



# THE PROVINCE REVIEW

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## Inauguration and Blessing of Holy Cross Church, Hasenbegpur



On 23 January 2026, the newly constructed church and presbytery of the Hasenbegpur Holy Cross Church, under the Rajshahi Catholic Diocese, were solemnly inaugurated and blessed. This occasion marked a historic milestone, as the Holy Cross Quasi-Parish was formally elevated to the status of a full-fledged parish.

The celebration was conducted with great solemnity and ceremonial dignity, attended by the Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh, bishops, priests, religious sisters and brothers, local faithful, and distinguished guests. His Excellency Archbishop Kevin S. Randall, Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Most. Rev. Bishop Gervas Rozario, DD, was present as Special Guest. Among other notable attendees were Fr. George Kamal Rozario, CSC, Provincial Superior of the Congregation of Holy Cross Priests Society, Bangladesh; Fr. Thomas Joseph Eckert, CSC, Director of the Holy Cross Mission Center, USA; and Fr. William Murmu.

The inauguration ceremony of the church was marked by symbolic gestures, including the release of balloons, festoons, and doves, signifying peace, joy, and new beginnings. The church was formally inaugurated by Most. Rev. Archbishop Kevin S. Randall and Fr. Thomas Joseph Eckert, CSC, while Most. Rev. Bishop Gervas Rozario, DD, ceremonially opened and blessed its main doors.

A solemn Eucharistic celebration followed, presided over by Most. Rev. Bishop Gervas Rozario, DD, and concelebrated by numerous priests. In his homily, the Bishop offered profound thanksgiving to Almighty God for this grace-filled achievement, made possible through the generosity of benefactors and well-wishers. He expressed the hope that the new church would serve as a lasting center of faith, hope, love, and service for generations to come.



Following the Holy Mass, a reception and felicitation program was held during which distinguished guests were formally welcomed and invited to share their reflections. In his address, Archbishop Kevin S. Randall remarked that the newly established church would stand as a sacred and enduring place for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, sanctifying the faithful across generations. He also conveyed greetings and blessings on behalf of the Holy Father.

The day's celebrations included a vibrant cultural program in the afternoon, enriching the occasion with color and joy. The event witnessed the active participation of clergy, religious, residents, and numerous faithful from surrounding communities, contributing to its memorable and grace-filled character.

The ceremony commenced with a traditional cultural dance and customary gestures of hospitality, including the washing of feet and the offering of floral garlands in accordance with local tradition.

Earlier in the day, the newly constructed presbytery was inaugurated and blessed through prayer by Archbishop Kevin S. Randall and Fr. George Kamal Rosario, CSC. Subsequently, the parish building was formally blessed by Most. Rev. Bishop Gervas Rozario, DD, and Archbishop Kevin S. Randall.

This historic celebration stands as a testament to the living faith of the community and its commitment to spiritual growth and mission.



## Holy Cross Priests Ordained in Various Dioceses in Bangladesh



The Congregation of Holy Cross, Priest Society in Bangladesh (SHJP), joyfully announces the ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests of several of its members, celebrated in different dioceses during the period from 21 November 2025 to 16 January 2026.

On 21 November 2025, at Christ the Redeemer diocese, Rajshahi, Rev. Nayan Joseph Gomes, C.S.C., was ordained to the priesthood through the imposition of hands and the prayer of ordination by the Most Reverend Gervas Rozario, STD, DD, Bishop of Rajshahi Diocese. The ordination Mass

was attended by good members of the Congregation of Holy Cross, diocesan clergy, religious, family members, and the faithful, who gathered to give thanks to God for the gift of priestly ministry.

Another priestly ordination took place on 27 December 2025 in the Archdiocese of Dhaka, where Rev. Promod Thomas Rozario, C.S.C., was ordained by Archbishop Bejoy N. D’Cruze, OMI, at St. Joseph’s Church, Savar. In his homily, the bishop exhorted the ordinand to live his priesthood in fidelity to Christ, the Church, and the charism of the Congregation of Holy Cross, marked by zeal for education, pastoral ministry, and service to the poor.



On 30 December, Rev. Soikat Bebedict Kulentuno, C.S.C., was ordained a priest at Christ the Redeemer Diocese, Rajshahi. A member of the Priest Society of Holy Cross, the newly ordained priest will carry out his ministry in Shanti Raj Catholic Church, Thanchi, in collaboration with his confreres and the local Church.

Another priestly ordination took place on 05 January 2026 in the diocese of Dinajpur, where Rev. Sushil Ignatius Soren, C.S.C., was ordained by Bishop Sebastian Tudu, DD, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Khalippur.





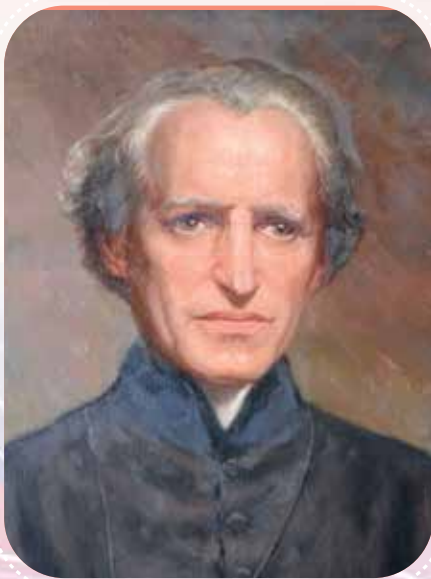
On 9 January 2026, Rev. Jeorme Mosenting Suting, C.S.C., was ordained a priest at St. Joseph the Worker Church, Sreemongal, also within the Diocese of Sylhet by Most Rev. Shorot Francis Gomes, DD. As a member of the Priest Society of Holy Cross, the newly ordained priest joins the worldwide mission of the Congregation, committed to educating minds and hearts, forming communities of hope, and serving the Church wherever the Congregation is sent.

On 16 January 2026, Rev. Tharson Francis Mrong, C.S.C., was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests at

St. Andre Bessette Catholic Church, within the Diocese of Mymensingh. The ordination was conferred by the Most Reverend Ponon Paul Kubi, CSC, Bishop of Mymensingh Diocese, through the imposition of hands and the prayer of ordination, in the presence of Holy Cross confreres, diocesan clergy, religious, family members, and the local faithful.



These ordinations give witness to the vitality of vocations within the Congregation of Holy Cross and to its shared mission across cultures and continents. United as one family in Holy Cross, the Congregation offers prayers of thanksgiving and entrusts its newly ordained priests to the intercession of Our Lady of Sorrows as they begin their ministry in service of the Gospel.



*As disciples of Jesus, we stand side by side with all people. Like them we are burdened by the same struggles and beset by the same weaknesses; like them we are made new by the same Lord's love; like them we hope for a world where justice and love prevail. Thus, wherever through its superiors the congregation sends us we go as educators in the faith to those whose lot we share, supporting men and women of grace and goodwill everywhere in their efforts to form communities of the coming kingdom.*

**-Blessed Basil Moreau**

# Christ The King Church, Satkhira

## Parish Feast Celebration (November 23, 2025)

Christ the King Parish, Satkhira, celebrated its annual Parish Feast with great solemnity and joy, combined with a jubilee celebration honoring married couples. A total of 58 couples commemorated milestones ranging from 25 to 50 years of faithful married life. The Holy Eucharist was solemnly presided over by Most Rev. Bishop James Romen Bairagi, joined by seven concelebrating priests and faithful from 21 villages. The celebration reflected deep gratitude, unity, and the enduring value of Christian family life.



## Renovation of the Priests' Residence

Recognizing the urgent need for renovation, the parish undertook the restoration of the priests' residence, which had fallen into disrepair. With generous assistance from Aid to the Church in Need and under the guidance of the Bishop and Rev. Fr. George Kamal Rozario, CSC, the project commenced on December 14, 2025, under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Domenic Sarkar, CSC. Completed on March 29, 2026, the renovated residence now provides a dignified and functional living space for clergy.

## Christmas Celebration

The joyous feast of Christmas was celebrated with great enthusiasm and spiritual fervor. The presence of His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, CSC, added special significance to the occasion. Accompanied by eight priests, he visited various villages and celebrated the Holy Eucharist. The festivities included a vibrant cultural program attended by civil authorities, including the District Commissioner, Mrs. Afroza Akter. The celebration fostered unity and marked the Cardinal's first Christmas visit to the parish.

## Founder's Feast Day (January 20, 2026)

For the first time, the parish solemnly observed the feast of Blessed Basil Anthony Mary Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross. The celebration began with Eucharistic Adoration and culminated in a solemn Mass presided over by the Parish Priest. Reflections on the founder's life inspired the faithful to embrace his vision of faith, zeal, and service.

## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2, 2026)

This feast was observed with special emphasis on consecrated life. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Sumon Peter Costa, CSC, and enriched by reflections from Sr. Sonaly Dofader, OSL. The sharing of vocational experiences by priests and religious fostered deeper appreciation for consecrated life.

## Beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday)

The Lenten season commenced with Ash Wednesday, marked by prayer, fasting, and repentance. Holy Mass was celebrated by five priests across eight parish centers, inviting the faithful into a period of spiritual renewal.

### **A New Beginning (February 19, 2026)**

A significant pastoral outreach was undertaken as a team of clergy and religious visited Kholishkhali and Srimantakathi villages. After 33 years, Holy Mass was celebrated again in Kholishkhali, reviving the faith of a long-isolated Catholic family. In Srimantakathi, ten catechumen families were encouraged in their journey toward the Catholic faith.

### **Rosary Seminar (February 28, 2026)**

A parish-wide Rosary Seminar was held at Khordow village, beginning with a Marian procession. The Parish Priest delivered the keynote address, while testimonies highlighted the spiritual power of the Rosary. The program concluded with the Holy Eucharist, strengthening Marian devotion among the faithful.

### **Women’s Awareness Program (March 14, 2026)**



An extensive awareness program brought together 353 women from 21 villages. Supported by the Holy Cross Mission Center, USA, the program included reflections by the Bishop and Rev. Fr. George Kamal Rozario, CSC, on the role of women in family and Church life. A health session by Caritas enriched the program, which concluded with the Eucharist and expressions of gratitude.

### **Baptism and Initiation (March 15, 2026)**



A historic celebration took place as 28 catechumens received Baptism, with 24 also receiving Confirmation and First Holy Communion. Presided

over by the Bishop, this event marked a significant moment of growth and renewal for the parish community.

### **Children’s Program (March 18–19, 2026)**

A two-day children’s program gathered 364 participants under the theme “Let the children come to me.” Activities included catechesis, health awareness, moral formation, and cultural events. The program concluded with recognition of contributors and distribution of essential materials.

### **First Holy Communion**

Fifty-seven children received their First Holy Communion after six months of preparation. The solemn celebration included confession, final catechesis, and a Eucharistic celebration, followed by a fellowship meal, marking a joyful milestone in their faith journey.

This period has been marked by vibrant liturgical celebrations, pastoral outreach, and community



development. The active participation of clergy and laity reflects a living and dynamic faith, strengthening unity and mission within Christ the King Parish, Satkhira

# St. George's Church, Mariamnagar

## Visit of Donors from the Church in Need

A delegation of donors from Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) recently visited St. George Church in Mariamnagar, accompanied by the Local Ordinary Bp. Paul Ponen Kubi, CSC, where they were warmly received by the local parish community. Their visit aimed to strengthen bonds of solidarity and witness firsthand the impact of their generous support on the faithful in the region.



Upon arrival, the donors were greeted with a vibrant traditional welcome. Parishioners, dressed in colorful attire, offered Khutup, flower bouquets, and performed cultural dances, reflecting the rich heritage and deep gratitude of the community. The atmosphere was filled with joy, music, and heartfelt appreciation.

During their visit, the donors interacted with parish members, listening to their stories and experiences. The parish priest expressed sincere thanks for the continued assistance, emphasizing how the contributions have supported pastoral activities, education, and community development.

The visit concluded with a communal gathering, strengthening mutual understanding and reinforcing the shared mission of faith and service. The presence of the donors was a source of encouragement, inspiring hope and unity among the people of St. George Church.



## Live Way of the Cross at St. George Church, Mariamnagar

The faithful of St. George Church, Mariamnagar, devoutly commemorated the Passion of Jesus through the solemn observance of the Way of the Cross. Parishioners of all ages gathered in large numbers, reflecting a deep spirit of prayer, reverence, and unity.

The celebration began within the church premises and continued along a designated path marked by the Stations of the Cross. Participants prayerfully moved from one station to another, meditating on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Youth members of the

parish brought the devotion to life by enacting scenes from the Passion, portraying the final journey of Jesus with sincerity and emotion.

Hymns, scripture readings, and reflective prayers accompanied each station, creating an atmosphere of profound devotion. Many participants walked barefoot as a sign of penance and solidarity with Christ's suffering. The parish priest, Fr. Lawrence Rebeiro, CSC, guided the congregation throughout the service, encouraging them to reflect on the message of love, sacrifice, and redemption. The observance concluded with



a



final prayer, leaving the faithful spiritually enriched.

This meaningful devotion strengthened the faith of the community and deepened their understanding of Christ's Passion, fostering a renewed commitment to live out His teachings in their daily lives.

### **Construction Works (Floor Casting) of the New Church Building at Mariamnagar**

The construction of the new church building at St. George Church, Mariamnagar, reached a significant



milestone as the roof concrete work (floor casting) officially began on 15 March 2026, in the presence of the Bishop. This important phase marks steady progress toward the completion of a long-awaited place of worship for the parish community.

A brief prayer service was held at the construction site, where the Bishop blessed the ongoing work and invoked God's guidance and protection upon the workers and parishioners. In his message, he expressed gratitude to all donors and community members whose dedication and support have made the project possible. Parish leaders, workers, and faithful gathered to witness the occasion, sharing in the joy and hope of building a stronger spiritual home. The Bishop also emphasized the importance of unity and faith in bringing such a vision to life.

The commencement of the roof concreting symbolizes not only structural advancement but also the growing strength of the parish community. The faithful remain hopeful and committed as the construction continues, looking forward to celebrating future liturgies in the new church building.

# Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Jalchatra

## Lenten Holy Childhood Seminars – 2026

The Lenten Holy Childhood Seminars 2026 were organized under the theme “*Little Children are Missionaries of the Lord Jesus,*” inspired by the Gospel message: “*Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them*” (Matthew 19:14). The seminars were conducted across 19 villages of Jalchatra Corpus Christi Catholic Parish, organized into four pastoral areas.

The programs were coordinated and conducted by the Assistant Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Nayan Joseph Gomes, CSC, who actively participated in all sessions.



The schedule of the seminars was as follows:

- **February 22, 2026:** Getchua village (for Beribaid and Magontinagar)
- **March 4, 2026:** Sadhupara village (for Jalabada, Sataria, and Bijoypur)
- **March 10, 2026:** Telki village (for Gayra and Joloi)
- **March 17, 2026:** Jangalia village (for Amlitala, Uzan Gachhabari, Gachhabari, Jalchatra, Idilpur, and Chapaid)

Each seminar included the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a rally, refreshments, religious video presentations, PowerPoint sessions, quizzes, cultural programs, and a communal meal. Children from classes one to seven from various village schools actively participated.

A total of approximately 780 children attended these seminars. The programs effectively promoted prayer, learning, and active participation in faith-based activities. The initiative was successfully implemented with the support of the Holy Cross Mission Center, USA.

## Pastoral Assembly – 2026

The Pastoral Assembly 2026 was held on February 28, 2026, at Jalchatra Corpus Christi Catholic Church under the theme “*Feed My Sheep*” (John 21:16).

The program commenced at 9:30 a.m. with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Subash Joseph Costa, CSC. The homily was delivered by Rev. Fr. Nayan Joseph Gomes, CSC, the assistant parish priest of Corpus Christi Catholic Church reflecting on the theme.

Following a short tea break, the main assembly session began at 10:30 a.m. with a welcome address by Mr. Samren Chisim, Vice-President of the Central Pastoral Council. The gathering also included a formal welcome for the newly appointed Assistant Parish Priest and Sr. Nilu Suting, CSC.

Several important topics were presented during the assembly:

- Education system and responsibilities
- Current social and economic conditions
- Land and forest issues and related responsibilities

A three-member Election Commission was formed to oversee the upcoming Pastoral Council elections. The assembly concluded with open discussions, a vote of thanks, and a fellowship meal. Approximately 70 participants attended the program, which was supported by the Holy Cross Mission Center, USA.



**Lenten Seminar for Widows and the Elderly – 2026**  
 The Lenten Seminar for widows and the elderly was held on March 1, 2026, at Jalchatra Catholic Parish. The program was honored by the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D’Rozario, CSC, the chief guest.

On February 28, the Cardinal and Rev. Fr. Eugene Anjus, CSC, were warmly welcomed with a traditional reception, including cultural performances and floral greetings.

On March 1, the day began at 8:30 a.m. with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by the Cardinal. The formal seminar commenced at 9:45 a.m. with a procession, local hymns, and a symbolic washing of the feet of the Cardinal and twelve elderly participants.

Following the opening ceremony, the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Subash Joseph Costa, CSC, and Rev. Fr. Samuel Pathang offered floral greetings. After a brief intermission, the Cardinal delivered his keynote address on the theme “*We Are Disciples of Jesus Christ.*”

Participants were also provided with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A second Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Parish Priest and a fellowship meal. Approximately 320 participants attended this spiritually enriching program, which was supported by the Holy Cross Mission Center, USA.

**Lenten Pilgrimage for Teachers and Parish Council Members – 2026**

The Lenten pilgrimage for teachers and members of the Parish Council was held on March 7, 2026, at the Holy Cross Pastoral and Retreat Center, Bhadun, Gazipur. The program was organized by Jalchatra Parish in collaboration with Holy Cross Family Ministry Bangladesh.

A total of 47 participants, including teachers and Parish Council members, took part in the pilgrimage. The program was coordinated by Rev. Fr. Nayan Joseph Gomes, CSC.

The pilgrimage included the Sacrament of Reconciliation, conducted by several priests, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Fr. James Clement Cruze, CSC, with a homily delivered by Rev. Fr. Ruben Manuel Gomes, CSC.

Following the religious services, participants visited the Holy Cross Family Ministry Center, Bhadun Church, and the ancestral home of the Parish Priest. The pilgrimage provided a meaningful opportunity for prayer, reflection, and community bonding. The group safely returned to Jalchatra Parish in the afternoon.

**Lenten Pilgrimage for Maria and St. Monica Sangha Members – 2026**

A Lenten pilgrimage was organized on March 13, 2026, for members of Maria and St. Monica Sangha at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Khalippur, under the Diocese of Dinajpur.

Approximately 165 participants traveled by buses, departing on March 12 and arriving the following morning. The day’s spiritual activities included the recitation of the Holy Rosary, the Way of the Cross, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The theme “*Do whatever He tells you*” (John 2:5) guided the reflections, with a spiritual talk delivered by

Rev. Fr. Nayan Joseph Gomes, CSC. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Robert Nokrek, CSC, with other priests concelebrating.



After the Eucharistic celebration, participants shared a meal and visited nearby recreational sites, including Swapnopuri Park. The group returned safely to Jalchatra Parish at midnight. The pilgrimage fostered spiritual growth, unity, and fellowship among the participants.

### **Lenten Pilgrimage for Central Youth Committee Members – 2026**

A Lenten pilgrimage for the members of the Corpus Christi Central Youth Committee was organized on March 16, 2026. A total of 24 youth participants traveled to Panchgaon village in Baruakona Parish, near the Bangladesh–India border.

The pilgrimage included the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Rev. Fr. Anjan Jamil, along with a reflection on “*The Cross and Its Significance in Youth Life*” delivered by Rev. Fr. Nayan Joseph Gomes, CSC.



After the religious activities, participants explored the local area, including nearby hills and villages, and shared a communal meal. The group returned safely in the evening.

This pilgrimage provided a valuable opportunity for spiritual reflection, strengthening faith, and fostering unity among the youth during the Lenten season.

The various Lenten programs and pastoral initiatives organized by Jalchatra Corpus Christi Catholic Parish in 2026 were marked by active participation, spiritual enrichment, and strong community engagement. These activities effectively supported faith formation across all age groups and strengthened the communal bonds within the parish. The continued support of the Holy Cross Mission Center, USA, contributed significantly to the success of these initiatives.

## **St. Paul’s Church, Pirgacha**

### **St. Paul’s Church, Pirgacha**

As part of its Lenten pastoral initiatives, St. Paul’s Church, Pirgacha, organized a series of spiritually enriching programs aimed at engaging various groups within the parish community, including children, youth, and adult members. These activities were carefully designed to foster deeper faith, communal participation, and spiritual renewal during the sacred season of Lent.

### **Holy Childhood Programs**

In preparation for Lent, the parish successfully conducted Holy Childhood programs at two sub-centers on February 10 and March 17, 2026. These events witnessed the enthusiastic participation of approximately 450 children from across the parish.

Centered on the theme “*Let the Children Come,*” the seminars provided a meaningful



platform for children to grow in faith and understanding. Through interactive sessions, prayer, and reflection, the children were encouraged to practice love, kindness, and compassion in their daily lives. The program played a significant role in nurturing their spiritual formation and guiding them to actively live out Christian values during the Lenten season.

### **Lenten Youth Seminar (February 23, 2026)**



A Lenten seminar for youth was held at the parish on February 23, 2026, drawing nearly 200 young participants. The half-day program focused on deepening the participants' understanding of Jesus Christ's sacrificial love and its relevance in their personal lives.

The seminar included moments of prayer, faith-sharing, and group discussions that encouraged participants to reflect on repentance and spiritual renewal. The Way of the Cross was prayerfully observed, followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The program concluded

with a fellowship meal, strengthening the sense of community among the youth.

### **Lenten Pilgrimage (March 6, 2026)**

On March 6, 2026, around 210 members of Mother Mary Sena Songho, along with other parishioners, undertook a Lenten pilgrimage to Bhaluka Mission, one of the prominent churches in the Mymensingh Diocese. The pilgrimage was organized under the leadership and guidance of the Parish Priest of Pirgacha Parish.

During the pilgrimage, the faithful participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, prayed the Way of the Cross, and attended the Holy Eucharist. This spiritual journey provided an opportunity for personal reflection, repentance, and renewal. It strengthened the faith of the participants and prepared their hearts for the celebration of Easter with renewed hope and devotion.



### **Inauguration of St. Francis of Assisi Chapel (March 28, 2026)**

A significant milestone in the life of the parish was marked on March 28, 2026, with the inauguration of the



newly constructed Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi at the Jalichira sub-center. The occasion was celebrated with great joy and reverence by the parish community.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Rev. Fr. Apollo Rozario, CSC, Parish Priest of Pirgacha, who served as the main celebrant. The event was attended by a large number of parishioners, reflecting the strong unity and commitment of the community.



The newly established chapel stands as a long-awaited blessing for the faithful of Jalichira village. It is expected to play a vital role in strengthening the spiritual life of the community by providing a dedicated place for prayer, worship, and pastoral activities.

To commemorate the occasion, Rev. Fr. Apollo Rozario, CSC, along with the village chairman, planted a tree within the church premises. This symbolic gesture represented growth, renewal, and the deepening of faith among the parish members.

The Lenten activities at St. Paul’s Church, Pargacha, were marked by active participation, spiritual enrichment, and a strong sense of community. Through these programs, the parish successfully fostered faith formation among children, youth, and adults alike. The initiatives not only prepared the faithful for the celebration of Easter but also strengthened their commitment to living out the values of the Gospel in their daily lives.

## The Church of Our Lady of Presentation, Bolipara



### Annual Pastoral Assembly

The Church of Our Lady of Presentation, Bolipara, successfully convened its Annual Pastoral Assembly from 20–21 February 2026, under the theme: “*My soul magnifies the Lord*” (Luke 1:46).

The assembly brought together approximately 150 parishioners, including representatives from the diocese, for a series of reflective and planning sessions. The program provided a meaningful platform for participants to meditate on the profound heart of Mother Mary, discern pastoral priorities, and formulate action plans for the year ahead.

The assembly fostered spiritual renewal, unity, and a deeper commitment to parish life, encouraging all participants to actively contribute to the growth and vitality of the parish community.

### Holy Childhood Programs

In March 2026, the parish organized Holy Childhood Programs across several villages, maintaining the central theme: “*My soul magnifies the Lord*” (Luke 1:46).



Approximately 300 children participated in these programs, engaging in prayer, educational games, reflections, and faith-based activities. These sessions were designed to nurture spiritual growth, moral development, and a joyful practice of faith, inspired by the example and devotion of Mother Mary.

The initiative successfully promoted active participation, communal learning, and a deeper understanding of faith among the younger members of the parish.

### Teachers' Training and Workshop

From 16–21 March 2026, the Bolipara Parish Campus hosted a Teachers' Training and Workshop. Over 32



teachers from various villages participated in the program, which focused on enhancing pedagogical skills, liturgical knowledge, and community engagement.

The sessions covered comprehensive topics, including:

- Liturgy and prayer
- Biblical studies and catechesis
- Modern teaching methodologies
- Social education and community development

The program was facilitated by priests, religious sisters, catechists, a parish secretary, a nurse, and a Caritas representative, providing a holistic and interactive learning environment.

The workshop concluded with the presentation of certificates to all participants, in recognition of their active engagement and dedication to parish education and formation.

These initiatives reflect the parish's unwavering commitment to spiritual formation, pastoral development, and community building. Through the guidance and example of Mother Mary, the parish continues to inspire the faithful—children, teachers, and adults alike—to deepen their faith, serve the community, and grow in knowledge and devotion.

# Church of Our Lady of Guidance, Padrishibpur

## Holy Childhood Bay Celebration



The Holy Childhood Day was solemnly observed on 20 December 2025 at Padrishibpur Parish under the theme “*Children, Be Fruitful.*” The celebration commenced with the Holy Eucharist, setting a prayerful tone for the day. Following the Mass, Rev. Fr. Michel Milon Dewri delivered a thematic address, emphasizing the spiritual formation and active involvement of children in the life and mission of the Church.

Subsequently, a series of indoor games and competitions was organized to foster joy, creativity, and communal participation among the children. The program concluded with a formal prize-giving

ceremony, during which Rev. Fr. Samir Peter D’ Rozario and Rev. Fr. Gourob G. Pathang distributed awards and gifts to the participants. The celebration was both spiritually enriching and socially engaging.

## Pastoral Assembly 2026

The Pastoral Assembly 2026 was convened on 20 February 2026 with the theme “*Be Fruitful (Gen. 1:28).*” The proceedings began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by the devotion of the Way of the Cross, fostering an atmosphere of reflection and spiritual renewal.

Rev. Fr. Michel Milon Dewri presented a comprehensive reflection on the theme, highlighting the Christian vocation to bear fruit through faith, service, and witness. Following the formal sessions, participants engaged in structured group discussions after lunch, allowing for deeper analysis and contextual application of the theme. The assembly concluded with group presentations and plenary reporting. The deliberations were constructive, participatory, and pastorally significant.



## Lenten Program for Youth



The Lenten Youth Program was held on 28 February 2026, bringing together 120 participants from Barishal Cathedral Parish, Padrishibpur Parish, and Holy Rosary Seminary. The program was organized under the theme “*Being Fruitful in Young Life.*”

Rev. Fr. Samir Peter D’ Rozario, CSC, delivered a keynote address, encouraging the youth to embrace a Christ-centered life marked by spiritual discipline and moral responsibility, particularly during the Lenten season. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Gourob G. Pathang, CSC.

In addition to the spiritual activities, friendly basketball and football matches were arranged to promote fellowship, unity, and healthy interaction among the participants. The program successfully combined spiritual formation with community building.

### St. Anthony Pilgrimage at Razabaria



The annual St. Anthony Pilgrimage was held at Razabaria from 5 to 6 March 2026, drawing a large number of faithful from various regions. The pilgrimage was conducted with solemnity and deep spiritual fervor.

On the first day, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Lazarus Kanu Gomes, the Vicar General of Barishal Catholic Diocese. This was followed by a candlelight procession, symbolizing the faithful's devotion and spiritual journey. In the evening, the pilgrims participated in the adoration of the Cross and a healing prayer service, fostering a profound spiritual

encounter. The screening of the film *"The Passion of the Christ"* further enhanced the reflective dimension of the program.

The second day commenced with the Way of the Cross, followed by the solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Most Rev. Bishop Gervas Rozario of the Diocese of Rajshahi, who served as the principal celebrant. The pilgrimage proved to be a deeply enriching spiritual experience for all participants.

### International Women's Day Observance

International Women's Day was duly observed in the parish under the theme *"Rights, Justice, Action: For All Women and Girls."* The observance aimed to promote awareness of the dignity, rights, and contributions of women within both the Church and society.

The program included reflective sharing and interactive discussions. Esteemed speakers, including Sr. Anjali D' Silva, LHC; Sr. Archona Gomes, CJ; Rev. Fr. Gourob G. Pathang; and Rev. Fr. Samir Peter D' Rozario, CSC, delivered insightful presentations addressing issues of justice, equality, and empowerment.

The event concluded with the distribution of tokens of appreciation to all participants. The observance was both meaningful and impactful, fostering greater awareness and commitment toward the advancement of women.



# Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Kalippur

## Youth Seminar at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Khalippur



The Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Khalippur, successfully organized a three-day Youth Seminar from March 12 to March 14, 2026, with the active participation of approximately 105 young people. The seminar was centered on the biblical theme: *“And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning”* (John 15:27).

The seminar commenced with participant registration, followed by a Holy Hour, setting a prayerful tone for the program. Rev. Fr. Kevin Luis Kubi, CSC, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, warmly welcomed the participants, formally inaugurated the seminar, and provided an overview of the three-day schedule.

An introductory session allowed participants to present themselves, fostering a welcoming and interactive environment. Subsequently, the participants were divided into four groups for discussion sessions based on selected themes and guiding questions. These group activities encouraged the sharing of ideas, personal experiences, and reflections, thereby strengthening mutual understanding and fellowship among the youth.

The sessions on the first day focused on helping participants reflect on their identity and role within Santali society, with particular attention to its rich culture, traditions, values, and social structures. The keynote speaker, Rev. Fr. Manuel Hembram, Parish Priest of Dhanjuri Mission, delivered an inspiring talk on the seminar theme.

The second day featured a series of informative sessions conducted by distinguished speakers from the Youth Commission of the Dinajpur Diocese. The topics addressed included self-awareness, the harmful effects of addiction, the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and the development of positive social values. These sessions aimed to guide young people in making responsible life choices.

The third day continued with discussions on important topics such as Santali society, cultural identity, and the responsibilities of youth within their community. In the afternoon, the chairperson of Khalippur Credit shared practical insights on financial responsibility. Participants were encouraged to develop habits of saving, practice financial discipline, and consider membership in cooperative initiatives to ensure a secure future.

Additionally, a resource person introduced the concept of freelancing and outsourcing, sharing practical experiences and highlighting various platforms through which young people can acquire skills and generate income online. This session generated considerable interest among the participants. The seminar also provided opportunities for spiritual reflection, inspiring participants to consider their religious vocation and deepen their commitment to faith. The program concluded with the celebration of the Sunday Holy Eucharist.

The Youth Seminar received highly positive feedback from participants. They appreciated the well-structured program, the supportive and friendly environment, and the opportunity for active participation in all sessions.

The cultural segment of the seminar added vibrancy to the event, featuring traditional Santali dances, drama, and songs, which highlighted the richness of local culture and strengthened communal bonds.

Overall, the seminar proved to be a meaningful and enriching experience. It enhanced the participants' knowledge, strengthened interpersonal relationships, and inspired them to grow both spiritually and personally. The program successfully encouraged the youth to become responsible individuals and faithful witnesses of Christ in their communities.

### **The report of the Health Seminar at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Khalippur**

A daylong health seminar titled “*Health is Wealth*” was organized by the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church to promote awareness of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, particularly among women and widows. The seminar emphasized that human experiences—such as happiness, sorrow, success, and failure—are closely linked to one's overall health.

Approximately one hundred participants attended to the program. The sessions proved to be highly inspiring and informative, encouraging participants to become more conscious of their personal health as well as the well-being of their families. The speakers highlighted the crucial role of mothers and women in ensuring the health, safety, and stability of family life. They stressed the importance of being well-informed about health-related issues while also practicing proper self-care.

### **Session on Women's Health**

The first session was conducted by Mrs. Lilima Marngdy, a nurse from Akkelpur Upazila Health Complex, Joypurhat. She delivered a comprehensive presentation on women's health, addressing a wide range of topics including common female illnesses, menstrual health, personal hygiene, and the importance of maintaining a clean and healthy household environment. She also discussed sensitive but important issues such as parenting, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV and AIDS), and various forms of cancer. Emphasizing awareness and prevention, she encouraged participants to overcome fear and misconceptions, communicate openly with family members, and seek appropriate medical care when necessary.

### **Session on Family Life and Responsibilities**

The second session was led by **Mr. Phillip Soren**, Field Officer of MCC, who focused on family relationships and parental responsibilities. He highlighted the importance of fostering healthy and supportive relationships within the family, particularly between parents and children, as well as between spouses. He emphasized the need to create a positive environment that supports the physical, psychological, and spiritual development of children. Mothers were encouraged to teach cleanliness, promote harmony among siblings and relatives, and avoid all forms of discrimination within the family. He also stressed the importance of attentive care so that family members may feel comfortable sharing their concerns, especially regarding the health issues.

### **Participant Response and Conclusion**

The participants expressed sincere appreciation for the seminar, noting that it was highly relevant, practical, and beneficial for their daily lives. The program helped to dispel common misconceptions and significantly increased awareness of health and family-related issues.

At the conclusion of the seminar, various gifts were distributed among the participants as a gesture of appreciation. Widows received sarees, while other women were presented with prizes. The program concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by a fellowship meal.

Overall, the seminar was a meaningful and impactful initiative that contributed to the holistic development and well-being of the participants, empowering them to lead healthier and more informed lives.



# Report for Christo Darshan Seminary

## Thanksgiving Ceremony and Renewal of Vows



On January 7, 2026, Christo Darshan Seminary organized a special program combining a thanksgiving ceremony and the renewal of vows of seminarians. A spirit of gratitude and commitment marked the occasion.

The seminary community, including the directors and seminarians, expressed their heartfelt appreciation to Seminarian Pias Hebel Karmakar, CSC, on the successful completion of his four-year formation at the seminary, as he prepared to proceed to *Shadhona Griha* for the next stage of his formation.

On the same day, six seminarians—Darshan Chambugong, CSC; Johon Ray, CSC; Prodig Soren, CSC; Pronoy Chambugong, CSC; Rudra Gonsalves, CSC; and Saikot Costa, CSC—renewed their religious vows.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Edmund Cruze, CSC, who also received the renewal of vows of the seminarians on behalf of the Provincial of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province. In the evening, a Thanksgiving and reception program was held following dinner. The seminarians presented songs, dances, and short performances, making the celebration joyful and memorable.

## Quiz Competition

On February 11, 2026, Christo Darshan Seminary organized a quiz competition as part of the intellectual formation of the seminarians. The primary objective of the program was to enhance knowledge and promote intellectual development.

The quiz covered a wide range of topics, including general knowledge, the history of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the Constitution and Statutes of the Congregation, sports, and current affairs drawn from selected magazines and newspapers.



The seminarians participated actively with enthusiasm and keen interest. The program proved to be both educational and engaging, contributing to the development of knowledge, critical thinking, and self-confidence among the participants.

## Training Program by Caritas Development Institute (CDI)

A five-day training program was conducted at Christo Darshan Seminary from March 17 to 21, 2026, by the faculty members of the Caritas Development Institute (CDI). The training was centered on the theme “*The Importance of Education for Future Priests.*”

The program addressed several significant topics relevant to the formation of future priests, including the value of education, challenges in priestly ministry, the role of media and technology, leadership development, time management, gender awareness, and effective communication.

The sessions were interactive, practical, and participatory, enabling the seminarians to engage deeply with the subject matter. The training provided valuable insights and helped the participants better understand their future pastoral responsibilities.

Overall, the program was highly beneficial in equipping the seminarians with essential knowledge and skills, thereby contributing to their holistic formation and preparation for their future mission in the Church.



The various programs organized by Christo Darshan Seminary during this period contributed significantly to the spiritual, intellectual, and personal formation of the seminarians. These initiatives fostered a spirit of gratitude, learning, and commitment, preparing them to serve effectively in their future priestly ministry.

## Youth Commission, Bangladesh

### The 40<sup>th</sup> National Youth Day 2026

Centering on the biblical theme, “*You are also my witness, because you have been with me*” (John 15:27), the



40th National Youth Day (NYD) 2026 was successfully convened from February 1 to 5, 2026. This significant national gathering was organized by the Episcopal Commission for Youth of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) and graciously hosted by the Diocese of Rajshahi at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Bonpara, Natore.

The five-day event brought together a vibrant and diverse assembly of approximately 430 young participants, along with more than 65 priests, religious men and women, and youth coordinators representing eight dioceses across the country. The presence of distinguished guests—including government officials, representatives from Caritas Bangladesh, and national youth leaders—further enriched the significance of the gathering.

The program was thoughtfully designed to foster the holistic development of young people, integrating spiritual nourishment, intellectual engagement, cultural expression, and leadership formation.

## Spiritual Formation and Renewal

At the heart of the National Youth Day was a deep commitment to spiritual growth. Each day was marked by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, youth-centered catechetical sessions, and moments of prayerful reflection. Special spiritual activities such as the Veneration of the Cross and the “Park of Forgiveness” provided meaningful opportunities for reconciliation, healing, and renewal of faith. These experiences invited participants to deepen their personal relationship with Christ and to rediscover their identity as witnesses to the Gospel.

## Cultural and Intellectual Enrichment

The event also emphasized the importance of cultural awareness and intellectual development. A heritage corner showcased the rich traditions and diversity of the participating dioceses, fostering mutual appreciation and unity. Cultural rallies, performances, and interactive workshops created a dynamic environment for learning and creative expression. Additionally, village-based immersion programs allowed



participants to engage directly with local communities, encouraging a spirit of solidarity and social responsibility.

## Leadership Development and Fellowship

A key focus of the gathering was the formation of young leaders within the Church and society. Through group discussions, interactive sessions, and strategic action planning, participants were encouraged to reflect on their roles as active contributors to their communities. The vigil night served as a profound moment of shared prayer and reflection, strengthening bonds of friendship and inspiring a deeper sense of vocation and purpose among the youth.

## Pastoral Vision and Guidance

In his concluding address, **Rev. Fr. Bikash James Rebeiro, CSC**, Executive Secretary and Convener of the event, highlighted the Church’s unwavering commitment to accompanying young people in their journey of faith. He called for a spirit of “renewal and awakening” that would extend beyond the gathering—reaching from rural villages to urban centers. He encouraged the youth to become agents of transformation, promoting both personal growth and community development through their witness and service.

## Conclusion and Future Direction

The 40th National Youth Day concluded with a meaningful and symbolic ceremony—the formal handover of the Youth Cross to the Archdiocese of Dhaka. This gesture signified continuity, unity, and the ongoing mission of youth ministry in Bangladesh.

Overall, the event proved to be a deeply enriching and transformative experience. It empowered young people to embrace new light, creativity, and leadership, inspiring them to understand their lives as a meaningful response to God’s call in an ever-changing global context. The 40th NYD stands as a testament to the vitality, faith, and potential of the youth in building a more compassionate and faith-filled society.

## Holy Cross Pastoral & Retreat Centre, Barishal

### “Festive Celebrations Mark the Platinum Jubilee of the Holy Cross Oriental Institute”

The Holy Cross Oriental Institute commemorated its Platinum Jubilee (75th anniversary) with a grand celebration and festive events on January 30-31, 2026. The event was graced by the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh, Most Reverend Archbishop Kevin S. Randle, who served as the Chief Guest. His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D’ Rozario, CSC; Most. Rev. Bishop Emmanuel Rozario, the Bishop of Barisal Diocese; Most. Rev. Bishop Theotonius Gomes, CSC; and Fr. George Kamal Rozario, CSC, the Provincial of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province, were also present, along with approximately forty CSC and diocesan priests.



A good number of CSC brothers, religious sisters of various orders, seminarians & novices of the various orders, and distinguished heads of different institutions were also present on this occasion to make it more joyous. The two-day celebration included a variety of activities: Eucharistic adoration & prayers, a cultural program, and the honoring of former directors and staff for their service at the Institute.

The festivities began at 2:00 PM on January 30 with a ceremony at the Bishop’s House in Barishal. A musical convoy welcomed the Chief Guest and other distinguished guests to the Institute. Upon arrival, they were warmly greeted, and the formal events began with the inauguration of a special Jubilee Monument dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, symbolizing the Institute’s lasting legacy. The ceremony concluded with a balloon release, the signing of the Jubilee commemorative plaque, and a tour of the Jubilee gallery.

The second phase of the first day featured the unveiling of the Jubilee monogram and a presentation of the theme song. After the unveiling, a dance performance accompanied the theme song, and guests received floral tributes and ceremonial badges. In the evening, participants took part in a solemn Eucharistic adoration, followed by a ceremony that honored former directors and staff for their dedicated service. Several individuals were recognized posthumously for their important contributions to the Congregation of Holy Cross through this Institution. The first day concluded with a stunning display of 75 fireworks.

The second day of the celebration, on January 31, there was a special Eucharistic Mass led by His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D’ Rozario, CSC. In his speech, he talked about the Institute’s history, achievements, and future goals. This was followed by formal talks from Father Placid Rozario, CSC (the Institute’s Director), Most. Rev. Bishop Emmanuel Rozario, Most. Rev. Bishop Theotonius Gomes, CSC, Most. Rev. Archbishop Kevin S.



Randle, and other notable speakers. A major event of the day was the launch of a historical book by His Eminence Cardinal Patrick D’ Rozario that highlighted the Institute’s 75-year legacy. After that, they presented the Jubilee Crest to the special guests and unveiled the Jubilee Commemorative Medal. The morning session ended with a fellowship banquet.

In the afternoon, there were cultural performances by dance academies from Barishal and local artists, celebrating the region’s culture. In the evening, a magic show entertained the audience, followed by a musical concert (artists from Dhaka). The Platinum Jubilee celebrations wrapped up with feelings of gratitude, happiness, and a renewed commitment to the mission and vision of the Holy Cross Oriental Institute.

# Holy Cross Family Ministries Bangladesh

## Annual Meeting of Regional and Diocesan Coordinators

Holy Cross Family Ministries Bangladesh successfully convened its Annual Meeting of Regional and Diocesan Coordinators on February 5–6, 2026, at Bhadun. This two-day gathering provided a meaningful platform for reflection, the sharing of pastoral experiences, and the strengthening of the collective mission in family ministry.

A total of 25 coordinators and members representing various regions and dioceses actively participated in the meeting. Their engagement, exchange of insights, and collaborative spirit significantly enriched the discussions, fostering unity, mutual learning, and a renewed sense of pastoral commitment.



The final day commenced with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Fr. George Kamal Rozario, CSC, Provincial of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Province, Bangladesh. The Eucharistic celebration created a deeply prayerful atmosphere, inspiring participants to renew their dedication to serving families with faith, hope, and commitment.

The meeting concluded with a closing address by Rev. Fr. George Kamal Rozario, CSC, who expressed his sincere appreciation for the dedication and service of all coordinators. He encouraged them to continue their mission with renewed zeal, perseverance, and a spirit of hope.

## Lenten Spiritual Seminar at Doripara

A spiritually enriching Lenten program was held on March 1, 2026, at Holy Family Church, Doripara, Gazipur, Dhaka. The event brought together approximately 200 participants, including children, youth, teachers, and parents, creating a vibrant and faith-filled atmosphere.



The program was led by the National Director of Holy Cross Family Ministries Bangladesh and featured a series of well-structured sessions aimed at deepening participants' understanding of Christian values, the spiritual significance of the Lenten season, and the importance of the Holy Rosary.

Through reflective talks, interactive discussions, and participatory activities, the attendees were encouraged to integrate these spiritual practices more fully into their daily lives. The program concluded with the solemn celebration of the Holy

Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Fr. Ruben M. Gomes, CSC.

Following the Mass, images of the Blessed Virgin Mary were distributed among the participants as a symbol of her loving intercession and spiritual guidance in their lives.

## Overnight Prayer Vigil at Patrick Peyton Center

On March 5, 2026, Holy Cross Family Ministries Bangladesh organized a special overnight prayer program for the Little Flowers of Treasure Group from Dhaka at the Patrick Peyton Center. This inaugural all-night prayer vigil proved to be a deeply grace-filled and spiritually enriching experience.



The program included the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Way of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Holy Rosary, and Eucharistic Adoration, along with other devotional practices.

Throughout the night, participants engaged in continuous prayer, reflection, and meditation, creating an

atmosphere of profound spiritual renewal. The program left a lasting impact on all attendees, strengthening their faith and deepening their relationship with God.

## Lenten Program for the Mothbari Christian Community

A special Lenten program was organized on March 6, 2026, at the Patrick Peyton Center for the lay faithful of the Mothbari Christian Community. The gathering was marked by strong participation and a deeply prayerful environment.

During the program, Rev. Fr. Ruben M. Gomes, CSC, delivered a meaningful homily, highlighting the importance of prayer, fasting, and sacrifice during the Lenten season. He placed particular emphasis on the Holy Rosary, encouraging families to make it an integral part of their daily spiritual life.

The program concluded with the Way of the Cross held in the serene setting of the Rosary Garden. This final devotion created a reflective and spiritually uplifting experience for all participants.

The above-mentioned programs organized by Holy Cross Family Ministries Bangladesh reflect a strong commitment to fostering spiritual growth, family values, and community engagement. Each initiative provided meaningful opportunities for prayer, reflection, and faith formation, contributing significantly to the spiritual enrichment of participants across different age groups and communities.

