

Vol.: 212

Monthly Newsletter of the Diocese of Durgapur (CNI) June 2025

Theme : Stewardship is our response to God's love.

God the Father, the Creator and Owner of all things, has most clearly revealed his perfect and infinite love for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. The important thing is that a steward makes God's love visible by imitating Jesus. The Christian believer gratefully acknowledges God's gifts and shares these gifts with love for his neighbor. Saint Peter worked hard to advance the kingdom of God and righteousness, just as he had learned from Jesus. He said, "As each of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's manifold grace." 1 Peter 4:10. Peter says how we should respond to God's love: "For according to the knowledge of him who called us by glory and virtue, according to his divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. By his glory and virtue he has given us exceedingly great and precious promises, so that you might become partakers of the divine nature,



having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. For this very reason, making every effort to add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

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Rev. Sumanta Naru Diocese of Durgapur (CNI)

Confirmation Service at Christ Church, Burdwan

On Sunday, June 1, 2025, 31 candidates from Kalna Church and Burdwan Church received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Christ Church, Burdwan. The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla led the service as both Celebrant and Preacher, assisted by Revd. Shirshendu Pramanik. Bishop Khimla delivered a powerful sermon based on John 3:1-8, emphasising that one must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the Kingdom of God. His message deeply resonated with the candidates and congregation alike. Over 120 attendees participated in the service, joining in worship and celebration. The ceremony was a heartfelt moment of renewal and commitment to faith. Prayers and blessings marked the conclusion, as the newly confirmed individuals embraced their spiritual journey. The event was a profound experience of faith, unity, and devotion, leaving a lasting impression on all present.



Festival of Prayer & Fasting, CNI Synod

The 3 Days Festival of Prayer & Fasting was held at St. Paul's Church College Auditorium, Agra, under the leadership of the Synod of the Church of North India. The event, guided by the theme "Come, Let Us Return to the Lord" (Hosea 6:1-3), called participants to repentance, renewal, and unity in prayer. The Diocese of Durgapur, led by The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla actively participated in this sacred gathering, joining members of all ages in seeking spiritual revival in both personal faith and Church life. Throughout the three days, the program encouraged deep reflection and intercession, fostering a spirit of renewal among attendees. The Diocese of Durgapur expressed sincere gratitude to the Synod for leading this meaningful initiative, which strengthened faith, unity, and commitment through prayer.



Raniganj Youth Seminar

The 3 Days Festival of Prayer & Fasting was held at St. Paul's Church College Auditorium, Agra, under the leadership of the Synod of the Church of North India. The event, guided by the theme "Come, Let Us Return to the Lord" (Hosea 6:1-3), called participants to repentance, renewal, and unity in prayer. The Diocese of Durgapur, led by The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla actively participated in this sacred gathering, joining members of all ages in seeking spiritual revival in both personal faith and Church life. Throughout the three days, the program encouraged deep reflection and intercession,

Bishop's Meditation

Theme : Stewardship is our response to God's love.

Stewardship is not merely about giving; it is about responding to the overwhelming love of God. Scripture reminds us in 1 John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us." God, in His grace, has entrusted us with time, talents, and resources not to possess, but to manage for His glory. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus teaches the parable of the talents, showing that faithful stewardship multiplies God's blessings and furthers His



Kingdom. Our response to God's love should be intentional, joyful, and sacrificial. True stewardship flows from gratitude. When we recognize that everything we have is a gift from God, we begin to live generously, with open hands and surrendered hearts. Let us offer our lives, churches, and communities as living testimonies of God's love, stewarding all things well because He loved us first, and to Him belongs all.

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

Ascension Day Celebration at Ascension Church Purulia

On 29th May 2025, the community members came together to celebrate the Ascension Day of the Lord Jesus and the Foundation Day of the Church at Ascension Church, Purulia. Bishop the Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla led the service, delivering a sermon that deeply moved hearts and strengthened faith with a powerful message. The service was assisted by Revd. Samuel Halder, Revd. Subhendu Saren, Revd. Sumanta Naru, Revd. Swapan Darman, Revd. Sumanta Das, Revd. Bijay Lakra, Revd. Debojit Das, Revd. Rabindranath Ray, Revd. Sandipan Sinha, Revd. Saswati Roy, Revd. Abhijit Mahata, Revd. Krishnapada Das, Treasurer Mr. Hemant Marandi, Mr. Prosenjit Chowdhury and Mr. Charles Nyss. Their presence brought deep spirituality and joy to the Service.



Raniganj Youth Seminar

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Youth Beacon

Theme : Stewardship is our response to God's love.

The concept of stewardship begins with acknowledging the fundamental truth: everything belongs to God. Scriptures affirm, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1) and that we are merely caretakers, not owners. Christian stewardship is not just thoughtful management—it is an act of loving response to God's unconditional grace. Stewardship "is the response of the disciple to God's unconditional love for us"

Stewardship isn't a charitable program – it's a spiritual way of life: receiving God's gifts gratefully, recognizing that everything we are and have stems from Him, and returning these gifts in love toward God and neighbour. It's not merely tithing or volunteer work—it's a fullthroated discipleship, a heartfelt "thank you" to God expressed through time, talents, and treasures.

Biblical stewardship extends beyond finances—it includes environmental care, workplace ethics, community service, and personal vocation. As The Gospel Coalition notes, stewardship is "whole-life discipleship," embracing every sphere of our calling in God's economy. This echoes the Old Testament's Sabbath for the land (Leviticus 25) and its care for animals (Proverbs 12:10), pointing toward responsible and sustainable living.

Christian eco-theology recognizes our responsibility toward creation—not exploitative dominion, but humble care. Genesis 1:28 invites us to "rule" as God rules: with compassion, wisdom, and guardianship. "Stewardship extends beyond ownership; it represents a relational responsibility acknowledging that everything is intricately woven into God's divine plan."

Women's Voice

Theme : Stewardship is our response to God's love.

Stewardship is a response to our love and faithfulness to all that God has done for us. God's Word says in 1 John 4:19, "We love, because he first loved us." Since God first loved us, we are called to steward the gifts he has given us with care and gratitude. Such as our time, talents, money, and environment. God's Word reveals to us in Psalm 24:1 that "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." So everything we have in this world belongs to God, but God has chosen us to be faithful stewards. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, "And this is what is required of stewards, that a man may be found faithful." From the beginning, God has given mankind the responsibility of being stewards of His creation. Stewardship is not just a duty; it is a part of worshipping God. This is how we show our gratitude and trust in God. Colossians 3:23-24 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, not as working for men but for the Lord, for you know that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance." Matthew 6:21 also says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." God's love is the foundation of all our actions. As recipients of His grace, we are called to be wise and faithful stewards, not for our own glory, but to reflect His love in society and the church and to honour Him.





Editorial

Theme : Stewardship is our response to God's love.

The Bible teaches that stewardship is a response to God's love. Based on texts on stewardship deeply rooted within the Scriptures, biblical stewardship refers to the recognition that everything we have, every aspect of life, comes from God and that we have been merely entrusted with these resources for a time as caretakers rather than owners of God's blessings. Through biblical stewardship, we cultivate a deep sense of gratitude, humility and trust in God. It's about using our time, talents, and resources to serve God and others responsibly and faithfully, acknowledging that we are entrusted with the care and management of His gifts. In Genesis 1:26-28, God creates humanity in His image and grants them dominion over the earth and all its creatures. This passage teaches us that, as stewards, we have been entrusted with the care and preservation of God's creation. We are called to cultivate, cherish and responsibly manage the resources gifted to us. The Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30) teaches us that stewardship responsibility involves using resources and our God-given abilities to serve and advance His kingdom. Finally, biblical stewardship invites us into a faithfulness, obedience and joy-filled life. When we intentionally use our time, talents and treasures, we align our choices and



priorities with God's principles and use our God-given gifts and abilities to serve others. Biblical stewardship brings glory to God as we faithfully fulfil the r o I e s a n d responsibilities He has entrusted to us.

Rev. Rabindranath Ray Diocese of Durgapur (CNI)

Social Action

Diocese of Durgapur Leads A Standout Awareness Campaign to "Beat Plastic Pollution" for a Greener Future On 11th June, 2025, Diocese of Durgapur, CNI took the initiative to raise awareness on combating plastic pollution (Theme of 2025 according to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)- "Ending Global Plastic Pollution) as a part of World Environment Week observation. The Adolescents and Youths from various Diocesan projects, institutions, and local churches came together to encourage the action. Our Bishop, Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla enlightened the participants with his guiding words on the role, today's youth can play in becoming agents of change by advocating for sustainable practices, engaging in decision-making processes, and mobilising local communities. We also had Miss. Ankita Chakraborty, an Environment Practitioner, who made the participants aware of the gradation of plastic according to the degree of toxicity and how it is slowly contributing to environmental pollution, as well as motivated them to take small steps in eradicating the pollution. The participants also shared their learning from this seminar and what difference they will contribute as an individual. Later, Diocese of Durgapur, CNI, conducted a standout awareness campaign with a mass participation of around 130 on "Beat Plastic Pollution" jointly with St. Michael's School, Community Development Programme, Children Hostel Ministry, St. Michael's Church and Durgapur United Church with the support of local law enforcements to address the widespread environmental problems caused by plastic waste, including harm to ecosystems and human health. After the rally our First Lady of Diocese, Ms. Sarika Gracy Khimla shared her vote of thanks for the active participation of all the participants. Realizing the fact that how plastics are deeply connected to our daily life, we took a pledge to spearhead efforts to promote solutions and drive action on plastic pollution, highlighting the individual impact while promoting positive action through sapling distribution. Our Motto, "Think Green, Live Green", is in Action. (Debonmita Biswas)



A Year-End Project Progress Reflection & Workshop on Revisiting the Gender Mainstreaming Process-

A Year-End Project Progress Reflection Meet & Workshop on Revisiting the Gender Mainstreaming Process was organised by CDP under the Diocese of Durgapur, CNI on 6th and 7th June, 2025. Day 1 of the program focused on assessing and enhancing staff performance and ensuring that they are working in alignment with the overall organisational vision through the evaluation process. Our honourable Bishop, Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla motivated the staff through his encouraging words on the need for evaluation and how it can help each of us understand our progress journey and

where we all need to put more effort to deliver the maximum productivity. Later, the program was handed over to the PMC members, who conducted the staff evaluation and the assessment. After that the staffs also participated in the Gender Mainstreaming Workshop which was conducted by Dr. Soma Roy, Gender Expert who shared her enriched knowledge on the topic and how we can ensure that gender equality can be integrated in the policies, plans and programs, further creating a space in achieving equal opportunities, benefits and outcomes for women, men, girls, boys and LGBTQIA+.



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Theme : Stewardship

and to knowledge self-control; and to self-control endurance; and to endurance godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are in you and abound, he will make you neither idle nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. No. For whoever does not have these things is blind and short-sighted, having forgotten the forgiveness of his past sins." 2 Peter 1:3-9. It is important to always remember that we as individuals are not the owners of our lives, but rather we are stewards. Servants see everything we receive from God as a gift and they respond with gratitude to the growth of God's kingdom and righteousness with their gifts. Proverbs 11:24 - "There is one who gives and increases, but there is one who withholds from what is right and comes to poverty." Please remember that not everything you earn is yours. Give to God what is God's; you will receive a blessing. Your treasure will overflow. But if you steal from God's treasure, God's curse will come upon you. The Lord Jesus said - "Give, and it will be given to you; pressed down, shaken together, and running over, they will put it into your lap; for with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

BIBLE QUIZE 152

- 1. Which Prophet said that He had seen the affliction?
- 2. Who Celebrated His Birthday ?
- 3. Name the martyr who was a faithful witness of Christ?

Answer of Bible Quize 151

- 1. Fear of the Lord (Proverb 1:7)
- 2. Good news of the Kingdom (Matt. 4:23)
- 3. Our Faith (1 John 5:4)

Name of those who submitted the correct Answer

Brajendra Saniel

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