



LORETO (IBVM) SOUTH ASIA PROVINCE

reaching out...

NEWSLETTER
MARCH
2022



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God is waiting to heal, console, strengthen, encourage and to help us start our lives afresh.

Lent is a time to refresh the body, mind and soul. Lent calls us to make an inward journey, a call for reconciliation, renewal and new life. It is a time to examine one's inner life and check on one's relationship with God, oneself, others and nature. Every Lent is another chance to return to God and to start our life afresh. We need time to enter into the cave of our hearts. We need to move away from the non-essentials which occupy our thoughts on a regular basis. This Lent let us spend more time in being in a state of awareness- living mindfully. God is waiting to heal, console, strengthen, encourage and to help us start our lives afresh.



'Our valleys of ignorance and being naïve will be filled up; our mountains of arrogance and harshness will be leveled; our winding ways, suspicions, gossip and rash judgments will be straightened; and our rough roads of lack of compassion, mercy, insensitivity to the sufferings of the poor, will be made smooth.' (**Sr. Inigo**)

Sr Mary De Souza

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MARY WARD CORNER

SR SORIA



I thank God for the beautiful gift of Mary Ward, who inspires us by her virtues of truthfulness, freedom, courage, justice and joy which are linked with integrity. These are the essential elements of the Charism of Mary Ward, the Founder of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Sisters) and the Congregation of Jesus (CJ). More than 377 years since Mary Ward's death, about 5000 vowed members from different countries have been inspired by the life and charism of Mary Ward. My personal reflection on the saying of Mary Ward "Women in time to come will do much" is that it was her conviction and a deep desire and longing to liberate the women of her time. It shows how strong was the faith she had in women and girls and she was ready to stand for them at any cost.

Mary Ward is God's gift to the church and to the world, as she brought a new dimension, especially to women. She made it possible for women to be involved in the field of education and hence in preparing girls and women for a new role within the church and society. Mary Ward strongly believed that, "Women in time to come will do much".

We see how Mary Ward's dream and desire for women have been fulfilled in our own country today:

Perseverance: Saina Nehwal, who had the unique distinction of being the world's No. 1 at the age of 17 years. She says, "It is tough to win the World Championship but I love it and feel good, at the same time I have to work hard and train everyday".

Leadership: Sonia Gandhi is the first woman to be the President of the Congress Party for a long time; more than two decades, due to her good leadership and loyalty to the party and country.

Justice: Kiran Bedi is the first woman to join the Indian Police Service. She is one of the most renowned police officers who has put in her wholehearted effort in serving the society.

Daring: Patricia Mukhim, is an Indian social activist, writer, journalist and the editor of Shillong Times, known for her Social Activism.

Knowledgeable: Zoya Akhtar, a writer, a filmmaker, a producer and a director who melds serious issues with oodles of style especially for the good of society.

We are proud to say that what Mary Ward had dreamt has come true for women today. Many women are standing tall for themselves today in society and the country.

IGNATIAN CORNER

SR BIVIYANA



"What do I love when I love my God"?

Ignatius assumes in his discernment of spirits that God communicates directly with each of us in our hearts, minds and souls through various interior movements. Ignatius experienced this while he read the life of Christ and the lives of the Saints. Reading the life of Jesus and the Saints made him happy and aroused his desire to do great things. He was clueless of these internal movements and how to discern God's direction for him.

I remember that very special day when I heard a voice from within saying "come out from your comfort zone". I was shaken, confused and disappointed. I questioned, what exactly this voice meant for me. It disturbed my internal peace. So, I decided to sit quietly and listen to God in stillness so as to understand its depth of meaning in my life.

The Lord gave a clear answer to my quest; wherein he revealed to me that spirituality is not only theoretical but it must be lived through our daily lives. Here I got to know the deep meaning of spirituality which involves the recognition of a feeling (sense) or belief that there is something greater than myself, something more than the human and sensory experience, and that we are part of the cosmic or divine nature.

What do I love when I love my God? Sometimes I sit and reflect on the same and what dawned on me is that God has created each living being and non-living being, (cosmos), the nature. Each of these is in want of love. Anything we do without love is meaningless. I experienced that He treats me like a child who learns to walk but falls. He upholds me and leads me like a father, mother, elder brother, sister and a true friend. In my helplessness I experience His nearness. When my steps falter, He lifts me up. My weakness and slowness fail to grasp His true love for me. He loves each one of us immensely and tenderly and no one in the universe can replace this. Ignatius believed that “anyone who prayerfully considers the basic truth that we are created out of love by a transcendent God of holiness will grow in a sense of reverence”. We will have a true sense of the sacredness of all things, if we think of everything as continually being called and sustained by God. We will stand in awe not just before sunset and mountains, flowers, and trees, but also before every person we meet. In Ignatian terminology, reverence of His creation will enable us to find God in all things.

Misinterpreting and misunderstanding is human. God transcends the beauty and sweetness of His work through us, yet our experience of God is mysteriously anchored in our everyday experience of His love. When I express that I love God it's an expression that is shared with everyone I live, interact and come across. It calls me to see His love being manifested in His creation and demands from me that I uphold the dignity and true worth of every human being.

WISDOM CORNER(FMW)

MS GABRIELLA H.



I am privileged to be a part of the Loreto family, first as a student and then as a teacher. My experience during this journey has helped me to become what I am today. I can proudly say that I have been moulded with the values and skills which were inculcated within me many years ago. A dream can be achieved if you are given an opportunity. I always had a passion for teaching. This institution has taught me the ability to learn; the most important development of humanity. It taught me to be confident, responsible and a learner. It has helped me to understand myself and others. I have always enjoyed teaching here because we are given the opportunity to explore ourselves. I was also given the opportunity to become a coordinator of the Junior school. I will always be grateful to my respected Principals and Sisters who recognised the qualities within me and entrusted me with the responsibility which helped me to strengthen my leadership qualities. My relationship with my colleagues is very friendly and some of my senior teachers are always ready to guide. My relationship with the office staff and support staff is very good. The students whom I call ‘my children’ are the most beautiful part of my life. They teach me the true meaning of life.

Being a part of a Catholic institution made me grow stronger in my faith. Taking Catechism classes always fills me with satisfaction and makes me feel like a true Christian trying to spread the message of God. I feel myself fortunate to be able to take part in the prayer services and Eucharistic celebrations. Being a member of the Friends of Mary Ward has taught me more about our Foundress. I will always try to live according to the values taught to me over the years and work for the betterment of my institution, my students and society.

MY EXPERIENCE

SRI ARUNA



The year 2020-21 was a unique experience for me. It has made me discover my strengths and my weaknesses too. It has also helped me to become who I am today. The experiences of every day have made me strong in my belief of reality. I've grown in confidence, believing in my strengths and have become independent.

In September 2020 I returned to Kolkata as my visa expired and since the pandemic continued, I spent my time in Kolkata till September 2021 helping in different communities as I was instructed and as the need arose. At that time I went through good and not so good feelings. I was feeling good that I could adapt myself anywhere, where the need arose but on the other side when some situations came where I felt I belonged nowhere in particular, I experienced acceptance as well as rejection too. Those times I really questioned myself about my existence but slowly I learned to live my life one day at a time.

This experience of ups and downs taught me to be patient with myself and with the situations I encountered. I was really not sure whether I would return to Bangladesh again and so I had a big question mark about it but deep down a voice of hope continued to knock my belief which made me patient with my feelings and the situation. I learned to be positive about things.

My outer world was very pleasant but in my inner world I struggled daily. Those days I missed my mother a lot who would listen to me with no judgment. But, I found my only support from Christ, "The laughing Jesus" was my visual image and so I had many conversations with Him. The daily rosary also was my weapon to fight and overcome my negative feelings.

Battles in life never end. Many times I felt that maybe God did not want me to be here because I got discouraged by many people questioning me as to why I wanted to go back to Bangladesh. At some point I also felt I was not wanted (I may or may not be wrong but it was my feelings) and my only answer was – 'I am called for a mission, it does not matter for me whether I work here or there'. Some people also misunderstood my coming back to Bangladesh. But I continue to work willingly and joyfully every day.

As the saying goes... experience is the best teacher - I believe with my little experience now, I have learnt to trust in God for his right time to do miracles. I have learnt to be patient with situations, patient with myself and have learnt to be self confident.

"DO YOUR BEST AND GOD WILL DO THE REST". Mary Ward



ELLIOT ROAD COMMUNITY/SCHOOL

SR MOLLY

**“Keep your face always toward the sunshine,
and shadows will fall behind you.”**



The involvement of the community in the School and Rainbow activities of December kept us all busy and joyful; and there were many such joyful occasions: Advent Mass celebrated by Fr. Jayaraj SJ and a Christmas tree programme where we had a short prayer service, snacks, singing of Christmas carols and rations were distributed to our sponsored children.



Loreto Rainbow Christmas Play - one of its kind.

GIVING AND SHARING CONNECTS US WITH THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.



The Loreto Rainbow Children, under the guidance of Sr. Clara and her staff, mesmerised the benefactors and their well-wishers with their meaningful Christmas play and carol singing in English. It was a wonderful gesture to invite and thank all our benefactors for supporting the Rainbow children.



"God respects me when I work, but he loves me when I sing." - Rabindranath Tagore.

Loreto Sisters singing at Allen Park- 17 Loreto sisters of Loreto House and Elliot Road joined together to bring Christmas goodwill and cheer to all with their melodious singing at Allen Park on 21st December 2021.



**26th January: Republic Day 2022
"We are Indians, firstly and lastly."**

While India celebrated its 73rd Republic Day, with the iconic parade at Delhi's Rajpath showcasing its military prowess and cultural pageantry, Loreto Elliot Road Rainbow Children under the guidance of Sr. Clara and her committed staff, did our country proud with a meaningful prayer service and short cultural programme, to mark this auspicious day.

"I will give him what I have and all I need I will find in Him" M.W.

A very meaningful Mary Ward Feast Day Mass was celebrated on 29th January 2022 by Rev Fr. Moloy D'Costa. It was well attended by several staff and Loreto sisters.



LORETO HOUSE COMMUNITY

SRS SANJYOTI & VIMALA



Jubilee Celebration:

On the 9th of December, we celebrated the Golden jubilee (50 years) of religious profession of Sr. Marion Vase in our community. On that auspicious day her brother from Pune and our sisters from different communities from Kolkata were present. The celebrations began with Holy Mass offered by Fr. Saju SJ followed by a cake-cutting ceremony and agape.



The celebration continued with the gathering of our support staff and on the 24th evening, we had the Christmas Vespers followed by exchanging of gifts. We were glad to share our joy with Srs. Sabrina, Anjuman, A. Nirmala, Mary De Souza, Alba Rodrigues PBVM, and Br. Sunil Britto CFC who were present with us.

On 26th December -The Small Christian Community (SCC) organized a Christmas celebration helped by some of our sisters who conducted games and Bible quizzes. This was followed by tea and cake.

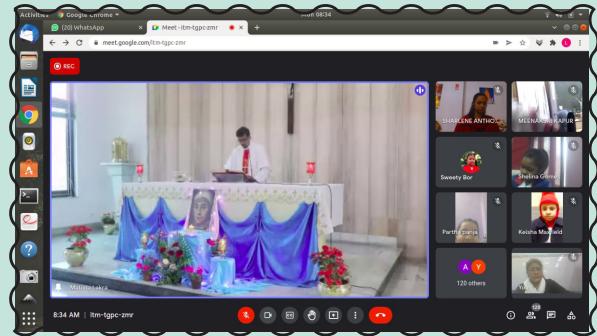
An evening with our sisters at Loreto Residence to celebrate Christmas was an occasion to remember. We began with carol singing followed by high tea. It was a lovely get-together which we all appreciated.



On 23rd January the birthday of Venerable Mary Ward our two temporary professed sisters, Priyanka Dungdung and D. Vimala Jenifer renewed their vows. Fr. Saju SJ was the celebrant. Our Provincial Sr. Sabrina Edwards received their Vows.

Mary Ward Week:

On the 24th January Loreto Dharamtala School offered Mass in remembrance of our Foundress Venerable Mary Ward in Loreto House Chapel. Fr. Jesu, assistant parish priest of St. Thomas Church celebrated the Mass of thanksgiving for God's abundant blessing upon the Principal, staff and students of Loreto Dharamtala.



Loreto House has always had excellent choirs at Profession Masses. This year too, with the help of Sr. Molly and musician Mr. Abel, we know the singing will be melodious.

Loreto House was blessed with the presence of our four Temporary Professed sisters making their ten days retreat in preparation for their Final Profession. They were guided by Fr. Jerome SJ. Our tertian, Sr. Monica Suchiang is in Loreto House making her thirty days retreat under the guidance of Fr. Saju SJ.

RANCHI COMMUNITY

Sr TINA



Farewells and Welcomes:

Jivanti Tirkey and Nirmala Toppo finally completed their final semester of Graduation and left us - Jiwanti to Lolay and Nirmala to Thakurpukur. We miss them. Ablin Tirkey joined us from Kolkata and has brought her own dimension of newness to our community.

After a long break we have two young pre-candidates - Archana Minj and Christi (Tulari) Minj. They will attend Nirmala College for classes for their Graduate Degrees and will be with us for three years.

Maeve and Tina held the fort while the Community went to the Province Congregation. They returned ill. Only Banisha and Rajni tested positive. All are well again and Banisha and Rina left for Gumla on January 16.

Special Days:

We celebrated Ablin's 26th birthday, her first since she came to Ranchi. A meaningful interactive Mass was celebrated by Fr. Sanjay Kerketta from St. Xavier's. Ablin enjoyed her day.

Christi Minj, our pre-candidate, celebrated her 18th birthday. Fr. Sanjay Kerketta offered Mass for her and made it special for her. After Mass she and our second pre-candidate joined us in the refectory where we greeted her. They had all their meals with us for the day and seemed very much at home.

An important celebration was Maeve's 93rd Birthday on January 15. We had Evening Mass offered by Fr. Alex SJ a cousin of Punitha who left no stone unturned to make the day joyful. He came all the way from Orissa with a sister of St. Anne of Lausanne whose sisters are working with the Jesuits. We celebrated with a special meal by the fire in the Community Room. Maeve was so happy and we were too.

Visits:

Sr. Rani Minj, Community Leader of Asansol and Sr. Lily Grace Soreng arrived at 10.00 am after a five-hour drive for the cluster meeting.

The Community gave a Tribal Welcome to Sabrina and Anjuman who arrived for Visitation - the first in two years.

We were visited by Mr. Christopher Kujur and two of his relatives. Mr Kujur is the father of Sister Edelin Kujur who unexpectedly lost her mother to Covid.

Another visitor who brought happiness to us was Sr Christopher's sister, Angel Ganguly who accompanied Christopher on her return from her home holiday.



Outings:

Sabrina, Anjuman, Punitha and Gloria visited Bagicha, the work place of Fr. Stan Swamy SJ who had been arrested and died after months of hardship as an under trial. He is acclaimed by the Church and by people as a martyr - a victim of unjust persecution to death because he worked for the upliftment of the downtrodden tribal people. They found it an inspiring and touching experience.



Punitha, Gloria and Ablin went with Fr. Ravi Kujur SJ for the blessing of a Church in an interior village Dolda. The Jesuits are there and three Daughters of the Cross are in the school, hostel and parish.

Punitha and Ablin went to Nirmala College SCJM Sisters for the Final Profession of ten of their sisters.

All of us, including our two pre-candidates Christi and Archana had a mini picnic in Rock Gardens - a beautiful resort by a lake with gardens and a restaurant built around several huge natural rock formations. The younger sisters walked around while Maeve and Tina sat leisurely - a great attraction for children who flocked round them to take selfies!



RANCHI COMMUNITY

Preparations for the Synod:

The inaugural Mass for the opening of the Synod was celebrated in St. Mary's Cathedral by Archbishop Felix Toppo and Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas. All parish priests, lay representatives from parishes, Major and Local Superiors of Religious Congregations of women and men were invited. Srs. Punitha and Gloria represented us.

Ranchi Archdiocese has started 'synodality' in full swing in preparation for the Synod in 2023. About 60 religious women from congregations attached to our parish in Doranda met in our school library.

All Souls Day:

It is so good to bring to mind the memory of the sisters who laid the foundations of our mission in Ranchi. The sisters buried in Doranda Cemetery are:

Sr. Patricia Quinn - 29.04.1896
Sr Agatha Peart - 10.02.1955
Sr. Joan Ramus - 07.06. 1958
Sr. Francesca Warne - 24.08.1974
Sr. Martha Metcalfe - 26.09. 1978
Sr. Emmanuel Powell - 27.05. 1989
Sr. Margaret Mary Nelson - 12.01.1996

Mandar Cemetery is the resting place for:

Sr. Laurentia Joyce -08. 07.1945 (sister of Sr. John Berchmans Joyce who travelled to India with Mother Teresa and who died many years later in Kolkata)
Sr. Josephine O'Loughlin 25.09.1952
Sr. Colette Parkinson - 29.11. 1953
Sr. Nirmala Manjoritham - 20.07.1985

Parish Involvement:

Rajni and Ablin helped to prepare 130 children of the parish for Confirmation which was administered to the children by Archbishop Felix Toppo during the parish Mass. Loreto was appreciated publicly and Rajni and Ablin were gifted with flowers and a shawl each.

The Christmas gathering of the youth of Doranda Parish was held in our hall. After Mass at 1.00 pm they had a cultural programme and refreshments. Rajni and Ablin were active in this gathering.

And now...

Now we await the flattening of the curve of Omicron and the lifting of the lockdown so that children's voices can ring again in our campus. However as with the rest of our world that has had to stop, we too are discovering God's love anew in the "new normal".



BOWBAZAR COMMUNITY

S R JEB A

Our community grew in number and multiplied in joy, as Sr. Grace CJ from the Patna province joined the Bowbazar community. Sr. Grace is currently pursuing B.Ed in special education from Jadavpur University.



Coming together is always a joyful event especially in this pandemic time. Bowbazar and 52 C communities got together for our insightful and joyful sharing over the GC calls, getting ourselves in tune for the upcoming province congregation.

The 3rd December was a joyous day for us since it was our Parish Feast day. We were glad to greet our priests who help and support us in times of need. The main celebrant for the Mass was Bishop Thomas and our children were confirmed.

We went to Mrs. Jane's daughter's wedding. She is one of our staff from Loreto Bowbazar School. It was a lovely ceremony where many of our staff were present and we prayed for the newlywed couple.

On 24th December evening Sealdah Community joined us for prayer. After prayer we had a wonderful time exchanging our gifts with our Christmas friends. After dinner we got ready for the Christmas Eve Mass. On the 25th we were invited by Sr. Beatrice for lunch in 52C. We wished all the sisters and we shared not only the meal but even the happiness of Christmas.

The whole community went to the PC Meeting (28th December 2021) at Loreto Entally. Bowbazar community members were tested positive with Covid. Then one by one all the members were infected with the virus. Thus, at the end the whole community of sisters were tested positive.

On 23rd January we celebrated our Foundress Mary Ward's Birthday and Anita Nayak's birthday in Sealdah. We had a beautiful Mass celebrated by Fr. David S.J. followed by dinner. On 27th evening we celebrated Sr. Priyanka's birthday in Bowbazar. We started with a beautiful prayer service and ended with dinner.



Srs. Sabrina, Beatrice, Anjuman and Priyanka; the whole Province Leadership Team gathered under the roof of Bowbazar Community for visitation(7th February 2022) which was opened with a meaningful prayer service conducted by Sr. Beatrice. We, as a community got connected to the spirit of the visitation of Mother Mary and Elizabeth. Indeed, it was a long-awaited visitation after the Pandemic.

On 8th February Srs Sabrina and Anjuman, were welcomed by the school through an assembly. Later Sr. Sabrina met the sisters in the community while Sr. Anjuman went ahead with the meeting of the school staff and the children. The Principal joined the Provincial and the community for the fellowship lunch. Later in the evening, after tea Sr Sabrina went to visit our extended community in Sealdah.



We enjoyed the days of visitation and on the 9th February we as a community. We got together for the closing prayer service of the visitation followed by dinner.

SHIMLA COMMUNITY

SR MINI PRIYANKA

November 26, 2021 was the feast of St. John Berchmans. The celebration of Junior's Day was very special as Srs. Sabrina Edwards and Priyanka Topno were also here to celebrate it with us as they were on a visit to the Shimla community. We had a special Mass and later we had a delicious cake. The bulletin board was artistically decorated and beautiful gifts were given to the young ones. We enjoyed ourselves. Mini Priyanka and Miri appreciated the love and thoughtfulness of the sisters.



Srs. Sabrina Edwards and Priyanka Topno were on visitation from 24th to 29th November 2021. The visitation began with a prayer led by Sr. Sabrina. It was really an enriching experience for us as we shared our thoughts and feelings which in turn brought peace and harmony within us. They went around the campus of our school to get a better idea of the geography of the school. Srs. Sabrina and Priyanka and some of our community members visited the cemetery and prayed for the departed souls of our sisters especially Sr. Stephanie Miketinac. The visitation ended with a short prayer service.

On December 18, 2021, we had a meaningful Advent Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Anil Sequeira for the Catholic students and their parents. The students had prepared the Jesse tree and explained the significance of it. The melodious singing, mime and the sermon brought the meaning of advent clearly to all. This was followed by a sumptuous lunch.



Sr. Priyanka Dungdung renewed her vows in the convent on January 23, 2022. We had online Mass as the Sunday Mass in the Shimla Cathedral was cancelled due to heavy snowfall on that day. We also celebrated Sr. Miri Phawa's birthday on that day although her actual birthday was on 15th January. The celebration was not hampered by the snow since we cut the cake during breakfast and later had a delicious lunch.



We celebrated the feast of the Institute and Mary Ward on Sunday, Jan 30, 2022, in the Shimla Cathedral Church. The Holy Eucharist was followed by the distribution of coffee and cake to the parishioners. We were happy to come together in church since some of us had been in quarantine due to covid which we had picked up after attending the Province Congregation in Kolkata.



LOLAY COMMUNITY



SR MARIAM



On 8th to 14th of November Sr. Mariam went to Kalimpong, Gandhi Ashram for the CDW (Community Development Worker) training. It was an enriching session for her. There were 54 women and some of the girls who attended this course, and she was the only religious who attended. She was happy to meet with the girls where she shared about Loreto and about her vocation.

On 13th of December Sr. Jiwanti's birthday was celebrated. The day began with the Holy Eucharist and with thanksgiving prayers.

On 17th of December 2021, Sacred Heart Church, Lolay had a blessing of the new church. On that day many people visited our convent and we actively participated in the preparation of the Mass by joining the choir and helping in the parish with different activities. Our sisters Sunila Toppo, A. Anitha and Manjula Lomga from Darjeeling community also joined us.



On 17th we went to Darjeeling for the Christmas get-together.

On 24th evening at 6 pm we had the Christmas night vigil. After the Mass we welcomed Sharon our candidate to the community. We were happy to have her in our midst. We shared our love and joy with each other through cutting the cake on Jesus' birthday.

Organic Vegetables: Gardening is a part of our activities. We enjoy it. We get fresh vegetables from our garden and we feel very happy to see the blessings of God.



CHAMPASARI COMMUNITY

SR DIPKA



Celebrations:

On 12th January we had the birthday celebration of Sr. Preety. In the morning we had a special Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Arun. Sr. Preety cut the cake and the community made the day a very special one for her. We thank God for the gift of her life.



On 23rd January we had the birth anniversary of Mary Ward. On that day our four sisters renewed their vows (Sr. Anet, Sr. Maxima, Sr. Preety, and Sr. Priyanka). In the morning Fr. Xavier S.J. celebrated the Eucharist. After Mass our four sisters cut the cake. We had great celebrations during the day.

ENTALLY COMMUNITY

SR MADHURI

The students of the Rainbow Home at Loreto Dharamtala moved into our Convent at Entally on December 12, 2021. They are now staying in what is known as the Hospital building. That day they celebrated Christmas for our Community. A few donors were also invited to the celebration. It was very enjoyable. The children presented each one of the guests with a token of love besides serving snacks to all.



December 21st was the Community day of Recollection. The next day all of us worked at decorations in the Chapel, the garden Crib, Community Room and Refectory etc... Christmas Eve Liturgy was celebrated in our Chapel for all the congregation from Nitika. They organized the Liturgical celebration, including the choir, readings etc. Fr. Robin Gomes, Rector was the main celebrant. Loreto sisters provided coffee and cake after the Mass to all.

The C J Sisters came to Gyanalaya to celebrate Christmas. They came to our Community for coffee. We had much fun and laughter at the table.

On December 28th we hosted the Province Congregation to deliberate on G.C. matters and to elect the delegates for the G.C. Sr. Flora arranged everything magnificently. The resource persons were Br. Sunil Britto and Sr. Alba Rodrigues. After the Province gathering a number of Sisters were tested positive for covid. Sr. Flora and Sr. Mable were the only persons left to care for a number of Sisters who were in isolation.

On January 23rd, 2022 in preparation for Mary Ward week the community decorated the picture of Mary Ward in our community Room. A special display board was also prepared in our refectory. Hymns from the Mary Ward Mass were sung at Mass. Sr. Madhuri renewed her vows that day. The Mary Ward booklet for 2022 was much used in the community.

On January 26th we celebrated Sr. Shalini's birthday. We had a special Mass for her. It was also Republic Day. After Mass we had the flag hoisting ceremony with the resident staff, a few boarders and the Rainbow children.

Venerable Mary Ward Feast was celebrated on January 30, 2022. Again, Mary Ward's picture was beautifully decorated by Sr. Reshma. Sr. Mable Rudum spoke to the support staff in Hindi on the life of Venerable Mary Ward. Some of them were very grateful to Sr. Mable because it was the first time they came to know about the life of Mary Ward. All were served tea and snacks.

We had a special Evening prayer service in honor of Venerable Mary Ward organized by Sr. Ponnamma and Sr. Reshma.

On February 5th, 2022 was the online Virtual Final profession of our four sisters in our Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel. The main celebrant was Archbishop Thomas D'Souza assisted by the parish priest of Thakurpukur, Fr. Santana.

The Entally Community helped in decorating the church, board, hall and Gyanalaya.



DHARAN COMMUNITY

SR ANET

On 26th November 2021, the feast of St. John Berchmans, Juniors Day was celebrated for Anet, with the Holy Mass and a special meal.



We actively participate in choir practices and decorating the church for all the feasts since there are no youth in the parish. Our Hostel girls have been a great blessing.



On 16th December 2021 we had a Christmas celebration with the Bal Bikash Children. It was done with some activities like actions songs and games and ended with snacks. All the children enjoyed the day.

On 18th December we had a Christmas celebration for the tuition children. Various games were conducted. Each tuition centre performed dances. It was a joyful day.



A day of recollection was organised by CRNP on 19th December 2021 Srs. Subhashini and Anet attended it. It was a fruitful day and they met many religious.

On 23rd December 2021 we had a Christmas get together with our staff. For a whole month we prayed for our secret friend. The gathering began with a prayer service where we shared about the message of Jesus being born into this world. Then it was followed by the exchange of gifts, dancing and a delicious meal. Everyone had a good time.

On 25th December after the Holy Mass we had a Christmas get together with the hostel girls. We have 20 hostel girls with us from class 8 to college level. Our programme started with a prayer service. Then we had exchanging of gifts, and a meal.



We celebrated Sr. Ganga's birthday on 28th January with a Eucharist. It was a beautiful day to celebrate the gift of her life.



PANIGHATTA COMMUNITY

SR MAXIMA

Celebrations:

We celebrated Sr. Ranjita Kerketta's birthday. The day began with the Holy Mass and we prayed for her family and friends. We ended our day by having a delicious dinner. The Champasari Community joined us.



On 21st Sr. Maxima went to the Champasari Community for the preparation for her renewal of vows on the 23rd. We had Holy Mass and 4 junior sisters renewed their vows - Sisters Maxima, Anet, Preety and Priyanka.

On 30th the feast of our Institute, we celebrated it in the parish. The parishioners prayed for us. The assistant parish priest, Fr. Santosh offered Mass for us. After the Mass the mothers' group wished us with a melodious greeting song. Sisters Shanta, Sushila Kerketta and Manjula were with us.

Finding God in doing small things:

We found great joy by doing a little gardening in our school garden. We planted some seasonal vegetables.

Parish Ministry:

On 16th November sisters Ranjita and Swati went for parish ministry to Belgachi. They prepared some parents for Baptism. It was very meaningful and beautiful. It helped them to deepen their faith and trust in God and to know more about the Catholic faith.

We helped in the Parish to prepare the children as flower girls for the Feast of Christ the King.

The sisters taught new Christmas hymns to the parishioners and youth. Melodious hymns were sung for the night vigil and Christmas day.



LUCKNOW COMMUNITY

We are four in the community and we go for house visiting to our staff regularly.

SR ANITA L



We are blessed with big grounds and so we have a variety of different flowers, vegetables and fruit which we get throughout the year. Many birds, squirrels butterflies and mon-goose are in our garden.

On 25th we celebrated Sr. Helen's birthday. We had Mass in the morning. Lunch and dinner were special. In the afternoon we went out. It was a good day.



29th January we had our Mary Ward Day celebration. The four schools' support staff, office staff, and coordinators were invited. We began with the Holy Mass, after which Sr. Amia thanked each one by name for their service in our schools. The coordinators had organized games for the support staff. All participated and enjoyed themselves.

All were served lunch. It was a great day for everyone. Each received a small token of appreciation before leaving.



UPDATES FROM BANGLADESH

SR ARUNA & ARCHANA

On 23rd January we commemorated Venerable Mary Ward's birthday. We had prayer and reflection on the theme of the day and shared on the same. The Mary Ward Nivas girls also participated in it. After the prayer service we had cake cutting and the girls sang Mary Ward's maxims.



Since we were not present on the 14th January as a community to wish Sr. Yvonne on her birthday, we celebrated it on 25th January in Padribhipur. We had evening Mass, followed by a fellowship meal with the Mary Ward Nivas girls.



After a long waiting, the day came for Sr. Mary De Souza and Sr. Edelin Kujur to come to their mission field. So, with joyful hearts we welcomed Sr. Mary and Sr. Edelin to Bangladesh. We are glad to have them in our midst.



On 30th January 2022 it was a great day for Padribhipur, Bangladesh mission, as Sr. Shova Costa made her First profession in the Institute in Padribhipur. Most Rev. Bishop Gervas Rozario, the Bishop of Rajshahi Diocese, maternal uncle of Shova was the main celebrant.



On 31st January we had the installation of Sr. Archana Gomes as she takes over as the new community leader of Bangladesh. We also had the reception of Monisha Khoksi as a candidate in the Institute.

In the area where we reside a theft and murder took place on the 31st January. A 92-year-old man was killed after poison was put in the food and the rest of the family members are undergoing treatment at the moment. Money and land deeds were stolen. The situation is frightening since the incident happened very close to our house. We, sisters and the hostel girls participated in the protest with the people and are continuing to support them.

After a nine-day Novena, on Feb. 11th. we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the patron of our Church at Mohakhali, Dhaka, along with the inauguration of the new Church bell which was donated by the Parishioners. The excitement was great and the people were extremely happy and grateful to hear the sound of the church bell for the first time, before the Mass could begin at 9:30AM. Cardinal Patrick, Fr. Subroto Gomes, the Parish Priest and Fr. Kollol Rozario had the honour of ringing the bell to mark this historical event as a joyful memory for all. We also had a cultural programme in honour of the 50th Sacerdotal Anniversary of Cardinal Patrick and farewell to Fr. Lawrence Kollol Rozario, the Assistant parish priest who was in charge of our Church for two years. He had done much for the Catholic community in their Faith Formation and was a great support to the Loreto Sisters.



We had offered Mass for Sr. Sheetal too and we were glad to have Sr. Yvonne with us for this great occasion. Srs. Edelin & Linda had worked very hard with various committees to make this celebration a meaningful one.

Cardinal Patrick and Fr. Subroto, the parish priest, were extremely grateful to the Loreto Sisters for their selfless service to this Church and the local community. We felt blessed and were touched by the appreciation from the Clergy and the local people.

The celebration ended with a fellowship meal at the Community Centre, followed by a visit to our school and our residence for a cup of tea. It was indeed a joyful day for all of us.



DARJEELING COMMUNITY

SR MANJULA



"The Best Times Are Always Found When Religious Family Gather Round."

We the Darjeeling Community organized a get-together on 12th of December for local religious congregations and priests in our convent. The program was held in the evening and began with a carol singing. Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha led the prayer before dinner. After 2 years of break we had an opportunity for this gathering. It was such an immense joy to meet each other.



Visit of Lolay and Sadam Communities:

On the 20th of December, Sisters from Lolay and Sadam joined us for Pre-Christmas celebration. We had a Christmas tree program where we exchanged our gifts with each other.



Community Outing:

On the 26th of December, a Community outing was organized by our CL, Sr. Sunila. We felt the joy of Christmas was still in us. Mr. P. Lama, a teacher in Loreto Darjeeling, welcomed us to his village-Dabai pani where they have many orange trees in his garden. We walked around and enjoyed ourselves. We thank God for this outing together and we all felt refreshed.

Birthday: On 19th of January 2022 we celebrated Sr. Sunila's birthday. The day began with Eucharistic celebration offered by Rev. Bishop Stephen Lepcha. After the Mass we proceeded to the refectory for the cutting of the cake. Birthday comes once in a year filled with joy and happiness.

Mary Ward Feast:

On the 23rd of January we celebrated Mary ward's Birthday. We had a Eucharistic celebration in our chapel. Sr. Mariam Ekka renewed her Vows. The main celebrant was Fr. Frank Subba SJ. Delicious Lunch was served for the occasion. To end the day a prayer service was organized by the community to give greater glory to God.



We were privileged to have Mary Ward's Feast day on the 30th January with our sisters in the community. We had a prayerful faith sharing on Mary Ward's Life which inspired us to be like her.

Snowfall on the Darjeeling Hill:

On the 5th of February we experienced a heavy snow fall in Darjeeling after a long gap of 16 years. Our sisters enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Unfortunately Srs. Sunila and Manjula missed the fun because Sr. Sunila was spending quality time with her family and Sr. Manjula was making her Annual retreat in Matigara.



Prayer Service:

On the 8th of February the Community had a Special Prayer Service on Teresa Ball's life. The Theme was 'Coming together and into the future'. We experienced a deep sense of Oneness and are looking forward to following her footsteps.

UPDATES FROM ABHILASHA

SR BERNADETTE

"I have called you by name; you are Mine." Is. 43:1



This is the motto of Sr. Sheetal who experienced God's call deeply during the two years of Novitiate and finally said "Yes" to His call and professed her First Vows in freedom on 11th February, 2022. It is indeed the greatest joy for us as a Province and as the Institute to have one more member in the Loreto Family.

Fr. George Ponodath SJ, who accompanied her during her 8 days retreat was the main celebrant and Sr. Sheetal's uncle, Fr. Pradeep Tirkey SJ from Ranchi and three other Jesuit priests from Dhyan Ashram concelebrated the Eucharist. Sr. Sheetal and the congregation were moved with the powerful homily given by the main celebrant.

The newly professed was joined by her mother, sister and her relatives and many IBVMs from the Kolkata communities. The Eucharist was live streamed on Google meet therefore sisters from other places also joined in the Eucharistic celebration.

After the Mass, the congregation congratulated Sr. Sheetal warmly which was followed by a delicious meal and joyful dancing. During the facilitation Sr. Sheetal's family presented the Provincial and the Novice Director with a mandar and tambourines.



Our sincere gratitude to all who helped and supported us to make this day a memorable one. Thank you to all who joined in our celebration in prayer.



GYANALAYA COMMUNITY

SR GERALDINE

CALLED IN GRACE, FORMED IN LOVE, SENT TO SERVE...

The Sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto) gathered at Loreto Convent Entally Kolkata to celebrate and witness the Perpetual Professions of Sr. Sarita Horo, Sr. Mann Kumari Thapa, Sr. Sangeeta Surin and Sr. Valeria Mundu on the 5th of February, 2022. The ceremony was originally scheduled for 23rd January, but the rise of the Omicron Variant forced the celebration to be postponed. His Grace, Rev. Thomas D'Souza the Archbishop of Kolkata Archdiocese was the main celebrant and Fr. Santhanam the Parish Priest of Thakurpukur concelebrated. Even though the family and friends of our four sisters and the Loreto sisters could not be present physically, many were able to witness it and be part of the celebration by watching it live on the YouTube.



The Chapel was very tastefully and beautifully decorated and the young sisters of the Loreto House community danced and led the main celebrant Rev. Thomas D'Souza, Sr. Sabrina Edwards the Provincial Leader, the Leadership Team, Sr Geraldine Moktan, the Director of Temporary Professed and the four sisters to the altar. The Loreto House community Choir under the guidance of Sr. Molly Francis and Mr Abel Abhishek Gomes added joy and solemnity to the Eucharistic Celebration with their melodious singing.

Rev. Thomas D'Souza, gave an inspiring homily, exhorting the Sisters, to be faithful to and live radically, the Perpetual Vows they were about to pronounce, and to lead a life of witness in the way Mary Ward and the saints did by seeking God's will even when it becomes difficult, remaining faithful in God's Love, sharing this love to all wholeheartedly with joy.

The serenity that filled the room reverberated with the full presence of the triune God and the angels as Sr. Arockia Mary Dass led the entire Congregation in chanting the Litany of the Saints. The four sisters pronounced their Vows for life in four different languages – Sadri, English Munda, and Hindi. The Vows were received by Rev. Sr. Sabrina Edwards the Provincial Leader. The archbishop then blessed the four sisters. The sisters were presented the rings - a symbol of their fidelity to their consecration to Christ and then Sr. Sabrina Edwards publicly confirmed that these sisters are lifelong members of the Institute. To this the congregation responded with a joyful "Alleluia Amen" and all the Loreto sisters went forward to welcome them with a 'Namaste'



Sisters Sarita Horo and Mann Kumari Thapa, on behalf of their other two companions expressed their gratitude to God for His love and blessings, for their lives and vocation, to their parents who instilled the faith and sowed the seed of Vocation, to the formators and spiritual guides who have journeyed with them and all those who prepared and made the day meaningful .

After the Eucharist the community gathered to present a short performance and felicitated the four sisters who made their Final Commitment. The Hall was beautifully prepared with their mottos in the background.

**'I HAVE CALLED BY YOUR NAME YOU ARE MINE'
'LORD TEACH ME TO GIVE & NOT TO COUNT THE COST'

'I HAVE CHOSEN YOU'
'IN YOU LORD MY GOD I PUT MY TRUST'**

We thank God who brought them to this day, and for the life and vocation of our sisters.



ASANSOL COMMUNITY

S RANI M

With immense joy and gladness we celebrated the Silver Jubilee of our Sisters Nirmala Minj and Monica Suchiang.



The birth of our Lord was celebrated in the community. We had community prayer and the exchanging of gifts with our secret friends. It was a beautiful time to celebrate the joy of Our Lord's birthday through our experience of sharing.

For Mary Ward week we had different activities and assemblies by both the Senior and Junior school. Ankur Vidhyalaya also took part in the activities. The Junior school had a beautiful virtual exhibition on their activities on the last day.

On the day before Mary Ward's death anniversary, 29th January we had lunch with the support staff and the office staff who are present daily in the school.



On 30th January, we celebrated Mary Ward's Feast in the Sacred Heart Cathedral with our Principal, Mrs. Jinny George, our teachers, students and all our parishioners. All took active part in the Eucharistic celebration. Bishop Salvadore Lobo was the main celebrant with two other priests, Fr. Sarto V.G. and Fr. Linus Toppo, our Parish Priest. Bishop Salvadore Lobo also celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopal Ordination. We were very glad to share our joy with the parishioners.



SHILLONG COMMUNITY

SR MICHALINA

For Juniors Day, we had Mass for all the Juniors and a beautiful prayer service. Sr. Soria took Srs. Rosita and Michalina for an outing. We had our lunch in the park and enjoyed the scenery. We celebrated Rosita's birthday on the 28th of the month. We were all happy and had a joyous day.



On 3rd of December, Srs. Soria, Rosita and Michalina went to see the lights to Wards Lake and took the hostel girls along with them. We also attended a talk organised by 'Shillong Publication' about how to write, as publications were taking place. It was a real inspiration to listen to the opinions of various writers on how to write books.

On the occasion of teachers' jubilees Mrs. Sarita Pradhan, Mrs. Rani Lyndoh and Mrs. Lavi and another teacher's retirement Mrs. V. Sharan, the school invited us to be present and participate in the short prayer service and games.

Srs. Euphemia and Soria went to the village to give the children warm clothes. Our sisters find God and great joy in doing such good work for the Lord's people.

We also had a wonderful Christmas celebration with the girls on the 19th. We had a very short programme and gifts were exchanged. Dinner was served. It was a beautiful evening.

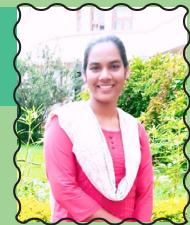
On the 23rd of the month, Sr. Rosita renewed her vows since she was ready to go forward to serve the Lord. We had Mass for her as well as for our Institute, as we began Mary Ward Week. We also started our reflections on the Mary Ward booklet.

On the 30th the last day of our reflection on Mary Ward and also the death anniversary of Mary Ward, we ended with a beautiful prayer service and thanksgiving to God for Mary Ward and Teresa Ball. We all prayed that we may have the same spirit like them to carry on our mission.



THE BEST MEDICINE

S R MANJULA



My sister-in-law was teaching Sunday school class.

The topic for the day:

Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ.

"What did Jesus do on this day?" she asked.

There was no response, so she gave her students a hint:

"It starts with the letter R."

One boy blurted out, "Recycle!"



Our fourth grader celebrated his birthday on crutches, so he couldn't carry the cupcakes into school without help.

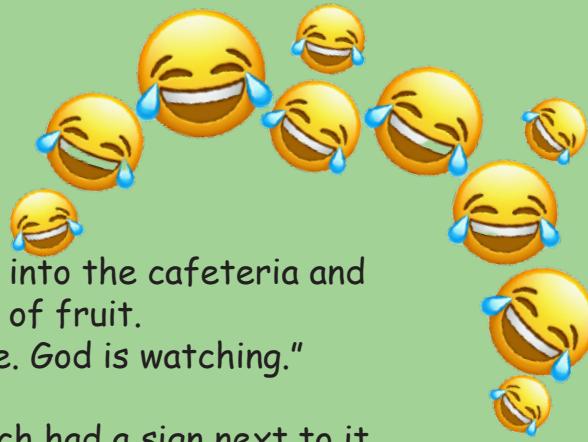
He asked sixth-grader, Noah, to help him to carry them.

"I could," he said, "but I'd prefer not to."



Spotting a teaching moment, his daddy asked Noah,
"What would Jesus do?"

Noah answered, "Jesus would heal him so he could carry his own cupcakes."



When I went to a Christian school, I walked into the cafeteria and there on the table was a plate of fruit.

Next to it was a sign that said "Take one. God is watching."

Next to the fruit was a plate of cookies, which had a sign next to it, written by a fellow student,

that said "Take as many as you want. God is watching the fruit."



A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop."

Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk. "Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over.

Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"

BIRTHDAYS & FEASTDAYS



March Birthday

SR. EUPHEMIA FERNANDES	10TH
SR. BALIKA PAL	12TH
SR. CLAIRE MACFARLAND	22ND
SR. GERALDINE MOKTAN	26TH
SR. VALERIA MUNDU	27TH



April Feastday

SR. M. CONSUELO MURPHY	26TH
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May Birthday

SR. ELIZABETH D'SOUZA	2ND
SR. MONICA ROZARIO	4TH
SR. ANITA M. BRAGANZA	7TH
SR. BINITA SURIN	10TH
SR. GLORIA LAKRA	13TH
SR. NIRMALA TOPPO	15TH
SR. NIRMALA MINJ	16TH
SR. BIVIYANA LEPCHA	17TH
SR. TERESA McGLINCHEY	18TH
SR. BERNADETTE LEPCHA	20TH
SR. MINI PRIYANKA DUNGDUNG	20TH
SR. SARITA HORO	26TH



April Birthday

SR. PRIYANKA SORENG	4TH
SR. MARILLA D'SOUZA	5TH
SR. BINISTA KERKETTA	13TH
SR. BAISHAKHI MONDAL	21ST
SR. BAIADAMARY LYNGKHOI	25TH
SR. EITHNE McDONALD	26TH
SR. MABLE PRAMILA RUDUM	29TH



May Feastday

SR. CELINE PINTO	30TH
SR. ELIZABETH D'SOUZA	31TH

