



GURJARI

A Province Connect

St. Chavara Vice Province, Bhavnagar

Devdarshan, CMI Provincial House Merubaga, Ghogha Road, Bhavnagar, Gujarat 364001



PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

As we approach the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and commemorate the Independence Day of our beloved nation, our hearts are drawn to reflect on two beautiful dimensions of our life – heavenly hope and earthly responsibility.

The Assumption of Mary is not only a dogma of faith but also a profound invitation. It reminds us that our journey here on earth has a glorious destination. Mary's life – marked by humility, obedience, and service – culminated in her being taken body and soul into heaven. Her Assumption calls us to live with our eyes fixed on God's promise, while our hands remain committed to serving His people in the present moment.

On the other hand, Independence Day reminds us of the sacrifices and struggles of countless men and women who dreamed of a free India. Their courage and commitment challenge us to live our citizenship with integrity and to work for justice, peace, and the upliftment of the poor and marginalized. True freedom is not just political; it is the inner freedom that comes from truth, love, and selfless service.

As religious and priests, we are called to be patriots of heaven and earth – faithful to our eternal homeland, yet deeply committed to the well-being of our earthly nation. Let Mary's Assumption inspire us to walk in holiness, and let India's Independence rekindle in us the spirit of service, unity, and compassion.

May our communities be signs of hope and instruments of harmony. May the Blessed Mother intercede for our Province, our mission, and our country.

Wishing you a grace-filled Feast of the Assumption and a joyful Independence Day!

Fr. Joseph Kallampallil CMI
Provincial



**Twin Celebrations of August 15:
Mary Assumed into Heaven and India Born to Freedom**

Some Reflections for the Troubled Times

Fr. Dr. Jacob Marangattu CMI
Samanvaya Theological College, Bhopal



August 15 is a day of twin celebration for us Indian Christians: one spiritual, the other socio-political. On this day, the Church celebrates the Assumption of Mary into Heaven as well as the rise of our nation into freedom and dignity. Both moments signify a new birth: Mary is taken into the glory of heaven, and our nation begins its journey of self-rule. Both speak of entering into a new life of greater dignity and joy.

Though these two events unfold on different planes, one divine, the other historical, they share deep and common threads: the struggle for liberation, the cost of suffering, the joy of freedom, the dignity of the human person, and the enduring hope that sustains us. The question for us, 75 years after independence, is this: What do these two celebrations say to us today? And what path does Mary show to Indian Christians in our present reality?

The Struggle for Liberation

Mary's path to glory was not free of struggle or suffering. Her "Yes" to God's plan risked misunderstanding and rejection within her society. From giving birth in a stable, to fleeing to Egypt to protect her Child, to seeing Jesus hated by the religious and political leaders, sensing

the conspiracy against Him, and finally witnessing his agonising crucifixion, her life was marked by pain and sacrifice. Similarly, our forefathers' struggle for independence came at a high cost.

The freedom movement, largely non-violent, was met with brutal suppression: beatings, imprisonment, and executions. Families were torn apart; many sacrificed their very lives for the nation's freedom.

But where do we stand today? Have the struggles of our freedom fighters borne their full fruit? The reality is sobering. While we have a democratic, sovereign government and a growing economy, true liberation remains elusive for many, especially the poor, Dalits, and Tribals. Segregation, social exclusion, and economic disparity persist. Dishonour killings, caste discrimination, and violence against women continue to stain our national conscience. The stage may be the same, only the actors have changed.

The Dignity of the Human Person

Though Mary's Assumption is a unique and unrepeatable moment in salvation history, we can also see in it God's proclamation of the dignity of every human being. It affirms his ultimate victory over sin, corruption, and death, and gives us the assurance of eternal life if we live in faith and love with a repentant heart.

Indian independence, too, was meant to restore the dignity of a people who had endured centuries of colonial rule. That dignity is not the privilege of a few; it is the right of every citizen, regardless of religion, caste, or region. Our duty today is to defend that dignity for all, ensuring that no one is treated as less than fully human.

The Hope that Sustains

Mary's Assumption fills us with hope, hope that even in times of trial, God's promises will be fulfilled. Tagore's prayer captures this same longing for a just and free India: "Lead me into that land, 'Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high.'"

Despite our challenges, our nation's rapid growth in many sectors shows what is possible. We can rise to even greater heights if we are united, if we see our vast diversity not as a burden, but as a source of energy and resourcefulness.

Mary's Courage to Stand Firm

Though a humble village woman, Mary was no passive figure. Her Magnificat is a hymn of victory, proclaiming that God raises up the lowly and brings down the arrogant.

In today's India, where attacks on missionaries, priests, and churches are on the rise, Mary calls us to stand firm in our faith. Independence may have restored dignity to all, but in practice, dignity is too often reserved for those from 'higher castes', while minorities and vulnerable groups are treated as easy targets. Women's dignity, too, is regularly violated through countless atrocities. In such a climate, Mary's example inspires us to resist fear, trust in God's strength, and persevere in our mission.

Mary and the Call to Service

Mary's first response after receiving her divine mission was one of service, hurrying to help her cousin Elizabeth. At Cana, she interceded for a family in need, and she remained beside her Son all the way to the cross.

Gandhi, Father of our Nation, and his companions shared a similar spirit, choosing a simple life, serving the poor, and giving themselves for the nation's welfare.

Following in Mary's footsteps, the Church has a long tradition of service in education, healthcare, social uplift, and defence of human dignity. Missionaries have reached the most remote corners of the country, opening schools to Dalits for the first time, abolishing cruel practices like sati, child marriage, and bonded labour, and advocating for the oppressed.

Today, however, India is becoming an increasingly challenging mission field with blanket accusations of "conversion" hurled against missionaries to restrict them in their compassionate service to the poor and their socio-economic upliftment. Yet, this legacy of service is not something to hide. The Church is a lamp meant to shine on a stand, not to be hidden under a bushel.

Conclusion

Mary's Assumption points us to the victory of the Holy Spirit over sin, corruption and death. It is also the foretaste of the Kingdom of God, where every tear will be wiped away. Indian Independence points us toward the republic envisioned by our founders, where, in Tagore's words, "the mind is without fear and the head is held high."

As Indian Christians, our task is to work for the realisation of this dream, a life of joy, wellbeing and dignity for all, especially, the poor, the weak, and the marginalised. And in this mission, we are sure of Our Blessed Mother's guidance and intercession from heaven.

Mission and Conversion

Fr. Dr. Jaino CMI

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In recent times, the word conversion has become one of the most debated and misunderstood terms in India—especially following the arrest of two Sisters at the Durg Railway Station. The term has unfortunately acquired a negative connotation, often used to accuse Christians—particularly priests and religious—of secretly working to convert others under the guise of charitable or educational work.

According to some fundamentalist groups, all conversions are seen as forced or manipulative. They wrongly interpret our schools, hospitals, social services, and other works of charity as strategies for hidden evangelization. We frequently hear statements like, “He was converted by someone” or “She was converted,” yet rarely do we hear someone say, “I chose to follow Christ.” This shift in language reveals a failure to understand the true meaning of Christian conversion.

Christian mission is not about *māthā-parivartan* (change of religion), but *mana parivartan* (change of heart). Our aim is not simply to increase the number of baptisms but to bring about an inner transformation—a genuine encounter with Christ that changes the heart and life of a person. The very essence of conversion is a change of heart.

The Catholic Church has consistently and clearly taught about the meaning of mission and conversion. Pope Benedict XVI stated boldly: “The Church does not engage in proselytism; instead, she grows by attraction.” Likewise, Pope Francis has repeatedly condemned proselytism, declaring that it is not Christian. He emphasizes that “mission is not proselytism,” and “the Lord never proselytized.” In January 2023, during his Wednesday Catechesis on missionary zeal, Pope Francis clarified: “Those who proselytize are not Christians but pagans disguised as Christians.”

True conversion is a personal and free decision, made possible by the grace of the Holy Spirit. The Dialogue and Mission document affirms that the primary agent of conversion is the Holy Spirit (DM 39). It is the Spirit who calls people to Christ, inviting them to total surrender through baptism (Ad Gentes 15). The Holy Spirit penetrates, transforms, and leads both individuals and the world to salvation. As Dominus Iesus explains, it is by the interior movement of the Holy Spirit that hearts are turned toward God (DI 7).

As missionary disciples, our task is to witness and proclaim the Good News in our daily lives. We cannot excuse ourselves from this sacred mission. Our role is not to force or persuade, but to live in such a way that others are drawn to Christ by our witness. “The Church grows by attraction.”

Am I truly converted?





Conversion remains one of the most hotly debated topics in India today. There are voices both in support and opposition. Yet, beyond the public controversy, the deeper and more personal question we must ask is: Am I converted?

Pope St. John Paul II, in *Redemptoris Missio*, reminds us: “We cannot preach conversion unless we ourselves are converted anew every day” (RM 47). Mission, therefore, begins not with others, but with us—the missionaries. In the past, the focus of mission was often on converting others—particularly non-Christians. In today’s context, especially in India, mission must begin with the inner conversion of the one who is sent.

We need ongoing conversion in several dimensions: in our understanding of mission, in our life within the Church, and in our approach to people of other religions and cultures. We must shift from a mindset of “my mission” to “God’s mission.” Too often, mission is seen as a human endeavor, reliant on our abilities and strategies. But mission is not our project—it is *Missio Dei*, God’s mission. Recognizing that God is the source and center of mission gives us the courage and humility to face its challenges with faith.

Furthermore, we need a conversion from doing mission to being mission. Mission is not just an activity we engage in—it is our very identity. As Pope Francis says: “Mission is not just a part of my life or an extra moment in life: I am a mission on this earth” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 273).

We also need a conversion from a master Church to a servant Church. This is especially crucial in India’s multi-religious and pluralistic society. The Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences (FABC) beautifully expresses this vision: “We dream of a servant Church: servant of God, servant of Christ, servant of his plan of salvation; servant also of the Asian people, servant of the followers of other religions, of all women and men, simply and totally for others.”

Finally, we are called to conversion in how we see the Kingdom of God. The reign of God is not confined to the visible structures of the Church. Our mission is not to build institutional power (*plantatio ecclesiae*), but to be a transparent sign and effective instrument of God’s reign—a reign marked by justice, peace, love, and truth. The Church is the seed of this Kingdom, not its boundary.

Conversion is not just about changing religion—it is about transforming the heart. In a country where conversion is misunderstood and politicized, we are invited to live out true conversion: to let the Holy Spirit reshape our hearts, our mission, and our vision of the Church. Before asking whether others are converted, we must begin by asking ourselves: Am I truly converted?



Micro and Macro Social Developments

Fr.Noble Manakandathil CMI

Director, Snehajyoti Samajik Kendra, Dolti



An integral social development includes Micro and Macro levels. Both contribute each other being intrinsically and dynamically connected.

For example, many of our schools started from social work centres. There were more social work centres than schools. Almost all the centres were run by the projects. Local contribution and sustainability are 2 major unavoidable parts of projects. Fortunately, we could establish so many institutions as part of sustainability. In fact, many of our educational institutions are established as a response to the invitation of the common public; who have seen our social activities.

Now the last ministry of CMI congregation comes in to limelight. They made it mandatory that 10% of the gross amount of all our institutions should be used for Social Work.

“Seeing is believing” people will stand with us seeing our charitable activities. Mother Theresa and Charity sisters received world acclamation because of their self-emptying charity.

A Macro income generating institute may have a corresponding micro social work centre, which are targeted to the vulnerable and needy.

Students visiting our charitable institutions received an overwhelming enthusiasm all through the years. It increased their moral values and ethical consciousness.

“Charity begins at home.”

News Updates

Devdarshan CMI Provincial House

A colourful Result

The St. Xavier's CMI public school achieved yet another feather in its cap by obtaining hundred percent result for the CBSE Board exam held this year. Congratulations to Fr. Sanil, principal and the staff members.

A New Academic year

The year of learning and teaching started from April onwards in the CBSE curriculum and after the summer vacation we resumed the session with added enthusiasm and determination.

This year too we have received good number of students for the new admission in the school. Congrats to Fr. Sanil for his hard work and dedication in keeping up the quality in every sphere of the academic activity.

St.Xaviers School Botad

The academic year 2025–26 began with great joy as the school reopened on 9th June. Students returned with renewed enthusiasm for learning. In June, our school served as the Board Re-examination Centre for Standard 12 students from across Botad district, providing a smooth and organized setting for these crucial exams. We celebrated two major events:

Initiation Ceremony to welcome our youngest students into the world of learning. Investiture Ceremony, where newly elected student leaders received their badges. For the first time, parents were invited to witness and bless the occasion.

This year, our school is honored to host the School Games, offering a platform for students to showcase their athletic talents. The Canonical Visitation of our Provincial took place from 18th to 20th July, providing us with spiritual renewal and encouragement. Our school campus is also turning greener under the loving care of our Superior, Rev. Fr. Thomas, who is nurturing a flourishing vegetable and fruit garden, inspiring students to care for creation.

Christ Chitra

As usual, we had a wonderful summer vacation and achieved commendable results in the Secondary and Higher Secondary Board Examinations, both in English and Gujarati mediums.

In preparation for the reopening of the school, the House, School, and Campus were blessed by Rev. Fr. Abraham Puthukulangara, Parish Priest of St. Xavier's Church, Jail Road. This was followed by a staff meeting for both mediums.

The new academic year began with a solemn prayer service held separately for English and Gujarati Medium students. In the very first week, we elected the Head Boy, Head Girl, and other office bearers, and held the Investiture Ceremony. Rev. Fr. Joice Aryassery CMI was the Chief Guest and presided over the ceremony. This year, admissions to the Primary and Secondary sections were satisfactory; however, Kindergarten admissions were lower than expected. Following the retirement of Ms. Mary Rutter as KG in-charge, Sr. Roza Raymond FCC has taken up the responsibility.

As part of our extracurricular activities, we conducted a Fancy Dress Competition for Std. 1 and 2 in the English Medium, and a Fashion Show for the same standards in the Gujarati Medium.

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Fr. Jose Kochupoovakott CMI to the Aaraniyam Community, Chitra.

During the summer vacation, our school campus was used by AAAA Films for the shooting of a film based on education and sports. Many of our students acted in the film and are eagerly awaiting its release.

Currently, we are engaged in preparations for the First Unit Test, the Twins Competition for KG students, and the Rakshabandhan celebration.

Mahuva

Transfer and Celebration at Sudarshana CMI House, Mahuva

The month of June marked a significant transition at Sugarcana CMI House, Mahuva. After rendering years of dedicated service as the Superior of Sudarsana House and as a guiding force at St. Thomas School, Rev. Fr. Jose Kochupovakott CMI has been transferred to Chithra CMI Bhavan. His presence, pastoral care, and outstanding teaching skills left a lasting impression on the parish community, teachers, and students alike. The entire Sudarsana family and St. Thomas School express heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Jose for his marvellous contributions and spiritual leadership.

Welcoming a new beginning, Rev. Fr. Inson Appassery CMI has been appointed as the new Superior. He was greeted with a warm and grand welcome by the parishioners and the school community, ushering in a renewed sense of enthusiasm and commitment. The feast of St Thomas was solemnly Celebrated on July 3rd the celebration was spiritually vibrant, with active participation from the parish and neighbouring communities, reinforcing the unity and devotion of the faithful. Adding to the grace-filled moments, the Canonical Visitation of Rev. Fr. Provincial took place during this period. The visit was smooth and meaningful, offering encouragement and spiritual renewal to the entire community. It served as a strong reminder of the shared mission and commitment that binds the CMI family together.

Highlights of June-July Activities at St. Thomas School

The new academic year at St. Thomas School commenced with a solemn Prayer Service, where students and staff came together to seek God's blessings for a successful and meaningful year ahead.

The school then hosted Pravesh Utsav, a warm and colourful welcome for its youngest entrants. Filled with lively performances and fun activities, the event ensured that the newcomers' first day was memorable and joyous.

On June 21st, the school observed International Yoga Day with great enthusiasm. Under the guidance of trained yoga instructors, students performed a series of yoga asanas aimed at fostering mental clarity, discipline, and physical well-being.

The Initiation Ceremony followed, embracing new members into the St. Thomas School family. This tradition fosters unity and belonging, symbolizing the start of each student's exciting journey within the institution.

Leadership was in the spotlight during the Investiture Ceremony, where newly elected school leaders took an oath to uphold the values of dedication, discipline, and integrity while fulfilling their responsibilities.



Inter-House Competitions Showcase Talent and Team

Spirit

A vibrant spirit of intellectual challenge filled the air during the Inter-House Debate Competition, as participants captivated both judges and the audience with their confident arguments, sharp reasoning, and critical thinking skills.

The excitement continued with the Inter-House Quiz Competition, where knowledge and teamwork went hand in hand. Students demonstrated their academic prowess across a wide range of subjects, making it a friendly yet fiercely competitive event.

Vegas A Day of Entertainment

Adding colour and joy to school life, Vegas brought a wave of entertainment to the campus. With games, performances, and music, it offered students a chance to relax, bond, and celebrate their talents beyond the classroom.

The Magic Study Program

To enhance study techniques and academic motivation, the school hosted The Magic Study Program an innovative session aimed at making learning more effective, enjoyable, and inspiring. Students explored memory techniques, time management, and smart study habits through fun and interactive methods.

Raksha Bandhan Celebration

Raksha Bandhan, a festival that celebrates the sacred bond between brothers and sisters, was joyfully celebrated at St. Thomas School with warmth and enthusiasm. Students and teachers came together to mark the occasion, highlighting the values of love, protection, and mutual respect. As part of the celebration, students tied colourful rakhis to one another, symbolizing unity and care among peers. The spirit of togetherness was evident as both boys and girls shared messages of friendship and goodwill. Teachers joined in the festivities, guiding students in understanding the deeper cultural significance of the tradition. The event not only reinforced traditional values but also promoted harmony and mutual appreciation within the school community. The Raksha Bandhan celebration was a beautiful reminder of the bonds that unite us and the importance of fostering kindness and respect in our daily lives.

Palitana

The Investiture Ceremony was held on 30th June with Rev. Fr. Joice Aryassery CMI, Director of Rishivan Garden Farm, Doodala, as the Chief Guest. Students presented vibrant cultural performances. A Science Exhibition titled "Scientia Festum 25" was organized, featuring over 160 student projects. The exhibition was inaugurated by Very Rev. Fr. Provincial, Joseph Kallampallil CMI, who also distributed trophies and certificates to the ...





Bagasara

The official Investiture Ceremony of St. Mary School was held on Friday, 4th July, where the newly elected office bearers of the Student Council took an oath to carry out their duties with sincerity and responsibility. The event also celebrated student achievements. Malayraj P. was felicitated for securing the Second Prize at the Gujarat State Level Karate Championship, and Devkumar Ashishbhai, a former student and SSC Board Rank Holder, was specially appreciated for his academic excellence. The occasion was graced by Mrs. Jyotsnaben, Chief Officer of Bagasara, and Mr. Amitbhai Patel as Chief Guests.

On Saturday, 26th July, the charming KG students of St. Mary School celebrated Grandparents' Day with great enthusiasm. Over 60 grandparents of Nursery, LKG, and UKG students attended the event. The little ones performed various cultural programs, highlighting the love and importance of grandparents in their lives. On the same day, an Inter-House Speech Competition was conducted under the Bagless Day initiative, where students showcased their speaking skills with confidence and clarity. The day was a beautiful blend of emotion, talent, and learning.

VISAMO-Fuljhar

The birthday of Rev. Fr. Roy Vakkayil was joyfully celebrated on 20th July with great enthusiasm. All the Fathers, Sisters, and residents of Visamo Ashram actively participated in the celebration, making it a memorable occasion for everyone.

With deep sorrow, we share the passing of Jishnu Nalinkanth Vyas, a resident of Visamo Ashram for the past seven years.

He departed this life on 31st May after a prolonged illness. Despite his health challenges, Jishnu remained a vibrant and encouraging presence within the community, inspiring all with his courage and spirit. This year, we have once again been blessed with abundant rainfall, and we remain hopeful for a good yield from our fields. We were pleased to welcome a few visitors this month. Fr. Joby Mangalathukarottu visited from Tuesday, 15th July to 22nd July. During his stay, he toured various institutions of the province. Fr. Dayon also visited us and the nearby institutions on 19th and 20th July. At present, our Fuljhar community consists of 17 elderly men and 12 women and 21 children. We remain deeply grateful to our benefactors and well-wishers who generously support us with food and other essential items. Their continued kindness and generosity are a source of great encouragement. People from both near and far have expressed their appreciation for the dedicated care and service we provide to our elderly brethren, whom we regard as the treasured members of our community.

Junagadh

St. Xavier's English School (State Board)

As we re-open school for this term, we invite the students with a warm grace, encouraging them to approach situations with a curious mind, and a keen sense of learning. At St. Xavier's school, we strive to make an environment for the students where values and discipline are upheld along with achieving academic and personal goals, for an overall development of the students.

We thank our dedicated faculty, our enthusiastic students, and our supportive parents for their invaluable role in shaping the school's achievements. Together, let us ensure a productive, enriching, and memorable start to the new term.

We wish you a successful term ahead!

On June 9th 2025, With hearts full of excitement, the gates of St. Xavier's swung open to welcome our little stars back to school. Each child was greeted with a gentle tilak and a handmade welcome card, lovingly offered by our ever-smiling and enthusiastic teachers. The warmth in the air was palpable—a truly beautiful beginning to a new chapter.

A Graceful Gathering of Hearts

On 11 June 2025, our school embraced a sacred moment of unity through a heartfelt prayer service. The gathering brought together students, teachers, and staff in a spirit of reflection and gratitude. Soulful hymns, sincere prayers, and an inspiring message touched every heart, gently reminding us of the strength found in faith, peace, and compassion. The school choir's melodious voices uplifted the atmosphere, creating a serene space for spiritual renewal. We remain deeply grateful to all who nurtured this beautiful experience of togetherness and grace.

June 12th 2025 ,a memorable day unfolded With theme “ Together We Begin, Together We Grow”,as we officially welcomed our tiniest members, our Nursery and LKG children into the Xavier's family. The presence of parents added a touch of tenderness, while lively performances by students of Balvatika, Std. 1, and Std. 2 made the occasion even more special. It was more than a ceremony,it was a celebration of new journeys and shared dreams.

Election

The election of school leaders was begun with the elocution competition for the students of standard 9, who are the eligible candidates, where they were given the opportunity to demonstrate their oratory skills. It was followed by the election which was held with great enthusiasm, showcasing the democratic spirit among students. Students of standards 8, 9 and 10and teaching staff were given the voting rights. On election day, students cast their votes through a well-organized ballot system, ensuring fairness and transparency. The counting and result declaration also were done immediately after the election. Mayank Dafda and Shreya Thakkar were elected as the Headboy and Headgirl respectively, for the academic year 2025-26. Additionally, Hamza Bhatti and Krishna Koldiya were elected as the Sports Club Secretary and the Arts Club Secretary respectively. All the students are divided into 4 houses and each house selected the Captains and Vice-Captains of their houses.

The Swearing in ceremony was conducted solemnly on 1 July, 2025 where all the leaders, Captains and the Vice-Captains took oath. The event began with a welcome speech by Vartika Kshatriya, the outgoing Headgirl. Fr. Principal in his speech thanked th eformer leaders and emphasizing the values of leadership and responsibility gave the best wishes to the new leaders. After the solemn oath-taking ceremony, each leader was honored with a badge and sash. The Head boy addressed the assembly, thanked everyone and promised on behalf of his team, to serve the school with dedication. The ceremony concluded with applause and encouragement from teachers and students, marking a proud moment for the entire school community.

Yoga Day

International Yoga Day was celebrated in our school on 21 June 2025. The event began with a special assembly where the importance of yoga for physical and mental well-being was mentioned. Students from various classes performed asanas like Surya Namaskar and Anulom Vilom under the guidance of the our PT teacher. The session concluded with a short meditation, leaving everyone feeling calm and refreshed.

St Xavier's Public school

On 14/06/25 St Xavier's Public school held a meaningful prayer service centered on the theme " Walking in Light and Growing in Wisdom". The gathering brought students, teachers and staff together in a spirit of reflection and unity. Prayer service invited all to embrace faith as a guiding light in both learning and life. Heartfelt prayers, inspiring words and soul stirring hymns filled the atmosphere with peace and purpose.

The choir's melodious voices enriched the experience, while the message emphasized compassion, wisdom and spiritual growth.

the event concluded with a renewed sense of togetherness, leaving hearts uplifted and minds illuminated. We remain grateful to all who made this special moment possible..

Election

The spirit of democracy and leadership came alive at St. Xavier's School through Xavier's Electora, our annual student voting event. Held with enthusiasm and order, students from Std 7 to 10 actively participated, casting their votes to elect the next generation of student leaders.

The election process offered students a chance to engage in responsible decision-making while celebrating the values of integrity, voice, and vision. Each nominee presented themselves with confidence, clarity, and commitment, impressing both peers and teachers.

Based on their remarkable presence and performance, the following students were appointed to key leadership roles for the academic year: 2025-26

Xavier's Electora not only recognized emerging student leaders but also instilled in every participant a deeper respect for voice, choice, and shared responsibility. We extend our gratitude to the teachers, election committee, and student volunteers who ensured the event's smooth and meaningful execution.

With hearts ready to serve and minds ready to lead, our newly elected council steps forward to uphold the spirit of St. Xavier's with pride and purpose.

The students of Standard I and II enthusiastically participated in a variety of co-curricular activities conducted throughout the month. Thoughtfully designed to nurture creativity, confidence, and joyful learning, these activities offered rich and engaging experiences beyond the classroom. Our young learners immersed themselves in art and craft sessions, creating vibrant drawings and simple paper models that reflected their imagination. Recitation and storytelling activities helped them develop self-expression and stage presence. Energetic rhymes and action songs added a joyful rhythm to their days, enhancing coordination and listening skills.

Nature walks and planting activities sparked their curiosity about the environment and fostered a love for nature. Indoor games and puzzles encouraged teamwork, logical thinking, and problem-solving. These meaningful experiences allowed our little stars to grow, explore, and flourish in a fun and supportive learning environment.

To bring civics to life beyond textbooks, the students of Class 10 participated in a dynamic simulation of the United Nations General Assembly, held in the school library. Guided by Mr. Tushar Chanchiya, the session recreated real-world UN proceedings where students represented different countries, debated global issues, and voted on resolutions using digital tools. The activity fostered critical thinking, public speaking, and an understanding of international cooperation. With support from teachers and creative use of technology, this enriching experience offered students a powerful insight into diplomacy, global governance, and the role of the UN in promoting peace.

A historic milestone achieved — 100 % success in Class 10 (2024-25)

Congratulations to the Students and the staff.

Porbandar

We are proud of our Board Examination results for 2024–25:

SSC Result: 85.42%

HSC Result: 95%

Congratulations to our students and teachers for their hard work and dedication.

The birthdays of Rev. Fr. Jose Pulavelil and Rev. Fr. Sebastian Vayalilpurayidathil were celebrated jointly on 29th June with a prayer service and a community dinner. Fathers and Sisters from nearby communities joined the joyful celebration.

The Investiture and Oath-taking Ceremony for the Student Council 2025–26 was held on 12th July, with Dr. Altaf Rathod, Principal of Shree Ramba District Institute of Education and Training, as the Chief Guest. The event was marked by vibrant cultural performances and inspiring messages, in the presence of parents.

Jail Road

Welcome to Bro. Jithin Cheruvankalayil

We warmly welcome Bro. Jithin Cheruvankalayil, who, after completing his graduation from Christ University, Bangalore, has joined us for his regency. He is actively involved in teaching at St. Xavier's School and contributing enthusiastically to the parish's pastoral ministry, including catechism classes. We wish him every blessing in his mission here.

School Facelift for Platinum Jubilee

In preparation for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, St. Xavier's School has received a fresh new look with a complete repainting of the campus.

Congratulations to Rev. Fr. Joby Koloth, our principal, for leading this initiative.

Commemoration of Late Mr. Mathew Mathew

On 22nd May, we observed the 41st day memorial of Mr. Mathew Mathew (82), beloved father of Rev. Fr. Joby. Fathers and sisters from the Bhavnagar Zone joined us for the requiem Mass, where we prayed for the repose of his soul.

One-Day Retreat for Catechism Children & Youth

A spiritually enriching one-day retreat was held on 3rd August for our catechism children and youth, with 55 participants. The retreat, animated by Jesus Youth volunteers from Baroda, Ahmedabad, and Rajkot, was a moment of spiritual awakening for our young parishioners.

Remembering Rev. Fr. Palau SJ

On 6th August, we marked the 30th anniversary of the heavenly birth of Rev. Fr. Palau SJ, who served as parish priest for 29 years in Bhavnagar. He was instrumental in bringing the Vedruna Sisters, starting the first English Medium School, and acquiring land that paved the way for the development of the entire district. We expressed our heartfelt gratitude to all former parish priests and prayed for them. The Holy Mass was followed by a fellowship meal, attended by religious and parishioners alike.

World Day of Grandparents & Elderly

Our parish joyfully celebrated the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The youth personally invited elders to a special solemn Mass, followed by interactive games, cultural programs, and a fellowship meal. It was an enriching and joy-filled day for the entire parish, especially our grandparents and senior members.

St. Anne's Church, Junagadh

The Prasanna Devi Smriti Mandir was blessed by Bishop Jose Chittooparambil in the presence of the Provincials of St. Xavier's Province, Rev. Fr. Benoy Elavumkal, and St. Chavara Province, Rev. Fr. Joseph Kallampallil, along with a large gathering of priests, sisters, and faithful from various parts of the diocese and beyond.

The Annual Parish Retreat, preached by Rev. Fr. Francis Xavier from Loyola, Ahmedabad, was a time of deep spiritual renewal for our community. It enriched the faith of all parishioners and strengthened us as a spiritually vibrant parish family. The Parish Feast was joyfully celebrated on Sunday, 27th July 2025, with Bishop Jose Chittooparambil as the main celebrant. This year's celebration radiated the spiritual fervour and unity that bind our beloved parishioners together.

The Easter Family Blessing was successfully conducted, and all families and their members were spiritually renewed with zeal and fervor for God. Additionally, CCTV cameras have been installed in the church and the compound for enhanced security.

Dolti

Dolti has taken on a renewed spirit with new members embracing a vision of development and service. In the words of Mother Teresa, “Do small things with great love”—a principle we strive to follow through three main channels:

Vocational Training

Efforts are underway to revive the Tailoring Centre. The machines are currently being repaired and restored for use.

Education

Recognizing education as the foundation for development, we are assisting school-going children with their studies. This initiative is supported by the Social Apostolate Wing of the SH Congregation, Ujjain Province.

Health

Our dispensary is growing in service day by day. While health issues are fewer in villages due to the prevalence of physical labour, we are promoting wellness through a Herbal Garden and related health initiatives. Dolti remains one of our most peaceful and enriching village stations. With the sounds of birds, clean air, and the protection of green trees, life here is serene and deeply connected to nature.

Amreli

The students of Saint Mary School, Amreli, have brought great pride to the institution by securing outstanding results in the SSC and HSC board examinations. Their success reflects the hard work of the students, the dedication of the teachers, and the unwavering support of the parents.

The new academic year 2025–26 commenced with a solemn Prayer Service, where students and staff gathered to seek God’s blessings for a successful and enriching year ahead.

The Vidyarambham Ceremony (KG initiation) was held on 16th June, welcoming the youngest members of our school community through the traditional Pravesh Utsav. The event was filled with vibrant performances and fun-filled activities, creating a joyful and memorable first school experience for our little ones.

International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21st June with great enthusiasm. Students and teachers participated in various yoga sessions, promoting the importance of physical well-being, mental peace, and holistic health.

The Investiture Ceremony was held on 1st July, where the newly elected Head Boy, Head Girl, and House Captains were officially entrusted with their responsibilities. They pledged to serve with dedication, discipline, and integrity, embracing their roles as young leaders of the school.

On Tuesday, 12th August, the school conducted an Inter-House Thematic Dance Competition and a Patriotic Song Competition as part of the Independence Day celebrations. The performances reflected the spirit of patriotism, creativity, and teamwork among students.

Raksha Bandhan was celebrated with warmth and enthusiasm on Friday, 8th August 2025, along with a Rakhi Making Competition. The celebration beautifully highlighted the sacred bond between brothers and sisters. Students tied colourful rakhis to each other, symbolizing unity, protection, and mutual respect. Teachers also participated, guiding students to understand the deeper cultural significance of the festival. The event fostered a spirit of togetherness and harmony among the school community.

A beautiful and attractive new entrance gate has been constructed, adding extra charm and elegance to Saint Mary School."

PORBANDAR

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

The Parish feast of Sacred Heart Catholic Church Porbandar, was celebrated in a solemn and joyful manner on 13th July 2025. The main celebrant for the Holy Mass was His excellency Bishop Mar Jose Chittooparampil. Many priests and religious sisters from nearby and distant places also participated in the celebration. Following the Holy Mass a Procession took place in front of the Church along the main road, marked with great devotion and reverence. The celebration continued with vibrant cultural Programs presented by the fathers' group, Mothers' group, Youth and catechism students. Scholarships were awarded to students who had successfully passed their 10th standard exams with outstanding results. In addition, prizes were given to the catechism students who secured the first and second ranks in their respective classes. After the cultural Programs, a fellowship meal was arranged for all attendees, fostering a spirit of community and togetherness. This year's parish feast was generously sponsored by Mr. Jose Thomas and his family. Bishop Mar Jose Chittooparampil, along with the priests and sisters thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the entire celebration acknowledging the efforts of everyone involved in making the event a grand success.

Rajula

The new academic year commenced with an inauguration and prayer service on 10th June.



New Entrance Gate of Saint Mary Amreli

A new school bus was added to our transportation facilities. New students were warmly welcomed with great enthusiasm. The Investiture Ceremony, House Inaugurations, and St. Thomas Day celebration were held on 2nd July, with Dr. Mehul Barasara, SDM of Rajula, as the Chief Guest. House-wise competitions began with a Fancy Dress event. The birthday of Fr. Jithin was celebrated on 1st June. Rev. Fr. Provincial made his Canonical Visitation on 27th and 28th July.

Germany

1. German CMI Gathering in Köln (July 6–9):

CMI members currently serving in Germany gathered in Köln for a three-day fraternal meeting from July 6 to 8. The event was enriched by the presence of Fr. Prior General, whose message emphasized unity, renewal, and commitment to the CMI charism. Members shared experiences from their diverse pastoral settings and discussed ways to strengthen koinonia—a deep sense of spiritual communion and fraternity. The atmosphere was one of openness and prayerful support.

2. Two Days Rajkot Mission Gathering in Nordhorn (Osnabrück) (July 9 afternoon – 11 Morning):

Wardha

A special Get-together focused on the Rajkot mission was held in Nordhorn, bringing together 17 committed individuals: 9 priests from the CMI Rajkot and Bhavnagar Provinces and 8 religious sisters (5 from DP, 1 from the CMC, and 2 from the FCC). The two-day Gathering was dedicated to reviewing pastoral efforts, strengthening coordination, and building relationships among those serving in various mission fields.

This gathering was marked by rich spiritual elements, including the celebration of the Holy Mass in Gujarati, which was a deeply moving experience for all. In addition to prayer and discussion, the program included community-building activities such as Outing, Boating, dining out, cultural evenings etc. designed to foster unity among the participants.

3. Transfers and New Responsibilities:

Two of our fathers have received new pastoral appointments:

Fr. Jomon has been transferred from Börger to Stadtpfarrei Meppen. Fr. Jose has been transferred from Nordhorn to Lingen.

We thank them for their dedicated service, and extend our prayers and best wishes for continued blessings in their new parishes.

4. Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:

Fr. Dominic and Fr. Jose recently participated in a pilgrimage to the Marian shrine of Medjugorje. The journey served as a time of spiritual renewal, prayer, and community experience.

5. Vacation Time in India

Fr. Jomon and Fr. Robin are spending their vacation in India during July and August. This time offers them a welcome opportunity to reconnect with their families and province. We wish them a restful and joyful break as they recharge for the months ahead in their pastoral journey.

With hearts full of joy and gratitude, we write to share the abundant blessings we continue to receive from God during our time here. At the Darsana Institute of Philosophy, we are currently a vibrant community of 42 brothers—with 18 first-year brothers and 25 second-year brothers. We are proud to mention that 4 of our brothers hail from our province, joyfully carrying forward our shared mission and spirit.

Academically and spiritually, everyone is doing well. We're grateful for the growth we are experiencing in all dimensions of formation.

We're happy to share some wonderful news:

- Bro. Paras Beak and Bro. Faustin T.S. have been selected to join the prestigious Darsana Choir Team, adding beauty and grace to our liturgical celebrations.

- Bro. Amal Kannezhathu and Bro. Vivek Mappilakunnel have taken up responsibilities as secretaries to two of our esteemed fathers, contributing with dedication and humility.



We are also delighted to mention that the recent section celebration was a joyful and meaningful event, held under the leadership of Bro. Faustin T.S and Bro. Vivek Mappilakunnel. Bro Faustin also added a melodic touch by playing the keyboard during the program, making the celebration both joyful and memorable.

Above all, our beloved Fr. Rector continues to guide us with a positive spirit, always encouraging and inspiring us to grow in wisdom, faith, and fraternity. We remain united in prayer, and we continue to carry all of you in our hearts with love.

Jabalpur

As the new academic year dawns, Carmel Niketan is abuzz with excitement, welcoming back its degree students with open arms. With a new chapter unfolding, the community is all set to embark on a journey of academic excellence and spiritual growth. A New Leadership Takes the Helm Fr. Seby Pellissery has taken over as the new Rector of the study house, bringing fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to the role. He succeeds Fr. Nitheesh Rathappalli, who has moved on to new responsibilities. The community wishes Fr. Nitheesh all the best in his future endeavors. A Diverse Community The community is a vibrant melting pot of brothers from different provinces, including Bhavnagar, Bhopal, Bijnor, and Rajkot. With nine brothers in total, the community is a testament to the power of unity and diversity.

A warm welcome was extended to the new brothers from the Bhopal province, who have joined the community. Service to the Community Beyond the walls of the study house, the brothers are committed to serving the local churches. They engage in catechism classes, liturgical celebrations, and other activities that bring hope and joy to the faithful. Through their service, the brothers embody the values of compassion, empathy, and kindness. As the academic year progresses, Carmel Niketan is poised to become a hub of learning, spirituality, and community service.

Pune

The theological academic year at Carmel Vidya Bhavan, Pune, commenced with a spiritually enriching five-day retreat, setting a reflective and prayerful tone for the year ahead. Classes officially resumed on 6th June 2025, and academic sessions have since been conducted in an orderly and effective manner, with all 19 brothers, comprising seven third-year, six second-year, and six first-year students, actively engaged in their studies. The community is under the guidance of three dedicated priests: Fr. Rector James Thayil, Rector; Fr. Antony Puthussery, Administrator; and Fr. Arun Chully, Principal of Christ College. All parish activities were duly inaugurated at the beginning of the academic term, fostering a vibrant spiritual and communal atmosphere.

In June, a heartfelt farewell was extended to the deacons who successfully completed their theological formation at the institution, marked by gratitude and blessings for their future priestly ministry. The highlight of July was the solemn celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on 16th July. To mark this auspicious occasion, Carmel Vidya Bhavan hosted the entire community of Jnana Deepa (JD) teaching and non-teaching staff as well as students for a gracious High Tea. In the evening, a special prayer service was held, followed by a visual presentation on the CMI mission and legacy, reaffirming the congregation's charism and apostolic vision. A sumptuous dinner was also offered to benefactors, neighboring community members, and close collaborators as a gesture of gratitude and fellowship. On the same day, a newly constructed grotto dedicated to St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Mother Mary was blessed, providing a sacred space for prayer and devotion. As tradition is followed, the interclass football tournament at Jnana Deepa, held from 21st to 26th July, witnessed enthusiastic participation and promoted camaraderie and healthy competition.

The climate in Pune has been pleasant throughout these months, with timely rains and sunshine contributing to a serene and conducive environment for study, prayer, and community life. Overall, the past two months have been marked by spiritual growth, academic diligence, and active community engagement, reflecting the vibrant and holistic formation taking place at Carmel Vidya Bhavan. The community remains deeply grateful for the support and prayers of all benefactors and well-wishers.

Bhopal

Samanvaya Theological College

I am Abin Chacko, currently pursuing my first year of Theology at Samanvaya Theologate, Bhopal. From our province, Fr. Jaino and Fr. Jacob are also part of the team here, guiding and supporting us in our formation and various activities. At present, Fr. Jaino is in Jagdalpur, accompanying the second-year brothers as part of their pastoral exposure program, while Fr. Jacob continues to assist in the ongoing formation at the theologate. My first-year theology classes are progressing very well, and I am grateful for the enriching experience that combines both academic and spiritual growth. Along with my studies, I have also been entrusted with the Sunday Ministry at St. Thomas' Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, Jahangirabad, Bhopal. This pastoral assignment gives me the opportunity to participate in the liturgical celebrations, assist the parish priest, and engage with the faithful community. It is proving to be a wonderful experience that is helping me develop a deeper understanding of pastoral care and parish life.

Fr Jacob Marangattu presented the Key Note Address at the National Conference of Indian Catechetical Association held at Siloam Pastoral Centre, Shillong, February 11-14, 2025.

Rome

Fr Libin Thekkumkattil has joined the Procura community in Rome on 1st April as he prepares to begin his doctoral studies in Philosophy. He also takes up the responsibility of administrator of the house. His academic year will commence in September. He recently completed the Holistic Animation Programme organized by the Prior General, with the final session held in Rome from May 3 to 17.

Cheruvandoor

CHAVARA ASPIRANTS HOUSE

On July 12th, we warmly welcomed Fr. Paul as the new Superior of Chavara Bhavan, marking a new chapter in our community's journey. We expressed our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Inson for his remarkable service over the past few years, wishing him continued success in his future ministries. We are deeply appreciative of the dedication and leadership he has shown during his tenure.

We would also like to extend our special thanks to Fr. Jose Kochupovakot CMI for conducting an enriching English course for our aspirants during the summer holidays. His initiative has undoubtedly contributed to their personal and spiritual growth. Additionally, we are grateful to Fr. Siby Vadakkekara for his contributions and wish him all the best for his future endeavors.

This year, we have four aspirants joining our community, and our second-year aspirants at Mannanam are progressing well in their formation journey. On July 19th, we organized a seminar on St. Chavara, which was graced by Fr. Jossy Kollamalil CMI, the Chief Editor of Carmalakusumam. His insightful talk was truly inspiring and enlightening for all participants.

We hosted a one-day gathering for 23 deacons from Bengaluru, accompanied by their master, Fr. Emmanuel Kariyapurayidom, at Chavara Bhavan.

The group shared their enriching pastoral experiences, fostering a spirit of collaboration and mutual learning. The day-long interaction provided valuable insights and strengthened bonds among the deacons.

Furthermore, we were delighted to have Fr. Paul Poovathinkal CMI visit us and provide voice training to our aspirants. His expertise and guidance have been invaluable to their development. We were also pleased to host Fr. Dayon, Fr. Jose Thumpelatt, and Fr. Robin, who visited Chavara Bhavan and shared their experiences and wisdom with our community. These interactions have fostered a sense of unity and camaraderie among us.





Obituary

Mr. John Joseph
Beloved father of Rev. Fr. Binu Kunnel CMI



I am pleased to present to you this edition of our province news letter- GURJARI. August 15, 1947—India awoke to freedom at the stroke of midnight. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's words,

"At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom," captured the heartbeat of a nation. Men and women had marched, suffered, and even laid down their lives for a dream of a land free from oppression.

This same day, the Church celebrates another liberation—far greater and eternal. The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary reminds us that the truest freedom is freedom from sin and death, a freedom that opens the gates of Heaven. Mary's life was a journey of surrender, trust, and love. Her 'yes' to God was an act of courage no less revolutionary than the marches of freedom fighters—it overturned the darkness of the world with the light of the Savior.

I recall the story of a young woman who once joined a peaceful protest during the freedom struggle. She carried no weapon—only a small lamp. When asked why, she replied, "Because freedom must be lit with light, not fire." Mary, too, bore a lamp—the Light of the World. In her, we see that true liberty is not about breaking chains alone, but about choosing the good, the true, and the loving.

For us, citizens of India and citizens of Heaven, these two feasts falling together are a sacred invitation. Political freedom gives us the space to live out our faith openly. Spiritual freedom calls us to use that space for God's purposes—educating the young, healing wounds of division, defending the poor, and building bridges of understanding. As we see the tricolour wave against the sky, may we remember that patriotism and holiness can walk hand in hand. Like Mary, let us rise above selfishness and fear. Like our freedom fighters, let us be willing to give ourselves for the good of others.

Let us cherish our earthly homeland while keeping our hearts set on our heavenly home.

Happy Independence Day and Feast of the Assumption. May God bless India, and may Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us all.



Fr. Binu Kunnel CMI
Councillor, Department of Education & Media

**Prasanna Devi
Smruti Mandir**

