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Bishop's House, Baruipur P.O., Kolkata-700 144, India

**July 2020** 

# COVID 198 Lockdown 20

India, the land of fortune, which we know as "sarejahan se accha" (better than the entire world), has been facing some unprecedented situations which has resulted in untold pain and misery for the entire people of the country. Firstly, on the 8th of November, 2016, the Indian government announced the demonetisation of all Rs. 500/- and Rs. 1000/- banknotes. In this, undoubtedly, the government had a noble intention to reduce the use of illicit and counterfeit cash to fund illegal activities and terrorism. However, certain adverse after-effects of this crucial event could not be avoided. This resulted in prolonged cash shortages in the weeks that followed causing the common people undergo a hard time. People had to deposit all the said currencies in the Bank. They had to stand in queues for hours in order to withdraw and deposit their own money. To add to their distress, the amount to be withdrawn was also restricted. In other words, people were in panic. Though all shared from this cup, it was the poor who bore the most direct and harsh brunt of it.

I would like to speak about another event which has caused farreaching adverse effect in the lives of the people, especially the poor. The rich are somehow able to withstand the situation, but it is not really the same for almost 80% people of the country. Towards the end of 2019, COVID 19 started its journey around the world with a murderous rage. It shut and stilled life wherever it passed by. It did not spare India too. The whole nation had to undergo a sudden lockdown on the 25th of March, 2020. Unable to find an answer to this deadly virus, people went into arbitrary claims of chasing the virus through hot water and cow urine, which would strengthen our immune system.

During lockdown the general public was asked to stay back in their place of residence; only to come out for any essential services such as grocery, medical, hospitals which remained open for them. The Covid 19 pandemic has made the entire world stranded and India also has suffered the same. The spread was so huge that the World Health Organization (WHO) had declared it as a Pandemic because it is a disease prevalent over the whole of a country or over the whole world. Covid 19 might be the only pandemic which has affected the people almost of the whole world. It has affected practically 215 countries of the world. As it is reported so far that almost 9 million people in the globe have been affected by this deadly and highly contagious virus and the death toll in the world has surpassed over .49 million. It has changed the

world upside down. The whole humanity is trembling with fear. Everyone wants to live on this earth longer but that is at stake.

India is a country of 1,380 millions. It is reported that the highest single day covid 19 cases in 24 hours is 16922 on Thursday, the 25th of June, 2020. The ill impact of this pandemic is visible in every sphere of life throughout the globe. The marginalized, migrants and daily wage earners were the main victims, especially, the women and children in India have been severely affected by the sudden lockdown. The prolonged lockdown from 25th March to 20th May and the travel bans added miseries to them losing their employment. It is reported that due to the lockdown 122 million people have lost their jobs. Because of the loss of income, many had to leave the place of work to avoid starvation. It is also noticed that thousands of people without money, food and shelter, crossing the country's high way to their home village on foot or by bicycle or cycle van carrying along with them their minimum belongings. This resulted in several accidents and death on their way. During the lockdown, our country has also witnessed a pregnant mother in Madhya Pradesh delivering her baby on the roadside while walking to her village. This incident reminds me about the misery Our Mother Mary had to undergo to deliver her only child Jesus our Lord (Luke 2:1-7). Long period of lockdown has brought the millions of people in the country below the poverty line, who struggling for the basic needs like food, shelter, medicine and other necessary things.

Lockdown has also rendered millions of people jobless. Poor people became poorer. Lockdown has led to a sudden and extreme economic disruption across the planet. It is possible that poverty and unemployment will give rise to acceptance of riskier or menial jobs by the adults. On the other hand, there will be the increase of child labour, Child abuse, human trafficking, flesh trade, labour trafficking, robbery and pickpockets. This may also give rise to forced labour or a type of bonded labour system. The collective morality is foreseen to be a handmaid of the 'need for money'. We all need to be alert. We need to be with the people to help them to overcome this situation. It is not only the concern of the country or concern of the Church but every individual has the responsibility to be supportive to the poor and marginalized people.

+ Shyamal Bose Bishop of Baruipur 02 July 2020

## **Gleanings from Raghabpur Diary**

The Lockdown and the devastating cyclone Amphan two months later has had a seismic impact on the Raghabpur Mission, compelling us to face our essential frailty, participate in, and to some extent, help to alleviate the suffering of our people. Basic pastoral services have been restored (Baptisms, Funerals, Marriages, Home visits), with all preventive measures taken. Many of our people are yearning and praying for the day they will again receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

The School campus housed a considerable number of people during the Cyclone, and was used both as a Shelter and Relief Centre. Parents of our schoolchildren come for the mid-day meal distribution at monthly intervals, while the online classes started shortly after

the Lockdown and disrupted by the Cyclone, have been resumed.

Relief work by our College, Parish, and the SVP, organized and shepherded by the Jesuit community, was able to reach 2,500 people, while repairs on close to 100 Amphan-stricken, shattered houses of our College students has been completed. The extraordinary generosity and collaboration of some members of our College Staff was an added motivation.

Kalahrdaya was not far behind. With the help of the Kerala Catholic Association, Kalahrdaya was able to reach out to a considerable number of families both locally and in far-flung areas like Kumrakhali and Rakhaskhali. It was mesmerizing to see both **Fr. Saju** and our new Regent **Rakesh** fully immersed in this much

needed work.

The Raghabpur community bid a fond farewell to **Fr. Jothi** and **Bro. Jobin**, and prepares to welcome three new members into our midst: Sch. **Manu** our Regent, **Bimal** and **Dipak** who will be the first Scholastics to study in the College. Our community will now comprise **nine** members, and with **four** in Kalahrdaya, we are the second largest Jesuit community in the Province.

**Fr. Joseph** has returned to the community after his enforced 'lockdown' at home and is already at work in the school. **Fr. Pat** has said farewell to Samarpan and after giving classes to the DSA Tertians in Gobrachok, will begin their Long Retreat from **Monday 22**<sup>nd</sup> **June**.

- Fr Patrick Walsh s,j.

### **News from Paribar Jyoti**

### A Unique Ministry During The Lockdown

The lockdown brought untold suffering to the poorer sections of the society as many of them lost their only source of income while essential commodities were unavailable or the prices soared beyond their reach. The devastation caused by the severe cyclone, Amphan, made their condition furthermore deplorable. However many humanitarian agencies and many people of good will supplemented the effort of the government to alleviate the people's affliction.

What went unnoticed was the people's mental agony and anguish which added to the boredom of remaining locked up in the house for long and the sense of hopelessness due to the loss of livelihood as the saved up money was spent. With the damage caused by the cyclone destroying the already ratted self-confidence, the people became petulant, angry and all the more desperate. For want of any outlet with no possibility meeting even close friends they began to vent the pent up feelings on the family members.

It was understood that providing psycho-social support at the time was of paramount importance as much as or even more than providing material aid. The field workers and volunteers of Paribar Jyoti Counselling and Training Centre received many distress calls from individuals and families about personal desperation and severe family conflicts leading to domestic violence of different kinds which made the people all the more perturbed even to the extent of thinking of ending their lives and, in a few cases, actually attempting suicide

As one man said, "I was totally distraught and feeling totally lost with no job, no money left and nobody was willing to lend. Then came the Amphan and a part of the roof of my house was blown off. With a piece of tarpaulin I managed to prevent water falling into the one room hut whenever it rained. I had no hope of repairing the roof in the near future for want of money. I expected my wife to understand the anguish I was going through. But she kept on shouting at me day and night. Her nagging affected me more than all the other problems. I could not endure it any longer. Finally I lost my patience and slapped her. She walked out of the house with my child of four and went to the police station. Fortunately, the animator of Paribar Jyoti had gone to the police station just that time about another similar case. She pacified my wife before she could file a complaint and brought her back home. Or else I would have been in the police custody now. The animator sat with my wife and me a few times separately

and then together to sort out our problem."

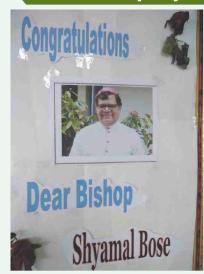
The lockdown had its own impact on the children and particularly the youth. As they were missing their friends they tried to make it up by chatting and messaging on the phone which caused friction with the parents. The inability to go out of the house to cool down after a heated argument made it worse. The youngsters had no way to deal with the anger, hurt and guilt feelings as there was no one to understand them. Teenagers and parents living in one-room houses had additional problems. Those who were in love faced their own special difficulties with increased anxiety, misunderstandings etc. and no possibility of meeting the person to clarify the matter.

Keeping the rules of the lockdown the animators and the trained volunteers kept in touch with distressed couples and persons and helped them with telephonic counselling. In some cases personal counselling was necessary, maintaining the social distance. The total number of persons assisted so far has been 83, including couples and youth. Four were cases of attempted suicide. Many more had suicidal tendencies. Some cases of family breakdown needing many more interventions are in the process of being settled.

Fr. Pradeep Roy

July 2020 03

### **Bishop Shyamal Bose's First Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination**



This day last year on 24 June 2019, along with the celebration of the birth of John the Bpatist, we were privileged to welcome the birth of our new shepherd, Most Rev. Shyamal Bose. In the presence of both the bishops, Linus Nirmal Gomes S.J. and Salvadore Lobo, as co-consecrators, the then Rev. Fr. Shyamal Bose, as authentic son of the soil, was ordained Bishop of Baruipur by His Grace, Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of Calcutta. Since then one year has passed by like a blink of an eye. To commemorate the significant event in the chronicles of the diocese there was a thanksgiving Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral of Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Teresa of Calcutta at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Bishop Shyamal Bose. Priests, religious and brothers of neighbouring communities were present for the occasion. In the beginning of the Mass His Lordship applauded the cooperation of priests, religious and laity in leading the diocese forward towards its integral development. In his homily he underscored the role of John the Baptist as precursor- one who prepares the way of the Lord. He emphasized that as the last prophet and first evangelist John the Baptist played a very vital role in preparing people to be opened and receptive to the Messiahanic tenets. He also exhorted the gathering to be courageous like John the Baptist in paving the way of the Lord by bearing witness to the values of Christ without counting the cost. Before the final blessing he acknowledged the gracious presence of all as a source of encouragement.

After the Mass there was a short felicitation followed by sumptuous dinner at Dishari.

- Fr. Deepak Ekka

## Adieu to Sr. Consilia Varghese

We little knew that morning God was to call your name And take you to His abode! You who were ever ready Calmly with a smile



Our dearest Sr. Consilia Varghese, said goodbye to us on the dawn of 17th of this month. The news was so shocking and unbelievable. Sr. Consilia is not an unknown person to the diocese of Baruipur as she lived and worked in the diocese for more than 20 years. She started her life in the diocese in the year 1986 when the then Bishop Rt. Rev. Linus Nirmal Gomes, S.J. invited the Sisters of the Cross to serve the people of Baruipur. She lived in the old bishop's house till the convent was ready. She worked in PUS and rendered her service to the people in the farthest villages in the diocese. Meanwhile she was also given the duty of establishing in Baruipur the Provincial House for Kolkata province. She was elected as the councilor to Sr. Mercedes, our first provincial and was appointed as the bursar of the province and the Sister in-charge of the community. After a

short break she returned to the diocese and did the spade work for establishing Holy Cross School, Baruipur. Her hard work and persistent effort became a boon to the people of Baruipur. As the first secretary of the school, she proved to be a good administrator.

God knew the heart of Sr. Consilia- her love for Baruipur diocese and the people of this place. He brought her back after a gap of few years. She was appointed in the school to render her service attending to the medical needs of the students in the school.

Being a lover of plants and animals, she brought up gardens in the convent and in the school, which were always studded with fruits and flowers. She kept the school ambience beautiful, clean, healthy and hygienic. Her compassionate heart over



flowed with financial support to the poor and the needy especially the children. In the house she spent much of her time in prayer and taking care of the needs of every sister and the house. Her sense of responsibility, love for the congregation, fidelity to the consecrated life, accuracy and perfection in everything are praise worthy. Till her last she was on her foot doing the little things with a difference and it is those little things that occupy our hearts and experience her presence all around us now and forever!

**Sr. Elsy John** Holy Cross Convent, Baruipur

July 2020

# **Transfers and Appointments of the Priests**

	f CDP	
Seminarians, Parish Priest, De	f CDD	
	eal with the Land in rector of Seminarians	
02 Fr. Tushar A. Gomes Samarpan Rector Bishop's Treasurer of CD House Finance Commit Chancellor of CI Confessor of MC	ttee of CDB, DB, Minister of B. House,	
03 Fr. Parimal Kanji PUS, Baruipur Director / Secretary ABCD Director / Secret	Director / Secretary	
04 Fr. Daniel Makhal Ranigarh Curate ASHA –		
05 <b>Fr. Jonas Singha</b> Bishop's House Deal with the land in the Gosaba Parish Priest Diocese		
St. Patrick's P. S	oai, Headmaster of School, Hostel In-Charge Boys Home, Morapai	
07 <b>Fr. J. A. Santhanam</b> Morning Star Rector Thakurpukur Parish Priest College		
08     Fr. Sunil Ray     Baruipur     Curate     Baruipur     Curate &       R. B. Nagar     R. B. Nagar     Professor of Sar	marpan	
09 <b>Fr. J. Pathinathan</b> Bamanpukur Parish Priest Baruipur Parish Priest R. B. Nagar		
10 Fr. Soosaiappaan Y. Morapai Parish Priest Bamanpukur Parish Priest		
11 Fr. Augustine E. Sajnaberia Parish Priest Samarpan Professor / Spiri	itual Father	
	Mary's School, & Establishing the rry of Dio. Liturgical Com.	
13 <b>Fr. Himangshu Poti</b> Thakurpukur Parish Priest Kalyanpur Parish Priest, Secretary of Dio	o. Biblical Commission	
14         Fr. Ujjwal Mondal         Gosaba         Parish Priest         Sajnaberia         Parish Priest		
15 <b>Fr. Durlob Philip Bar</b> Baruipur Parish Priest Morapai Parish Priest		
School, Curate of	ge of St. Xavier's F. P. of Basanti Parish, e of St. Xavier's Boys	
17 Fr. Deepak Ekka ASHA Chancellor of CDB ASHA Judicial Vicar of CDB, Secretary to Bishop	CDB, shop, In-charge of ASHA	
18 Fr. Saumen Malik Dishari Director / Secretary PUS, Baruipur Director / Secret	tary	
19 Fr. Rajesh Bag  Basanti  Headmaster of St. Xavier's F. P. School, Curate of Basanti Parish, Hostel In-charge of St. Xavier's Boys Home, Basanti		
20 Fr. Gautam Naskar Morapai Curate of Morapai Dishari Director / Secret Headmaster of St. Patrick's P. School, Hostel In-charge of St. Patrick's Home, Morapri	C/BCC	
21 Fr. Ramen Pailan St. Joseph's DYD St. Joseph's DYD & Secretar Centre	ry Gyan Deep	
22 <b>Fr. Bablu Sardar</b> Kalyanpur Curate Khari Curate		

The above transfers will take place by July 15, 2020 by the mutual agreement of the outgoing and incoming priests. Please follow the Guidelines (Circular dated 11-02-2002, Page No. 61 in the Directory 2018 of Catholic Diocese of Baruipur).

July 2020 05

# Guidelines for Handing Over of Charges by Parish Priests / Priest In-Charge / Heads of Diocesan Schools, Institutions and Commissions

- 1. The Bishop or his delegate will be present during handing over of an office.
- 2. An inventory of the Parish / Institution will be made by the outgoing priest. This will include furniture, electrical fitting, sound systems, crockery, cutleries, cooking utensils, vehicles etc. Every parish is expected to have an inventory of the Parish kept up-to-date every year. The new incumbent will check this inventory as he takes over.
- 3. Land documents, files, (Including minutes of Meetings, newsletters etc.) registers, bank pass books, vehicles, previous audited statements, bills, receipt books, voucher books and papers connected with electricity, telephone, land tax, gas connections, project files, papers relating to ongoing-projects, should be listed and handed over to the new incumbent.
- 4. The inventory and accounts should be prepared in three copies one for the Parish / Institution and one for the Bishop's Office and one for the personal copy for the out-going priest. It is preferable that auditing is done at the time of transfer with the statement of accounts with receipts, bills and vouchers.
- 5. It is understood that all claims from the Parish / Institutions will have to be expressed and settled before the person-in-charge leaves the office. No claim from the new incumbent will be entertained after the handing over.
- 6. Please Hand over all the documents related to the agreement of lease of land, ponds and trees etc. which are given earlier. Please refer the Circular dated 02-06-2020. The documents on agreement of lease of Land, ponds or trees should include the name of the persons, dates of signing, starting and ending of agreement.

Humbly seek your kind co-operation for the handover of the responsibilities.

Date: June 10, 2020 + Shyamal Bose
Bishop of Baruipur

### **Transfers and New Arrivals of Religious in the Diocese**

ARRIVAL	TRANSFER		
01. <b>Rev. Fr. Sunil Lakra</b> , Parish Priest of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Diamond Harbour.	01. <b>Rev. Fr. Jose Chunkapura</b> SDB from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Diamond Harbour.		
02. <b>Rev. Fr. Shivaji Henriques</b> , S.F.X., Parish Priest of Infant Jesus Church, Gangarampur.	02. Rev. Fr. Remy D'Sa, SFX from Infant Jesus Church, Gangarampur.		
03. <b>Rev. Fr. Ajay Lakra</b> , C.M., Principal of De Paul School, Jayanpur	03. <b>Rev. Fr. K.C. Joseph</b> CM from De Paul School, Jayanpur		

### Diaconate Ordination of Br. Sanjay Minj and Br. Amrit Ekka

On 17 June 2020 Oriens Theological College, Shillong gathered in prayer and joy to witness the Diaconate Ordination of 27 young brothers hailing from different dioceses and provinces of the region and outside. The newly ordained include Deacon Sanjay Minj and Amrit Ekka of our diocese, Baruipur who joyfully and willingly received the Order of Diaconate.

The rite to the ordination took place during the solemn Eucharistic celebration at 2:30 p.m. presided over by Most Rev. Victor Lyndoh, Bishop of Jowai. In the spirit of faith His Lordship invited the congregation to pray that the ordained ministers of God may be clothed by the power of the Holy Spirit. He also invited the deacons to generously respond to the pastoral need and to the call they



have chosen. During the homily he underlined the role and ministries of the ordained deacons in the church; to preach the word of God, to assist at the altar of the Lord and in the Church's sacramental life, and to engage in charitable ministry to the poor and vulnerable.

Rectors and superiors of neighboring institutions, priests and brothers from different study houses graced the occasion with their prayerful and encouraging presence. To mark the occasion the college had a festive look with the vivacious decoration, sparkling banners and glittering illumination all over. The melodious singing of the OTC choir, especially the Gregorian chant, made the liturgy of the day devotional and prayerful. Serving the delicious tea with homemade sweets was a happy conclusion of the ordination ceremony.

The diocese congratulates them on the reception of diaconate ordination and wishes them God's choicest blessings for their diaconate ministry.

**July 2020** 

## NOTICE BOARD

#### Programmes in Paribar Jyoti

With the partial relaxation of the lockdown, we are resuming the Marriage Preparation and Rectification courses with some restrictions and adequate precautions.

July 10-11, 2020: Marriage Preparation Course

July 24-25, 2020: Marriage Preparation Course

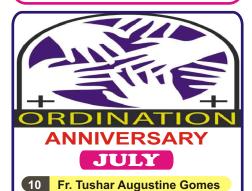
N.B. Due to the current situation, the Marriage Preparation Course and the Rectification course will be combined. So the unmarried and those recently married can come to the course.



Fr. Sisir Khan 14

23 Fr. Meghnad Singha Fr. J. A. Santhanam 23

Fr. Sirnus Topno



**Intentions for the Apostleship** of Prayer, Month of July 2020

Our Families: We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

<b>Seminarians 2020 - 2021</b>						
SI. No.	Name		Place			
1	Br. Rajen Simon Singh	3rd Year Theology	St. Charles' M S, Nagpur			
2.	Br. Sarojit Rana Mandal	3rd Year Theology	St. Charles' M S, Nagpur			
3.	Br. Saptarshi Lawrence Biswas	1st Year Theology	St. Charles' M S, Nagpur			
4.	Br. Sajal Malik	1st Year Philosophy	St. Charles' M S, Nagpur			
5.	Br. Sourav Kayal	1st Year Regency	Morapai			
6.	Br. Uday Mondal	3rd Year Philosophy	AC, Gopalpur			
7.	Br. Satyajit Naskar	3rd Year Philosophy	AC, Gopalpur			
8.	Br. Soumik Mondal	Intense Spirituality Course	Amghata			
9.	Br. Pritam Mondal	Intense Spirituality Course	Amghata			
10.	Br. Souhardya Sardar	Intense Spirituality Course	Amghata			
11.	Br. David Panja	Intense Spirituality Course	Amghata			
12.	Br. Nayan Bor	Intense Spirituality Course	Amghata			
13.	Br. Suman Naskar	Intense Spirituality Course	Amghata			
14.	Br. Rajesh Naskar	Intense Spirituality Course	Amghata			
15.	Br. Apurba Ghosh	Intense Spirituality Course	Amghata			
16.	Br. Rohit Sharma	Intense Spirituality Course	Amghata			
17.	Br. Hrittick Hazra	Intense Spirituality Course	Amghata			
18.	Br. Subilash Bor	3rd Year Minor Seminary	Samarpan, Baruipur			
19.	Br. Ranajit Mondal	3rd Year Minor Seminary	Samarpan, Baruipur			
20.	Br. Kenedi Kabi Ghughu	2nd Year Minor Seminary	Samarpan, Baruipur			
21.	Br. Rittik Kanji	2nd Year Minor Seminary	Samarpan, Baruipur			
22.	Br. Soumen Kanji	2nd Year Minor Seminary	Samarpan, Baruipur			
23.	Br. Pabitra Sardar	2nd Year Minor Seminary	Samarpan, Baruipur			
24.	Br. Sudip Chakraborty	2nd Year Minor Seminary	Samarpan, Baruipur			
25.	Br. Anshu Ghoroi	2nd Year Minor Seminary	Samarpan, Baruipur			
Deaco	Deacons					
SI. No.	Name		Place			
1.	Dn. Amrit Ekka	4th Year Theology	Oriens, Shillong			
2.	Dn. Sanjay Minj	4th Year Theology	Oriens, Shillong			

### Bishop S. Bose's Programme for the Month of July 2020

Date	Day	Time	Place	Programme
03	Fri	10.30 a.m.	Diamond Harbour	Installation of Fr. Sunil Lakra SDB as Parish Priest
04	Sat	04.00 p.m.	Raghabpur Inspection - St. Anne's School Building	
06	Mon	11.30 a.m.	Gangarampur Installation of Fr. Shivaji Henriques SFX as Parish Priest	
		03.00 p.m.	PUS Baruipur	Meets with Director of PUS
08	Wed	11.00 a.m.	Basanti	Meeting of Managing Committee Basanti Free Primary School
10	Fri	04.00 p.m.	Thakurpukur	Installation of Fr. J. A. Santhanam as Parish Priest
12	Sun	06.30 a.m.	Kalyanpur	Installation of Fr. Himangshu Poti as Parish Priest
		10.00 a.m.	Dishari	G. B. Meeting of Baruipur Gyan Deep
14	Tue	10.00 a.m.		Handing of the Charge of Minister of Bishop's House to the New Minister.
15	Wed	10.00 a.m.	Morapai	Installation of Fr. Durlov P. Bar as Parish Priest
16	Thu	10.00 a.m.	Barrackpore	Ordination of a Priest
22	Wed	11.00 a.m.	Bamangachi	G B Meeting of Paribar Jyoti
23	Thu	10.30 a.m.	Dishari	G.B. Meeting of Dishari Pastoral Centre
26	Sun	10.00 a.m.	Gobrachak	Final Profession of DSA Sisters
31	Fri		PUS Baruipur	Handing over the charge of PUS to New Director