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দ্যা লাইট



DEEP
The Light



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The Empty Tomb Symbolizes Divine Nature

After the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, His body was laid in a tomb. But on the third day, He did not remain in the grave instead, He rose again, triumphing over death, and the tomb was found empty. This proves that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, and the Son of God. The empty tomb is a powerful sign that Jesus' resurrection was the clear signal from God the Father that Jesus is the Almighty Son of God who conquered death and reigns as Lord over all (Romans 1:4 and Romans 4:25).

The power of the resurrection, the power that raised Jesus from the dead, is available to us every day. We do not have to embrace destruction through our choices; instead, we can turn toward the power of the resurrection. In order to fully embrace this resurrection power, we must consider ourselves dead to sin. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our assurance that the life we live is not in vain. Beyond the 80 or more years we may spend on earth, our lives have a greater purpose, because the living God has promised that our investment for eternity will never be in vain.



Rev. Debojit Das
Diocese of Durgapur (CNI)

From the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we gain the truth that His blood of the new covenant saves His people from their sins, and we will dwell with the Lord Jesus forever (John 14:3).

Bankura Central Church Renovation

On April 6, 2025, the Bankura Pastorate organized the 143rd Anniversary of the Central church, Bankura Re-dedication and Re-consecration of the altar. The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop, under His guidance and with the cooperation of all the Bankura Pastorate members, the Central Church's renovation work has been completed. The stone plaque was unveiled by the Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla. The time was further enriched by the presence of Mrs. Sarika Khimla & family, Rev. Sandipan Sinha, Rev. Sumanta Naru, Rev. Abhijit Mahata, and other distinguished guests. During the service, Bishop Khimla shared a Sermon emphasizing the importance of unity. He reminded us of the unity among the members of the Church in the past and emphasized that unity enables us to bear witness to the greatness of God even today. This achievement was made possible through the generous support of many, whose donations played a vital role. Finally, all the guests were honoured with a flower of appreciation. The dedicated efforts and participation of the members of the Bankura Pastorate made this program successful. ■



Confirmation Service at Paulus Nemu Memorial Church, Purulia

On 27th April, 2025, a Confirmation Service was held at Paulus Nemu Memorial Church, Purulia. Seventeen candidates from three Churches - Jargo, Jhailda, and Koreng - were confirmed in their faith. Before the service, a joyful 'Nagar Sankirtan' was organized.

The service was led by The Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur, and was assisted by Rev. Kishanto Tudu and Rev. Swapan Darmon. Bishop Khimla preached from John 3:1-8 on the theme of "Born Again" and encouraged the newly confirmed candidates to live a new life in Christ. Around 200 people gathered and celebrated this Holy Service together. After the service, the congregation welcomed the candidates with a garland.

The service ended with a love feast, where everyone shared food and fellowship, giving thanks to God for the wonderful day. ■



Training Program: "Introduction to Amblyopia"

A training program on Amblyopia and Low Vision was held on 8th April 2025 at Good Shepherd Eye Hospital, Durgapur. The Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla graced the event, and training was conducted by Bidula Das from Revital Vision, Kolkata and Dr. Phalguni Mitra. The program aimed to enhance awareness and clinical knowledge. The session began at 3:00 PM, creating space for fellowship and informal interaction among participants. Medical staff, community health workers, and volunteers attended the training with enthusiasm. Ms. Bidula Das shared insights on early detection, causes, and treatment options for amblyopia and low vision, using practical case examples and visual aids. Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop and

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Bishop's Meditation

The Empty Tomb Symbolizes Divine Nature

The empty tomb of Jesus Christ stands as the ultimate symbol of God's divine nature, revealing His power, love, and victory over death. The resurrection was not merely an event; it was the very demonstration of God's sovereignty. As the angel proclaimed to the women at the tomb, "He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." (Matthew 28:6). This declaration affirms that God's word is true, His promises are unshakable, and His divine plan is unstoppable.

In the empty tomb, we witness the fulfillment of divine prophecy (Isaiah 53:10-11), the validation of Jesus' identity as the Son of God (Romans 1:4), and the assurance of eternal life for all who believe in Him (John 11:25). The resurrection proves that Christ is victorious over sin and death, offering us hope beyond the grave. It reminds us that God's divine nature is one of power and redemption, calling us to walk in the newness of life. As we reflect on the empty tomb, may our faith be strengthened, our hope renewed, and our hearts lifted in worship. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Amen.



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

Youth Beacon

The Empty Tomb Symbolizes Divine Nature

"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord." (Luke 24:2-3) A tomb is a place where people bury the dead. When Jesus died on the cross, His diseased body was placed in a tomb, but He did not remain dead. On the third day He rose as He foretold (John 2: 19-21). We are the believers of a living God.

The empty tomb symbolises the fulfilment of the promise that God would send His only son to redeem us. When we accept Jesus as our saviour, we also bury our old self and we are raised to a new self. The empty tomb reminds us that we are no longer slaves to sin, but we are freed.

As youth, we tend to fall into temptations. We fall prey to fleshly desires, we follow worldly ambitions, so much so that we become distanced from God. Jesus came to this world to bridge that distance.

If we want to get a new life, we have to bury our old sinful self, we have to bury our worldly desires, our bad habits that separate us from God, and we have to come out as a whole new self. We have to empty ourselves so that God can fill us. He will fill us with his abundant blessings, and we will be fruitful. We should not find Jesus in an empty tomb because our redeemer lives. ■

Subham Hansda

34th Capping and Lamp Lighting Ceremony Held at Khristiya Seva Niketan Nursing Training School

The Khristiya Seva Niketan Nursing Training School held its 34th Capping and Lamp Lighting Ceremony on April 5, 2025. This special event marked the official entry of 25 student nurses into the nursing profession. The ceremony is a symbol of care, service, and dedication. The Chief Guest for the event was The Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop of the Diocese of Durgapur. Dr. Shyamal Saren, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Bankura, was the Guest of Honour. Many important guests, school leaders, staff, parents, and guardians were present to bless and encourage the students. The programme began with a prayer by Rev. Subhendu Kumar Saren and a Bible reading from 2 Timothy 4:7-8 by Rev. Simon Mandi. Bishop Khimla gave a meaningful speech. He said the nursing cap is like the "crown of righteousness" mentioned in the Bible. He encouraged the students to do their work with love, faith, and honesty. Dr. Saren spoke about the importance of mental health and reminded everyone that nurses are here "not to be served but to serve." During the event, awards were given to students who did well in their studies. A new award named "Sister Alaka Bhakat Essence of Nursing Award" was introduced in memory of the school's first principal. Miss Shreya Mondal, a third-year student, received this award. Principal Nursing Officer Sr. Baisakhi Mukherjee gave a report on the school's progress. Mr. P.K. Baux thanked all guests, parents, and staff for their support. The event ended with a colourful cultural programme by the students, bringing joy to everyone present. ■



Mission Primary School Celebrates 20th Foundation Day

Mission Primary School Celebrated its 20th Foundation Day on 21st April, 2025, at the Pre-Primary Building with much joy and excitement. For the first time in the school's history, a rally was organized. Students from Classes 2, 3, and 4 took part with great enthusiasm. Important guests, including the Secretary and Vice Chairman of the school, the Diocesan Secretary, Revd. Samuel Halder, Diocesan Vice President, Revd. Subhendu Saren, Revd. Sumanta Naru, Revd. Sandipan Sinha, Revd. Abhijit Mahata, TIC of BPGS, the Secretary of Bankura Pastorate, the Head Teacher, and all the staff members.

The rally started from St. Michael School and passed through the Machantola Bus Stand. After the rally, a short cultural program was held where the students warmly welcomed The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla and his family, and also welcomed all the Presbyters. The program began with a prayer led by Revd. Abhijit Mahata. Teachers sang a welcome song, and students performed a wonderful dance. The Bishop appreciated the performances and shared his happiness.

Later, everyone attended a Thanksgiving service at the Bankura Central Church. The Bishop also inaugurated the newly built Sick Room and new desks for the KG 2 classrooms. The day was full of happiness, and the School looked forward to a bright future.()



Editorial

The Empty Tomb Symbolizes Divine Nature

The greatest pride and glory of the Christian faith is the empty tomb—a symbol of divine power and authority. Jesus conquered death. On the cross, the cry of our Lord Jesus, “It is finished,” was met with the Father’s response in the resurrection: “Amen.” As the apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:16-19, if Christ had not been raised from the dead, then our faith would be futile. We would still be in our sins, destined for destruction, and of all people, we would be the most to be pitied. But thanks be to God—the empty tomb is the greatest miracle performed by the Son of God, unparalleled by any other. It stands as the very foundation of the Christian faith. Testimonies and Evidence of the Empty Tomb:

1) The Empty Tomb Itself: Matthew 28:6 – “He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.” Luke 24:3 – “But when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.” (2) The Testimony of Angels: Luke 24:5-7 – “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!” (3) The Testimony of the Disciples: Their transformed lives and bold proclamation, even in the face of persecution and death, affirm their firm belief in the risen Christ. (4) The Witness of Many People:

1 Corinthians 15:6 – “After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.” (5) The Witness of Millions Today: The testimony of countless believers around the world today affirms that Jesus is a living Savior.

Even though there are opposing theories against the resurrection of Jesus, none have ever succeeded in disproving it. For centuries, the power of darkness has tried to deny the resurrection, but to no avail. The continued faith and devotion of millions who confess Jesus as their only Savior and await His second coming is undeniable proof of His resurrection.

The Power of Christ’s Resurrection: (a) It confirms His divine nature. (b) It validates the completeness and orderliness of God’s plan of salvation. (c) It gives believers the firm assurance that they too will rise—either to eternal life or eternal judgment. (d) It prepares the way for the fulfillment of His promise: “I will come again.”

After the power of prayer, the power of the resurrection is the greatest force the world has ever known. The resurrection of Jesus Christ surpasses even the power of nuclear weapons like the atom bomb or hydrogen bomb. Why? Because those only have the power to destroy, but the resurrection has the power to give life to the dead. It is divine power that brings hope, healing, and eternal life. Let us rejoice in this victorious truth: “He is not here; He is risen!”



Rev. Sumanta Das
Diocese of Durgapur
(CNI)

New Garden Shed inauguration on Good Friday

St. Michael’s Church celebrated Good Friday with a remarkable service led by The Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla. The Bishop delivered a sermon on the seven words from the cross, inspiring reflection and prayer among the congregation. Before the service, the Bishop and Presbyters inaugurated the newly built Garden Shed, designed as a serene space for quiet contemplation. The event also included the blessing of a new Church Bell, which will serve as a call to worship and unity. The congregation expressed gratitude and joy during the service, which emphasized togetherness and faith. The church looks forward to utilizing the Garden Shed for future gatherings and spiritual activities.



Women’s Voice

The Empty Tomb Symbolizes Divine Nature

The empty tomb reminds us as believers that Christ is risen and Christ shall rise again.

The empty tomb symbolizes the true meaning of our living God who died, was buried and rose again to fulfill the prophecies made in the Old Testament. It symbolizes the possibility of resurrection and life. It inspires believers to have faith and hope and how the burden of our sins was forgiven so that we can unite with the lord in his kingdom again. It hence proves Jesus was a mortal being but the son of God at the same time.

It encourages us to believe that death is the ultimatum of life and the purpose of it is to reach the kingdom of god. The Empty Tomb reflects the will of God and his plans for the mortal race. As written in Mark 16:6 “He is not here; he is risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay” declares the glorious victory of Christ the redeemer.

Easter Celebration at Durgapur United Church

The Easter Sunday Service at Durgapur United Church on 20th April 2025 was a deeply meaningful and spirit-filled celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The sanctuary was filled with joyful praise as around 200 members of the congregation gathered on this sacred occasion. Bishop, Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, who attended the service with his family. He shared a profound and uplifting Sermon based on Luke 24:13-35. The Sermon speaks to every heart around, about recognizing Christ in the breaking of bread and its significance. Followed by the Lord’s Supper, where the Bishop, as the Celebrant, joined at the altar by the Presbyterian in-Charge, Revd. Pankaj Pande and Revd. Dn. Babul Sardar, together served the Holy Communion. And finally, this fellowship was concluded with lunch.



World Day of Prayer & Women's Day Celebration 2025

The World Day of Prayer 2025 was held on March 7, with the theme "I Made You Wonderful" from Psalm 139:14. It was prepared by the WDP Committee of the Cook Islands and facilitated in India by the National Council of Churches in India. The event focused on the value, dignity, and uniqueness of women, highlighting efforts to support women, such as Bible-based initiatives addressing gender violence. At Christ Church, Bampur CNI, a special program was organized on March 9 to celebrate the occasion. The program encouraged spiritual growth, self-worth, and connection with God, aiming to uplift both participants and spectators. Symbolic elements like ocean-themed visuals and sounds reflected the Cook Islands' culture and reinforced themes of faith and nature. Women's Day and World Prayer Day were jointly celebrated in the church on March 9. Women led prayers, worship, and shared the Word of God, showcasing their leadership and faith. The event served as a powerful reminder of the important role women play in spiritual and community life. It inspired the community to honor, uplift, and empower women, recognizing their strength, wisdom, and divine purpose.



Social Action

ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING AND ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY TRAINING WITH CDP AND DIOCESAN STAFFS
On 24th March 2025 Community Development Programme (CDP) under the Diocese of Durgapur, CNI organized Annual Safeguarding & Organizational Policy Training with the CDP and Diocesan Staffs Every year CDP organizes the workshop for ensuring that the staffs understand and adhere to updated organization policies, promoting compliance, minimizing legal risks and fostering a positive and ethical work environment. In the workshop, we also prioritized on the challenges that can emerge related to SEAH cases in both the office and community levels and how we as an organization can engage in addressing the issues and ensure the policies remain relevant and effective.



TRAINING ON EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF ADOLESCENTS AND SRHR WITH CDP STAFFS

CDP organized a 2 days Training on Emotional Well-being of Adolescents and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights' (SRHR) for the CDP project staffs from 28th to 29th March, 2025. We got 3 resource persons from CINI namely, Mr. Pijush Kanti Dutta, Mrs. Moitre Bagchi and Mrs. Anuradha Das, who facilitated the entire program. The objective of the training was to capacitate the CDP staffs on the life skills to enhance and empower the adolescents, what challenges they face and the ways they can overcome them. Along with that the resource persons guided them on Reproductive health of the Adolescents, the harmful effects of early marriage & adolescent pregnancy and Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights'- ensuring individuals can make informed decisions about their bodies and reproductive lives, free from coercion, discrimination and violence. They also highlighted on Gender Equality, Child Protection and Safeguarding which are crucial for ensuring the well-being and safety, encompassing actions to prevent and respond to harm, exploitation, and abuse, with gender considerations being vital for effective implementation. This training was also an equivalent platform of learning for the staffs to become more efficient in dealing with the adolescents and motivating them in becoming the role models for the coming generation.



TRAINING ON PROMOTING HIGHER EDUCATION AND ASPIRATION THROUGH CAREER COUNSELLING

CDP under the Diocese of Durgapur, CNI aims to help individuals (especially adolescents and youths) make informed decisions about their education, career, and personal development. As a continuation of the initiative, CDP organized Training on Promoting Higher Education and Aspiration through Career Counseling on 5th April, 2025, with Adolescents of Mirabai, Mohishkapur, DCSDC and Youths of St. Michael's Church & Cathedral. Mr. Debasish Bhattacharya, a professional career counseling consultant, guided the participants in exploring different career options (Schemes under the Central and State Govt.) and choosing employment that aligns with their values and interests. He also counseled them in setting realistic goals, building self-awareness, developing essential skills such as problem-solving, decision-making and communication as well as methods on reducing stress and anxiety, which will further provide lifelong clarity on career options, skill requirements, and future job prospects, ensuring students and professionals take the right career path .



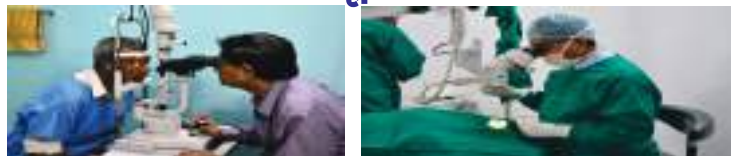
Training Program:

Chairman of the hospital, encouraged participants to extend their learning into community outreach. He emphasized the Diocese's vision of holistic health, combining medical service with compassion and awareness. The program concluded with a vote of thanks and distribution of educational materials for further reference. Overall, the training proved to be an enriching and impactful initiative, reinforcing the commitment of the Good Shepherd Eye Hospital towards preventive eye care and community health development.

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GOOD SHEPHERD EYE CLINIC & HOSPITAL

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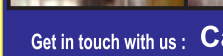
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Bible Quiz 150

- 1) Name the place from where Israel Started their Journey ?
- 2) Who is the father of Judas Iscariot?
- 3) What is the meaning of Akeldama?

Answer of Bible Quiz 149

- 1) Psalm 117
- 2) Jesus (Matt 4:2)
- 3) Fourteen Days (Act 27:33)

Name of those who submitted the Correct Answer

Brajendra Sanial

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



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