence to the Eucharistic Lord. The conclusion was the Eucharistic Adoration which was led by the Diocesan Charismatic Prayer group.

At the end snacks were given to all by Don Bosco Community, Purnea.

SEMINAR AT NATIONAL CENTRE FOR NEW EVANGELIZATION SUVARTA KENDRA, PACHMARHI- (M.P.)

A course on New Evangelization from 3rd-29th October 2017 in Panchmarhi was attended by 10 priests from the Diocese of Purnea. The course covered the topics on the Holy Scripture, Evangelii Gaudium and Amoris Laetitia, the post-synodal apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis, is a timely and landmark document on the family. It contains contributions of the synods on the family held in 2014 and 2015, Pope Francis' considerations given as an "aid to reflection,

dialogue and pastoral practice, and as a help and encouragement to families in the daily commitments and challenges".

The course aimed at helping the families (i) experience God's Love and Mercy through the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Love and (ii) become "Missionary Disciples" to their neighbors and peers, extending the Kingdom of God into their daily situations.

We thank our Bishop who made possible to send 10 priests to Panchmarhi from the diocese. We were blessed with the course of the New Evangelization. We witnessed the Stigmata through Josephine Vimala, which was really an eye opening for us about God's Love. This stigmata experience lightened our hearts and minds to experience Him closely and meaningfully throughout the course of New Evangelization.

— Fr. Anil Lugun

REGIONAL MAHILA SANGH CONVENTION

There was Regional Mahila Sangh convention in Patna from November 4th to 5th 2017. The Diocese of Purnea was represented by 21 women who could participate in the convention. The Diocesan Mahila Sangh co-ordinator **Sr. Haritima SRA** led the group.

The theme of the convention was "the role of women in the Church." **His Grace Archbishop William D'Souza S.J.** the chairman of Bihar region gave the inputs on the theme. In his message he emphasized that the role of a women begins with the responsibility in their family, then in the Church and finally in the society.

There was a role play based on the theme and women from different dioceses presented the Biblical skits. The participants expressed that the convention was very useful and enriching one.

BLESSING OF THE NEW GROTTO

There was the blessing of newly built grotto at Catholic Church Kishanganj on 10th December 2017. A beautiful grotto at Kishanganj is built with the contribution of the faithful of the parish with the initiative of **Fr. Gabriel Dungdung** the p.p. It was blessed by **Bishop Angelus Kujur SJ** during the Eucharistic celebration. The priests and religious came from Purnea and Majlispur to witness the beautiful ceremony. The Eucharist was solemnized with the entrance and offertory dances. A felicitation cultural program was put up by the children and the Seminarians after the Eucharist.

We thank the Parish Priest Fr. Gabriel Dungdung, all the priests, religious and the faithful of Kishanganj for their collaboration in constructing a magnificent grotto.

ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION

St. Joseph's School Dumar had its 2nd Annual Day function on 10th December 2017. The program started in time at 1.00 p.m. with the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries. There were variety of program staged by the students from different sections. The Chief Guest of the day was **Sri Raghvendra Tripathi** B.D.O. Sameli; he in his address encouraged the students to participate in various curricular activities which shapes their future. He also requested the parents and guardians to be vigilant in the formation of their children. The Guest of Honour **Fr. Francis Tirkey V.G.** congratulated the school administration for the development leap it has taken within a short span of time. He thanked and asked for the cooperation of the parents and guardians to make the institution a model for the area.

We thank **Fr. Tarcitius Tirkey,** the Principal, **Fr. Gabriel Kullu, FCC Sisters** and the staff for their hard work to make the day a successful one.

PRIESTS RETREAT

There was the Evangelization retreat for priests at Divine Voice Retreat Centre, Chopra, Uttar Dinajpur in two sequel, first from August 20th to 26th and second from November 19th to 25th 2017. In the first group 5 and in the second 7 priests attended the retreat from the diocese of Purnea. It was the time of renewal and spiritual nourishment. **Fr. Martin Kalamparamil V.C.** and **Fr. George Arackal V.C.** were the preachers for the first and second group respectively. We are grateful to the diocesan authorities for making it possible for the priests to attend such enriching retreat.

BIRTHDAYS

December 2017

21 – Fr. Ajay Gabriel Tirkey

January 2018

01 – Fr. Robert Tigga
17 – Fr. Thadaeus Kerketta
27 – Fr. Manoj Xalxo

February 2018

02 – Fr. Peter J. Fernandes
06 – Fr. Benjamin Minj
08 – Fr. Fulgence Topno
26 – Fr. Prakash Dungdung
27 – Fr. Gabriel Dungdung

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

December 2017

08 – Fr. Peter Fernandes
12 – Fr. Joachim Lakra
29 – Fr. Eugune B. Soreng
31 – Fr. Augustus Minj
31 – Fr. Gregory Kiro
31 – Fr. Mathias Tete

January 2018

01 – Fr. Francis Ekka
01 – Fr. Prakash Dungdung
04 – Fr. Alexius Kullu
19 – Fr. Robert Tigga

February 2018

02 – Fr. Michael Kisku
02 – Fr. Patras Hansdak (Sr.)
05 – Fr. Stephen Murmu
10 – Fr. Jaiman Tirkey
11 – Fr. Suman Hemrom

PRAYER FOR OUR SICK MEMBERS

1. Fr. Gregory Kiro
2. Fr. Sanjay Xalxo
3. Fr. Cyprian Beck

RIP: 1. **Jeromina Beck** elder sister of Fr. Cyprian Back on November 11, 2017
2. **Br. Ignatius Minj CMSF** elder brother of Fr. Benjamin Minj on November 12, 2017

Pray for many more good vocations for the Diocese.