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DEEP  
The Light



Vol.: 199

Monthly Newsletter of the Diocese of Durgapur (CNI)

April 2024

Topic : Easter

Theme : The Joyous Promise of Resurrection

We don't celebrate Easter to the extent that we celebrate Christmas. That is strange because if there were no Easter, there would be no need to celebrate Christmas. If there were no resurrection, then Christ was born, lived, and died in vain. There would be no New Testament, no Church, no Christianity, and no hope.

Christians around the world just celebrated Easter. Easter celebrates not only Jesus' death on the cross for our sins but also the resurrection of Jesus-the greatest supernatural event in human history.

For me, Easter is the joyous promise of resurrection. The resurrection of Christ has been given to us.

Assurance of forgiveness

We have been forgiven. The very first appearance of the risen Christ was to Peter showing that he forgives Peter for denying him three times. The resurrection means that the forgiveness of sin is a reality. Christ has atoned for our sins by his death on the cross. He paid our sin debt and opened up the way to the Father. We can be forgiven as surely as Simon Peter was forgiven.



Rev. Rabindranath Ray  
Diocese of Durgapur  
CNI

We can be grateful that forgiveness is not something we can experience only once. Scripture says, "If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn 1:9). Indeed,

*Continued on page 4*

### A Joint Communion Service: Holy Maundy Thursday Gathering in Durgapur

On the evening of March 28, 2024, a poignant and sacred gathering unfolded at the Diocesan Compound in Durgapur, marking the observance of Holy Maundy Thursday. Faithful hearts from St. Michael's & All Angels' Cathedral, St. Michael's Church, and Durgapur United Church converged in prayer and gratitude under the umbrella of the Durgapur Diocese.

The atmosphere was encouraged with reverence and awe as worshippers turned their thoughts towards the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ,- the sermon, delivered by Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, the Bishop of Durgapur Diocese, resonated deeply with the congregation. He emphasized Jesus' three Commandments through HOLY COMMUNION remembering he gave His body and blood for our sins, through the washing feet of His disciples, we can do one another as he did and love one another so we can reflect ourselves as the disciples of God. The congregation pledged to carry the spirit of love and sacrifice into their community, inspired by Jesus' unwavering faith and intention.

It was a night of solemn remembrance and a commitment to embody the love received on this hallowed occasion. As worshippers dispersed, their hearts were uplifted, and their resolve strengthened to walk purposefully in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. ■



## Bishop's Meditation

**Topic : Easter**

**Theme : The Joyous Promise of Resurrection**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not merely a miraculous event but the foundation of the Christian faith. It validates Christ's divinity and serves as the ultimate vindication of his teachings, affirming his identity as the Son of God. In rising from the dead, Christ demonstrates his authority over sin and death, offering humanity the promise of eternal life. Throughout the New Testament, the resurrection of Jesus is proclaimed as the central message of Christianity. The apostle Paul declares, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:14). The reality of the resurrection is not a matter of thought or assumption but a foundational truth upon which the entire Christian faith rests. Furthermore, the resurrection of Jesus Christ has profound implications for believers. It is not simply a historical event but a present reality that shapes the lives of those who profess faith in Christ. As the apostle Peter writes, believers are "born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). Through our union with Christ, we share in his victory over sin and death, and we are empowered to live transformed lives marked by love, joy, and holiness.

Moreover, Jesus Christ's resurrection foreshadows all believers' future resurrection. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, so too will those who are united with him through faith experience resurrection and newness of life. As Paul declares, "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). The resurrection assures believers of their ultimate destiny in the presence of God, where there will be no more sorrow, pain, or death. In light of the profound significance of Easter, believers are called to respond with gratitude, awe, and obedience. We are invited to embrace the reality of Christ's resurrection not only as a historical fact but as a living truth that shapes every aspect of our lives. As the apostle Paul exhorts, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1). As we celebrate Easter, let us do so with

hearts full of thanksgiving and praise, rejoicing in the promise of resurrection and the hope of eternal life. May we live each day in the light of Christ's victory over sin and death, sharing the good news of the gospel with boldness and conviction. And may the reality of Easter inspire us to live as transformed people, bearing witness to the transformative power of God's love in a world that is longing for hope and redemption. ■



The Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop, Diocese of Durgapur (CNI)

## Inauguration of New Building "Zion Block"

The ZION block, a newly constructed building in St. Michael's School, Bankura, under the Diocese of Durgapur was unveiled on March 23, 2024, by the Bishop, Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, Diocese of Durgapur (CNI). The inauguration took place amidst the esteemed presence of office-bearers, presbyters, and staff members from the Diocese, alongside the esteemed Board of Governors of St. Michael's School, Bankura. Also in attendance were the Head of the institution, along with the teaching and non-teaching staff of St. Michael's School, Bankura. The ceremony began with a welcoming ceremony, followed by a procession led by Revd Samuel Halder, and also presented delegates were Rev. Subhendu Saren, the Vice President of the Diocese of Durgapur, Rev. Sumanta Naru, Rev. Abhijit Mahata, Rev. Sandipan Sinha.

The Ministry of the Word began with Psalm 24, delivered by the Headmistress, Mrs. Madhumita Prasad Barretto of St. Michael's School, Bankura. The Prayer of Intention was led by Bishop The Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla of the Diocese of Durgapur, who presided over a dedication ceremony, congratulating the school's team for their progress. The Hon'ble Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur cut ribbons and unveiled the stone plaque. The school's facilities were formally inaugurated, including the Library, Staff Room, Smart Room, Sick Room, and Coffee Room. The Bishop bestowed divine blessings on the newly inaugurated spaces and all associated with Presbyters blessed the new classrooms with holy water. ■ (Raja Moses)



## Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Program Bintara, Malda.

In a proactive effort to combat human trafficking, an informative session was convened by anti-human trafficking advocates in Bintara village, on 19th March 2024, under Jatrada G.P. Attended by 34 women and 17 men, the meeting was graced by Mr. Shyamol Kisku, who extended a warm welcome to all participants. The discourse delved into critical topics such as the various types of trafficking, methods of identifying trafficking agents, and the vulnerability of adolescent and youth demographics. Emphasis was placed on preventative measures and vigilance against human trafficking. Following the discussion, informational handbills and booklets about anti-human trafficking efforts were distributed among attendees. The event successfully sensitized 51 village leaders to the pressing issue of human trafficking, marking a significant step forward in community awareness and action against this pervasive crime. ■ (Shyam Kisku)



## Awareness Camp on Labor Exploitation and Illegal Migrant Workers At Burishal Gram, Bankura.



On 20th March 2024, an awareness camp was conducted in Burishal village to address critical issues related to labor exploitation and the plight of illegal migrant workers. The camp aimed to educate and sensitize the local community about these pressing concerns. The camp succeeded in creating awareness among the 16 men present. They now understand the importance of reporting labor violations and supporting fellow community members. By fostering empathy and knowledge, the event empowered attendees to take proactive steps toward positive change.

In conclusion, the awareness camp urged the community to combat labor exploitation and advocate for workers' rights, regardless of their background or legal status. ■ (Palash Besra)

## Editorial

**Topic : Easter**

**Theme : The Joyous Promise of Resurrection**

The Bible says that because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, believers will overcome death. The concept of the resurrection holds that souls will go to heaven after death and spend all of eternity with God. According to John 11:25-26, "Jesus responded to her, 'I am the life and the resurrection, 'Whoever lives by believing in me will never die, and the one who believes in me will live even though they die.'" In addition, the revival of "dead" things in people's lives is a promise of the resurrection. Hosea 6 contains a scripture that reads, "After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him." Isaiah 26:19 states, "But your dead will live; their bodies will rise." You dust-dwellers wake up and shout for joyfulness. Moreover, the resurrection shows that God acknowledges death as the only way that sin can be atoned for. What made Jesus' death special was that he offered his life as payment for sins.



Rev. Mukut Raj Mondal  
The Diocese of Durgapur (CNI)

Consequently, let us celebrate the promise that Jesus gave us via his resurrection, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ. ■

## 32nd Capping, Lamp Lighting And Oath-Taking Ceremony, March - 2023 at KSN

On the 13th of March, a momentous ceremony took place at the Khristiya Seva Niketan Nursing Training School Premises. The event, graced by distinguished guests, commenced at 3:00 pm. Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, Chairman and Bishop of The Diocese of Durgapur, honoured the occasion as the Special Guest, alongside Dr. Shyamal Saren, the esteemed Chief Medical Officer of Health for Bankura, who served as the Guest of Honor.

The program began with an opening prayer and bible reading led by Rev. Subhendu Kumar Saren, and Rev. Sirshendu Pramanik. Dr. Phillip Mitta, Medical Director of Khristiya Seva Niketan, extended a warm welcome to the gathering and introduced the guests. A symbolic moment ensued with the lighting of the lamp by Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, Mr. P.K. Baux, Director of Khristiya Seva Niketan, Sr. Aloka Bhakat, and Sister. Baisakhi Mukherjee. The ceremony continued with inspirational speeches from Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla and Dr. Shyamal Saren, highlight the significance of healthcare and education. Sister Baisakhi Mukherjee presented the Nursing School Report, reflecting on the achievements and milestones of the institution. A pivotal moment arrived with the capping, lamp lighting, and oath-taking ceremony of the first-year students, symbolizing their commitment to the noble profession of nursing. Mr. Pradip Kumar Baux expressed gratitude in the Vote of Thanks, acknowledging the support and contributions of all involved.

The program concluded with a closing prayer by Rev. Simon Mandi. Later in the evening, a vibrant cultural program unfolded, showcasing the talents of the students through dances, songs, recitations, and yoga performances. The festivities continued until 8:00 pm, followed by a fellowship dinner, fostering camaraderie and goodwill among all attendees. ■ (Sister. Baisakhi Mukherjee)



## Saranga Youth Organizes Successful Blood Donation Camp: A Beacon of Compassion



On March 12, 2024, the Saranga Pastorate's Christian youth under Durgapur Diocese, guided by the belief that life's essence is in the blood, as stated in the Bible, successfully organized a Blood Donation Camp. With the endorsement of Rev. Subhendu Kr. Soren and the collaborative efforts of Rev. Bijay Nayak, Rev. Simon Mandi, and the Pastorate Committee, the event was held at the central church of Saranga, under the Diocese of Durgapur in partnership with Khatra Blood Bank. The camp saw an inspiring turnout of twenty-four donors from various faiths, reflecting a community united by the cause of saving lives. The event commenced at 9 a.m., with the help of Khatra Blood Bank to arrange a blood donation camp. The blood collected during the camp is stored in government sector blood banks, where it will make a significant impact on patients battling life-threatening diseases. The youth of Saranga Pastorate have expressed their gratitude towards the presbyters for their support and are motivated to continue their humanitarian efforts. We are thankful to God for our Presbyters and the success of this camp. Let us continue to be the light and spread love and compassion through our actions. ■ (Rev. Subhendu Saren)

## WOMEN'S VOICE

**Topic : Easter, Theme : The Joyous Promise of Resurrection**

Jesus, please return us. Our new life with God was exchanged for Jesus' death. We have the opportunity of walking side by side with God even on this side of paradise when we have Christ in our hearts, allowing us to enjoy constant communion with Him. This implies that regardless of how alone you may feel, you are never really alone. Invoke God in difficult circumstances, and rejoice with Him during triumphant moments. You don't realise how near he is. You have victory over death. In John 11:25-26, "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" In the poignant encounter between Jesus and Martha, the words echo with eternal significance: "I am the resurrection and the life." These holy statements reveal the reality of death. Death, though it claims our bodies, cannot shackle the spirit that clings to faith. Jesus, the embodiment of life itself, extends an invitation- a promise - to all who dare to believe. Through Him, death loses its grip, and life transcends earthly confines. Martha's response echoes across time: "Yes, Lord, I believe." In those words, hope blooms, and the shadows of mortality yield to the dawn of eternity. As believers, the Resurrection gave us this one last promise we can spend our lives clinging to: We, too, will have victory over death. Once our earthly bodies perish, our spirits will rise up to heaven and awaken to an eternal existence with God. Did you get that? The miracle of Easter will also manifest in our lives. Realizing that this life isn't all there is, we have so much ahead of us. This is just part of our story. ■ (Ishita Hansda)

Theme .... *Continued from 1st Page*

Christ taught us in the Lord's Prayer and the Sermon on the Mount that we will be forgiven as we forgive. An unforgiving spirit is a spiritual short circuit that does not let the power through.

Resurrection gives living hope  
 "In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). Paul wrote to the believer of Colossae "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:1-4).

Resurrection also gives us bright hope which is future mass resurrection. Easter gives us hope of life beyond the grave, of glory, of our resurrection. Jesus is the first fruit of the resurrection. Our resurrection will be the additional fruit. One day the trumpet of God will sound and the dead in Christ will be raised, clothed in immortality. They will receive new glorified bodies, like that of our Lord. Our new bodies will be situated in the spiritual realm that will live forever. Therefore, Resurrection means forgiveness; hope, and victory over sin, evil and death. Victory is what Easter is all about. The disciples' despair turned into glad discovery and joy. Good Friday turned into a bright Easter morning with life, happiness, and a crown, not a cross; with laughter and victory, not pain.

Easter means that we have a future- a bright future in Christ. Therefore, lift your hearts with faith, for your redemption draws near! For now, is Christ risen, the hope of glory! ■

## HEALING HAND

In a bid to address the prevalent issue of untreated eye problems among marginalized communities, the Anti-human Trafficking (AHT) project, in collaboration with Good Shepherd Eye Hospital and Kaliaganj Lines Club under the Durgapur Diocese, embarked on a mission to provide essential eye care services.

During the recent Anti-human Trafficking project, numerous cases of untreated eye ailments came to light. However, access to treatment remained a challenge due to the prohibitive costs associated with eye care. In response, medical professionals meticulously examined 213 individuals in Hemtabad and Anantapur, the northern part of West Bengal, mostly tribal rural areas last January, identifying a significant number requiring intervention. To tackle this pressing issue, the AHT staff, in partnership with Kaliaganj Lines Club, facilitated free eye surgeries for the identified patients. On March 21st, 10 individuals underwent successful operations at Kaliaganj Lines Club, marking a crucial step towards restoring their vision and enhancing their quality of life.

The beneficiaries expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Durgapur Diocese for facilitating access to much-needed eye treatments. Looking ahead, our plans are underway to conduct further eye examination camps, extending the reach of essential eye care services to remote villages. ■  
 (Raja Moses)



## Youth Beacon

### Topic : Easter, Theme : The Joyous Promise of Resurrection

Easter embodies the radiant promise of resurrection, illuminating the path of faith with the eternal hope of new life. At the heart of this celebration lies the profound truth proclaimed in 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, "But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." This promise of resurrection is not merely a distant hope but a present reality, as affirmed in Romans 8:11: "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you." The resurrection of Jesus Christ stands as the cornerstone of the Christian faith, echoing the triumphant victory over death itself. As believers, we are called to embrace this truth with unwavering confidence, as expressed in 1 Peter 1:3, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Through the resurrection, we are offered the gift of redemption, the assurance of forgiveness, and the promise of eternal communion with God. Easter serves as a radiant beacon of hope, dispelling the shadows of despair and ushering in the dawn of new beginnings. As we gather to commemorate the resurrection, let us rejoice in the transformative power of Christ's victory over death, and let us embrace the joyous promise of resurrection with hearts filled with gratitude and praise. ■  
 (Jonathan Nyss)

## POWER OF PRAYER



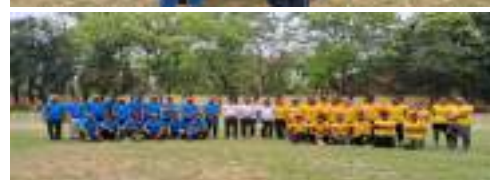
### Testimony of Raniganj Church

I am Preeti Gwin, I have been coming to Raniganj Church for almost two years. I got to know Jesus Christ from Raniganj Church. I had a baby in my womb but the doctor said that the baby would not be normal. Then God Jesus gave me the strength to abort the baby because the baby in my womb was abnormal. Since then I prayed to have a baby and indeed Christ heard my prayer and I conceived a baby. The doctor said during the delivery would have many health issues and difficulties. I was admitted to Health World Hospital, Durgapur. There was no surety I would survive after having my baby, but I trusted in Jesus Christ that he would save us. So lots of thanks to my God, he saved my life and my baby also. ■ (Preeti Guin)

### St. Michael's & All Angels' Cathedral Triumphs in ZPL Cricket Tournament: A Day of Sporting Glory!

On 7th April 2024, The One Day Zonal Premier Leagues (ZPL) Cricket Tournament, organised by St. Michael's & All Angels' Cathedral witnessed an exhilarating clash of cricketing prowess at the St. Michael's School Ground. Four powerful teams battle and capture the hearts of all. The participating teams included: Diocese of Durgapur Office, Durgapur United Church, St. Michael's & All Angels' Cathedral & St. Michael's Church Durgapur. St. Michael's & All Angels' Cathedral emerged as the undisputed champion, displaying remarkable teamwork, precision, and unwavering determination. Their stellar performance throughout the tournament secured their place at the top. The Diocese of Durgapur Office Team secured the runner-up position. Their spirited efforts and sportsmanship were commendable.

Individual Awards: Man of the Tournament: Jonathon Nyss – His explosive batting and fielding set him apart. Best Boller - Gabriel Ramayya, Best Wicket Keeper: Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop – His lightning-quick reflexes behind the stumps were a sight to behold. Congratulations to St. Michael's & All Angels' Cathedral for their victory, and kudos to all the participating teams for their spirited performances! ■



## Social Action

### Water Harvesting Structures Transform Lives in Ranibandh: A Community's Gratitude

Small water harvesting structure construction in Ranibandh- The CDP under the Diocese of Durgapur has been working for the past 2 years in the Ranibandh area on 3 sectors i.e., Education, Health and Social Empowerment and it gives us immense happiness for the positive response and support we have received from the community people. The focused area being prone to drought often leads to insufficient provision of irrigation, affecting the lives of the rural people. In the duration of our project intervention many a time we have received a request from the community people for our support for water sources for irrigation. So CDP with prior support of UnitingWorld, Australia took the initiative of constructing water harvesting structures in the Ranibandh area. At present, we are focusing on setting up the structures in 3 CDP operating villages (Narayanpur, K. Burishal- already completed and Shyamadi). These water harvesting structures (rainfed) will cover overall 11 acres of land which were uncultivable before and will benefit 29 families at present and many more in the coming years. We feel gratified for being able to respond to their appeal and will continue to stand by their side paving the way for them to become independent in the future. The community people have also thanked the Diocese and our partners, UnitingWorld, Australia for providing the support. ■ (Subrata Saren)



### Empowering Women: Self-Help Groups Transform Lives in Sarenga & Durgapur



Self-Help Groups and their Impact on Women When CDP started its journey in the year 2008 in the rural areas of Sarenga and the urban settlements of Durgapur, the social status of women in these areas was shackled by the patriarchal society. They lived a life in a shell and were consequently isolated. They had no access to credit or resources. They lacked education, vocational training, and skills to earn a livelihood. With the intervention of our project, we have been able to empower these women and create their own identities. Throughout these years we have not only helped these women form SHGs (78 SHGs at present) but also constantly kept them motivated to become self-reliant and inspire their socio-economic growth. We have aided them through various SHG training and exposures so that not only they can learn but also share their knowledge, learn to manage, raise funds for their needs, and build strong networks with the govt. depts. and create opportunities for one another and other women as well. The SHG Facilitators have also kept their guidance constant so that the women get well-trained on following the key principles of a Self Help Group- regular meetings, regular savings, regular internal lending, regular repayment and proper bookkeeping. It delights us when we look back and see the progress and impact we have made in the lives of those 811 women by just lighting the hope for a good life and a better future. ■ Bithika Kisku & Tapasi Hembram

### Collect for the Month:

ALMIGHTY God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech thee, that as by thy special grace preventing us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

### Mission Support Fund received: 15.03.2024 to 26.03.2024

<b>Balurghat Pastorate</b> Mr. Ajay Hembrom Mr. Ardhendu Soren Mr. Mahabir Murmu Mr. Ranjan Baskey Mr. Robin Murmu Mr. Samuel Hembrom Mrs. Parmila Murmu Mrs. Rahela Mardi Mrs. Sephali Murmu Mrs. Sushila Soren Mr. Subir Hembrom	<b>Christ Church-Burdwan</b> Miss. Rituja Guria Mr. Abhayan Sardar Mr. Ajay Bhuiya Mr. Bimal Hansda Mr. Bipin Guria Mr. Jiten Baskey Mr. Rahul Maity Mr. Raju Malla Mrs. Aditi Mallick Mrs. Kakali Chakraborty Mrs. Monoharlina Kisku Mrs. Sten Shila Baskey	<b>Kochpara Pastorate</b> Mr. Amin Tudu Mr. Argen Soren Mr. Barun Kisku Mr. Charan Soren Mr. Mrinal Kanto Tudu Mr. Rabi Hembrom Mr. Shyamol Hembrom Mr. Suramon Soren
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## Answer of Bible Quiz 140

1. In which book the word 'Amen' is used first?
2. How far is Jerusalem from Emmaus?
3. Who is the Lion / Lion of the tribe of Judah?

## Answer of Bible Quiz 139

- Ans : 1) 40 day's & nights (Deaut. 9:9)  
 2) Ezra 8:21  
 3) Daniel 21day fasting 10:3

Name of those who submitted the Correct Answer

**Brajendra Sanial, Mamata John, Swapna Mihar**

We would like to request our members to donate MSF for the development of Ministerial work for the current financial year 2024-2025 @ minimum of 500/- once a Year.

Please send answer of Bible Quiz in this no. -9064863735

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