

Loreto Provincialate, 7 Middleton Row, Kolkata-700 071, 4006 1156, E-mail: lorsecpro@gmail.com



## **Jesus was killed not so much for what He believed, but for how He loved.**

During the month of June we remember the Sacred Heart of Jesus...the heart is a symbol of love. Jesus' love knew no bounds. His love enveloped all. The sinner, the outcasts, the vulnerable experienced His love in a very tangible way. He went beyond rules when it came to healing those with any affliction. His compassion superseded the law. Even His disciples found it difficult to truly understand His idea of being Lord and Master. Washing their feet and being of service to the extent of giving His life for the other was Jesus' way of expressing love. The Pharisees and scribes put themselves outside the ambit of Jesus' reach. They had the attitude of 'better than you' which even Jesus couldn't penetrate. In the end it was they who excluded Him; at no stage did He exclude them. It was the religious establishment who condemned Jesus for mixing with the riff-raff – publicans, sinners, outcasts – who were shunned by respectable society. He was for anyone who was ostracized, oppressed, marginalized, suffering...Jesus was clearly for the 'anawim'. Jesus dealt with each individual person who came into His life in such a way that nobody was ever excluded and everybody was loved for their own sake and not for the sake of their ancestry, race, nationality, class, family connections, intelligence, achievements or any other quality. In this concrete, personal sense Jesus loved all people and for this very reason Jesus sided with the poor and the oppressed, with those who had nothing to recommend them except their humanity, with those who were excluded by others. 'I say to you "Love your enemies"'. Nothing could be more radical and revolutionary than that. Jesus extended one's neighbor to include one's enemies and He could not have found a more effective way of shocking His audience.

**The world's only loving to its friends, but Your way of loving never ends:**

**Loving enemies too and so loving with You is what's turning the world upside down.**



Sr Mary De Souza

# WHAT'S HERE?

1. *Message from PLT* .....Sr Sabrina
2. *Wisdom Corner* .....Sr Tina
3. *Mary Ward Corner* .....Sr Geraldine
4. *Ignatian Corner* .....Sr Ablin
5. *Education Update*.....Sr Phyllis
6. *Our Experience at Sadhana*.....Srs Swati & Greta
7. *My Experience at Prerana*.....Sr Nithya
8. *SA Archive updates* .....Ms Nilina
9. *My Experience* .....Sr Barbara

## 10. COMMUNITY NEWS

- i. *Shillong Community*.....Sr Anupa
- ii. *Champasari Community*.....Sr Dipika
- iii. *Bowbazar Community*.....Sr Anita
- iv. *Loreto House Community*.....Srs Manjula & Lily
- v. *Ranchi Community*.....Sr Jiwanti
- vi. *Lucknow Community*.....Sr Benedicta
- vii. *Delhi Community* .....Sr Prabina
- viii. *Shimla Community* .....Sr Priyanka
- ix. *Entally Community*.....Sr Reshma
- x. *Lolay Community*.....Sr Leena
- xi. *Updates from Bangladesh*.....Sr Archana
- xii. *Tricky Community*.....Sr Edelin
- xiii. *Elliot Rd Community*.....Sr Clara
- xiv. *Asansol Community* .....Sr Rani Minj
- xv. *Sadam Community* .....Sr Madhu
- xvi. *Darjeeling Community* .....Sr Shanta
- xvii. *Gyanalaya* .....Sr Geraldine

## 11. Rock your brain

## 12. Birthdays & Feastdays & Jubilee celebrations

# Message from the PLT

Sr Sabrina



Dear Sisters and Friends,

Last month we experienced anxiety, fear and grief as whatsapp notified us of yet another person we knew and loved, who did not survive. We lost count of the number of condolence messages and the number of people to pray for. We witnessed the breathlessness of the thousands who gasped for air. The images of mass graves and cremations will forever

be etched in our memory.

We are grateful to our General Leadership, our sisters and friends who have prayed for and reached out to us. Their prayers sustained us to face each day, the news and each death.

As we move into June we hope and pray that infections decrease and our overburdened health personnel get a bit of a respite. We have seen and endured the horrors and trauma of this pandemic and hope that the worst is behind us.

The worst of times brings out the best in people. Our communities reached out to affected families in their grief and sorrow. We prayed more intensely. We moved into action to cook food for covid patients, distribute rations to those in need, open up our houses to accommodate those affected and collaborate and network with church and government authorities to make a meaningful response.

As we look back on these days may this experience help us to know what is important in life, guide us in our priorities and give us direction for the future. May this experience transform us into a more human community.

We remember and honour those we knew and loved who passed away during this time:

Mr. Jyoti Lakra, brother of Sr. Leena Lakra ibvm  
Mr. James Lakra, father of Sr. Subashini Lakra ibvm  
Mrs. Sarita Thapa, mother of Sr. Mann Veronica ibvm  
Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa, father of Sr. Mann Veronica ibvm  
Sr. Jacinta Morris, sister of Sr. Phyllis Morris ibvm  
Sr. Lenah Mambo ibvm, Lukulu, Zambia  
Mrs. Menoka Kujur, mother of Sr. Edline Kujur ibvm  
C J sisters Jane Francis, Suchita, Jessy and Regis  
Mr. Rajwell Frank Bunny, father of Mrs. Debra Bunny, Principal of St. Agnes Lucknow  
Mrs. Vandana Grover, teacher in Delhi  
Mrs Moushami Paul, teacher in Dharamtalla  
Mrs. T. Suri, Middle School Coordinator, Loreto Convent Lucknow  
Mrs. Ganga Devi, support staff in Loreto Convent Lucknow  
Mrs. Soma Ghatak, Women's Cell, Loreto College  
Rajeev Francis, E. Care  
Supriya Rai, student of St. Teresa School Darjeeling  
Spouses of our staff members  
Parents of our children and Managing Committee members  
Past pupils, retired staff members  
Priests and Religious friends  
Uncles, aunties, cousins, in-laws and relatives  
May their souls rest in peace.



## Wisdom corner

Sr Tina

**The mission of leadership and every mission need the same impetus of our shared spirit which is expressed in some of my favourite passages that define mission/leadership.**

Mary Ward – Letter to Fr. John Gerard 1619

“Take the same of the Society...These are words whose worth cannot be valued, nor the good they contain too dearly bought; these gave sight when there was none, made known what God would have done... Hither must I come to draw

Sp.Ex.95 “To all his summons ... to each one...Whoever wishes to join me ... must be willing to labour with me , that following me in suffering he may follow me in glory”

Cons. Vol 1 [603]“ They are dispersed throughout Christ’s vineyard to labour in it and in that work ... entrusted to them for the greater service of God and the good of souls..”

Vol 2 -2:1 Mission is at the heart of who we are and love is the driving force that urges us on  
2:2 We are caught up in the life and relationship of the Trinity, whose self emptying love energises the whole cosmos.

2:4 Mary Ward’s passion and courage stirred her... In that spirit we are sent on mission ...

As I gradually grow into and increasingly appreciate the “apostolate of being” in this sad time of pandemic - with the luxury of time for prayer, nature, appreciation for and being with others, slowing down and in a small way reaching out in service, my mission now has meaning not less than what spurred me on during 62 years of active apostolate.

Now I see more clearly that we need a much deeper conscious awareness that the Magis in compassion for people is the core for any mission and more importantly for leadership, today in the midst of such inexplicable suffering - more than ever.

As for my failures “Thanks be to Jesus Christ our Lord” Rom.7:15,19,24. And always - the comfort of Mary Ward: This seemed the way... that they should first know it ... then desire it... endeavour for it a little. Do your best and God will do the rest. “Jesus say Amen”

**I SUPPOSE LEADERSHIP AT ONE TIME MEANT MUSCLES,  
BUT TODAY IT MEANS GETTING ALONG WITH PEOPLE.**

**Mahatma Gandhi**

## Mary Ward corner

Sr Geraldine



In the past few months, the Covid 19 Pandemic has gone global, affecting almost all countries, societies, and health systems. Here in India, it is disrupting all the spheres of our life- social, political, and economic. It is also intruding into our emotional and spiritual domain when we see and hear of so many suffering, people whom we know and love have gone ahead. Families losing their loved ones and not being able to be there for them. The situation looks grim, so many facing very hard times and yet looking at Mary Ward's life I feel challenged to be faithful like her, even in the most difficult times.

Mary Ward's deep faith in God led her to search and find God in all things, being attentive to the action of God in her daily life and thus responding to God's holy will. Mary Ward trusted God in times of difficulties and uncertainties. For her, all experiences were opportunities for finding God. As a society we are frightened of a lot of things- death, pain and suffering being some and yet we look up at people who have dealt with the difficult things in life bravely and faithfully, Mary Ward and her life is an example of that.

Mary Ward could read the signs of the times and act with foresight and courage but what makes her truly courageous is that she had the resilience to live with uncertainty. As daughters of Mary Ward despite the lingering uncertainty of COVID-19 and the pain and confusion it has brought to us, may we continue to seek and find God like she did.

May we who are called to walk in her footsteps be led by the spirit to act with courage and be blest with the same resilience to live with uncertainty and keep trusting God. May the words she uttered which is also my motto "I will give Him what I have and all that I need I will find in Him." during these days give us the courage to trust in God's all abiding love and providence.

## Ignatian corner

Sr Ablin



*"For it is not knowing much, but realising and relishing things interiorly, that contains and satisfies the soul".*

The teachings, principles and values of St. Ignatius of Loyola have drawn me to be intimate with God and work towards being a good human being. Here I, Ablin Tirkey would like to share some of my experiences about Ignatian Spirituality. First of all the Ignatian Spirituality helps me to deepen my relationship with God, myself and others. As I always remember the Second Week of my 30 days retreat, 'The meditation on the Two Standards' has taught me how to make a proper choice for Christ. I still remember my contemplation. At times I was confused and disturbed while choosing between Christ and worldly pleasures as both had opened their arms and were calling me. I struggled a lot but with the love and grace of God I did not fail to choose my Saviour again and again. Till today the same experiences and graces of Christ guide me to make a proper and satisfied discernment about my life. The knowledge, insights, blessings and fruits which I have received during my 30 days retreat and from on-going formation are helping me every single day to relate my life experiences to Ignatian Spirituality.

# Education Corner

Sr Phyllis



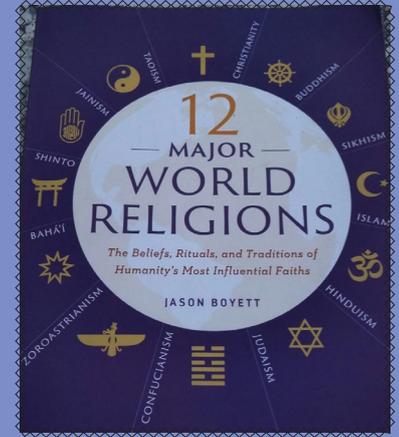
Our Province Leader Sister Sabrina Edwards has requested us, that our Loreto Schools include 'World Religions' ( in line with the teachings of Pope Francis' Fratelli Tutti') into our school curriculum.

In response to this, we held a meeting with our teachers (two from each of our nineteen schools in India )

We briefed them about Sr. Sabrina's letter and received positive responses. The following are the religions we have chosen:- Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism and Indigenous Religion.

To take this initiative forward, one religion has been allotted to two schools to study.

In order to better prepare us for this move, we are trying to contact resource persons who could talk to our Principals and teachers on the religion assigned for the study. We ask you to keep us in your prayers.



## Our Experience at Sadhana

Srs Swati & Greta

### *Tanmaya Sadhana (coming home to oneself)*

From the 6th January to 26th February 2021, Greta and I (Swati) attended a two month programme called Tanmaya in Sadhana, Lonavala. We were twenty-four participants attending the course. We began the programme with three days orientation which helped us to get to know each other. Then we were divided in two groups for the inner process which was for three weeks. This was an invitation to an honest examination of one's life: to acknowledge the truth of oneself with its pleasant and unpleasant aspects and to open oneself to healing. This inner process was a very freeing experience for us. The open sharing not only helped us to understand and bond with one another but also encouraged us to open and experience deep healing and freedom.

Along with this the other topics that were dealt with were 'Affectivity' and 'Good Communication'. The course on Affectivity helped us to understand and accept our sexuality. We were also glad to learn new ways of communication. As a whole this was a very fruitful experience helping us to heal our past wounds and identify our true self-worth and strengths. We are extremely grateful to God and the Province Leadership Team for making it possible for us to have this great experience.





# My Experience at Prerana

Sr Nithya

We were all happy to go to Prerana, Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Bangalore for two months in preparation for our Final Vows. It was a time to introspect and build a deeper relationship with God. We were altogether 40 participants, from 10 different congregations.



The courses of the first month focused on inner-healing and knowing oneself more deeply which helped us to build a deeper union with God by becoming aware of His unconditional love. The courses of the second month focused on the Life of Jesus and His mission, our mission as a Religious and the skills that are needed for carrying out His mission fruitfully. Each one of us knowing God, understanding His love felt inspired to give ourselves totally to Him with a generous heart in the service of others. The participants were divided into 6 groups called “LIVING GROUPS” where we had members from different congregations. We were able to share our journey, our views with each other and also help each other. Sundays were INTEGRATION DAYS. On those days we shared our experience of the week, our insights, our challenges, our disturbances and our learnings with our ‘Living Group’. We were enriched by each other’s sharing and then submitted our experiences in written format to our spiritual directors, as we all had our own spiritual directors allotted for our growth. The sharing that we had every week in the group helped us to understand each other better and created a deeper bond among us as a group.

Each congregation also had the opportunity to share about its vision, mission and charism. We were very happy to share with everyone our charism, our way of life and our mission. As everyone shared their own, we could feel the love that everyone had for their own congregation.

The two months were indeed a great time for us to become aware of ourselves and also a time that helped us to grow deeper in the love of God and an awareness of the world around us.



# My Experience

Sr Barbara



Forty years of serving in the Lord's vineyard has filled me with His Grace. Smooth and rough roads of my life-journey have given me the experience of Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

As a member of the Institute I am blessed to have had the opportunity of living with our dear Sisters who have gone before us who helped me to be what I am today.

Most of my life I have worked in the village missions like Thakurpukur, Lolay and Sadam. It was challenging, yet, life giving. I felt close to God always by being close to the people who are less privileged.

Living with various kinds of people, like children, teachers, parents, clergy and the faithful has given me the joy of working in God's vineyard.



At present I have been given the Pastoral Mission in the Darjeeling - Sikkim Diocese. I have been given the responsibility to accompany the different groups in the Cathedral Immaculate Conception Parish such as, Nari Sangh (Women's group), Small Christian Community and Holy Childhood.

I am grateful to the Institute for trusting me with the work that I am doing for the Church.



*"DO GOOD AND DO IT WELL"*  
with this in mind I will continue the work that is given to me.



## *Dear Sisters,*

My last letter to you seems to have been sent in another time. When I wrote towards the end of February we had little or no idea of the impending disaster of Covid-19 lurking just round the corner.

Since then we have been plunged into this crisis, which has touched each and every one of us in one way or another. Work at the Archive has continued, but on a slow burner, all the time reminded of the difficult circumstances prevailing all round.

Given that we are all anyway facing numerous worries in our daily lives, I took the decision to offer you something a little light hearted in this edition of the newsletter. On the following page you will find what is called a grid logic problem. My association with grid logic problems goes back to my teenage years and the many hours happily spent with my mother solving similar puzzles.

For those of you who have never encountered a grid logic problem before, below are some links to give you an introduction to solving these puzzles.

The best explanation I came across was in this YouTube video which provides a clear step-by-step explanation of the guiding principles with a sample problem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNxfZwvaQ-k>

If you require more detailed explanations then you can visit this Puzzle Baron page

<https://logic.puzzlebaron.com/how-to-solve-a-logic-puzzle.php>

Just a small tip - you may need to print the next page with the problem and the clues in order to solve the puzzle. I have left the background of the page white, to make it easier to print.

I do hope my logic problem offering for this newsletter gives you a few moments of fun and forgetfulness.

Edwina and I would like to wish you and your near and dear ones safety and good health, and we hope for better times ahead for all.

*Nilina*

**Dr. Nilina Deb Lal**  
**Loreto South Asia Province Archivist**  
Contact: [loretosa.archive@gmail.com](mailto:loretosa.archive@gmail.com)



# Borrowed books

Sisters Aparna, Malini, Julie and Miranda, borrowed the biographies of Mary Ward and her companions – Barbara Babthorpe, Mary Poyntz and Winifred Wigmore, from the Loreto Archive. Sisters Aparna and Malini are members of the Asansol community, while Sisters Julie and Miranda are members of the Ranchi community. The books borrowed by the sisters were of differing length and were borrowed in different months. Find out in which month each Sister borrowed a book, which book she borrowed and the number of pages in the book.

## CLUES

1. If Sr. Julie got the biography of Barbara Babthorpe, then the biography of Mary Ward has 350 pages.
2. The biography of Winifred Wigmore is 50 pages larger than the book borrowed in May, but 50 pages shorter than Sr. Aparna's choice.
3. A member of the Ranchi community borrowed a book in May, while the other resident of Ranchi got the biography of Barbara Babthorpe.
4. Sr. Julie didn't get the shortest book.
5. Exactly one of the sisters shares the initial in her name with the month in which she got a book.
6. The biography of Mary Ward is 50 pages larger than Sr. Malini's book.
7. The biography of Mary Ward was not borrowed in June, and nor was the biography of Mary Poyntz.
8. The largest book and the biography of Mary Poyntz have been borrowed in consecutive months.

		BIOGRAPHIES OF				MONTH				PAGES			
		Mary Ward	Barbara Babthorpe	Mary Poyntz	Winifred Wigmore	April	May	June	July	250	300	350	400
NAME	Aparna, Asansol												
	Julie, Ranchi												
	Malini, Asansol												
	Miranda, Ranchi												
PAGES	250												
	300												
	350												
	400												
MONTH	April												
	May												
	June												
	July												

Answer grid - write your answers in the grid below:

NAME	BIOGRAPHY OF	MONTH	PAGES
Aparna, Asansol			
Julie, Ranchi			
Malini, Asansol			
Miranda, Ranchi			

To check your answer, click on the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z5tnKynDYF49CIK3dlsZuuxczlCTychl/view>

# Shillong Community

Sr Anupa



Sr. Banisha's father passed away on 21st February. She travelled from Ranchi and arrived in Shillong on 22nd February and the same afternoon Srs. Mary and Anupa accompanied her home. Sr. Mary stayed back for the funeral which was the next day on 23rd February. It was appreciated by the family.

Srs. Mary, Euphemia, Miri and Rosita went to Umnongrim on 28th February, for the inauguration and blessing of the New Chapel. Srs. Mary and Euphemia have helped this village in many ways. The people were very grateful to the sisters.

On 2nd March we invited our new Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh, to our house. He offered Holy Mass and prayed for the sisters and the hostel girls and joined us for a simple dinner.

We celebrated Sr. Euphemia's birthday on 10th March: Holy Mass was offered for her and the celebrations followed with breakfast and went on till tea. She had invited some friends for tea at which she cut the cake.

The 4th April was the great day of our Lord's Resurrection. In the evening we had Holy Mass in our Chapel, where our Sr. Miri Phawa renewed her vows. Her brother, Lukas, who is a seminarian in Christ King, joined us for the celebration. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. John Wahlang .He made it very meaningful for her and for all of us.

After a year we opened up the Umphyrnai house which was closed due to the pandemic. From 10th April, on Saturday and Sunday evenings, sisters Miri and Rosita have been taking tuition for children of Classes I - VIII. The response has been good. About 20 children have been coming.

Again from 1st May 2021 we are under complete lockdown. No support staff are around the campus. The sisters are kept busy with household work as well as attending different online meetings and webinars. All our student sisters are having online classes in full swing.

Some of us in Loreto Shillong pray the Rosary as often as we can together and spend extra time in prayer for Covid victims and for an end to this pandemic.

Mercia, Euphemia and Mary listen and counsel people whom they know who are in some way affected by the pandemic or the result of the lockdown.



# Champasari Community

Sr Dipika



## Online Classes:

The COVID-19 lockdown came as a shock for many students as coaching classes, schools and colleges closed abruptly. But students found an alternative in online classes which experts say will remain an all weather friend not only for students, but also for those who are preparing for competitive exams. So from 2020-2021 our sisters have been very busy having online classes. They are also having online assignments and exams etc. However, there have been many challenges and struggles but they are learning a lot through these online classes. They are very happy and enjoying them.



## Celebration:

On 4th of April, we had the Easter celebration, birthday celebrations and renewing of vows. Sr. Mariana renewed her vows and Sr. Priyanka celebrated the gift of her life. In the morning we had the special Eucharistic celebration for Easter and also for Sr. Mariana and Sr. Priyanka. Fr. Victor SJ. was the celebrant. We had a delicious lunch after the Mass.



# Bowbazar Community

Sr Anita M.

church.

As we reached Holy Week there were feelings of joy and confusion too. In the community all of us were wondering and waiting with hope. Would we be able to celebrate Easter outdoors? It was with God's blessings and grace that we all came together for the celebration. We were able to take part in all the services in the

**Birthday:** We were all blessed to be part of the celebration of new life, as Sr. Baishakhi celebrated her birthday on 21st of April. The extended community got an opportunity to come together once again. Sr. Ranjita had arranged for a beautiful Mass. Fr. David S.J. was the celebrant. During the homily he invited each one of us to share something that we admire in Sr. Baishakhi and make a prayer. The celebration ended with cake cutting and a delicious dinner.

**Welcome:** We were very happy to welcome Sr. Beatrice as our community leader and look forward to journeying with her. We are happy to be the part of the bigger family with the 52C community.





# Loreto House Community

Srs Lily & Manjula

*"Our Risen Jesus compelled us to share the Good News of our life wherever we went."*

On the 4th of April, Easter Sunday, two of our sisters Ablin and Manjula renewed their Vows in the presence of Sr. Sabrina our Province Leader. The Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Jerome SJ, accompanied by the melodious singing of the community. It was a great moment to celebrate the joy of The Risen Lord in our midst.



## **New members**

We welcomed the new members to our community, Sr. Arockia Mary Dass, the Vice Principal of Loreto House School and Sharon, a pre-candidate, doing her B.A. degree in Loreto College.

## **"Every cloud has a Silver Lining. Silver is now the Symbol of love"**

As a community we joined the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Priestly Ordination of Fr. Alphonse Francis, brother of Sister Molly Francis. We felt like one big family as we joined in this Thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration. It was moving to see every member of the family of Fr. Alphonse participating in the Jubilee Mass. There was great rejoicing as we cut the Jubilee cake.



## **Assurance of God's protection (Ps: 91)**

We are disturbed by the daily news of priests, nuns and some of our family members, parents, teachers and students who are affected by the deadly Corona virus and many of them left us to be united with God. This sudden demise of them has left a big void in our hearts. But our only hope is in the Lord who is our refuge. We felt we need to turn to God for help to save us from the deadly virus. We began our daily adoration purely praying for those people.

## **Covid Response:**

We are having daily Adoration and praying the Mercy Chaplet for the people who are affected in various ways during this Pandemic.

We have been sharing our resources like the house car and rations through KMWSC.





On 4th February - Diaconate Ordination of Sr. Punitha's brother in Kolkata. She went to Kolkata for the celebration. The Holy Eucharist was telecasted online too, so the whole community could attend the Mass. It was nice to see them full of joy and we also felt very happy to join the celebration.

We went for a community picnic on 16th February to Patratu Dam, Palani Waterfall and Biodiversity Garden. Our first destination was Patratu Dam, which is situated at the foot of the mountains. Since it was a dry season we couldn't enjoy the beautiful scenery and the dam was closed due to the lockdown. Then we headed towards Palani Waterfall. It was a thrilling adventure as we were strangers to the route to the waterfall. Then we moved to the next destination - Biodiversity Garden. Since this spot also turned out to be closed we had lunch outside the park. It was fun having lunch outside together as a family. We cherished each other's company during this one-day outing.



We heard the sad news about Sr. Banisha's father who passed away in the morning. Fr. Augustine and Fr. Pradeep from Gumla dropped Banisha to Ranchi. The Fathers stayed back and offered Mass for her father and her family members. The same evening she left for Shillong.

The Community was glad to welcome Sr. Geraldine on 2nd March, who came to visit the Temporary Professed. It was nice getting a visitor after a long time. It was a fruitful visit. She was excited to see the baby rabbits.

On 5th of March Sisters Maeve and Tina took the first dose of the Vaccine. They were very happy since they did not feel any after effects. Then after a few days Sr. Christopher also took the Vaccine and now they are very happy and strong awaiting the second dose!

On 7th of March we had a community recollection. Fr. Edwin Dang S.J. gave us a talk. It was a blessed day for all of us to spend some time with the Lord and go through a spiritual renewal.



On 16th March the Community was happy to welcome the new members Srs. Christopher and Rina to our community. The following day the community celebrated the feast of St. Patrick. The Holy Eucharist was offered by Fr. Ignace S.J. After the Mass we had a short felicitation programme in the School with all our teachers and support staff. We were all excited meeting each other after a year. Since all the Community members were present on this special day we took a community photograph. After lunch Srs. Maeve and Punitha went to drop Sr. Rina to Gumla, her new mission.

On 21st March, we participated in a prayerful procession held in commemoration of the martyrdom of Fr. Constant Lieven's in Jamgain Hulhundu. The procession commenced with the rosary at the grotto and concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Present in the gathering were Rt. Rev. Archbishop Felix Toppo S.J., Rev. Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX, priests, religious and the faithful

who had arrived from far distances. The programme ended with a fellowship meal. The entire celebration was held with great solemnity.

On 29th March we were very excited to collect the fresh garlic and onions which we have cultivated in the garden.

Indeed, it was a double celebration for the community on Easter Sunday. As we rejoiced in the Resurrection of Our Lord, Sr. Jiwanti renewed her vows. Fr. Fuldeo S. J. celebrated the Holy Eucharist. After the Mass we had a felicitation programme followed by a sumptuous meal.



On 5th of April Sr. Punitha was tested positive for covid and for three weeks she was in home quarantine. It was very sad news. All the other sisters were tested negative. We were happy about that. We were very careful in taking care of others and ourselves. It was a very difficult time for us as we heard that many of our teachers and parents were also affected. We were sad to hear that many have lost their dear ones.

### Covid Response

Loreto Convent Ranchi had organized a Blood donation and Antibody Titre Test Camp on 13th May 20, 2021. We got a good response from the people around here. We were happy to see many who recovered from Covid who came forward for the test.

The Ranchi Archdiocese has started distributing free food for the Covid patients and their families outside the Hospitals. Loreto Ranchi approached the Bishop to offer help, and he asked us if we could help with providing bananas and water bottles. We agreed.





# Lucknow Community

## Sr Benedicta

We are five of us in this community and all of us are involved in the School Ministries, except Sr. Maxima who is a full-time student. From after Easter, we re-opened school and all were busy with online classes. Suddenly everything closed down by the end of April. The Government even stopped all online classes. We were under very strict lockdown with night curfew from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. In the meantime the covid cases were soaring high all over Lucknow. Many of our teachers, children's parents and our domestic staff were affected. Our place was closed down and we were completely house bound. We have been attending online Redemptorist Mass at 7:00 a.m. each morning and receiving Communion during the Mass from the Consecrated Hosts in our Tabernacle.

Every evening we join the Parish online Rosary and on Friday's Holy Hour and Adoration at 6:00 p.m. praying for all covid patients.

It has been a very stressful time for us as every day messages were coming in of new and some serious cases. Sr. Anima had made a list of medical people from our parents who could be contacted for help with hospital admissions, oxygen and other covid problems. We were referring people to the different contact people and we kept in touch with the patients, their families, the doctors and the hospitals. Everything was done on the phone as we were not going out at all. Some days we were on the phone the whole day contacting different people. Ms. Debra Bunny's whole family including herself were tested positive. We lost one of our Domestic Staff, sweepers at Loreto Convent and our night guard's wife in St. Agnes' ( Mann's mother) could not be saved even though every help was availed of. Mann's father our night guard was also tested positive and hospitalised and Mann's sister, Manju who was looking after her father was also tested positive and hospitalised. One of our Pushpa teacher's father, 80 years old, with a lot of complications went from hospital to hospital and eventually passed away on Ascension Sunday. Many of our children in both schools have lost parents and in the Christian Colony behind Loreto many have died of covid sometimes even two in the same family. The cemeteries could not keep up with the burials and the Burial Board asked for help for making the Coffins and digging the graves. We sent our Carpenter to help out with the Coffins.

Every morning coming for breakfast was very stressful and a feeling of helplessness, hopelessness and pain seemed to overwhelm us - Who is the next victim? was the question we all asked. Three priests in our Cathedral Parish passed away and were buried in the Loreto Cemetery. We did not attend the Funeral Services, the Parish priests did everything. It was such a helpless feeling not being able to do anything except pray, which we are doing constantly.

We are taking all the precautions ourselves as community. Food is no problem as there are plenty of vegetables in the garden and we have our own onions, garlic and potatoes. We also had non - vegetarian items in the freezer so we did not have to go out. Few of our workers were coming everyday in turn to keep the grounds clean. Saroj and Magdaline come to help out in the community for cooking and cleaning.

A lot of sisters and priests have died in and around Lucknow, so on the 17th May, 2021 Bishop Gerald Mathias offered an online Requiem Mass for all the deceased priests, sisters and lay people who have died from January to May, 2021.

As I am writing this, a message has just come in that Mrs. T. Suri, our Middle School Co - Ordinator of Loreto Convent has just passed away due to Covid. She had been in hospital for nearly a month and had developed some complications. She is a big loss to the school - such a sincere, dedicated and committed person is hard to find.

As a community we are very much involved in the schools so it's natural to find the whole situation stressful and there is a feeling of helplessness and pain which each one of us experiences. We can only pray and ask the Good Lord to watch over all of us and keep us safe.

## How do my wounds manifest in my daily behaviour?



Loreto Delhi community had an INNER HEALING recollection-day on 8th May 2021. It was conducted online by Mrs. Teresa Larive and Mr. Glen Larive. They are renowned preachers of the Divine Retreat Center, Potta, Kerala. We found Mrs. Teresa's session on "Inner Wounds" very relevant and practical. Her challenging question, "How do my wounds manifest in my daily behaviour?" helped us to introspect deeply. We spent the whole day in prayer and silence

and shared the fruit of our inner journey on 11th May. Each of us found the recollection-day extremely helpful and fruitful. We unanimously said that the journey towards healing is a daily endeavour and we would love to make such a worthwhile journey part of our daily living.



We supported a family by arranging accommodation in the school while the mother was admitted into the Army Hospital. The mother had tested positive and eventually died. We arranged a funeral Mass in the campus with the ashes of the mother.

"On 27th May 2021 Loreto Delhi Community distributed ration to twenty poor families."

## Shimla Community

Sr Priyanka Dung Dung



We celebrated Mariam's birthday on February 16, 2021. The day began with the Holy Eucharist and ended in the evening with a beautiful prayer service followed by dinner to thank and praise God for the gift of Mariam to our community.

We celebrated the feast of St. Joseph as well as the birthday of our parish priest Fr. Thaines Raj on 19th of March in our convent with a beautiful Mass. Fr. Thaines Raj invited the community and the local priests for a sumptuous dinner.

The confessions organized in the parish church in preparation for Easter helped the community too to repent and receive God's grace into our lives. Passion Sunday Mass and procession on 28th of March helped many to experience God's unconditional love.



Easter celebrations too were meaningful as the parishioners and in a special way the youth, worked together to decorate and prepare the liturgy in the church. This Easter has been a great and wonderful celebration for us.

On April 12, 2021 we had the Easter blessing for the house and the school by Fr. Thaines Raj. The community, all the teaching and the support staff were present keeping social distance and wearing masks. The prayer service was meaningful.



The online Crowning of our Lady on 1st of May with the Catholic children was organized by Mrs. Priyanka Sebastian. The community, children, and a few parents as well as some of our teachers joined in the beautiful service. During it, we had a short reflection from the Gospel followed by the Rosary led by the small children. Each person who took part led the prayer and the hymns with devotion and love.



The community at Entally was very involved in the activities of the new academic year – all on online programmes- the crowning of Our Lady and the investiture of the new captains and student council.

## Entally Community

Sr Reshma

At the beginning of the holidays, we took the few children who stayed with us for an outing to the Strand, Babughat and Victoria Memorial. They enjoyed sightseeing and the treat.



The month of April meant celebrations at Entally, welcoming Sr. Marilla D'Souza who celebrated her birthday a few days later. We welcomed Sr. Mable who also celebrated her birthday long after her arrival. At Entally, besides greetings the usual custom is that at dinner we sing 'Happy Birthday' and a beautiful chocolate cake is cut by the birthday nun.



Another news item is fishing in the Entally pond. Loads of fish of all sizes were caught. We were able to distribute to 52C, the Salesian Priests, all the local Loreto Communities and our staff.

## Response to Covid

Under the auspices of the local CRI Unit we were asked to help those in need during this pandemic. Our community decided to work with KMWSC in the distribution of lunch packets to 200+ Covid patients in quarantine. We spend our mornings preparing the packets for distribution.

Entally community decided to help KMWSC in distributing lunch to the covid infected patients who are quarantined in Government Safe Homes. Every day sisters help in cutting vegetables and packing food and go to deliver the packets once a week. Two Aunties from the hostel also help in preparation of food.

As all our hostel children are at home and very few are with us, the sponsor office team make a frequent enquiry of the students who are at home to find out how they are doing. This helps us to know that they are safe at home.



### Farewell for Sr. Valeria and Welcome to Kavitha

On 6th of March there was great excitement because the whole community from Champasari came to reach Sr. Kavitha. On the same day both communities set out for a farewell outing to Lava for Sr. Valeria Mundu and a welcome to Sr. Kavitha. It was great fun and an enjoyable outing.

On 10th March with few a children along with teachers we had a small farewell programme for Sr. Valeria. We had a Thanksgiving Mass followed by a cultural programme and the fellowship lunch.

Colay Community  
Sr Leena



**International Women's Day** Celebration with fun, games, dance and song everyone present enjoyed the day.



**Goodbye** On 12th March we went down to leave Sr Valeria to Champasari, NJP.

On 23rd April Sr Kavitha left for her home holiday to Madhurai. On 30th April from Darjeeling the driver and Mrs. Linda came to drop Sr. Abhay Ekka to Lolay to be a companion to Sr Leena.



## Updates from Bangladesh

**Sr Archana**

The mortality rate is increasing... and our Mohakhali area is quite infected as it is surrounded by several hospitals and many Nurses reside in our locality. We often feel helpless as we are unable to assist the people as much as we would like. So in a small way we visit families who have recovered from Covid, attend funeral Masses, distribute herbal drinks to a few families, involve ourselves in Counselling the victims and their families over the phone and face to face. Ten people have died within this one year in our locality. We are in touch with these families and we visit them to conduct prayer services. We have a slum close to our house and how we wish we could reach out to them! But due to lack of space, personnel and financial support, we are unable to reach out to those poor and underprivileged people. We have many dreams to serve the needy and hopefully some day we will be able to do much more.



Attending the Funeral of Mr. Kamal Rodrigues, a Great Singer and composer of liturgical hymns, who died of Covid from our locality.



Attending the 1st Death Anniversary Mass of Mr. Chakma, the 1st Catholic in Bangladesh who died of Covid19 from our locality.



Giving hope to live from home to the hospital over a video call. Mr. Hemanta who returned from death's door after staying in the hospital for over a month due to Covid 19.

A miracle survivor after 60% of his lung had deteriorated. Thanks to Mary Ward. We had a Thanksgiving Mass in our Chapel for the families after recovering from Covid.



## Trichy Community

Sr Edelin



Nithya's mother, aunt and priest uncle paid a short visit on 25th February. We exchanged smiles and the warmth of love.

On the 26th February we went to visit Vimala's father who is bedridden for months. Her mother and the entire family was thrilled by our presence there. Vimla got some time to be with her father.

We went for a pilgrimage to St. Britto's tomb on 27th February. It was a moment of prayer for all those who have asked us to pray for them. We felt blessed by touching the relics on the holy ground.

The next day we got to admire the beauty of the nature as Vimla's brother offered to take us for a boat ride deep into the sea. It was a beautiful moment to capture the scenery and take it with us. We took a few photographs at the sea.



On 4th March Sr. Edelin had joined the Union process group of CJ and IBVM sisters. There were 8 members in the group and each introduced herself and shared her reflection and feeling about coming together. All in the group seemed to show their eagerness and excitement to join up as one Institute. The Holy Week service were meaningful with prayer and reflection in the Parish. We supported the parish Community.

The joy of the Risen Lord was shared with our neighbors- Padmini, Edward and Philomena Aunty who joined us for a fellowship meal prepared by the community. They expressed their gratitude for the joy they experience at having them invited by us.



On 16th April Feast of St Thomas, we went to Jency's village in Paramakudi to be a part of the feastday celebration. The whole village was in a festive mood with prayers and procession around the village after evening Mass. It was also a time of family members coming together as her priest brother and sister were also there. They were happy to share their joy with us.

In the midst of the heat and the deadly pandemic the Trichy community kept fresh and healthy with delicious yummy fruit juice in the evenings.

# Elliot Road Community

Sr Clara



## Birthday Celebrations:

The community had gone out for dinner on the occasion of Sr. Balika's birthday.

We celebrated Binista's birthday with the Eucharist. One of her college classmates had come to celebrate the Mass.



## Farewell:

The staff gave Sr. Marilla D'Souza a farewell on 24th March with a Holy Mass and a short programme followed by lunch. On the 30th March the community gave her a farewell and the parish priest was invited.



## Vocation work:

On 20th March, Clara along with Anjuman, Rani and Nirmala went for vocation work to Dumka to a Jesuit college where we met more than 100 students. Not all, but many seemed interested in our way of life.



## Holy Week Service:

This year the junior school hall was given to the parish Hindi speaking community for the Good Friday Service.



## Covid Relief Work:

12th- Our school, in a small way, stood by Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre in its new venture of distribution of cooked food to Covid affected households. Our school ambulance was used to ferry the food while Sr. Monica Suchiang herself with her team went out physically to carry out this selfless service.

From 14th May to 28th May 2021, our school began a collection drive for KMWSC. Parents, ex-students, teachers and benefactors were welcomed to donate dry ration and other grocery items to the school. These items will be cooked and distributed to the Covid patients on 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th May, 2021.



## Response to Covid

Through the help of Fr. Sarto Loreto Asansol has given four classrooms for an isolation centre for the covid patients. The Government is happy to get this place for the betterment of the people.

22nd May - Fr. Sebastian Rodrigues with two other priests Fr. Ananth Kumar and Fr. Rahul Sequiera blessed the isolation rooms of Loreto Convent Asansol. On the same day Sri Molay Ghatak, minister of West Bengal and other officials inaugurated the Safe Home of St. Joseph's High School Asansol - 64 beds and Loreto Convent Asansol - 56 beds.



## *Sadam Community* Sr Madhu

During this pandemic we have not yet begun giving out food or visiting the covid patients. We have been trying to find out the poor and needy especially among our students to give some rations to them. Here, every family of the village is provided with rations by the Government.

We pray the rosary every day keeping our intention focused on the people who are affected with the corona virus. We also pray for the doctors, nurses, our sisters and the people who are generously stretching out their hands to help the covid patients and the needy.

Since the support staff are not coming in we are trying to give a little more of our time to cleaning the campus and the flower garden and trying to grow some vegetables. We also try to give care and concern to the members in the community.



*Mandala Work Art by Sr Mable Rudum*

# Darjeeling Community

Sr Shanta



Our Community was blessed with the presence of our Province leader, Sr. Sabrina Edwards and Sr. A. Nirmala the province consultor on the 14th of March. The days spent with them in the community and schools were gracefilled for each one of us. Our province leader and community members also visited the CJ sisters in Singla and Namchi - another step forward for re-union.



We had Sr. Shalini in our community during the Easter week. Unfortunately we could not go out with her as she wasn't permitted to go to high altitudes. It was a great joy to celebrate and prepare for Easter with her.



We planned for the community outing on Easter Monday to Sandakpur but we landed up at Chatakpur, a forest resort on the peak of the mountains. It was a happy mistake. We spent time with each other and enjoyed the beauty and freshness of the forest. The next day we walked down to Sonada. We cherished the long walk together reminding us of the pilgrim walk of our Foundress Mary Ward.



Our community generously extended our support to other communities. Sr. Rina left for Gumla on 10th March to continue her mission and be with Banisha. Sr. Abhay too went to Lolay on the 30th April as Leena was alone.

We were much saddened and shocked to lose our student of St. Teresa's, Supriya Rai Class XI Science on 4th of May due to an appendix operation. May her soul rest in peace. Our Prayers go out to the bereaved family as they are devastated by the loss. She had a zealous spirit so much so that she wanted to work in Delhi AIIMS and kept the picture of AIIMS in her DP. She had been a very promising and vibrant student in the school as well as in society. Her passing away has created a big vacuum in our hearts.



Sr. Sunila our community leader and community have been very courageous and angels to Sr. Amla CJ who has been in hospital. Sr. Sunila reached the food to her and bought her medicine. Our caring relationship was very obvious that she said that our reunion had already taken place. She was extremely grateful for the help rendered to her.

As Covid is surging in Darjeeling, we hold everyone in our prayers for their wellbeing and good health.

# Gyanalaya Community

Sr Geraldine



For many of us, it has been an experience to find ourselves adjusting our daily routine to take safety precautions to protect ourselves, loved ones, and community members. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented both challenges and opportunities for all of us in our ministries and community living.

We, in the Formation house Gyanalaya Juniorate, Entally where we have gathered for preparation for Final Vows have also been grappling with the situation. Some of our community members and family members have been affected directly or indirectly and this has made us understand deeply the vulnerability of our world and the need to take care of ourselves, each other, and the world at large.



We have been reflecting and praying and we have realized that the Pandemic reminds us that we are deep down spiritual beings, whether we realize it or not and this is what connects us.

We have tried to take care of our Environment in our own little way and planted flowers and vegetables.



We have been nourished with vegetables and fruit from our garden and we are grateful for the luxury of our beautiful garden and open space to help us bask in God's love and be strengthened.

Having received so much we wanted to be a part of those who are reaching out and so we volunteered to help Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre in their project to prepare cooked meals and distribute for the Covid Victims in Kolkata. For giving us this opportunity we thank Sr. Monica Suchiang.

Thus as we live each day we are grateful for the time given to us to learn, reflect and integrate our experiences so as to carry out our Mission as Mary Ward women with courage and faith in the God who has called us.



# Rock your Brain

*Some of the Sisters' names are in these sentences. The letters follow one another, with no gap.*



1. Please pass that rag. Nesting birds have left behind their trademark.

2. Smiti Irani spoke instead of Shah.

3. Sit up ! ow, Lina hurt me with the injection !

4. The General Manager came to our sports.

5. Can gelatine be made at home, or have we to buy it ?

6. Does it take a decimal ? O tick that one off !

7. The music teacher bought an organ, gave two violins in exchange.

8. I regret a silly thing I said to make him angry.

9. When you read a sentence do you see the pun ? I take it, you did !

10. Is your watch a Titan ? It always has been a favourite of mine.

*Do you know the names  
of all the sister in the  
province?  
Find them out !*



*Send your correct right answers  
southanewsletter@gmail.com*

# Birthdays and Feastdays

## June Birthdays

Sr A Anitha	7th June
Sr Deepa	8th June
Sr Initha	8th June
Sr Matilda	8th June
Sr Greta	9th June
Sr Rajni	16th June
Sr Sanjyoti	20th June
Sr Nithya	22nd June
Sr Pushpa	29th June

## June Feastdays

Sr Antoinette	13th June
Sr Cyril	27th June

## July Birthdays

Sr Mann Veronica	5th July
Sr Shakuntala	8th July
Sr Goretti	9th July
Sr Mercia	19th July
Sr Cyril	21st July
Sr Reshma	21st July
Sr Antoinette	22nd July
Sr Mariana	27th July

## July Feastdays

Sr Maria	6th July
Sr Benedicta	11th July
Sr Christopher	25th July
Sr Anita M Braganza	26th July
Sr Beatrice	29th July

## August Birthdays

Sr Maloti	4th Aug
Sr Adrina	4th Aug
Sr Abhay	7th Aug
Sr Badarilin	13th Aug
Sr Marion	15th Aug
Sr Kavitha	15th Aug
Sr Rani M Minj	19th Aug
Sr Joan	21st Aug
Sr Clara	23rd Aug
Sr Powlin	26th Aug

## August Feastdays

Sr Claire	11th Aug
Sr Monica R	27th Aug

# Silver Jubilarians

**I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**

**Philippians 4:13**



Sr A. Anitha  
Sr Monica Suchiang