

# GURJARI

*A Province Connect*

**St. Chavara Vice Province, Bhavnagar**

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



## PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Friends,  
Christmas once again invites us to stand in silent wonder before the mystery of God who chose to dwell among us as Emmanuel. In the humility of the manger, we encounter a God who comes not with power or splendour, but with tenderness, simplicity, and boundless love. Christmas calls us to imbibe these values of the Child Jesus in our personal lives, our communities, and our apostolates.

Let our houses and institutions be places where the light of Christ shines brightly through compassion, integrity, and joyful service. Amid the various challenges we encounter, Christmas reassures us that God continues to walk with us—often in quiet and unnoticed ways—through the dedication of our members, the support of our collaborators, and the goodwill of the people we serve. Let us remain deeply grateful to all of them.

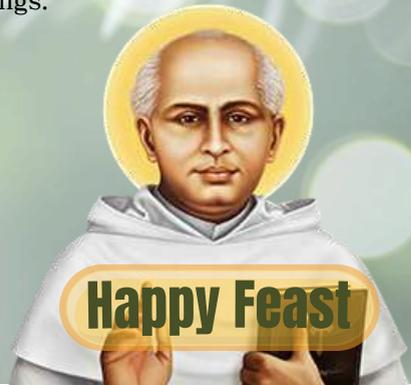
May the Infant Jesus bless each one of us and our families with peace, good health, and renewed hope. May Mary, the Mother who treasured the mystery of Christmas in her heart, and Saint Joseph, the silent guardian of the Holy Family, accompany us in our vocation and mission.

Wishing you all a holy and joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with God's grace and abundant blessings.

Fr. Joseph Kallampallil, CMI  
Provincial



**New Website Launched:**  
[www.cmichavarabvn.org](http://www.cmichavarabvn.org)



MERRY  
*Christmas*  
\* HAPPY \*  
*New Year*





## CHRISTMAS JOY IN COMMUNITY LIVING

Fr. Francis Aykaraparampil CMI  
Rector, Darsana Philosophate, Wardha



Christmas joy is never a solitary feeling; it is a profoundly communal experience. The birth of Jesus was not announced to a single individual but to a community, the shepherds keeping watch in the fields. Joy becomes complete only when it is shared. True joy deepens when we allow others into our lives. A joyful community is one where every member finds space to laugh, celebrate, forgive, and hope together. Christmas invites us to look at one another not as co-residents, but as companions on the journey.

St. Francis of Assisi once said: "Wherever brothers and sisters come together, show that they are members of one family. If a mother, out of blood-relation, loves her child this much, brothers should love each other even more, for they are related through their commitment." Psalm 133 echoes the same spirit: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard of Aaron... like the dew of Hermon falling on Mount Zion." But we must ask ourselves honestly: Why are our CMI communities not becoming like that precious oil flowing down Aaron's beard? Why are our communities not like the refreshing dew of Hermon falling on Mount Zion? These questions remind us that we still have miles to go to become icons of joy, heralds of the Good News, and credible witnesses to the Gospel. Today, many of our communities risk becoming Google communities, places where information is abundant but genuine relationships are scarce. What we need instead is a "Giggling Community," a family where we witness to Christ with joy, humor, warmth, and togetherness. Christmas calls us to conduct a true self-appraisal.



**Joy in Simple Living:** “Bethlehem Spirituality” teaches us that joy does not come from abundance but from simplicity, from gratitude rather than comparison. When complaints decrease and appreciation increases, joy rises naturally. Every person in the community carries a spark of God. Recognizing Christ in the ordinary faces around us is the birthplace of joy. A community that honors every member, strong or weak, cheerful or burdened, becomes a living Bethlehem.

**Joy through Generous Sharing:** The manger was simple, yet it attracted generous hearts, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi. Generosity transforms ordinary communities into families. Sharing time, talents, responsibilities, and even small acts of service weaves threads of communion. Sharing is not about giving “things” but giving oneself. Generosity breaks isolation and nurtures gratitude.

**Joy through Reconciliation:** Christmas is God’s great reconciliation project, God becoming human to bridge the vast distance between heaven and earth. If God could cross such a distance, can we not take a few steps toward one another? Community life inevitably involves misunderstandings and hurts. Christmas invites us to disarm our hearts, let go of grudges, and rebuild trust. Reconciliation unleashes a joy that sets the whole community free.

The dream of our beloved founder, St. Chavara, was that every CMI community may become a Besrauma, a house set on high, visible to all as a beacon of communion, joy and holiness. Today, our CMI cry must be: “Return to Besrauma.” Our lives become meaningful and our discipleship authentic when people, who meet us, regardless of their background, can say: “When I grow up, I want to be like you.” Though we have lofty ideals, reality often reminds us of our imperfections and limitations. This humility is a grace, urging us to work together to build genuine Besrauma communities. Christmas is not merely a season; it is a school of communion where joy deepens, sharing expands and reconciliation heals. When each member performs even one simple act of love, the whole community becomes a Bethlehem of Joy, a place where Christ is born again, not in a manger, but in our very midst.

**“Generosity transforms  
houses into homes and  
communities into  
families.”**



## **THE CALL OF THE SHEPHERDS: LISTENING TO GOD'S VOICE IN RELIGIOUS LIFE**

**Fr. Binu Kunnel CMI**



The Christmas narrative is filled with profound symbols, but among the most striking figures are the humble shepherds who first received the announcement of Christ's birth. Their simple yet decisive response to God's call offers a timeless model for consecrated men and women, inviting us to a deeper obedience, availability, and openness to the surprises of God. In the quiet of Bethlehem's night, the shepherds teach us what it means to listen with the heart — a listening that lies at the center of every authentic religious vocation.

### **1. A God Who Speaks in Ordinary Places**

The shepherds were not in the Temple, nor among the learned. They were ordinary laborers tending their flocks in the stillness of the night. Yet it was precisely there that “the glory of the Lord shone around them” (Lk 2:9). This divine initiative reminds us that God's voice often breaks into the ordinary circumstances of life. He chooses simple places and simple hearts. Pope Benedict XVI once said, “God comes in smallness. He makes Himself small so that we can understand Him, welcome Him, and love Him” (Homily, Christmas Eve 2006).

Religious life begins not with grand gestures but with the quiet grace of God's whisper. It is usually in the ordinariness of our daily duties, routines, and encounters that His call emerges. Like the shepherds, we are invited to stay spiritually awake - attentive to grace, alert to divine interruptions, open to the unexpected.

### **2. The Shepherds' Fear and God's Assurance**

The Gospel tells us that the shepherds were “terrified” when the angel appeared (Lk 2:9). Fear is a natural human response when God draws near. The call to religious life, too, can evoke similar feelings: fear of surrender, fear of the unknown, fear of losing control. Yet the angel's words echo across every vocation story: “Do not be afraid” (Lk 2:10).

St. John Paul II insisted, “Do not be afraid to give your life to Christ. He takes nothing away, and He gives you everything.” Religious life becomes possible only when we allow grace to move us from fear to trust. Obedience, then, is not a burdensome command but a loving response to God's fidelity. It is the courage to allow God to lead us beyond our comfort zones and preconceived plans.

### **3. Prompt Obedience: “Let Us Go to Bethlehem”**

The shepherds' response is immediate: “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place” (Lk 2:15). They do not delay, question, bargain, or wait for better circumstances. Their obedience is joyful, prompt, and faith-filled.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that obedience is an act of “listening with the heart” (CCC 144), a surrender to the truth revealed by God. In religious life, the vow of obedience is not blind submission but a discerning openness to God’s will mediated through the Church, the community, and the signs of the times. Like the shepherds, consecrated persons are called to walk quickly toward the places where God Manifests Himself - often in unexpected ways.

#### **4. Encounter Leads to Mission**

Upon reaching the manger, the shepherds find “Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger” (Lk 2:16). Their journey culminates in an encounter - simple, silent, and transformative. They behold the Word made flesh, the God who became small for our sake. Every religious vocation is rooted in such an encounter with Christ. Pope Francis frequently reminds consecrated persons: “Everything begins with an encounter with Jesus that changes your life.” Without this, religious life becomes mere activism; with it, mission flows naturally.

After seeing the Child, the shepherds “made known the message” (Lk 2:17). They become the first evangelizers of the Incarnation. Their hearts overflow into proclamation. Likewise, consecrated men and women, having experienced God’s tenderness, are called to make His presence known through ministries of education, healing, pastoral service, and humble witness. Evangelization is not an external duty but the fruit of hearts touched by God.

#### **5. Open to God’s Surprises**

Nothing in the shepherds’ lives suggested they would be entrusted with the first news of the Savior’s birth. God surprised them - and they allowed themselves to be surprised. Religious life, too, unfolds under the sign of divine unpredictability. The Holy Spirit constantly invites us to new paths, new communities, new missionary horizons.

Pope Francis beautifully states, “God is the God of surprises; He always loves to surprise us” (Homily, 2014). This requires vigilance, prayer, and inner freedom. The shepherds leave their flocks — an act of radical trust — to follow God’s call. Similarly, every consecrated person must be willing to let go of securities to discover God’s surprising grace.

#### **Conclusion: Listening Hearts in a Noisy World**

In a world saturated with noise, the shepherds remind us that only those who cultivate silence, humility, and attentiveness can truly hear God’s voice. Their response becomes a paradigm for religious life: listening deeply, obeying promptly, encountering Christ intimately, and proclaiming joyfully. As we contemplate the shepherds at Bethlehem, may every consecrated person rediscover the beauty of being called, the freedom of obedience, and the joy of being surprised by God. Their simple journey to a manger continues to echo as an invitation: “Let us go to Bethlehem” — to the places where God waits to reveal Himself anew.

## Hermits and Asceticism

Fr. Noble Manakandathil CMI



There is no doubt that, at heart, every religious carries within a hermit's calling. To abandon everything, withdraw into the forest, and live a life of solitude—being alone with the Alone—is the fullest expression of consecrated life. Fr. Seban (his name in poorvasram), now known as Christhananda, stands as a living example of an authentic hermit. The author considers himself fortunate to have visited Christhananda's hermitage, Atmeswar, on several occasions and to have experienced the profound spiritual atmosphere—the very “vibes” of a genuine ascetic and true hermit—there. Inspired by this grace, the author chose to celebrate his birthday every year at Atmeswar, in the company of Christhananda and like-minded seekers, in the Gir forest.

We may recall that saints such as St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, Fr. Porukara, and Fr. Palackal initially desired a life of solitude in the forest, which eventually evolved into the ashram tradition. With this background, let us reflect on the lives of some genuine hermits of the Church.

Prasanna Devi, popularly known as Mataji, lived a heroic ascetic life at Atmeswar for nearly forty years. Her holiness and simplicity touched not only people but even wild animals, who seemed to sense compassion in her eyes—as she did in theirs. People from all castes and creeds found solace and peace in her presence. Atmeswar, where Mataji lived, became a place of many divine interventions. Mataji believed that the man who instructed her to build a hut there was Jesus himself, for after showing her the place, the man disappeared into the dense forest and was never seen again.

One remarkable sign was the discovery of water during a severe drought in Gujarat. Mataji prayed boldly, telling Jesus that she would leave if water was not provided. Soon after, pure water was found just fifteen feet below the ground in her courtyard. Nabisabhen, a disciple from Rajkot, took a small amount of water from Mataji's well and poured it into her own drying well. From that day onward, her well never dried.

Among those who inspired Mataji was Fr. Charles de Foucauld, the European hermit who lived an austere life in the desert. Another key influence was Fr. Dominic, her spiritual guide—a Benedictine monk from Belgium living at Ashirvanam, Bangalore—who possessed only one pair of clothes.

Fr. Sathyanandji, a member of Kurisumala Ashram under Francis Acharya, accompanied and supported Mataji in her spiritual journey through various hermitages across India, including Shantivanam (of Fr. Bede Griffiths), Ramanashram, Ajanta–Ellora caves, and several other ashrams, before Mataji finally settled at Atmeswar. Due to visa issues, Fr. Sathyanandji returned to France in 1976.

Francis Acharya, the Abbot of Kurisumala Ashram in Kerala, originally from Spain, was deeply inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. The ashram continues to uphold a life of simplicity, prayer, and farming—an enduring witness to authentic ascetic spirituality.

These lives remind us that the hermit's call remains alive in the Church: a silent yet powerful testimony to total surrender, simplicity, and union with God.

# News Updates

## Devdarshan CMI Provincial House

### Visit of Fr. Provincial to the USA and Peru Mission

Fr. Provincial travelled to the United States in September for a renewal program and the canonical visitation of our members serving there. Though the visa procedures were quite demanding, by the grace of God everything went smoothly. The visit proved truly enriching, offering him quality time with our members — Fr. Jose Kulathinal, Fr. Josey Vattoth, and Fr. Dayon Edasseril.

During the same journey, Fr. Provincial also participated in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Peru Mission. The rich Peruvian culture and the tireless missionary commitment of the fathers from St. Joseph Province, Kottayam, left a deep and memorable impression, highlighting the vibrancy of this cherished mission of our congregation.

### Visit to Germany and Rome

Fr. Abraham Puthukulangara and Fr. George Kochery visited our Fathers serving in Germany during the month of November. The entire schedule was meticulously planned by Fr. Joshy Kumbulumoottil, with an admirable “German touch.” They were able to spend ample time with our confreres and personally witness the difficulties, challenges, and exemplary dedication with which they carry out their responsibilities. Kudos to all our Fathers—keep up the commendable work.

Their journey also included a visit to Rome, the eternal city. Fr. Libin graciously coordinated all arrangements for a comfortable stay. During this Jubilee Year of Grace, they had the privilege of visiting the four Papal Basilicas and passing through the Holy Doors (Porta Santa)—a profoundly blessed experience. The awe-inspiring Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, where the recent Papal Conclave was held for the election of Pope Leo XIV, offered a moving encounter with the grandeur of faith, art, and culture. The pilgrimage to Assisi, imbued with the spiritual presence of St. Francis, St. Clare, and the modern young saint Carlo Acutis, was another deeply grace-filled moment.

### Renovations at Devdarshan

The much-awaited renovation work at Devdarshan has finally begun, covering rooms, bathrooms, verandas, the parlour, and other essential areas. The conference room has also been newly furnished to provide better facilities for meetings and gatherings. The work is progressing well and is expected to be completed by the end of this month.



Fr. Provincial and Fr. Martin during the Mission Seminar in Peru



CMI Education Summit at the Prior General's House.



Fr. Provincial celebrated Holy Mass during the CMI Renewal at Mundelein Seminary, Chicago



Fr. Abraham and Fr. George during their visit to Europe



Fr. Provincial and Rev. Fr. Martin Mallath with members of the Peru Mission at the Golden Jubilee celebration.

### Christ School Chitra

Aaranyam CMI Bhavan has acquired a fresh and vibrant appearance after the recent painting work. On 29th November, we joyfully celebrated the Feast of Saint Charles de Foucauld, our Patron's Day, together with all the members of the Bhavnagar Zone.

The school campus is now adorned with a rich variety of flowers and fruit-bearing plants, making it an attractive and welcoming space for students, parents, and visitors alike.

The K.G. Section is functioning exceptionally well, engaging the little ones in numerous creative and activity-based learning programmes. The Primary Section of both mediums is actively preparing for the upcoming cultural competitions, showcasing the talents and enthusiasm of our young students.

Students of Classes 10 and 12 are fully focused on their academic responsibilities as they prepare for the pre-prelims, prelims, and board examinations through rigorous revision.

In our eco-friendly initiatives, Plankton and Tapioca cultivation is progressing well and will soon be ready for yielding. Preparations for Christmas are also underway, filling the campus with festive spirit and joyful anticipation.

### St.Xaviers School Botad

Botad School witnessed a lively and enriching academic term as students actively engaged in a variety of curricular and co-curricular activities. From the Inter-House Quiz and Debate Competitions, where students displayed sharp intellect and confident expression, to the Rakhi Making Competition that

highlighted creativity and cultural values, the campus remained vibrant throughout the semester. Academic dedication was evident during the First Semester Examinations, while celebrations of Navratri, Diwali, Green Day, and Teachers' Day added colour, joy, and meaningful reflection to school life. Bagless Saturdays up to Class 8 encouraged activity-based learning in a relaxed and joyful environment. After a refreshing semester break, the school reopened on 6th November, welcoming students back with renewed enthusiasm for learning and holistic growth.

**Mahuva**

The Sudarshana House community celebrated the birthday of their Superior with great joy and devotion, turning the occasion into a meaningful day of service. The house and school premises were thoroughly cleaned, and new trees were planted, adding fresh greenery and life to the campus. Various improvements were also made around the school—not out of necessity, but as part of a beautification initiative aimed at enhancing the overall atmosphere. During this time, attention was also given to the parish church. The roof, which had collapsed earlier, is now being repaired under the leadership of the parish priest, ensuring that the sacred space remains safe and welcoming.

St. Thomas School continued its commitment to holistic education through a range of activities. The school places strong emphasis on inner beautification, ensuring that classrooms and learning areas remain neat, organised, and conducive to focused study. The school's guiding philosophy emphasises that external appearance matters less than the quality and order maintained within.

A well-organised Science Expo showcased the creativity and talent of young students, who presented innovative projects and experiments with confidence. For Classes XI and XII, a Career Guidance Seminar provided valuable information about future academic and professional opportunities, helping students make informed decisions. Meanwhile, the tiny tots of Baby Land School enjoyed their picnic days, giving them moments of fun, bonding, and joyful learning outside the classroom. Through its various initiatives—beautification, scientific exploration, career preparation, and recreational activities—St. Thomas School continues to nurture the intellectual, emotional, and personal growth of its students.

**News Updates**



St Thomas Mahuva



Saint Xavier Botad

### Palitana

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mother Mary was celebrated solemnly on 8th December. The Fathers of the Bhavnagar Zone gathered together at St. Xavier's School on this occasion and renewed their religious vows in a prayerful atmosphere. In the month of October, our campus was blessed with the visit of Fr. Mathew Chandrankunnel CMI, whose presence and guidance were a source of inspiration for the community. The students of Classes 10 and 12 are diligently preparing for their upcoming Board Examinations. Special coaching sessions and revision classes are being conducted to help them perform their best.

### Bagasara

#### **Marianora 2024 – A Grand Celebration of Talent and Joy**

The school celebrated its much-awaited Annual Day, “Marianora 2024,” on 20 December, with great splendour and enthusiasm. The occasion was blessed by the presence of Rev. Fr. Joseph Kallampallil CMI, Provincial, who honoured us as the Chief Guest and inspired the gathering with his encouraging message. The stage came alive with a vibrant series of cultural performances presented by students from KG to Std. VIII. Colourful dances, soulful songs and theme-based displays kept the audience spellbound. Each performance reflected the hard work, discipline, and creativity of our young students, winning the admiration of parents and guests alike. The entire day was filled with joy and pride, making Marianora 2024 a truly memorable celebration for the whole school community.

#### **Garba Celebration – A Festive Splash of Tradition**

On 1 October, the school resonated with festive energy as students and teachers participated wholeheartedly in the Garba Celebration. Dressed in traditional attire, they danced joyfully to rhythmic beats, creating a colourful and lively atmosphere. The celebration not only showcased cultural heritage but also strengthened the sense of unity and togetherness among the students.

#### **Diwali Celebration – Spreading Light and Happiness**

The school celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights, on 16 October with great joy and devotion. The campus was beautifully decorated, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness. Students presented a variety of cultural programmes including dances, skits, and speeches on the values of peace, harmony, and goodness. The celebration added festive charm to the campus and helped students appreciate the deeper meaning of Diwali in their lives.

### VISAMO-Fuljhar

**New Ambulance:** In November 2025, we purchased a new Eco-Maruti Ambulance, strengthening our emergency and healthcare services for the sick, elderly, and needy.

**Solar Power System:** With generous support from Mr. Kenny Thomas of Veraval, all formalities for a solar power system are complete, and installation will begin shortly, promoting sustainability and reducing costs.

**Sad Demise:** Mr. Deepakbhai Vyas (59) passed away on 13 October 2025 after a prolonged illness. We pray for the repose of his soul and comfort for his family.

**Silver Jubilee:** The Samanya 2000 batch celebrated 25 years of priesthood at Fuljhar from 16–18 July 2025, with ten priests participating in a joyful time of prayer, fraternity, and thanksgiving.

### Junagadh

The school witnessed a lively and meaningful period marked by celebrations, academics, and community life.

Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic zeal through competitions, patriotic dances, and a flag-hoisting ceremony on 15th August. Kindergarten students joyfully celebrated Rakshabandhan and Janmashtami with cultural activities and dances.

Academic unit tests and semester examinations were conducted for all classes, with students showing good performance. A grand birthday celebration of Fr. Abraham was held on 24th August with the presence of Fathers and Sisters from neighbouring communities. Teacher’s Day was celebrated with cultural programmes, including a special student-teacher initiative.

The Navratri Dance Programme (27th September) and Diwali Programme (14th October) were celebrated with great enthusiasm. Teachers’ birthdays for the first semester were celebrated on 15th October, followed by Diwali vacation from 16th October to 5th November. Family Day was celebrated on 3rd December on the feast of St. Francis Xavier, highlighting unity among the school family.



Bagless Saturdays featured competitions such as rhymes, speech, Hindi storytelling, and rangoli. Visits by Fathers and Sisters strengthened fraternal bonds. Fr. Vinod and Fr. Jaise attended a retreat in Bhavnagar and an Educators’ Meet in Kochi.

An unfortunate robbery occurred on 27th October, with valuables stolen; the police investigation is ongoing. The school also mourned the passing of longtime night watchman, Mr. Jeenabhai, on 19th October.

### Porbandar

Saint Joseph’s School hosted Khel Maha Kumbh competitions at the Taluka and District levels, transforming the campus into a hub of energy and sportsmanship.

Events such as Football, Basketball, Kho-Kho, Throw Ball, and Hockey were conducted, with appreciation from the District Sports Officer, Porbandar, for the school’s facilities and cooperation.

The year was marked by outstanding achievements, with several teams qualifying for Zonal-level competitions, including Football (U-14 & U-17 Boys) and Basketball (U-14 & U-17 Boys & Girls, Open Girls). Adding to the pride of the institution, Diya Shah was selected for the Pre-National Cricket Camp at Jamnagar.

Inter-House Games and Athletic Meets held in late November and early December witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across all categories. Teachers also joined in friendly sports events, strengthening staff–student bonds. The sports season fostered teamwork, discipline, and a vibrant spirit of healthy competition across the campus.

News Updates

### **Jail Road**

St. Xavier's Parish experienced a spiritually enriching year through faith formation, celebrations, and mission activities. The Catechism Annual Day featured Bible-based cultural programmes, academic awards, and teacher appreciation in the presence of Rev. Dr. Joicen Paranjattu. Parishioners actively participated in the Gujarati Bible Quiz at Tokarala, with over 25 children and elders taking part for the first time.

Mission Sunday 2025 was marked by Bible writing, charity initiatives, and youth-led acts of mercy inspired by St. Carlo Acutis. First Communion and Confirmation were solemnly celebrated on 9th November by Bishop Mar Jose Chittooparambil for 13 children. The Feast of St. Francis Xavier was joyfully observed with Archbishop Thomas Macwan, highlighting zonal cultural presentations and strong parish participation.

Fr. Abraham Puthukulangara and Fr. George Kochery visited our fathers serving in Germany and Rome, appreciating their committed missionary service.

At St. Xavier School, Bhavnagar, on December 3<sup>rd</sup> Patron's Day was celebrated as Family Day with cultural programmes, inspirational messages, and a symbolic family meal.

### **Amreli**

St. Mary School, Amreli reopened after the Diwali vacation with renewed enthusiasm. Diwali was celebrated on 16 October 2025 with cultural dances, inspiring messages, and active student participation. A two-day Cultural Fest held on 12–13 December featured various house-wise competitions, while a

Group Song Competition commemorating the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram filled the campus with patriotic spirit.

The school is preparing diligently for the Board Examinations, with 105 students appearing for Std. X and 35 students for Std. XII. Unit Tests and Pre-Preliminary Examinations will begin on 29 December 2025. In sports, Inter-House Cricket and Kabaddi tournaments and participation in Khel Mahakumbh fostered teamwork and excellence.

The school will celebrate Christmas on 23 December 2025, promoting peace and joy.

The Parish Feast was solemnly celebrated on 8 September 2025 with Fr. Jithin Parasseril CMI as the main celebrant. The Silver Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination of Fr. Roy Vakkayil CMI was joyfully celebrated on 30 November 2025, marking 25 years of dedicated priestly service.

### **Rajula**

Rajula proudly celebrates the achievement of two young students who have qualified for the State Level Khel Mahakumbh—one in Chess (Under-11) and the other in Table Tennis (Under-14). Their dedication and discipline continue to inspire the entire school community.

Following the Diwali vacation, the campus reopened with renewed enthusiasm as students returned to a vibrant atmosphere of learning and activity. Inter-house competitions such as Solo Dance, Elocution, Declamation, and the Vande Mataram Group Song brought creativity, confidence, and unity to school life.

This academic year, 59 students will appear for the Class 10 Board Examination. The school community keeps them in prayer, wishing them focus, courage, and success. The community also joyfully welcomed back Sr. Shiji after her successful eye surgery, thanking God for her recovery.

Various celebrations and observances throughout the term strengthened communal bonds and enriched the cultural life of the campus.

On 8 December, the campus was blessed to host the Renewal of Religious Vows of the fathers from the Amreli Zone. The prayerful celebration and fraternal gathering fostered spiritual renewal and joyful fellowship among all present.



Saint. Xavier's Junagadh

**St. Mary Prayer Hall Palitana**

St. Mary Prayer Hall, Palitana continues to be active in missionary and spiritual outreach. During the Diwali vacation, a 12-day pilgrimage to Kerala was organized for 22 faithful, visiting important pilgrimage centres such as Malayattoor, Kuravilanguda, Mannanam, Bharananganam, Ramapuram, the Syro-Malabar Dera at Nallathanni, and the parish of Blessed Rani Maria, along with other sacred places. The pilgrimage concluded with a retreat at the Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor. The group was accompanied by Sr. Jolly DP and Sr. Anita DP, with support from the Diocese of Rajkot, the Province, Devpriya Generalate, and benefactors.

In the last week of November, a special prayer and worship programme was held for migrant workers from nearby vadis, supported by regular pastoral visits. In early December, the Palitana team participated in the National Divine Mercy Convention held in the Diocese of Ahmedabad, strengthening their commitment to spreading the message of Divine Mercy.



Saint. Mary Amreli

### Sacred Heart Church Porbandar

#### Onam Celebration

The Onam festival was joyfully celebrated on the St. Mary's School campus with great enthusiasm and unity. The programme was generously sponsored and well organized by the Malayali parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish, who also prepared all the traditional dishes with care and devotion. Parishioners from all communities participated wholeheartedly. A colourful pookalam, engaging games for all age groups, and an open tug-of-war added vibrancy to the celebration. The day concluded with prize distribution by the Parish Priest and a festive Onam Sadya shared by all.

#### Rosary Devotion

As part of the annual Rosary devotion, the parish observed a ten-day Rosary in the church, with different parish groups leading the prayer each day. The Mothers' Group arranged prasada daily for the faithful. The devotion concluded with a solemn Holy Mass, followed by the Rosary at the grotto and a candlelight procession accompanied by the singing of the Litany of Mother Mary. The celebration ended with the final blessing and a fellowship meal, fostering unity and gratitude to Mother Mary for her abundant blessings.

#### Dolti

With the arrival of new sisters at Snehajyoti Convent, the mission has been renewed with fresh energy: the tuition centre now flourishes with over 30 students under the dedicated leadership of Sr. Treesa, while Sr. Anice continues her compassionate outreach to the sick and bedridden, and Sr. Merly strengthens women and youth through a growing tailoring class.

### St. Ann's Church Junagadh

The Feast of Christ the King was solemnly celebrated on 23rd November with active participation of the parish community. Rev. Fr. Abraham Kizhakkekuttu CMI, Parish Priest, presided over the Eucharistic celebration and delivered an inspiring homily on Christ's kingship rooted in service, compassion, and self-giving love. The celebration concluded with a prayerful procession accompanied by hymns.

In recent weeks, significant improvements were made to the cemetery premises. The compound wall was repaired, electricity and water facilities were provided, a free electric connection was arranged for lighting, and a new signboard was installed, ensuring safety, dignity, and proper upkeep of the sacred space.

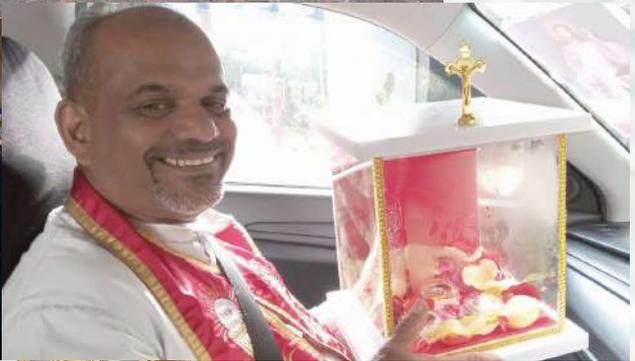




Annual Retreat



Teachers' Seminar –  
CMI Year of Education



A sacred journey of mercy and faith —  
with the relics of St. Maria Faustina and  
St. John Paul II



Launching of Our New Website –  
[www.cmichavarabvn.org](http://www.cmichavarabvn.org)



Zonal-Level Silver Jubilee Celebration

Photo Gallery

## Wardha

The Bishop Januarius Endowment Lectures were held on 16 August, with Most Rev. Elias Joseph Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur, speaking on “The Challenges of Mission in the Present-Day Socio-Political Context of India,” inspiring renewed engagement in evangelization.

The Mathrudham Feast (3–12 October) was solemnly celebrated with a ten-day rosary, concluding with a procession, final blessing by Rev. Fr. Robinson C.J., and preetibhoj, fostering active participation and devotion. Canonical Visitation of Very Rev. Fr. Thomas Chathamparampil CMI, Prior General, along with Rev. Frs. Babu Mattathil and Sijo Vattekkadan, brought encouragement, personal interaction, and appreciation of the Darsana family’s work.

The community joyfully felicitated Msgr. Joseph Thachaparambath CMI, the first Bishop from Darsana alumni, on 20 September, who was later ordained on 25 October in Adilabad.

The Village Exposure Programme (VEP) for Second Year Brothers (24 October–1 November) took them to Gollapally, Nennel, Chandrapally, and Ralamettupally, enriching their pastoral experience.

Mission Sunday (16 November), presided over by Rev. Fr. Robinson, inspired mission awareness through Holy Mass, auctions, games, and community fellowship.

In connection with World Philosophy Day (20 November), Bros. Felix Thottakara and Rohit Vadassery presented a paper titled “Between Utopia and Reality: Philosophy’s Task of Hope” at DVK, Bengaluru.

Triumph Fest – Darsana Sports Day (22 November) showcased students’ talents, discipline, and sportsmanship, with an inspiring message by Fr. Jaino Chunayanmackal CMI.

The Concordia 2k25 – Community Day (22–23 November) celebrated unity and togetherness, beginning with a concelebrated Holy Mass by Fr. Francis Aykaraparampil CMI and culminating in a cultural evening of performances, group activities, and felicitations.

## SAMANVAYA, BHOPAL

On 10 June, the first-year students, including Br. Abin Chundamannil, joined Samanvaya for their theology program. This academic year, the seminary is blessed with 27 brothers across three batches, guided by seven dedicated staff members. The second-year students successfully completed their mission experiences in Jagdalpur and Rishikesh, gaining valuable pastoral insights.

We are pleased to share that Fr. Biju Savio will join the seminary in Namibia in January 2026. Meanwhile, construction of the new seminary building is progressing steadily, with the inauguration scheduled for 21 January, marking an important milestone for Samanvaya.

## Germany

On 29 November 2025, Fr. Jose Kuzhichalil was installed as Canon at the historic Osnabrück Cathedral, becoming the first Indian to receive this honor in the diocese. The ceremony, presided over by Auxiliary Bishop Johannes Wübbe in the presence of Bishop Dominicus Meier OSB, was graced by Fr. Joshy and Fr. Xavier, marking a memorable moment for the province.

Following his installation, Fr. Jose has begun his ministry as Pastor and Ehrendomherr in Lingen-Laxten, while Fr. Jomon, formerly serving Börger, now ministers as Pastor in Meppen.

The community was blessed by the visit of Fr. Abraham, Vicar Provincial, and Fr. George, Finance Councillor (11–25 November), who experienced firsthand the pastoral and parish life of our fathers in Germany, strengthening bonds and fostering communion.

**USA**

**Cheruvandoor**

On 11 December 2025, Fr. Jossy Vattothu completed one year of dedicated service in military chaplaincy in San Antonio, Texas. His ministry focuses on accompanying young Airmen by offering spiritual, emotional, and pastoral support, helping them experience God's closeness in their daily service. As the Christmas season approaches, Fr. Jossy is ministering across three military bases, coordinating Advent Penance Services and preparing for Christmas and New Year Masses.

A fraternal visit by Rev. Fr. Joseph Kallampallil CMI (Provincial) and Rev. Fr. Martin Mallathu CMI (General Councillor) was a source of encouragement. They visited Fr. Jossy Vattothu, Fr. Dayon, and Fr. Jose Kulathinal, and also participated in the CMI Renewal Programme for North America held at Mundelein Seminary, Chicago. Fr. Jose Kulathinal and Fr. Dayon are actively involved in parish and pastoral ministries.



Chavara Bhavan continues to be a vibrant centre of formation and community life. Br. Albin, who has recently assumed the role of Regent, has already made a positive impact through his creative and energetic approach, fostering active participation and renewed enthusiasm among the brothers and aspirants.

The Annual Retreat for Aspirants was held from 2–6 November at Ramapuram, guided by Sr. Mercin FCC. The retreat provided a prayerful atmosphere for silence, reflection, and vocational discernment, serving as an important milestone in the aspirants' formation. From 7–9 November, the aspirants undertook a meaningful pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, visiting Kainakary, his birthplace, and Mannanam, the mother house of the Congregation and his tomb. The pilgrimage deepened their understanding of the saint's life, mission, and spiritual legacy. The community was pleased to welcome parishioners from Palitana, who visited to meet Fr. Mathew, sharing fellowship and seeking his blessings.

Another highlight was the visit of Fr. Jose Kuzhichalil with parishioners from Germany, during which a special German Holy Mass was celebrated, strengthening fraternal and cultural bonds.

Though bedridden, Fr. Mathew continues to be a source of spiritual inspiration, attracting many visitors who seek his prayers and blessings. Recently, he was administered the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick by the Fr. Vicar.

As Christmas approaches, Chavara Bhavan is filled with festive joy. The community has begun Christmas preparations with lights and decorations, while aspirants prepare the crib and brothers rehearse for the Inter-Seminary Aspirants Carol Song Competition to be held at Caritas EduCity.

## SCHOLASTICS' CORNER

### Samanvaya, Bhopal

Life at Samanvaya continues in joy and harmony. Under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Jacob and the attentive care of our Master, Fr. Jaino, the community is steadily growing in formation. The second semester began on 17 November, and classes are progressing smoothly. The canonical visitation of our General from 1–3 December was a grace-filled time of encouragement and renewed commitment. The community is now preparing with enthusiasm for Christmas and other forthcoming celebrations.

### Carmel Niketan, Jabalpur

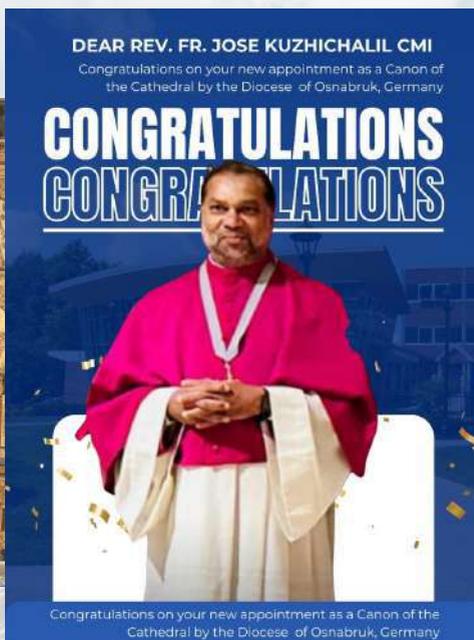
Life at Carmel Niketan is vibrant and hopeful. As the brothers prepare for their semester examinations, they also joyfully anticipate the celebration of Christmas. On the 8th of the month, the renewal of vows was solemnly celebrated with a Syro-Malabar Hindi Liturgy. The brothers are also actively involved in Christmas carol groups in various parishes, spreading the joy of Christ's birth.

### Carmel Vidya Bhavan, Pune

The Carmel Vidya Bhavan (CVB) community continues to flourish in spiritual, academic, and communal life. After the semester break, the brothers undertook a five-day educational and recreational tour to Mumbai, fostering bonding and wider exposure. With classes resumed, preparations for semester examinations are underway.

The spiritual life of the community was enriched by a nine-day novena leading to the Carmel Parish Feast, celebrated with devotion and joy. The feast holds special significance as the community prepares for upcoming ordinations: seven brothers for the Diaconate and six for the Subdiaconate. Alongside these commitments, family celebrations with games and fellowship have begun, strengthening fraternity and shared mission. "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (Ps 126:3)





## **FR. JOSE KUZHICALIL CMI APPOINTED CANON OF OSNABRÜCK CATHEDRAL, GERMANY**

In a moment of great pride for the Indian Catholic Church and the CMI St. Chavara Vice Province, Bhavnagar, Rev. Fr. Jose Kuzhichalil CMI has been officially appointed and installed as a Canon of the Cathedral in the Diocese of Osnabrück, Germany. The solemn installation ceremony took place at the Osnabrück Cathedral in the presence of the Bishop, clergy, religious, and faithful from various parishes.

Fr. Kuzhichalil has served the Diocese of Osnabrück with dedication for the past 26 years, ministering as both Pastor and Assistant Pastor in several parishes. He also rendered valuable service by coordinating and accompanying priests and religious from outside Germany, offering guidance and support to missionaries from different countries.

In recognition of his experience and leadership, Fr. Kuzhichalil has been a member of several diocesan consultative and advisory bodies, contributing significantly to pastoral planning, migrant ministry, and community development. His appointment as Canon stands as a tribute to his faithful, selfless, and exemplary pastoral service.

A distinguished member of the CMI St. Chavara Vice Province, Bhavnagar, Fr. Jose Kuzhichalil previously served as Provincial, Director of Social Work, and teacher, contributing notably to educational and social apostolates in India before undertaking his long years of pastoral ministry in Germany.



I am happy and delighted to publish the Christmas edition of Gurjari, our Province newsletter.

Christmas reminds us that God is with us—Emmanuel.

The mystery of Christmas reveals a central truth of the Christian faith: Emmanuel—God with us. In this single name, the Church contemplates the fullness of God's love expressed in the Incarnation. Far from remaining distant or inaccessible, God enters human history, assumes our fragility, and chooses to dwell among His people. For the Church's missionary disciples, especially those serving among the poor and marginalized, the mystery of Emmanuel becomes the foundation, inspiration, and model for authentic Christian mission.

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem is itself a missionary proclamation. The Son of God is not born in splendour but in poverty; not in a palace but in a humble manger. The first witnesses of this event are shepherds—simple people living on the margins of society. This divine preference for humility and littleness teaches an essential dimension of Catholic mission: evangelization begins with presence. God does not redeem humanity from afar; He becomes one with us.

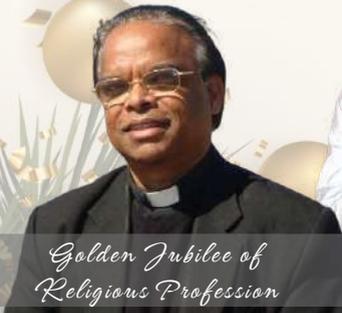
Thus, missionaries are not merely called to do something for the poor, but to be with them—to share their struggles, hopes, fears, and joys. The Incarnation becomes the paradigm of pastoral closeness, solidarity, and communion. In the mission field we encounter poverty, injustice, sickness, and brokenness, yet it is precisely in these wounded places that Emmanuel—God with us—becomes visible. Whenever missionaries listen, heal, teach, and accompany the suffering, they continue Christ's incarnational mission, for mission is not merely a strategy but a living expression of the Incarnation. Jesus shows that Emmanuel is an active presence, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, welcoming sinners, and restoring dignity, and as the Gospel teaches (cf. Mt 25:31–46), in serving the poor we encounter Christ Himself, who reveals God's tenderness through them. Missionaries therefore become bearers of hope, making God's nearness known through simple acts of love carried out with humility and fidelity, following the example of the manger where transformation begins with tenderness and communion. As we celebrate Christmas, we rejoice that Emmanuel walks with us in every mission station and place longing for light, and by serving with Christ's compassion, we become living signs of God-with-us—wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2026.

Fr. Binu Kunnel CMI

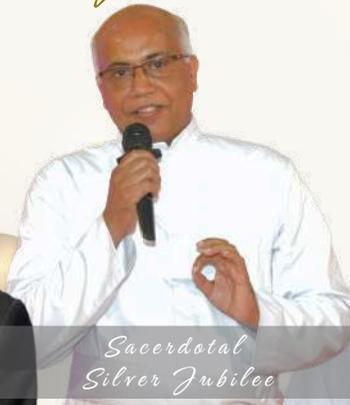
Councillor, Education & Media



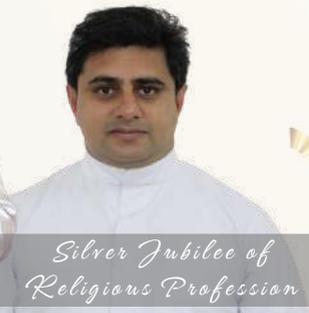
## Greetings & Prayers



*Golden Jubilee of  
Religious Profession*



*Sacerdotal  
Silver Jubilee*



*Silver Jubilee of  
Religious Profession*