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DEEP  
The Light



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

### Emphasizing the call to take up own-Cross Daily

Jesus calls us in Luke 9:23: "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me." This is not just a call for Lent but a daily invitation to surrender, trust, and walk in obedience.

The cross is more than a symbol, it represents sacrifice, humility, and transformation. To take up our own cross daily means choosing God's will over our own, embracing love over selfishness, and walking in faith even when the path is difficult. Lent reminds us that discipleship is not occasional but constant. Each day, we are called to let go of sin, pride, and distractions that separate us from Christ.

This season of fasting, prayer, and charity is an opportunity to reflect: What cross am I carrying? Am I resisting it, or embracing it as Christ did? The cross may feel heavy, but through it, we grow



Rev. Shirshendu  
Pramanik  
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in holiness. Jesus carried His cross to victory—so will we. Let us walk this Lenten journey with faith, knowing that in dying to self, we find true life. May our daily surrender lead us to the joy and transformation of Easter. ■

### Confirmation Service at Wesleyan Methodist Church, Raniganj

On March 2nd, 2025, the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Raniganj hosted a significant Confirmation service, marking a spiritual milestone for 18 candidates. The service was led by the Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, assisted by Revd. Sumanta Das (Priest in charge). The service saw the candidates publicly affirming their faith and commitment to the teachings of the Church. The candidates, who had undergone preparatory classes, took an important step in their spiritual journey by receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, a rite that signifies a deepened relationship with God. On that day they all partook of the Lord's Supper as recipients. The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issac Khimla, in his Biblical address on John 3:1-8, spoke about the significance of Confirmation as a renewal of one's commitment to live according to Christ's teachings. He encouraged the newly confirmed individuals to remain steadfast in their faith and to serve as examples to others in the community. This service not only marked a personal moment for each of the 18 candidates but also reaffirmed the strength and unity of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. It was a day of great spiritual significance for the church and its members, strengthening their faith and commitment to their Christian journey. ■



### Women's Conference & International Women's Day Celebration at Sarenga Pastorate



The Women's Fellowship of Sarenga Pastorate successfully organized a Women's Conference and International Women's Day Celebration on 8th and 9th March 2025 at Sarenga Central Church. The conference theme was "Role of Women in the Church and the Society." The program began on 8th March with a welcome note by Rev. Subhendu Kumar Saren, Vice President of the Diocese and Presbyterian-in-Charge of Sarenga Pastorate. Before the sessions, Mrs. Sarika Khimla, First Lady of our Diocese, gave a short speech, encouraging the participants and highlighting the vital role of women in faith and community service. Guest Speakers Rev. Saswati Roy and Mrs. Priyanka Das (Secretary, DWFCS), then led the sessions, emphasizing the essential contributions of women in both church and society. Before the International Women's Day Rally, Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla, Bishop of our Diocese, delivered a short but powerful message urging men to respect women. He emphasized that true progress in the church and society can only be achieved when men recognize, support, and uplift women in all spheres of life. The rally saw enthusiastic participation from church members, St. Michael's School, Sarenga, CDP, AHT, ICDS and KSN Nursing Training School. It served as a public demonstration of unity and awareness regarding women's contributions to the church and society. On 9th March, the conference continued with interactive sessions and discussions, strengthening the commitment of participants toward their role in the church and society. The event concluded with renewed enthusiasm among the attendees. The Women's Fellowship of Sarenga Pastorate extends heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and volunteers for making this event a success. ■

### Leadership Training at Raniganj Church

A leadership training was organized at Raniganj Wesleyan Methodist Church from January 31st to February 9th, 2025, under the guidance of Rev. Sumanta Das and Sutapa Singh. About 15 participants attended, with arrangements for their stay and food. The main objective was to prepare individuals for the expansion of the kingdom of the Lord. Training included worship of the Lord, scripture study, fasting prayers, and night prayers. Key speakers included Rev. Sumanta Das, Sutapa Singh, Samarendra Kaviraj, CS Das, Lamual John, and Pastor Prabal Dafadar. Upon completion, weekly worship prayers began in three new villages within the Raniganj congregation. Plans are also underway to start fellowship in more than four new villages in the future. We thank the Almighty Lord for His guidance in successfully completing this training. By the grace of the Lord Jesus, we are committed to taking this significant step forward in our church's journey. ■ (Sutapa Singh)





## Bishop's Meditation

### Emphasizing the call to take up own-Cross Daily

"Then he said to them all: Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

As we journey through Lent, Jesus' call to take up our cross daily is a solemn reminder of true discipleship. The cross is not just a symbol of suffering but of surrender, love, and obedience to God's will. In a world that seeks comfort and self-preservation, Jesus invites us to embrace sacrifice and self-denial for the sake of His kingdom.

Taking up the cross daily means putting aside our selfish desires, resisting temptations, and choosing Christ above all else. It is a call to love when it is hard, to forgive when it hurts, and to serve even when unnoticed. Just as Jesus carried His cross to Calvary, we, too, must bear the weight of faithfulness, trusting that His grace is sufficient for each day's journey.

During Lent, as we reflect on Christ's passion, we are reminded that the path to resurrection goes through the cross. Fasting, prayer, and repentance help us to realign our hearts with God's purposes. When we lay down our burdens at His feet, He strengthens us to carry the cross with joy and hope.

Are we willing to take up our cross daily? This season is an opportunity to renew our commitment to following Christ wholeheartedly. May we walk in His footsteps, embracing the cost of discipleship, knowing that beyond the cross lies the victory of new life in Him. ■



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

## Youth Beacon

### Emphasizing the call to take up own-Cross Daily

In Matthew 16:24 Jesus told his disciples "whoever wants to be my disciples must deny themselves and take-up their cross and follow me" taking up Your cross is a Christian phrase that means to follow Jesus by embracing the challenges, sacrificing your own desires, prioritizing God's will over personal desires, even when it's difficult and living for God instead. It can involve suffering loss, rejection or persecution. Example of taking up your cross:-

- **Denying Self-Will:** Instead of pursuing your own ambitions or desires, you choose to follow God's path, even if it means sacrificing personal comfort or convenience.
- **Forgiveness:** When someone hurts you, you choose to forgive them, even though it's difficult, and you don't harbor resentment or seek revenge.
- **Serving Others:** You prioritize the needs of others over your own, even if it means sacrificing your time or energy.
- **Standing Up for What's Right:** You choose to speak out against injustice or wrongdoing, even if it means facing opposition or ridicule.
- **Facing Difficult Times:** You continue to trust in God and follow his path even when facing hardship, illness, or loss.
- **Living a Simple Life:** You choose to live simply and avoid accumulating wealth or possessions, prioritizing spiritual values over material possessions.
- **Living an Honest Life:** You choose to live an honest life, even when it's difficult or unpopular, and you avoid dishonesty or deceit.
- **Prayer and Study of the Word:** You make time for prayer and study of God's word, even when you are busy or tired.

**Why do you do it:-** You might take up your cross because you trust that whatever God has planned is greater than anything you could imagine on your own. You might also do it because you want to be united with Christ in offering the greatest proof of love.

Being willing to take up your cross, being fully devoted - isn't something you can do on your own. The good news is you don't have to. Turn to God and give your life to Him. This won't be easy, and there is no one-time fix. Stay disciplined and consistent, be diligent, and know that God will be with you every step of the way. ■

### Bamboo Craft Training Centre: A Microfinance Training Initiative at Mangalpur, Dakshin Dinajpur

The Anti-Human Trafficking Program of the Diocese of Durgapur has launched a Bamboo Craft Training Centre at Mangalpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, as part of a microfinance training program aimed at empowering vulnerable communities. This initiative seeks to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities by equipping participants with the skills to create household bamboo products such as baskets, hand fans, mats, and decorative items. The training program not only enhances economic self-sufficiency but also serves as a means to prevent human trafficking by offering alternative income sources. ■



### Awareness Program on Women's Day at Melera Gram Panchayat 2025, Raipur

On March 12, 2025, Raipur, Barikul, Dinajpur – In observance of International Women's Day, an awareness program was organized at Melera Gram Panchayat under Raipur Block, Barikul Police Station. The event focused on critical social issues, including human trafficking, child marriage, child labor, and migrant workers' rights. The program was attended by distinguished guests, including the Officer-in-Charge of Mandaldih Outpost under Barikul Police Station, the Head of Melera Gram Panchayat, all Panchayat members, women's organization leaders, and social workers. A significant number of women, approximately 230, actively participated in the discussion. ■



### "Uniting in Faith: Diocese Youths Embark on One-Day Church Youth Visit"

Durgapur Diocese Youth fellowship came together for church services at Kalna Vidyanagar on the 9th of February 2025 followed by a visitation to Sarenga church on the 16th of March 2025. A vibrant atmosphere of unity and fellowship filled the air as the main motive of our visitation was to focus on encouraging the



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## Editorial

### Emphasizing the call to take up own-Cross Daily

In Lent as Christians, we spend time in reflecting on our pathway of faith and spending time creating a deeper relationship with God. Luke 9:23 Jesus said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.’ All these are proactive things to do- deny, take up and follow. We have to choose to do them despite it not being easy. To deny self, it’s not giving up something we enjoy but about putting what we want in our lives, our desires aside, it’s not about ‘me’ but about doing what God wants, being obedient to him and serving as he requires. Making sacrifices in our lives to do the will of God. To take up the cross is a direct commandment from Jesus, to live like Jesus willing to give up everything, surrender our whole being to Jesus, it will include suffering. Taking up our cross signifies a willingness to endure hardship and persecution for the sake of Christ. It is a call to embrace the challenges and sacrifices inherent in living a life devoted to Jesus. We are challenged to dedicate and surrender our lives a new daily - every day - to taking up the cross and following Jesus.



Rev. Dn Ruth Pugh  
Diocese of Durgapur  
(CNI)

## Women’s Voice

### Emphasizing the call to take up own-Cross Daily

As women, we juggle many roles, daughters, mothers, wives, caregivers, and professionals each demanding our love and strength. Yet, amidst life’s demands, Christ’s call in Luke 9:23 remains ever clear: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Taking up our cross daily is about enduring hardships and surrendering our will to Christ. It means choosing faith over fear, love over resentment, and service over self-interest. It is waking up each morning with a heart ready to follow Jesus, even when life feels overwhelming.

For the mother nurturing her children, the young woman chasing dreams, or the widow finding hope our cross may look different, but the call is the same. It is in our sacrifices, prayers, and unwavering trust in God that we grow stronger.

Sisters in Christ, let us not shy away from the cross, for in bearing it, we find purpose, power, and peace. When we surrender daily, God transforms our burdens into testimonies, and our struggles into victories. Let us rise, carry our cross, and walk boldly in His grace. ■

## Social Action

### Women’s day observation at Sarenga, Ranibandh and Durgapur By Community Development Programme

This year is the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a historic agenda endorsed in 1995 by 189 governments to promote women's rights worldwide. Thirty years

on, despite remarkable gains, issues like gender-based violence, economic disparities, and lack of political representation remain. The theme for 2025 emphasizes empowering young women and girls as change agents and responding to new challenges such as climate justice and digital inclusion. On 8th March 2025 the Community Development Programme under Diocese of Durgapur, CNI celebrated International Women's Day in the project areas of Sarenga and Durgapur commemorating every woman's fight for equality and liberation. We focused on this year's United Nations theme, "calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all." The project in collaboration with KSN Nursing School, St. Michael's School- Sarenga, Sarenga Church congregation and AHT conducted an awareness rally in Sarenga, Ranibandh as well as in Durgapur which was a reminder that every woman is a gift to be treasured and empowered. The campaign calls on people, organizations, and governments to make concrete commitments to gender equality. This includes: Advancing Rights: Combating discrimination and violence. Empowering Women: Ensuring equitable access to education, work, and leadership. As we celebrated International Women's Day 2025, let us re-dedicate ourselves to building a world where every woman and girl has the chance to flourish, protected from discrimination, empowered by opportunity, and sustained by an inclusive society. ■



### One-Day Church Youth Visit

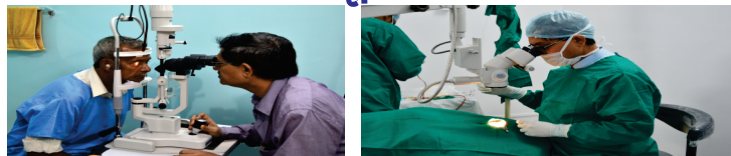
youths to step forward and step out into the world to uphold the Word of God or even through educational or career-driving opportunities. As the months go by, DDYF plans to bring together more youths through visitation and fellowship activities to help encourage them to take part and more importantly be part of our spiritual journey and growth. Several activities were conducted in these two visitations, some being: Team-building activities designed to improve biblical value and knowledge, Biblical character identification games, Old and New Testament games and other such interesting and exciting games and activities that were conducted by the DDYF Office Bearer. ■

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## Bible Quiz 149

1. Which is the shortest Psalm ?
2. Who fasted 40 days & 40 Nights. ?
3. How many days Paul fasted ?

### Answer of Bible Quiz 148

- 1) Tablets of Testimony (Exo 31:18)
- 2) Bethsaida (Matt 14:13 / Mark 9:10)
- 3) Priscilla & Aquila (Romans 16:4)

Name of those who submitted the Correct Answer

**Brajendra Sanial**

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



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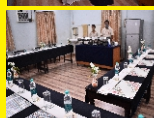


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