



# Tea Leaves

DARJEELING DIOCESE NEWSLETTER  
visit us at: [www.darjeelingdiocese.com](http://www.darjeelingdiocese.com)

2018

Bishop House, Darjeeling - 734101, INDIA

September

### *Message from the Bishop's Desk:*



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, this month on the 21st the Roman Catholic Church observed Mission Sunday. Hence I'm humbled to share with you excerpts from Pope Francis' message for World Mission Day, 2018.

The Holy Father in his message has in particular, addressed the young people, beckoning them to be the ambassadors bearing the Gospel of

Christ. He says, "Together with young people let us bring the Gospel to all."

"Mission revitalizes Faith" (Redemptoris Mission ,2) in the words of St. John Paul II, a Pope who showed such great love and concern for young people.

Every man and woman is a mission; that is the reason for our life on this earth. To be attracted and to be sent are two movements that our hearts, especially when we are young, feel as interior forces of love; they hold out promise for our future and they give direction to our lives. More than anyone else young people feel the power of life breaking in upon us and attracting us. To live out joyfully our responsibility for the world is a great challenge. Each one of us is called to reflect on this fact: "I am a mission on this Earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world." (Evangelii Gaudium, 273)

The Church, by proclaiming what she freely received can share with you young people the way and truth which give meaning to our life on this earth. Jesus Christ, who died and rose for us, appeals to our freedom and challenges us to seek, discover and proclaim this message of truth and fulfillment. Many men and women, and many young people, have generously sacrificed themselves, even at times to martyrdom, out of love for the Gospel and service to their brothers and sisters. From the Cross of Jesus we learn the divine logic of self sacrifice (cf. 1Cor 1:17-25) as a proclamation of the Gospel for the life of the world (cf. Jn 3:16). To be set afire by the love of Christ is to be consumed by that fire, to grow in understanding by its light and to be warmed by its love (cf. 2 Cor 5:14).

You too, young friends, by your baptism have become living members of the Church; together we have received the mission to bring the Gospel to everyone. The spread of the faith "by attraction" calls for hearts that are open and expanded by love... that expansion generates encounter, witness, proclamation; it generates sharing in charity with all those far from the faith, indifferent to it and perhaps even hostile and opposed to it. Human, cultural and religious settings still foreign to the Gospel of Jesus and to the

sacramental presence of the Church represent the extreme peripheries, the "ends of the earth", to which, ever since the first Easter, Jesus' missionary disciples have been sent, with the certainty that their Lord is always with them. (cf. Mt 28:20; Acts 1:8). This is what we call the *missio ad gentes*.

The ends of the earth, dear young people, nowadays are quite relative and always easily "navigable" -the digital world the social networks that are so pervasive and readily available-dissolves borders, eliminates distances and reduces differences.

No one is so poor as to be unable to give what they have, but first and foremost what they are. Let me repeat the words of encouragement that I addressed to the young people of Chile: "never think that you have nothing to offer, or that nobody needs you. Many people need you. Think about it! Each of you, think in your heart: many people need me."

[excerpts taken from the Vatican, 20 May 2018, Solemnity of Pentecost]

**+Stephen Lepcha**



**PIX of the month**



**ROCK OF AGES (PEDONG PRESBYTERY)**

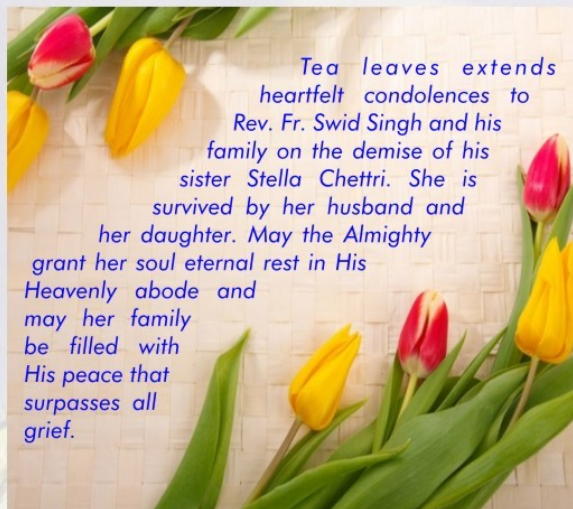
*Tea Leaves congratulates Fr. Samuel Lepcha, the new Vicar General of the Diocese and thanks Fr. Fintan Mcklan, the former Vicar General for his diligent service.*

## MEDIA FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE



The Commission for Social Communication, Bengal and Sikkim Region organized a workshop on the theme "MEDIA FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE" for the youth of the North Bengal and Sikkim region. The workshop was held from 5th to 7th October 2018 at Divya Vani Pastoral

Centre, Darjeeling. Youth from Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Sikkim and Bagdogra attended this workshop. The charge of meticulously organizing this workshop was undertaken by Fr. Alexander Gurung, Director of the Darjeeling Diocese Communication Commission. The chief guest for the event was His Lordship, Bishop Joseph Gomes, who took the trouble of driving up to Darjeeling all the way from his Diocese, Krishnagar. He was accompanied by Rev. Fr. Prolay Baidhya. The workshop started with a welcome speech by Fr. Alexander, followed by the lighting of the lamp and a short cultural program by the youth of Darjeeling. The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Prasansha Caroline Rai. The esteemed resource persons for the workshop were, Mrs. Smriti Rai, Mr. Pravat T. Mukhia, Rev. Praveen T. Mukhia and Rev. Fr. Pragasan, all lecturers from St. Joseph's College, North Point. They shared their expertise and helped the youth understand concepts like Fake news and also the pros and cons of media. The crux of the workshop was given by Rev. Praveen Titumus when he lucidly explained the role of Christian youth in utilizing media to foster a culture of peace as "Ambassadors of Christ."



*Tea leaves extends heartfelt condolences to Rev. Fr. Swid Singh and his family on the demise of his sister Stella Chettri. She is survived by her husband and her daughter. May the Almighty grant her soul eternal rest in His Heavenly abode and may her family be filled with His peace that surpasses all grief.*

## SCC cum SHG AT LIZAHILL



Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Lizahill comprises of seven Small Christian Communities. This quasi parish has actively functioning SCCs who have come together in achieving great feats through prayer and co operation. Mention may be made of the Church extension undertaken jointly by the seven SCCs and parishioners working outside Lizahill. The extension work is completed now and Lizahill has a bigger Church building constructed through the generous contribution of each parishioner.

Another progressive novelty brought forth in Lizahill is that one of the SCCs of the Parish, namely, St. Paul SCC has registered itself also as a Self Help Group (SHG) called 'Parivartan SHG'. The 10 houses of the SCC are members of this SHG. Parivartan SHG organized an eye camp in Lizahill where doctors had come from Kalimpong. Keeping in mind the four marks of SCC and practicing these in daily life. The SHG has also undertaken a cleanliness drive in which they cleaned the Church premises, the Grotto and the Nishkalanka Bhawan which is used as a godown by the Church.



## St. Robert's bids adieu to Fr. Peter!



On 12th of October 2018, St. Robert's Boys' H. S. School bid farewell to Fr. Peter Lingdamoo. Fr. Peter served St. Robert's as the Headmaster and will be remembered by the staff and students as a cheerful, proactive and approachable headmaster who carved a niche in the hearts of all. In his farewell speech Fr. Peter spoke of Priests as shepherd of the new era and his tenure he tended to his flock, listening to their voices

and taking care of their every need. Tea leaves wishes Fr. Peter the best in his ministry for though he may have retired from the school, there ain't any retirement for a priest. May God Bestie His graces upon him in the coming days.

Tea Leaves welcomes Fr. Michael Singh the new Headmaster and wishes him long years of Educational Ministry.



## Bishop's Pastoral visits in September 2018



On the invitation of Fr. Swid Narendra Singh, the parish Priest of St. Marys Arubotey, Bishop Stephen Lepcha visited the parish on 2nd September 2018. He administered the Sacrament of confirmation to 7 children and 7 adults. The Bishop observed that though the Community is small it was a liturgically well organised Eucharistic celebration. The Choir led by the youth and Holy childhood was excellent. The SCC seems to be proactive there in helping the faithful to grow in good fellowship among themselves as well as with other neighboring communities. What he noticed in this Parish was that every Catholic Children are studying well in good schools in Darjeeling. The parents are really taking trouble in supporting their children especially in studies. Fr. Swid is indeed a good shepherd taking care of every need of his sheep.

Bishop Stephen Lepcha paid a pastoral visit to the Catholic community of Thimpu from 7-9 September 2018. He reached Paro on 7th. Fr. Kinley Tshering SJ was there waiting at the airport to receive him. Fr. Kinley took him to Mr. David Gajmer and Madam Jenny Rai's house. Bishop offered mass for the family in their house and went to Thimpu after breakfast. After visiting Major Kiran Gurung's house, he went to Fr. Kinley's newly built beautiful resident. On the 8th Fr. Kinley took him to visit Col. Gurung's family and other few families in Thimpu. At the request of Fr. Kinley Bishop administered the sacrament of the sick to the oldest members of the Catholic community. On Sunday Fr. Kinley S.J and Bishop offered mass at the House chapel of Mr. K. B. Wakhley at Thimpu. For the first time Bishop administered the sacrament of Confirmation to more than 12 children and adults. The faithful were extremely happy to have Fr. Kinley SJ as their Shepherd. Let us always include the faithful of Thimpu in our daily prayers. The Bishop left for Jaigaon by road after Sunday Mass at Thimpu and offered mass for the Nepali Community at St. Michael Church jaigaon in the evening. Thanks to Fr. Eliazar Kerketta the senior priest and the in charge for having organised everything and for taking care of the community there.

Bishop Stephen Lepcha visited Don Bosco Parish Mirik on 16th September 2018. He offered mass for the parishioners. The parish Church was full to its capacity. He also visited Auxillium convent Mirik. Thanks to Fr. Ashish SDB the Rector and the Principal of Don Bosco School, Fr. Albert Kujur the parish priests and other members of the community for their care and kind hospitality.

22nd September is the Feast of St. Maurice the patron saint of the Cannon Regular monks of the Abbey Switzerland who were the great Missionaries and founders of many parishes in Kalimpong District. There are two Missions dedicated to this Saint, one in Suruk and one in lower Kaffer. Formerly Lower Kaffer was the substation of St. Joseph's church Gitdubling but now it has become a part of St. Stephen

Quasi parish Kaffer. The faithful has built a beautiful Chapel putting their heart and soul. Bishop Stephen Lepcha was invited by Fr. Paul D'Souza the in charge of the community for their parish day which was celebrated with the Mass and agape.

On 23.09.2018 Bishop Stephen Lepcha went to Suruk his home parish on invitation of Fr. Crsitopher Luksum, the young parish priest of St. Maurice, for their parish day. It was a great day for Suruk. Bishop Lepcha ordained four young brothers as deacons. Deacon Silvanus Lepcha from Tanyang, Deacon Reginold Renzong Lepcha from St. Teresa Parish Kalimpong, deacon Anselm Lepcha from Maria Busty and Deacon Sebastian from Suruk parish. The relatives of these Deacons came from their respective parishes to witness the great day. More than six hundred faithful were gathered for the occasion. It was a memorable



parish day celebration with Diaconate Ordination in Suruk this time. Congratulation to the young parish priest and his parishioners for organising the Parish day a grand manner.

On invitation of Fr. Sylvester Lepcha the parish priest of St. Mary's Parish Rongli in East Sikkim, Bishop Stephen Lepcha visited Rongli on 29th September and blessed the renovated small chapel at Changey Lakha near Tilchan Titus Gurung's house. It was a joyful celebration for the local people. Many Hindus, Buddhists and Christians participated in the Eucharist as one family. This is a unique experience there.

On 30th September Sunday, Bishop offered mass for the parishioners at St. Marys' Church Rongelli. The parish was full. Fr. Sylvester Lepcha is really mobilizing the community well supported by few dynamic leaders like Robert Tamang the head teacher.

### BIRTHDAYS in November 2018

Fr. Charles Sada	-	09th Nov.
Fr. M. Sukden Lepcha	-	12th Nov.
Fr. Boniface Rai	-	14th Nov.
Fr. Albert Lobo	-	15th Nov.
Fr. Lawrence Monteiro	-	23rd Nov.
Fr. David Yozan Rai	-	25th Nov.
Fr. Samuel Lepcha	-	29th Nov.
Fr. J. Vayalil	-	29th Nov.
Fr. Robin Kalikotay	-	30th Nov.

## THE PRINCESS AND THE PAUPER A MAJOR PRODUCTION



No one is too old for fairy tales and happy endings and dreams do come true if pursued with passion. St. Teresa's Girls' H.S. School, Darjeeling proved this with their Major Production- The Princess and the Pauper A Musical. This production was a first of its kind in the history of the school. In the past years St. Teresa's has put up plays of incomparable excellence like 'Muna Madan', 'Shakuntala' and 'Life of Christ' etc. However 'The Princess and the Pauper' is the first English major production staged by the school in its 92 years.

After two months of toil and enthusiastic dedication of the students and staff 'The Princess and the Pauper' was put up for the public on 13th, 14th and 15th of September 2018 in the School hall. The teachers of the English Department left no stone unturned in training the students and the students too put in their heart and soul to make this dream come true.

The soul of every concert is its music. St. Teresa's was blessed to have the eminent Mr. Jiwan Pradhan, Mr. Mishael Jiwandan Pradhan and Mr. Jubal Abhisekh Pradhan provide the music. Its worth mentioning that Mr. Jiwan Pradhan is the pioneer of Classical Guitar in the hills and has been teaching music since 1978 through his institute, Elim Melody Academy.

The ceaseless applause of the enrapt audience was a reward beyond expectation for the cast and crew. The Chief guest on the first day was Rev. Fr. Lawrence Maniyar S.J., Rector, St. Joseph's North Point. In his speech he emphasized on how co-curricular activities like "pizza toppings" add all the flavor to education. On the second day the chief guest was Dr. Anuradha Rai, Principal of Southfield College. A Loreto

Alumnae, Dr. Rai shared the vision of Mary Ward being fulfilled in the young students today. On the final day, Rev. Joy Haldar, Rector, St. Paul's Darjeeling was taken aback by the confidence of the students on stage. The feedback received was that the audience derived much entertainment and enjoyment from the concert.

All's well that ends well and for St. Teresa's, the ending indeed was spectacular. The joy of being successful in taking the audience on a journey of magical adventures and romantic happenings through the concert motivates the school in undertaking such endeavours in the future too but what surpasses all the thrill is the confident smile on the faces of the students for joyful learning has always been an integral part of education at St. Teresa's.



### Kindly Communicate !!!

Tea Leaves is the medium through which the individual parishes, communities and institutions can share with others, about the activities and events of your areas of work. So please send in the reports of your initiatives and programmes to :

**Fr. Alex Gurung, Darjeeling Diocese Communication Commission,  
Bishop's House, Darjeeling**

**E-mail : [tealeavesdarjeling@gmail.com](mailto:tealeavesdarjeling@gmail.com) / [alecgurung@gmail.com](mailto:alecgurung@gmail.com), Mobile : 9641872925**

Published by Darjeeling Diocese Communication Centre on behalf of Diocese of Darjeeling. Edited by Fr. Alex Gurung and Printed & Designed at PEETSAR GRAPHICS, Darjeeling - 734101 [998320-33006]