



Himalayan Echo



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NEPAL REGION NEWSLETTER



Regional Superior Speaks

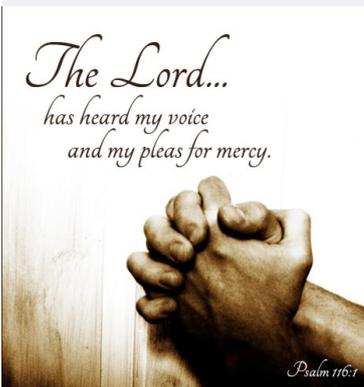
SR. JESSY PULIYANTHURUTHEL CJ

***“But when I am afraid,
I will put my trust in you.”***

(Psalm 56: 3)

Our rooms, our offices, our teachers, our students, our gadgets, our families, our friends, our positions, our achievements... everything is useless. Though we have enjoyed and cherished them all, they are all useless today. Why? Suddenly life has taken a different route, all the material things have lost their meaning. We know that we leave behind everything when we die. But today, in this crucial time, we find all these things meaningless.

Just an invisible virus has shaken the whole world, it has left everyone helpless. And



we raise our eyes to the Almighty because only He can save us; His mercy alone is left to embrace us. So my dear friends, let us all put our trust in the one who has saved and protected us till today; only He can continue to

protect, only He can do everything right. If good/wellbeing/health is not eternal, so is the present situation.

“Ultimately the greatest lesson that Covid-19 can teach humanity is that we are all in this together depending on our Creator.”



St. Mary's, Pokhara

SR. DEEPA OLIKUNNEL CJ

The spring season brought good tidings of fewer corona cases in Nepal and we were happy to have the whole school present for in-person classes from March on. Loud laughter and cheerful chatter echoed in the campus. However, the semblance of normalcy and joy was taken away abruptly as the city was weighed down by smog caused by the wild fires across the country. High levels of air pollution forced the shutdown of all schools in the Valley. We resorted to online classes at this time.

Once the smog vanished and the air began to clear up, we had two more weeks of physical classes. However, the tragic and horrifying spread of another wave of Corona infections in India and in many parts of Nepal prompted yet another shut down of all schools. Once again we depend on online classes for teaching and learning.

During the on-site classes that we have had, we were able to conduct all terminal exams and send-up exams of Classes VIII, X and XII. The outgoing students were also given a befitting farewell by their juniors.



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SHARING THE JOY WITH THE BAPTIZED



On Easter day our joy was doubled as three catechumens, a mother and her two adult sons, were baptized. Sr. Asha had instructed and prepared them for almost four months and under her guidance they have grown strong in their faith and trust in the Lord. Sisters from Gorkha visited us on the occasion and thus shared the Easter joy with us.



THANK YOU DEAR SRS. ASHA & LILIAN



REJOICE IN THE LORD- EASTER GATHERING, GORKHA & POKHARA

The parish organized a farewell program for Srs. Asha and Lilian. Fr. Leonard, the parish priest, thanked and appreciated the sisters for their contribution to the growth of the church in Pokhara. Our co-workers and teachers too bade farewell to the sisters with a short prayer service. Dear Srs. Asha and Lilian, our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for your generous service to school and community. Thank you! May the good Lord walk with you and direct you in your new mission.



SR. CLOTILDE- Awarded by ZONTA Club

On International Women's Day, Sr. Clotilde was honoured and was awarded by the Pokhara ZONTA Club for outstanding contribution made in the field of education. This was a joyous and proud moment for all of us.



SR. MARILYN MURICKAL CJ

The FMW members extended their generosity to our hostel students in Sirsia by providing them food stuff worth NRS 10,000/.. It was such a pleasure for Sr. Marilyn to accompany the members to Sirsia. Our community in Sirsia is ever grateful to our vibrant FMW members

and expressed their gratitude to them.



SR. VEENA DIAS CJ

As our municipality asked all the schools to reopen, we opened our school on the 1st of March. Though initially the students' attendance was 40 to 50%, gradually it increased to 70 to 80%. Students were very happy

and enthusiastic to come to school after almost a year of being at home. Teaching and learning was very interesting since children were very eager to learn. Classes were limited to five periods and we let the children go home earlier than usual. Like everywhere else in the country, the joy of in-person classes was short-lived here too.



Our neighbouring British School was very generous to distribute gift packs containing a bottle of hand wash, a mask, and a bottle of sanitizer to every student of our school. It was indeed extremely useful for the students; they were very happy and grateful.

This year the Assumption Church was open for the Holy Week services with all safety measures in place. Sr. Veena was able to participate in the services. Sr. Antoinette has returned to the community after a month-long home visit.



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REV.
BISHOP

We were overjoyed to have our Bishop amidst us with his blessings for our new convent which was blessed in January. He was unable to be present for it at that time.

Srs. Rufina and Charlie attended the Conference of Religious of Nepal - Purvanchal (CRNP) gathering in Damak. Sr. Amrita was warmly welcomed as she came to Biratnagar to spend a few days. She was busy attending the online exams of B.Ed. She was lucky to have the Eucharistic celebration on her birthday by Frs. Joji CMI and Jamerson CMI on their way to Chrism Mass.

We were delighted to receive Dr. Sangita Baral an alumna of St Mary's, Kathmandu. She spent some time interacting with our students.

As the country has gone into another lockdown to stop the spread of the corona virus infections, we have yet again resorted to online classes from the end of April.



SR. DIVYA KALAMPARBIL CJ

On International Women's Day our community gathered along with our hostel students in the school assembly ground to celebrate all that our co-workers do for their loved ones and our

the students and teachers of Class IX on 18th April for the outgoing students of Class X with great fervor and enthusiasm. The juniors created varieties of enjoyment for their seniors to make their last memories in the school something to cherish forever. While the outgoing students expressed their gratitude to the school for giving them knowledge and good values for their lives, Sr. Catherine expressed her gratitude to the

school here. A meaningful prayer service was conducted by our hostellers in gratitude for the selfless and dedicated services of the co-workers. Everyone enjoyed the games and our co-workers proved their smartness in winning the games. The celebration ended with a fellowship meal together.

On the feast of St. Joseph our community was invited to St. Joseph's School to celebrate the great feast. Rt. Rev. Bishop Paul Simick was the main celebrant of the day. The celebration concluded with an agape.

The end of the schooling is the beginning of something new. Moving on to new horizons signals the end of one season and the emergence of the other. A farewell program was organized by



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students for being a part of the Marian family for the past ten years. Nostalgic memories kept flashing as students took photographs around the beautiful school building where they had spent their childhood.

All the peacefulness and joy vanished as our municipality ordered lockdown of the schools towards the end of April. It is with helplessness we watch in the media the pathetic and painful stories of Covid deaths in India and Nepal. We extend all our prayerful support to all those who suffer.



Happy Farewell

Dear Students,
Wishing you all the very best
for the future.
May you all be successful
and happy in life.

Sr. Jyoti went to Kerala for her long awaited holidays when Covid cases were in its low tide. As she reached home the tragic news of the spread of the virus loomed in the air. Sister managed to return to Nepal before the country went into lockdown again.

Sr. Marina went to the nearby government school for a couple of hours daily when the school reopened. She also ventured into villages for family prayers when no new corona case was reported. Don Bosco School had reopened and Sr. Neelu plunged herself into her duties. Dispensary gets patients even now and she is available for them.



On the International Women's Day, Don Bosco School took part in a cultural programme which was organized by Girija Prasad Koirala Foundation. The school bagged a gold medal and we were proud that among the participants, four girls were from our hostel.



SR. NEELU CARMEL CJ

We had the long awaited CRNP meeting at Dharan before Easter. It was organized by Fr. Boniface Tigga SJ, our Dean. CRNP was formed 17 years ago and we had 55 participants for the meeting which was the largest participation so far reported. An election was held for the various posts and Sr. Neelu Carmel CJ was elected as the treasurer.



Sr. Neelu lost her mother in the wee hours of 11th April. Although she rushed home, she could not be present for the final rites of her mother as travel these days have become a hazardous event. We express our heartfelt condolences and prayers for the bereaved family.



**MAA WE LOVE YOU...
PRAY FOR US ...**



SR. MARIETTE PINTO CJ

Although only for a few days, we were happy to have all our students back in school for regular classes after almost a year. The physical presence of the students in the school campus prompted us to organize extracurricular

activities to stimulate and energize the students. The school celebrated the silver jubilee of the two of our staff, **Mrs. Sashi Joshi and Dr. Sushil Kumar Mathema** from the Plus Two department. The students and teachers together put up a cultural programme to express gratitude for all their services rendered to the school. It was also the silver jubilee of our Plus Two section.



Sports activities such as athletics, fun games, basketball and volley ball matches were also organized.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Another exciting event at this time was the Science Exhibition. Students had an opportunity to display their creative ideas through their science projects which were based on the theme, "Conserve, serve and discover".



SCIENCE EXHIBITION

A VISIT TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED... +2 SMS

The Humanities Faculty of St. Mary's Secondary School (11'E' & 12'E') visited Nirmal Bal Bikas Vidhyalaya, a school for intellectually disabled students, as part of the Mass Communication and Journalism curriculum on 15th March, 2021. They donated mattresses, bed sheets, sanitizers, blankets and will also be funding the tailoring for the judo uniform of the students there.



SR. MARGARET MARY CJ

The Covid -19 protocol continued to rule almost all our activities. To our great relief, Sr. Regina has returned after her home visit without experiencing too many hurdles on the way. It was really a HOME STAY, as she spent most of her time in home quarantine. On 14th March, our two candidates, Sarita Tudu and Sangita Hembrom, left for Jhansi, India to join the next phase of their religious formation. They were accompanied by Sr. Smitha.



We attended the Lenten recollection organized by Catholic Religious of Nepal (CRN) in Godavari Ashram. It was well attended. Physical gathering of this kind had not taken place for almost a year because of the pandemic.

Holy Week celebrations brought the parish once more together. As usual, the parish priest did not forget to invite the religious and priests for a good dinner. The Easter fete in the parish was also well attended. Each zone put up stalls of different kinds and organized games. The proceeds from this fete will go to organize a pilgrimage to east Nepal, during the Year of St. Joseph. We invited the parish priests and the Jesuits for a lunch to celebrate Easter and also to thank them for all their services during the year. On this occasion Fr. Robin Rai, the parish priest, blessed our house.

Our greenhouse garden produced a good amount of vegetables, potatoes and onions to last for a long time. However, the recent rains, hail stones and storm have played havoc on the rising beauty of our garden. To the great distress of all of us, all the fruit trees, flowers and green plants were badly damaged. Most of the days are sunny and warm these days; but the weather changes all of a sudden and we hear the rumblings of thunder and experience strong winds.

Once again we are back to a life with Covid -19 restrictions. We continue to pray for God's ever protective shield of love and compassion over each of us and our entire world.

Our students put up various performances and distributed snacks to bring a smile on the faces of the students studying there.

In the community, we had to face a couple of medical emergencies. Sr. Vinita went through a cataract surgery and its complications for a month. Sr. Veronica was brought from Gorkha as she fractured her left wrist. Sr. Jessy too had to go through an Ayurveda treatment for her blocked veins after the fracture of her left wrist. Sr. Martina continues to suffer acute pains from an infection in her leg.

We wake up daily with horrible news of one or the other testing positive for Covid and dying due to it. As a community we offer up all our prayers for the sick and suffering. May Jesus heal this world.



SR. Nancy Edamanasseril
CJ

It was a great relief for our parents when we started our regular classes for all our students from 1st March 2021. The children were elated to enter the school compound with their classmates, friends and teachers. Though our

physical academic session has been very short this year, we managed to conduct the Investiture Ceremony of our school leaders.



We had a day of recollection by Fr. Paulson SDB who invited us to go deeper and closer to the Lord during the Lenten season. The recollection strengthened us spiritually for our onward journey as a pilgrim.

In the Sacred Heart Parish, Lubhoo, we had a joyous Easter celebration. During the Easter Vigil Mass there were thirteen baptisms and fourteen children received First Holy Communion. They were prepared by Srs. Marisa and Monica. The children really looked like angels in their white dresses with decorated white candles in their hands.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) level of most part of Nepal was so dangerously high that the government of Nepal declared emergency holidays for all schools on 26th March for four days

This year the winter rains did not come on

time and we suffered from water shortage. We had to buy a few tanks of water for the use of the school. Two of our primary teachers attended a five day online seminar organized by Mahalaxmi Municipality on 'Integrated Teaching with a Child-friendly and Holistic Approach.' The seminar was extremely helpful, effective and practical. They were also awarded with certificates for participation.

The annual award ceremony of the year 2019 -'20 was held on 13th April. The guest of honour for the occasion was Sr. Marisa, the manager of the school. The School End Examination (SEE) toppers along with a few others received certificates and cash awards for their outstanding performance, in the presence of their proud parents. Sr. Marisa honoured the best student of class nine with Sr. Frances Parstorfer CJ and Hanni Penzkofer Memorial Award and gave a short speech on the life of late Sr. Frances CJ.

The joyful days began to fade as Sr. Marisa was tested Covid-19 positive. She was quarantined and was undergoing treatment when Sr. Edwina who was recuperating from a surgery for her umbilical hernia also tested positive for Covid-19. She is also quarantined and is under treatment. We earnestly request all of you to pray for them as they have developed pneumonia along with Covid.



*Thank
you*