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# DEEP

The Light



Vol.: 204

Monthly Newsletter of the Diocese of Durgapur (CNI)

September 2024

## Social & Community Engagement: Empowering Social Justice and Equity

Let's bring up the concept of social justice. The concept of social justice is based on this view, referring to the fair and equitable treatment of all individuals and social groups within a state or society. It includes various dimensions including economic, political and social aspects. Relations between groups in society mainly focus on social justice. In the Bible, we find principles that emphasize fairness and equal treatment.

Job 2:1-9, for example, reminds us that God shows no partiality and expects us to treat others fairly. Social justice is a concept that deals with equality among people and equality for all in different social aspects or dimensions. Social justice is also taught in some religious practices and traditions. Some people in the society demanded that the Lord Jesus should judge an adulterous wife. The Lord Jesus tells them that according to the law, you must stone, but he who has not sinned, stone him first. Here he emphasizes the importance of not judging others without considering their guilt. "He shall be preserved forever, but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off". Last prayer of Lord Jesus. John 17:21 says, Let them be one or united or united. Unity is needed in the growth of the Christian church to know Jesus, Psalm 133:1 says, "Behold, how good and how lovely it is that brothers dwell together in unity". Unity beautifully



Rev. Debojit Das  
Diocese of Durgapur  
CNI

expresses the goodness of living together, so unity is essential for social justice. As the Lord Jesus prayed for unity, we too should work toward unity in the growth of the church and the welfare of the community. ■

## The Inflamm 2024: A Day Youth Seminar at Burdwan Pastorate

On 31 August, "The Inflamm 2024" youth seminar brought together youth members from various churches for a day filled with spiritual enrichment, fellowship, and fun activities. The gathering of 90 youths on that day. The seminar was held at Christ Church Burdwan, the event was a resounding success, fostering unity and engagement among the youth. The day began with breakfast and registration, and Rev. Sumanta Das delivered an inspiring biblical message that resonated deeply with the young attendees, urging them to embrace their roles as active members of the church. The Christ Church Burdwan Youth Fellowship led an energetic worship session, which uplifted the congregation with praise and music. In recognition of their participation, the guest reverends and speakers were honoured with gift hampers and potted plants as tokens of appreciation. Brother Arijit from the Diocese of Calcutta then led the youth in an icebreaker game, designed to foster interaction and connection among the participants from different churches. One of the highlights of the event was the powerful session led by Mr. Jacob Abhinav Sarkar, the former Youth Secretary of the CNI Synod. His thought-provoking message emphasized the importance of youth as the pillars of the church "today" and encouraged them to take up leadership roles within their congregations. His insights and wisdom left a lasting impact on the young attendees. The afternoon second session included a workshop conducted by Mr. Sarkar's team, which engaged the youth with exciting games and activities. These interactive sessions provided both learning and enjoyment, leaving participants feeling inspired and connected.

As the event came to a close, Ms. Rituja Guria, Secretary of the Burdwan Christ Church Youth Fellowship, expressed heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the success of Inflamm 2024. The closing prayer, led by Rev. Saswati Roy, and the Benediction by Rev. Sandipan Sinha, brought the event to a solemn and blessed conclusion. ■



## A Sustainable Living Initiative Program

Dakshin Dinajpur: On 20 August 2024, at Mangalpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, The Anti-Human Trafficking program under the Diocese of Durgapur organized a sustainable living program. We witnessed the inauguration of this transformative initiative, the 13 families and the entire community were involved and empowered in this program. Participating families in the program have a new source of income. They learned how to make bamboo crafts, which can help them with a better livelihood.

In this program, Villagers gathered in the shade of a bamboo grove. Mr. Raja Moses, Project Coordinator and Rev. Santosh Mandi, presbyter-in-charge of Kaliyaganj & Mangalpur, both addressed the crowd emphasizing the significance of the event. They reminded everyone that caring for each other and the environment is central to their beliefs.

We are committed to advancing initiatives that empower communities and protect the vulnerable with this anti-trafficking program overseen by our Bishop The Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla. ■





## Bishop's Meditation

### Social & Community Engagement: Empowering Social Justice and Equity

The Bible, a cornerstone of faith for many, profoundly speaks to issues of social justice and equity. At its core, biblical teaching emphasizes the inherent dignity of every person, created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). This foundational belief drives the Christian call for justice and equality. Throughout Scripture, God consistently demonstrates concern for the marginalized and oppressed. The prophets, like Amos and Isaiah, passionately advocate for justice, urging people to "seek good, not evil" (Amos 5:14) and to "learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed" (Isaiah 1:17). These passages underscore a divine mandate to challenge systems of oppression and to uplift those in need. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ embodies and teaches the principles of social justice. His ministry was marked by reaching out to the marginalized - tax collectors, sinners, and the poor - demonstrating that God's kingdom is inclusive and equitable. The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) further highlights the call to love and care for all, regardless of social boundaries.



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

Theologically, social justice is intertwined with the concept of agape love - unconditional, selfless love that seeks the well-being of others. This love drives believers to act against injustice, ensuring equity for all. By living out these biblical principles, Christians are called to be agents of change, fostering a world that reflects God's justice, love, and compassion for every individual.

## Tribal and Adivasi Sunday Celebrated at St. Michael's Church, Durgapur

On August 11, 2024, St. Michael's Church in Durgapur hosted a special Sunday service to celebrate Tribal and Adivasi Sunday. The event focused on the theme "Promoting the Rights of Indigenous People in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact," highlighting the importance of protecting Indigenous communities. The service saw the attendance of approximately 90 congregations from three local churches, with the guest speaker being Bishop Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, along with dignitaries Rev. Rabindra Nath Ray, Rev. N.C. Tudu, Rev. Pankaj Pande, Rev. Saswati Roy, and Rev. Dn. Krishnapada Das. A significant part of the service included a feet-washing ceremony, symbolizing humility and service. Following the service, a vibrant tribal cultural program was held, showcasing the rich traditions and heritage of the Adivasi community. Additionally, students who achieved exceptional results in their board exams were felicitated, acknowledging their hard work and dedication. The event was a meaningful celebration of Indigenous culture and the rights of those who live in voluntary isolation.



## Social Action

### Awareness Program and Adolescent Counselling by the Sarenga Police Department



In recent years, CDP has been able to build a good relationship with the various govt. depts. and as a result of which the project receives proactive support from these depts. whenever their help is needed. They even personally reach out to us to see if their assistance is required to guide the community people and help them know about their rights as an individual and resident of India. For the past year, they have taken up the responsibility to aware the community people of the various issues people are facing every day such as digital issues- authenticating information, cyberbullying, cyber security, excessive internet use, gambling, pornography, etc., social media scams leading to life-threatening situations, getting traffic. During counselling sessions, they aware the adolescents about the social threats and guide them in life skills which can further act as a manual for coping with difficulties they face in their personal, emotional, and social development. We hope to keep the collaborative efforts constant and through the mentoring, together we can support the positive development of these adolescents as well as improve their self-esteem and reduction in the delinquent acts.

## St. Michael's Cathedral Hosts Fun-Filled Women's Badminton Tournament

Philippians 2:2 Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and if one mind. A Fun-Filled Women's Badminton Tournament was organized by the women's fellowship of St. Michael's and All Angels Cathedral, Durgapur (CNI) on 1st September 2024 in the Multi-purpose hall of St. Michael's School, Durgapur United Church and Cathedral women's fellowship teams participated with full zeal and enthusiasm it was a platform for coming together and being a witness in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Cathedral team featuring Rev. Saswati and Mrs. Akai, emerged as the champions demonstrating exceptional skill and teamwork. The runner-up position was secured by Mrs. Priyansha Alfred and Mrs. Jacqueline Nyss. I would like to thank our Bishop Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla for constant support and guidance.

## Teachers' Day Celebration

On the 1st to 7th of September, 2024 all the Diocesan hostels and schools celebrated Teacher's Day. Not only schools and hostels our Churches also celebrated. The Youth Fellowship of St Michael's and All Angel's Cathedral Durgapur on 1st September 2024, after church service celebrated Teachers' Day with the cathedral family teachers. On 7th September our DCSDC hostel's children celebrated and honoured the teachers for that day. The service featured a special cultural program as a tribute to the unsung heroes of society- Our Teachers! It brought together ten teachers from the two schools under our diocese, St Michael's School and St Peter's School, Durgapur and all the staff. The program was a kaleidoscope of talents, featuring dance, speech, poem, songs, and a Sunday school and youth musical tribute that left the congregation spellbound. Teachers were honoured for their dedication, receiving gifts as a token of love. Following the program, a special prayer was offered for teachers seeking God's guidance and strength for their ministry.





## Editorial

### Social & Community Engagement: Empowering Social Justice and Equity

The Church's role in society has long been a subject of discussion and debate. While its mission in its prime is to serve as a spiritual guide and provide moral teachings, the Church also has a crucial responsibility to advocate for equity and justice within the broader social fabric. As Christians, we are called to love our neighbours. This includes working towards social justice and advocating for those who are marginalized and oppressed. In the Christian faith, social justice is rooted in the belief that all people are created in the image of God and are worthy of dignity and respect. History shows that communities are transformed when churches take the initiative to provide services and opportunities for society. Whether it is education, health or employment, many of today's social provision has its roots in the Church. Whenever there was a need, the Church stepped up to help. In the 19th century, Christian abolitionists played a key role in the fight to end slavery. Many of them saw the injustice of slavery as a direct violation of Christian belief. Similarly during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, church and religious leaders were at the forefront of the fight for racial equality. Among the many leaders, one of the prominent ones was Martin Luther King Jr. who was a Baptist minister and used his platform to advocate for justice and equality against racism.

Today many churches and Christian organizations have contributed their services towards social justice especially focusing on global issues such as advocating for the rights of immigrants and refugees, fighting against discrimination based on race, gender or sexual orientation, addressing poverty and homelessness, environmental justice and many other different social aspects or dimensions. Social justice is also taught in some religious practices and traditions. Some people in the society demanded that the Lord Jesus should judge an adulterous wife. The Lord Jesus tells them that according to the law, you must stone, but he who has not sinned, stone him first. Here he emphasizes the importance of not judging others without considering their guilt. "He shall be preserved forever, but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off".

Last prayer of Lord Jesus. John 17:21 says, Let them be one or united or united. Unity is needed in the growth of the Christian church to know Jesus, Psalm 133:1 says, "Behold, how good and how lovely it is that brothers dwell together in unity". Unity beautifully expresses the goodness of living together, so unity is essential for social justice. As the Lord Jesus prayed for unity, we too should work toward unity in the growth of the church and the ways. Likewise, the Diocese of Durgapur,



Mr. Tarun Pal  
The Diocese of  
Durgapur (CNI)

CNI since the dawn of its ecumenical journey has been engaged in numerous social interventions in parallel to ministerial work which includes Education, Community Development (especially the Indigenous groups), Anti-Human Trafficking, Medical Aid, Child Development and so forth and with love and support of our friends within and beyond the borders we wish to create a more just and equitable world that reflects the values of our faith as well as prioritize our social responsibility like the teachings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. ■

## Women's Voice

### Theme : Social & Community Engagement: Empowering Social Justice and Equity

Women play a crucial role in advancing social justice and equity. Historically marginalized, women have faced challenges in accessing equal opportunities, representation, and rights. However, their unique experiences have equipped them with insights to drive meaningful change in society. Empowering women means ensuring their voices are heard in policymaking, leadership, and grassroots movements.

By addressing gender inequality, we not only uplift women but also contribute to a more just and inclusive society for all. Women's advocacy for equal pay, reproductive rights, and freedom from violence challenges systemic barriers and promotes equity. As women continue to rise in leadership across sectors, they shape policies that reflect diverse experiences and needs, ensuring that social justice becomes more holistic and comprehensive. Ultimately, women's empowerment is a vital pillar for achieving lasting equity in society. ■

## Historic Blood Donation Camp under Durgapur Diocese

Durgapur United Church's Women's Fellowship for Christian Services made history by organizing the first-ever blood donation camp in the Durgapur Diocese held on 26.08.2024. This remarkable achievement was made possible with the support of the Durgapur Sub-Divisional Hospital West Bengal Government. The camp was held to help poor people who could not afford to buy blood from private hospitals. As Leviticus 17:14 reminds us, "the life of every creature is its blood," and this camp was a testament to the importance of giving life to those in need. Despite challenging weather conditions, the camp saw 33 people bravely come forward to donate blood, answering the call of Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." The success of this camp is a shining example of the power of community and compassion. We thank the hospital of the West Bengal Government, the donors and the organizers for their selfless efforts in making this camp succeed. ■



## Youth Beacon

### Theme : Social & Community Engagement: Empowering Social Justice and Equity

As young people, we drive change and demand a more just and equitable world. Through social and community engagement, we're amplifying marginalized voices, challenging systemic injustices, and building inclusive communities. We're leveraging social media, organizing events, and advocating for policy changes to address issues like racism, sexism, and climate change.

We believe in the power of collective action and intersectional solidarity. We're working together to break down barriers, challenge biases, and create opportunities for all. Our generation is committed to creating a world where everyone has access to resources, respect, and equal opportunities.

As young leaders, we are unafraid to confront the status quo. Join us in this movement! Let's rise, speak out, and demand a brighter future for all. Together, we can create a world that values justice, equity, and human rights. The time for change is now – and we're leading the charge!

The future we envision is one where justice, equity, and human rights are at the forefront of global decision-making. ■

## Bible Quiz 145

- 1) Name that woman, who first heard a voice from the angel of the Lord ?
- 2) Who is a wise man ?
- 3) Which apostle was killed by Herod ?

### Answer of Bible Quiz 144

- 1) Rahab (Joshua 2:1)
- 2) Peter (Math. 28:15)
- 3) Warmood (Rev. 8:11)

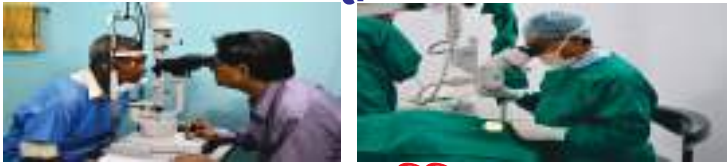
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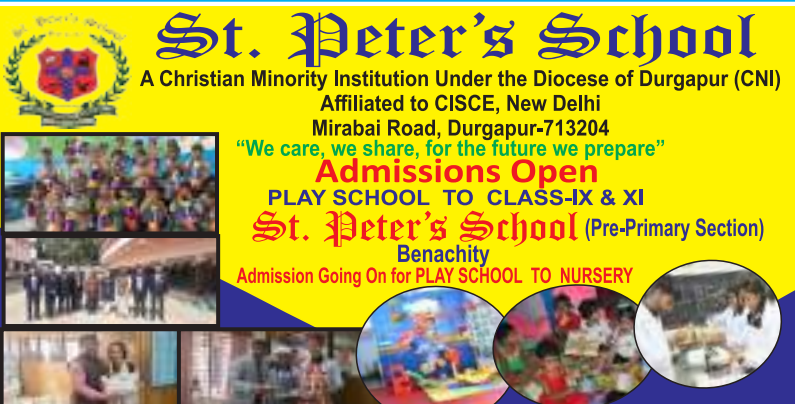
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 Published by The Diocese of Durgapur, CNI, Diocesan  
 Bhavan, Dr. Martin Luther King Road, Bidhan Nagar,  
 Durgapur - 713212,  
 District Burdwan, West Bengal, India.,  
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