

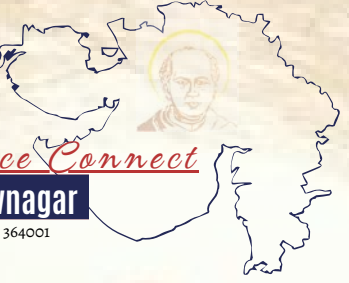


GURJARI

A Province Connect

St. Chavara Vice Province, Bhavnagar

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



PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

The celebration of Easter fills our hearts with profound joy and hope as we proclaim the central mystery of our faith: Christ is risen! The Resurrection of the Lord is a powerful reminder that God continues to guide His people with love and providence, transforming moments of struggle into opportunities of grace and renewal.

As we celebrate this great mystery of our faith, I take this opportunity to thank God for His constant care and abundant blessings upon our Province during the past three years of provincial administration. The journey has been marked by many responsibilities and challenges, yet we have constantly experienced the gentle hand of God leading and sustaining us.

I am deeply grateful to each one of you for your sincere cooperation, fraternal support in carrying forward the mission of the Province. Your dedication to our religious vocation and your commitment to the charism and vision of our founder have greatly contributed to the smooth and harmonious functioning of the province.

The spirit of unity, mutual trust, and generous service shown by the members of the Province has been a source of strength and encouragement. It is this spirit of fraternity that continues to sustain our common mission in the Church.

As we celebrate the victory of life over death, may the Risen Lord renew our hearts with courage and hope. May He strengthen our commitment to live our vocation with greater fidelity, deepen our love for our community, and inspire us to continue our apostolic mission with renewed zeal.

Wishing each one of you a grace-filled and joyful Easter

Fr. Joseph Kallampallil CMI
Provincial

HAPPY EASTER
Alive in Christ—renewed in hope, restored in love



From Good Friday to Easter Sunday – The Journey of Salvation

Fr. Jithin Parasseril CMI
Principal, St. Xavier's School Palitana

The Christian celebration of Good Friday and Easter Sunday marks the most profound journey in the history of salvation. These sacred days invite believers to reflect on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. From the sorrow of the cross to the joy of the empty tomb, the Church contemplates the depth of God's love for humanity. This passage from Good Friday to Easter Sunday is known as the Journey of Salvation, through which God redeems the world and offers new life.

Good Friday is a day of silence, prayer, and reflection. Christians remember how Jesus was unjustly condemned, suffered, and was crucified at Calvary. While the cross may appear as a sign of defeat, in faith it stands as the greatest sign of love. Jesus willingly accepted death to restore the relationship between God and humanity. His sacrifice shows that true love is ready to suffer for others.

Even in suffering, Jesus showed mercy, praying for forgiveness for those who hurt Him. This reveals the heart of the Gospel: salvation is a gift of God's love. The cross reminds believers that forgiveness is stronger than hatred.

Holy Saturday is a day of silence and waiting.

Jesus lay in the tomb, and His disciples were filled with fear and sorrow. It seemed that hope had ended. Yet, it reminds us that God continues to work even in silence.

Easter Sunday brings joy and hope. The empty tomb proclaims that Jesus has risen from the dead. His resurrection is the foundation of Christian faith, showing that death does not have the final word. It is the victory of life over death and hope over despair.

The resurrection assures believers that suffering is not the end. Just as the cross led to resurrection, life's struggles can lead to renewal. This journey also calls for personal transformation through love, forgiveness, and service.

In the life of the Church, these days are marked by prayer and celebration. Good Friday is observed with reverence, while Easter brings joyful proclamation: Christ is risen!

Thus, the journey from Good Friday to Easter Sunday reveals the power of love, the meaning of sacrifice, and the promise of new life. The cross leads to the empty tomb, and the empty tomb leads to eternal hope.



DILXIT TE, **“On the Love of the Poor”** **Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Leo XIV**

Fr Jacob Marangattu CMI
 Samanvaya Theological College Bhopal

A consistent teaching of the Church, from her very inception to the present day, despite earth-shaking changes in philosophy, economic theories, models of social service, political ideologies, neo-spiritual trends, educational methods, and technological advancements, has remained unchanged: “Do not forget the poor.”

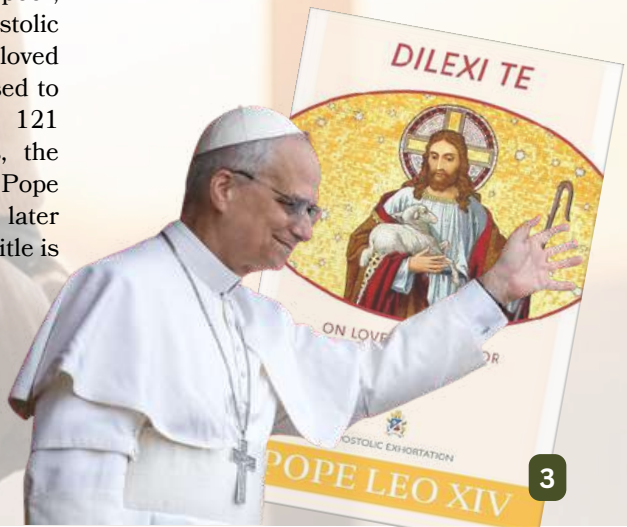
This was one of the central messages of the Council of Jerusalem (Acts chapter 15), as we read in Galatians 2:1-10. Ever since, the Church has embraced this as an essential dimension of her mission. The world has continually witnessed the merciful eyes, hands, and feet of Christ at work through the Church.

Reaffirming this enduring commitment to the preferential option for the poor, Pope Leo XIV issued the Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexit Te* (“I have loved you”) on 4 October 2015, addressed to all Christians. Comprising 121 paragraphs across five chapters, the document was initially begun by Pope Francis in his final days and later completed by Pope Leo XIV. The title is drawn from Revelation 3:9.

The document clearly states that love for the poor is not optional; rather, it is a path to holiness and a constitutive dimension of the Church’s identity and mission. Pope Leo writes in *Dilexit Te*: “I am convinced that the preferential choice for the poor is a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society” (n. 7).

The Exhortation offers a brief historical overview of how the Church has lived out this option through the centuries. Chapter Three of the Exhortation, in particular, traces the emergence of various religious congregations dedicated to serving the poor, the sick, migrants, and the marginalized. This thread runs from the time of the Jerusalem Council through the early Church and into our own day.

“Through your simple, heartfelt gesture of closeness, the poor will come to realize that Jesus’ words are addressed personally to each of them: ‘I have loved you.’”





The Acts of the Apostles, as well as the lives of saints such as St. Lawrence, testify to the early Church's care for the poor, widows, and the marginalized. During the monastic period, special emphasis was placed on hospitality and the care of strangers, the poor, and travellers. This era also saw the rise of educational institutions for the broader society.

Later, the mendicant movement marked a decisive shift, with monks leaving the cloister to serve in the streets, ministering to the poor, the sick, and lepers while proclaiming the Gospel. In subsequent centuries, missionary congregations crossed oceans to accompany migrants, and later still, apostolic congregations emerged to address specific needs such as healthcare, education, the care of slaves, and the service of the poor. In more recent times, both religious congregations and secular institutes have been founded to serve the "poorest of the poor," with figures such as Saint Teresa of Kolkata standing as luminous examples.

The document also highlights key magisterial teachings on the care of the poor. It notes: "The Church's magisterium over the past 150 years is a veritable treasury of significant teachings concerning the poor" (n. 83).

Among these are *Rerum Novarum* of Pope Leo XIII (1891), *Mater et Magistra* of Pope John XXIII (1961), *Gaudium et Spes* of the Second Vatican Council (1965), *Populorum Progressio* of Pope Paul VI (1967), *Laborem Exercens* (1981), and *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (1987) of Pope John Paul II. All these documents affirm the Church's sacred duty toward the poor.

The Exhortation further emphasizes that poverty must not be viewed merely through an economic lens. It is a multifaceted reality, encompassing several dimensions:

Material poverty: lack of basic means of subsistence

Social poverty: marginalization and lack of voice

Moral and spiritual poverty: neglect of values and meaning

Cultural poverty: lack of access to education and cultural resources

Human fragility: personal and social vulnerabilities

Deprivation of rights: denial of freedom and human dignity

The document draws on the parable of the Good Samaritan to challenge today's "throwaway culture," which diminishes human dignity and excludes the vulnerable.

Theological Basis for the Preferential Option for the Poor

The option for the poor is not merely an act of generosity or a "feel-good" initiative; it is deeply rooted in Scripture and the life of Jesus:

God's liberating action in history: God heard the cries of Israel in slavery and intervened through Moses to lead them to freedom.

The prophetic tradition: Prophets like Amos denounced worship that ignored justice for the poor.

Jesus, the poor Messiah: Jesus was born in poverty, lived simply, and died as one rejected and dispossessed.

The mission of Jesus: He explicitly identified himself as the one sent to proclaim Good News to the poor.

A profound insight of the document is that the poor are not only recipients of our care; they are our teachers; they are the flesh of Christ.

The Pope also offers a balanced defence of almsgiving in response to modern criticisms. Almsgiving remains important as a means of encounter, relationship, and empathy. It enables us to look into the eyes of the poor, to draw near, and to be touched by their reality.

At the same time, it must never replace the pursuit of justice and the defence of human dignity.

Conclusion

Times may change; world politics and ideologies may shift. But the Church loses her very reason for existence if she loses sight of her commitment to the poor, the voiceless, the neglected, and the marginalized. For the heart of Christ continues to beat for them.

DROPS OF LIFE AND WAVES OF LIGHT



Fr.Saju Avimootil CMI
Parish Priest, St. Mary's Church Palitana

An Initiative by Emmaus Pilgrims | Starting May 2026 at Dolti

The Vision

In regions like Saurashtra and Gujarat, where religious labels may not always resonate, the Divine Presence—beyond caste, creed, and culture—quietly lives in every heart.

We walk hand-in-hand with the people, sharing the “drops of life” and “waves of light” graciously given by our Heavenly Father. Our mission is to awaken this divine essence within each person by lifting hearts to God and extending love through the language and gestures of the land.

This initiative nurtures the universal values of faith, hope, love, and gratitude—treasures present in every human heart, yet often untapped. Through simple, inclusive, and non-religious activities, we gently break barriers of division, narrowness, and selfishness. A sincere “yes” to the Divine opens a flow of grace that touches every soul.

The program will begin as a pilot with children and the elderly at our centers before expanding to the wider community.

“The Divine Presence transcends religion, caste, and culture—it lives in every human heart.”

The Global Architecture of the Soul

We believe that each person is a “temple of the living God,” built not of stone, but of inner dispositions. When we carry faith, hope, gratitude, and love, we become channels of divine peace in the world.

Healing begins when we recognize that every person is equally worthy of dignity and grace. The Divine is present everywhere—in every land, every heart, and every moment.

The Program Schema

This is a non-religious, high-energy initiative designed not to convert, but to connect. It creates a welcoming space where people can experience peace, joy, and unity.

Through music, movement, and shared participation, we awaken the deeper dimensions of the human spirit. Activities are thoughtfully adapted to suit different age groups.

Sample Activities: Triggering the Divine Essence

1. The Passing of the Light

Participants sit in a circle and pass a small light from one person to another. Each person offers a simple gesture—such as a smile or a hand to the heart—before passing it on.

Purpose: To symbolize the silent flow of light and connection within the community.

2. The Sound of the Rain

Participants create a rhythm together: rubbing palms (mist), snapping fingers (drizzle), clapping (rain), and stomping (thunder), then gradually returning to silence.

Purpose: To experience unity, showing how small actions together create something powerful.

3. The Mirror of Divine Presence

An elderly person pairs with a child. One leads slow movements while the other mirrors them, then they switch roles.

Purpose: To foster attentiveness, empathy, and deep human connection.

Closing Note

The sun shines and the rain falls without discrimination. In the same way, this initiative seeks to share life and light with all.

Each of us carries a divine spark—faith, hope, gratitude, and love. These are the pillars of the inner temple we bear. When we open ourselves to this light, it becomes a wave, moving from heart to heart, dissolving all barriers.

Whether young or old, every person is an essential part of this living sanctuary. Together, let us gather the “drops of life” and celebrate unity as we journey through the Golden Jubilee year of our diocese.

Emmaus Pilgrims is an online spiritual initiative envisioned by Fr. Noble and supported by a group of priests.

“This initiative is not to convert, but to connect.”

Leading Lent to Easter



Fr. Noble Manakandathil CMI
Director, Snehajyoti Samajik Kendra, Dolti

We are a people—
Easter people,
Resurrected people,
Joyful people.

Fasting, not feasting,
Sacrifice, not indulgence,
Purity, not malice,
Penance, not pleasure.

From sin to zeal,
From jealousy to piety,
From conflict to calm,
From tension to peace.

Tear the heart, not the garment,
Break the self, not the cloak,
Break anger, not the spirit,
Break fast, not prayer.

News Updates

Devdarshan CMI Provincial House

CHAVARA FEAST 2026

The celebration of the Chavara Feast at our Chavara Grotto was once again a remarkable and grace-filled event this year. It was conducted with great enthusiasm and joy, drawing a large number of devotees of St. Chavara.

**"If you have a heart of
mercy, you will find that you
have the heart of God."**

St. Vincent de Paul

The festival flag was ceremoniously hoisted by Rev. Fr. Rojant Kalapurackal, Chancellor of the Diocese of Rajkot and Principal of St. Mary's School, Gondal. The thirteen-hour Eucharistic Adoration and the solemn Eucharistic procession were deeply prayerful experiences, attended by many faithful seeking God's abiding love in the Holy Eucharist.

The final day of the feast was blessed by the gracious presence of His Grace Archbishop Thomas Macwan of Gandhinagar. In his homily, he eloquently highlighted the life and heroic virtues of St. Chavara, inspiring the faithful to imitate his deep devotion to the Holy Eucharist and his compassionate love for the suffering and the needy. The celebration concluded with a festive meal served to all the faithful and well-wishers.

Province Day and Jubilee

The renovation work at the Provincial House has been successfully completed, incorporating several essential improvements. These include the addition of a new office space, parlour, conference hall, and various aesthetic enhancements to the quadrangle, verandas, bathrooms, and living rooms. The entire space now presents a refreshed and welcoming atmosphere, thoughtfully designed and ready for full use.

Renovation at Devdarshan

The Province Day was celebrated with great joy and solemnity, along with the Golden Jubilee of the religious profession of Rev. Fr. George Areekuzhy, and the Silver Jubilees of Ordination of Rev. Fr. Joseph Kallampally (Provincial) and the Silver Jubilee of the religious profession of Rev. Fr. Santhosh Kizhakkethil. All the fathers and sisters within the province were invited to participate in the celebrations, making it a memorable gathering of fraternity and thanksgiving.

In addition, the Navathi (90th birthday) of Rev. Fr. Joseph Uppumackal and the birthday of the Provincial were celebrated at the zonal level on February 8, 2026. Heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Fr. J. Uppumackal on reaching this remarkable milestone of 90 years.

ST. XAVIERS CMIPUBLIC SCHOOL The Phoenix Flare 2026 & Tiny Trotters

The Annual Day celebrations for both Primary and High School sections were held with great enthusiasm. Students showcased extraordinary talent through vibrant cultural performances that left the audience spellbound. The two-day cultural extravaganza once again reaffirmed the school's reputation as a preferred choice for parents in Bhavnagar. The tireless efforts and dedicated leadership of Rev. Fr. Sanil Vettathel CMI were truly commendable.

St.Xaviers School Botad

St. Xavier's School, Botad, recently celebrated its Annual Sports Day with great enthusiasm and active participation from the students. The event was conducted successfully, and medals and prizes were awarded to the winners in recognition of their outstanding performances and achievements. At present, the Board Examinations are underway. Our school has been designated as a Higher Secondary Board Examination Centre, where students are appearing for their examinations in a well-organized and disciplined environment. In addition, St. Xavier's School has also been selected as a Paper Valuation Centre, and the valuation process is scheduled to commence next week. Admissions for the upcoming academic year have already begun, and the admission process is currently in progress.

**"Easter is the feast of hope.
The hope that never fails,
because it is based on the
power of God."
St. Padre Pio**

Regarding community updates, Fr. Thomas had travelled to his native place for a week to visit his ailing father, who was hospitalized. He has since returned. Fr. Santhosh had been in Kerala for a month undergoing medical treatment and has now resumed his duties. Fr. Lijo had travelled to Tamil Nadu to appear for his M.Ed. examinations and has returned after successfully completing them.

The 60th birthday of Fr. Thomas Cheerankunnel was joyfully celebrated on 21st March 2026 with great warmth and gratitude. The occasion brought together fathers and sisters from the Bhavnagar zone, making it a truly memorable and grace-filled gathering. The celebration was marked by a spirit of thanksgiving for Fr. Thomas's dedicated service, inspiring leadership, and unwavering commitment to the mission of the Church. The gathering reflected deep appreciation for his life and ministry, as participants joined in prayer, fellowship, and joyful interaction. The presence of the confreres and sisters added to the beauty of the occasion, strengthening the bonds of fraternity and unity. The celebration concluded on a note of happiness and gratitude, wishing Fr. Thomas continued good health, happiness, and abundant blessings in the years ahead.

Christ Chitra

The Feast of Saint Charles de Foucauld, the patron saint of Aranyam CMI House, was joyfully celebrated on Saturday, 29th November. Fathers and Sisters from all the communities of the Bhavnagar Zone were cordially invited, and their gracious presence added great warmth and spiritual significance to the occasion.

The gathering fostered a deep sense of unity, fraternity, and shared joy among all present. The Christmas celebrations were conducted with the usual enthusiasm and festive spirit among the staff. The programme featured vibrant cultural performances, engaging games, and a joyful gift exchange that strengthened bonds of fellowship. A special token of appreciation was also presented to the staff on behalf of the school, acknowledging their dedicated service and commitment.

The sixtieth birthday of Rev. Fr. Joby was celebrated solemnly both in the school and within the community. Fathers and Sisters from across the Bhavnagar zone participated in the celebration, making it a memorable occasion marked by gratitude, prayer, and fraternity.

The Kindergarten Day- ILLUMINARE - was celebrated on 28th February with great joy and enthusiasm. The occasion was enriched by the presence of two distinguished alumni of our institution, both accomplished medical professionals. One serves as a Professor for MBBS students at the Government Medical College, Bhavnagar, while the other is a practicing surgeon at a Medical College in Ahmedabad. Their presence served as an inspiration to the young students and a proud moment for the institution.

In the academic sphere, a total of 105 students from the Gujarati medium and 84 students from the English medium appeared for the Board Examinations. We remain hopeful and confident of their success and commend their hard work and perseverance.

On 19th March, a special gathering was organized to celebrate the feast of four members of four different communities— Fr. Joseph Kichupoovakkottu (Chitra), Fr. Joseph Uppumackal(Dev Darshan), Fr. Jithin Parasseril (Palitana) and Bro. Jithin Cheruvankalayil(Jail Road).

The celebration brought together members in a spirit of prayer, unity, and joyful fellowship, strengthening the bonds within the wider community.

Mahuva

Mahuva: St. Thomas School and Sudarsana CMI Bhavan, Mahuva, joyfully celebrated the feast of St. Chavara with great devotion and community participation.

The school has also initiated its new admission procedures for the academic year, welcoming prospective students and parents. Meanwhile, the annual Sports Day was successfully conducted, showcasing the talents and sportsmanship of the students.

The institution is optimistic about the performance of Class 10 and 12 students in the ongoing board examinations, expecting excellent results this year. At the same time, high school students are actively preparing for the upcoming science exhibition, demonstrating creativity and innovation.

Adding to the vibrant atmosphere, the farm has become a place of attraction, with many fathers and sisters visiting to enjoy its beauty. A special highlight is the farm's horse, which has been well trained and is now ready for riding activities. Overall, the school continues to grow in all aspects, combining academics, extracurricular activities, and community life effectively.

Palitana

The school is currently witnessing an important academic phase as students of Classes 10 and 12 appear for their Board Examinations. This year, a total of 64 students from Class 10 and 45 students from Class 12 are confidently undertaking their examinations. Building on the remarkable achievement of securing a 100% pass result over the past two consecutive years, the school remains optimistic and looks forward to yet another year of excellent performance.



"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."
St. Basil the Great

In addition to academic pursuits, the school also celebrated the KG Graduation Day on 25th March with great joy and enthusiasm. The event was a delightful showcase of the talents of our young learners. The little graduates captivated the audience with a variety of well-coordinated and vibrant performances, including dances, skits, speeches, storytelling, and other cultural presentations. Their confidence, creativity, and enthusiasm made the programme truly memorable and enjoyable for all present.

The celebration not only marked an important milestone in the lives of the children but also reflected the school's commitment to nurturing holistic development from the very foundation years.

Bagasara

Annual Day Celebration – “MARIANORA”

St. Xavier's School, Bagasara, celebrated its Annual Day, “Marianora,” on 20th December 2025 with great joy, enthusiasm, and grandeur. The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of our Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Joseph, the Provincial, along with several respected fathers and sisters.

The celebration was a vibrant showcase of the students' talents and creativity. A variety of cultural programmes—including dances, skits, and musical performances—were presented with great enthusiasm and finesse under the dedicated guidance of the teachers. Each performance reflected the hard work and commitment of both students and staff. The audience was deeply impressed and applauded the efforts of the young performers.

In his address, the Chief Guest encouraged the students to continue nurturing their talents with dedication and confidence, emphasizing the importance of holistic development. The programme concluded on a high note, leaving behind cherished memories for all present.

Sports Day Celebration

The Annual Sports Day was celebrated on 16th and 17th February 2026 with great excitement and active participation from the students. The school grounds came alive with energy and enthusiasm as students competed in a variety of events, including Kho-Kho, running races, Kabaddi, shot put, long jump, and more.

The competitions were marked by a spirit of healthy rivalry, teamwork, and true sportsmanship. Students displayed remarkable determination, discipline, and athletic skills throughout the events. The winners were duly recognized and awarded medals and certificates, adding to the joy and motivation of the participants. The Sports Day celebration not only promoted physical fitness but also instilled values of cooperation, perseverance, and fair play among the students. It was indeed a successful and memorable event.

VISAMO-Fuljhar

*We were pleased to welcome several visitors during the past months. Rev. Fr. Jomon Illickal stayed with us from 12 January 2026 to 18 January 2026. This was followed by the visit of Rev. Fr. George Areekuzhy, Rev. Fr. Pius, and Rev. Fr. Joseph Nedumpara, who were with us from 13 January 2026 to 17 January 2026.

During their stay, they visited all our mission stations and expressed their appreciation for the steady progress of our institutions. They also conveyed their gratitude to the Fathers working here for their dedicated and selfless service.

The Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Rev. Fr. George Areekuzhy and Rev. Fr. Jose Nedumpara was joyfully celebrated on 15 January 2026.

We remember with prayerful hearts the demise of Ms. Bakerywala Munira on 1st February 2026 and Mr. Mr Babubhai Dhirajlal Shah on 10-03-2026. May the Lord grant them eternal rest and console their grieving families.

In the academic sphere, this year two of our students appeared for the HSC Board Examination, while three students appeared for the SSC Board Examination. We remain hopeful and prayerful for their success.

At present, our Fuljhar community is home to 17 elderly men and 7 women. We continue to cherish and care for them as valued and treasured members of our family. We are deeply grateful to our benefactors and well-wishers who generously support us with food and other essential provisions. Their unwavering kindness and generosity are a constant source of encouragement to us.

It is heartening to note that people from both near and far have expressed their appreciation for the dedicated care and compassionate service extended to our elderly residents. This affirmation inspires us to carry forward our mission with renewed commitment, love, and fidelity.

Junagadh

St. Xavier's English School (State Board)

St Xavier's Public school Annual Days – Sapphire 2K26 & Samanvaya 2026

The Annual Day celebrations of our institutions, Sapphire 2K26 and Samanvaya 2026, were held with great splendour and enthusiasm on the 27th and 28th of January respectively. The twin celebrations brought together students, parents, staff, and well-wishers in a vibrant display of talent and community spirit. The functions were graced by distinguished dignitaries and eminent educationists. Rev. Fr. Joseph Kallampallil, Provincial of the St. Chavara Vice Province, and Rev. Fr. Joby Kolothu, President of AINACS, Rajkot, presided over the celebrations on the respective days, lending grace and significance to the occasions.

The programmes commenced with a warm welcome followed by the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the dispelling of darkness through knowledge. The stage then came alive with a variety of colourful cultural performances, including dances, skits, songs, and musical presentations. The students, across all grades, showcased their creativity, confidence, and artistic excellence, making the evenings truly memorable.

The enthusiastic participation of students and the overwhelming presence of parents added vibrancy and warmth to the celebrations. Their encouragement and support greatly enhanced the spirit of the events.

In their inspiring addresses, the chief guests commended the efforts of the management, staff, and students, and highlighted the importance of holistic education. The prize distribution ceremony was a proud moment, recognizing and honouring the academic and co-curricular achievements of the students. The celebrations concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks, leaving the audience with cherished memories and a deep sense of joy and fulfillment.

Annual Examinations

The academic year is drawing to a close with the commencement of the Annual Examinations. The CISCE board Examinations for Std. X began on 17th February and will conclude on 23rd March. The Gujarat Secondary Education Board examinations commenced on 26th February and will conclude on 18th March. The final examinations for the remaining classes are scheduled to begin in the first week of April and will conclude on 18th April. The school is ensuring a smooth and disciplined conduct of all examinations, fostering an atmosphere of sincerity and academic commitment among the students.

Porbandar

Celebration of Uttarayan

The festival of Uttarayan was celebrated with great enthusiasm and vibrancy in our school on 14th January. The campus came alive with colour and joy as students participated wholeheartedly in the festivities. During the recess, students brought a variety of traditional sweets associated with the festival, adding a delightful cultural flavour to the celebration.

After the break, under the guidance of their class teachers, students assembled in their allotted areas on the main ground for kite flying. The sky turned into a magnificent canvas, adorned with kites of various shapes, sizes, and colours soaring high. The event fostered a spirit of joy, unity, and cultural appreciation among the students.

Solo Song and Solo Dance Competitions

To encourage artistic expression and talent, Solo Song and Solo Dance competitions were conducted on 3rd February 2026. These house-wise competitions were organized across three categories: Sub-Junior, Junior, and Senior.

The students displayed remarkable enthusiasm and confidence, presenting captivating performances. The competitions not only showcased their talents but also strengthened team spirit, as participants contributed valuable points to their respective houses. The event was a wonderful platform for nurturing creativity and boosting self-confidence among students.

Samaavathan (Farewell Ceremony)

The farewell ceremony for the students of Classes X and XII, titled Samaavathan, was a memorable occasion filled with both joy and emotion. Having spent 12 to 14 formative years in the institution, the outgoing students shared a deep bond with the school. The programme reflected a blend of pride and nostalgia, as students reminisced about their journey, achievements, and cherished memories. Though bidding farewell was emotional, it also marked the beginning of a new chapter in their lives.

Award Day

The Award Day, held on 10th March 2026, marked the grand culmination of the academic year's cultural and sports activities. We were honoured to have Rev. Fr. Jissmon CMF, Director of Nishkalanga Matha Social Service Centre, Ranpar, as the Chief Guest. The occasion celebrated the achievements and dedication of students through the distribution of Proficiency Prizes, Attendance Awards, and various Special Awards. The event served as a source of inspiration, motivating students to strive for excellence in all spheres of school life.

Jail Road

CMI Bhavan, Jail Road, through the vibrant ministries of St. Xavier's Catholic Church and St. Xavier's School, continues to serve as a dynamic centre of faith formation, education, and community life.

The past few months have been marked by several meaningful events that brought together parishioners, students, and well-wishers in a spirit of unity and celebration.

Renovation of St. Xavier's Church Roof

The renovation work on the roof of St. Xavier's Catholic Church commenced on 3 January 2026. This important project has been made possible through the generous and wholehearted contributions of the parishioners, reflecting their deep sense of ownership and commitment to preserving their parish church.

Special Holy Mass for Board Examination Students

A special Holy Mass was celebrated on 1 February 2026 for students preparing for their board examinations. This year, six students from Standard X and six students from Standard XII are appearing for the exams. The parish community came together in prayer, invoking God's blessings for their success and well-being.

"Swadesi Sanskruti Utsav" – Fun Fair

On 13 February 2026, St. Xavier's School, Jail Road, organized a vibrant and colourful fun fair under the theme "Swadesi Sanskruti Utsav." The event was meticulously coordinated under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Joby Koloth CMI and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, parents, and well-wishers, making it a memorable celebration of cultural heritage.

Bicentenary Jubilee of the Vedruna Sisters

The neighbouring community of the Vedruna Sisters celebrated their Bicentenary Jubilee, marking 200 years of dedicated service, on 28 February 2026 at Fatima Convent, Jail Road, Bhavnagar. The celebration was a grace-filled occasion of thanksgiving, highlighting their longstanding commitment to education, social service, and spiritual ministry.

"Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All the works of My hands are crowned with mercy."

St. Maria Faustina Kowalska

Dolthi

Social work is not merely an activity; it is a deep commitment and a meaningful mandate. At SnehaJyothi, Dolti, we remain dedicated to serving the people of Dolti and the surrounding five villages with renewed enthusiasm and purpose.

As part of our ongoing efforts towards empowerment and self-reliance, we are planning to revive the tailoring classes in Dolti and extend this initiative by establishing tailoring centres in nearby villages.

Alongside this, we aim to introduce new production units that will provide livelihood opportunities to local women and youth. In collaboration with our institutions, we look forward to receiving orders for items such as school hats, cloth bags, bottle covers (designed to keep water cool), and customized school towels bearing the names of respective schools.

This initiative supports income generation while strengthening our institutional identity. The dispensary and tuition centre continue to serve meaningfully, with 32 children benefiting from academic support, and the dispensary offering quality care despite fewer patients.

Senior citizens have been identified as a priority, with plans to form “Grandparents’ Groups” across our institutions. Recent senior citizens’ gatherings and Women’s Day celebrations were well received, fostering community spirit. SnehaJyothi, Dolti continues its mission of building an empowered and compassionate society.



Amreli

Cultural Fest

The school organized its much-awaited Cultural Fest on 13th and 14th December. The event provided a vibrant platform for students to showcase their talents, creativity, and cultural richness. The enthusiastic participation and lively performances made the fest a grand success.

Annual Award Day

The Annual Award Day was celebrated on 13th February with great pride and joy. Trophies, medals, and certificates were awarded to the winners of various inter-house competitions. The event recognized students’ achievements and encouraged a spirit of excellence and healthy competition among all.

Rising Champions – Achievement Day

A special programme titled “Rising Champions – Achievement Day” was conducted to honour the winners of Khel Mahakumbh 2024–25. Our school achieved remarkable success by securing 2nd rank at the Amreli Taluka level and 3rd rank at the Amreli District level in both Khel Mahakumbh 2024–25 and 2025–26. This accomplishment reflects the hard work, discipline, and determination of our students and the dedicated guidance of our staff.

Annual Picnic

A two-day educational and recreational picnic was organized for the students of Std. X and XII to Sasan Gir on 19th and 20th December 2025. The trip provided students with a refreshing break from their academic routine and offered an opportunity to explore nature and wildlife.



The experience was both enjoyable and enriching, fostering camaraderie, relaxation, and lasting memories among the students.

Samaavarthan,

The farewell ceremony for the students of Classes X and XII, titled Samaavarthan, was held on 7th February 2026. The occasion was both memorable and deeply moving, marked by a harmonious blend of joy and emotion. Having spent 12 to 14 significant formative years in the institution, the outgoing students shared a profound bond with their alma mater. The programme beautifully captured a sense of pride and nostalgia, as students fondly reminisced about their journey, celebrated their achievements, and cherished the countless memories created over the years. While the moment of farewell was filled with emotion, it also symbolized the dawn of a new and promising chapter in their lives.

In the academic year, 105 students appeared for the SSC Board Examination, and 35 students appeared for the HSC Board Examination. We commend our students for their sincere efforts and wish them great success in their results.

“Marian Bloom – 2026”

The KG Annual Day and UKG Graduation Ceremony, titled “Marian Bloom – 2026,” will be held on 20th April. This much-awaited event will be a joyful celebration of the talents, creativity, and growth of our little learners. The programme will feature a variety of delightful performances by the children, showcasing their confidence and skills developed throughout the year. The Graduation Ceremony will mark a significant milestone as our UKG students step forward to begin their formal schooling journey. Parents and guests can look forward to a memorable and heartwarming occasion.

PORBANDAR

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Pilgrimage cum Picnic

On 15th February 2026, 65 parish members from Porbandar went to Okha Church to take part in the Feast Day celebration of Mother Mary. A luxury bus and a car were arranged for the journey.

We started at 6:45 AM and reached around 11:00 AM. The celebration included a procession followed by a solemn Holy Mass with parishioners and priests from different stations.

After lunch, we visited Shivrajpur Beach and spent some enjoyable time there. Some played cricket, others enjoyed boat riding, jeep driving, and bathing in the sea. Everyone had a wonderful time there. We returned to the church at 9 PM.

International Women’s Day Celebration

As part of the International Women’s Day celebration at Bishop’s House, Rajkot, on 8th March, 17 members from Sacred Heart Church Mathruvedi actively participated. A tempo traveller was arranged for them, and they started from the church at 6:30 AM. After participating in the program, they returned safely at 9:00 PM.

At Sacred Heart Church, we celebrated Women’s Day on 15th March 2026. The program was organized to honor and appreciate the achievements, strength, and contributions of women in society. The event was conducted with great enthusiasm and participation.

"Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment... so that words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

Pope Leo XIV

The program began with an introduction given by one of the youth members, followed by the distribution of badges by the Parish Priest. This was followed by a solemn Holy Mass, during which all the mothers brought different items for the offertory.

After the Mass, there were games organized for the participants, followed by snacks served to everyone. The celebration concluded joyfully with the active participation of all.

"Atmeshwar visit and one day Retreat.

As part of our Lenten preparation, a good number of parishioners participated in the Way of the Cross on 21st March 2026 at Atmeshwar, Junagadh. It was a meaningful and prayerful experience for all. Continuing this spiritual journey, a one-day retreat was organized for the parishioners on 27th March 2026. The retreat provided an opportunity for reflection, renewal, and deepening of faith, enriching the participants spiritually.

Rajula

The SSC Board Examinations concluded on 18th March 2026, with 59 students from our school appearing for the same. We are hopeful of achieving commendable results this year as well.

"Aavishkar – 2K26," our much-awaited annual exhibition, was successfully conducted on 25th January. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 400 students, who showcased their creativity and innovation through a wide range of exhibits across various sections. The exhibition was highly appreciated by visitors, parents, and guests, who commended the students for their hard work, originality, and presentation skills.

In recognition of excellence, the outstanding students who excelled in various academic and co-curricular events throughout the year were felicitated on 15th March. The ceremony was a proud moment for the school, celebrating the achievements and talents of our students.

The repainting work of the school campus is currently in progress, aimed at enhancing the overall appearance and creating a more vibrant and welcoming environment for students.

The KG Graduation Ceremony is scheduled to be held on 20th April. The event will mark a significant milestone in the lives of our young learners as they step into the next phase of their educational journey.

PALITANA

SAINT MARY PRAYER HALL

An Unusual Christmas Celebration

The Christmas Eve celebration this year turned out to be a truly unique and grace-filled experience. In an unexpected yet heartwarming development, several migrant families arrived on the church campus in two tractor trailers, travelling all the way from distant fields around Palitana. They came fully prepared—with food, milk, blankets, and other essentials—determined to spend the entire night in the presence of the Lord. The atmosphere was vibrant even before the Christmas Mass began, as music and dancing had already set the tone for the celebration. What followed after the solemn and joyful Eucharistic celebration was an extraordinary expression of faith and culture. The night resonated with the rhythmic beats of tribal garba, filled with beauty, energy, and a deep sense of unity.

The celebration continued for hours, blending devotion with cultural expression, making it one of the most meaningful and memorable Christmas experiences for our community.

“Syro-Migrant” Faith Expressions

Inspired by such vibrant participation, we have been reflecting on ways to integrate elements that resonate more deeply with the spiritual sensibilities of the tribal and migrant communities into our regular liturgical and devotional practices. These faithful, many of whom come from Pentecostal backgrounds, demonstrate a strong commitment to Sunday as a day exclusively dedicated to spiritual nourishment. In response, we have introduced brief yet meaningful sessions of praise and worship, incorporating singing, clapping, and spontaneous expressions of faith. These initiatives have helped to create a more inclusive and spiritually engaging environment, allowing them to experience the richness of the Church while remaining connected to their own expressions of devotion. Notably, many among them have embraced faith in Jesus Christ, often inspired by personal experiences of healing and other profound spiritual encounters during prayer services held in their native villages..

Collaboration with Evangelisation Initiatives

We continue to actively collaborate with the Team Evangelisation of “Saurashtra India International,” led by Rev. Fr. Baiju and his dedicated team. Our members regularly participate in the one-day faith formation programmes organized in various regions, particularly in the Surendranagar zone.

In addition, our team had the opportunity to take part in the Jaago India programme in Bangalore, organized by Jesus Youth, which proved to be a spiritually enriching experience. We also participated in a one-day retreat conducted by Divina Misericordia International at Camp Parish, Ahmedabad. These collaborative efforts have significantly contributed to strengthening our evangelisation mission and deepening the faith of our community.

JUNAGADH

ST. ANN’S CHURCH

The Christmas celebrations in the parish were held from December 23 to 29 with great fervour and active participation of the faithful. During this blessed season, the parish carol group visited the homes of parishioners, joyfully proclaiming the message of Christmas. Their melodious carols and warm greetings fostered a spirit of unity, love, and festive joy in every family. The third death anniversary of Prasanna Devi was solemnly observed on February 27, 2026. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. Joyachan Paranjattu, Vicar General. Rev. Fr. Thomas Kolamkuzhy CMI delivered a profound and inspiring homily, reflecting on the ascetic life of Prasanna Devi and exhorting the faithful to deepen their faith, remain steadfast in their Christian commitment, and live in the hope of eternal life. As part of the spiritual preparation for Holy Week, a one-day retreat was organized on March 22, 2026.

"He who carries God in his heart carries heaven with him wherever he goes."

St. Ignatius of Loyola

The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Vinod Pookkottu, who led the faithful through enriching moments of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal. A large number of parishioners participated and were spiritually nourished, entering Holy Week with renewed devotion and zeal.

Germany

Vacation Time

Fr. Jomon, Fr. Dominic, and Fr. Xavier recently spent their vacation in India. It was a meaningful time to rejuvenate, reconnect with their families, and relive the enriching experience of community life in Gujarat. After this refreshing break, they have now returned to Germany with renewed energy and enthusiasm for their pastoral ministry.

Catechism Teaching Qualification

We are happy to share that Fr. Robin has successfully completed the 18-month pedagogy course required by the Diocese of Freiburg for teaching catechism in schools with Distinction. With this official qualification, he is now well prepared to continue his ministry of faith formation among students.

Visit of Fr. Vinod Karumalickal

We, along with Devapriya sisters, were delighted to welcome Fr. Vinod Karumalickal from our Rajkot Diocese, India, who spent a few days with us. It was a joyful time of fraternity and sharing together. During his short visit, he also enjoyed an outing to the beautiful Tulip Garden – Keukenhof in Netherland.

USA

Fr. Jose Kulathinal and Fr. Jossy Vattoth visited India during their vacation, meeting the confreres and participating in various provincial celebrations, spreading joy and encouragement. Fr. Jose continues his creative pastoral ministry in Gainesville, Florida; Fr. Jossy serves as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force, guiding future airmen; and Fr. Dayon actively contributes to the pastoral life in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York.



The 3rd death anniversary of Prasanna Devi February 27, 2026.



Cheruvandoor

CHAVARA ASPIRANTS HOUSE

We recently concluded a fruitful 20-day visit to Gujarat from January 1 to January 20. Our itinerary included Palitana, Chitra, Mahuva, Rajula, Botad, and Jail Road. We sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude to all the Fathers for their warm welcome and generous hospitality, which made our visit truly memorable.

On March 6, we celebrated Albin's birthday in a warm and joyful manner. The presence of his parents made the occasion even more special. The aspirants expressed their love and appreciation through thoughtful gifts, creating a beautiful atmosphere filled with happiness and togetherness. The celebration was further enriched by a memorable outing and meaningful time spent with loved ones, making it an unforgettable day for Albin.

We also had the opportunity to enjoy a refreshing one-day picnic at Vagamon, a picturesque hill station. The outing was a perfect blend of relaxation and recreation. We spent time swimming in the serene river, relishing the cool waters and tranquil surroundings. The scenic beauty of Vagamon, with its lush green hills and tea plantations, added to the charm of the day, leaving everyone refreshed and rejuvenated.

As the academic year draws to a close, we are preparing for the valedictory function scheduled on March 22, followed by a three-day retreat from March 24 to 27.

The aspirants will depart for their summer vacation on March 30, looking forward to a well-deserved break.

We remain grateful for the many enriching experiences of this year. The strong sense of community and fraternity among the aspirants and Fathers has made this journey truly meaningful. We look forward to the upcoming events, confident that they will serve as a fitting conclusion to a wonderful academic year.

Pune

Carmel Vidya Bhavan

The Carmel Parish Family Day was joyfully celebrated on 1st February 2026 as part of Carmel Carnival 2026. The occasion also marked the Silver Jubilee of Religious Consecration of Rev. Fr. Antony Puthussery, CMI, along with the observance of the World Day of Consecrated Life. The entire community gathered in a spirit of unity, joy, and fellowship, enriched by games, community activities, and shared meals. On 5th February, Carmel Vidya Bhavan hosted the gathering of the Order of Imitation of Christ along with the CMI Sangamam. The event fostered spiritual enrichment, unity, and renewed commitment among the participants. Later, on 18th February, the community celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Fr. Antony Puthussery in a more intimate manner, honoring his dedicated service and witness to religious life.

"Nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love."

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

The 14th and 15th of February marked significant milestones for six brothers. On 14th February, they were ordained to the Sub-Diaconate, and on 15th February, they were ordained as Deacons along with five others in a solemn ceremony presided over by Jose Chittuparambil. These celebrations were moments of grace and joy for the entire community.

On 11th March, Carmel Vidya Bhavan bid a heartfelt farewell to the newly ordained Deacons as they completed their theological studies. Meanwhile, the academic atmosphere remains active, with students engaged in their examinations, and the Deacons preparing for their Comprehensive Viva scheduled from 23rd to 26th March. Preparations for upcoming mission engagements are also underway. The first-year theologians have begun their mission exposure programme in Gujarat, while the second-year students are set to undertake their Contextual Theological Project in Delhi. The third-year theologians will soon depart for their Diaconate ministry in their respective Provinces, marking an important step in their vocational journey.

Jabalpur

The new year at Carmel Niketan began with renewed enthusiasm and vitality, even as the winter season lingered. Regular classes resumed at St. Aloysius College, where the brothers achieved commendable results in their previous semester examinations, reflecting their dedication and hard work.

The annual retreat of the college was held on Sunday, 22nd February 2026, and was attended by all the brothers. It provided a valuable opportunity for spiritual renewal and reflection.



A Renewed Devdarshan: Interiors of the CMI Provincial House

Life at the house has also been fruitful in a very tangible way, as both the flower and vegetable gardens produced a rich and abundant harvest, contributing to the self-sustenance of the community. During the semester break, the brothers undertook a visit to Jaipur, Rajasthan, which offered them a refreshing experience of cultural exposure and fraternity.

Wardha

Feast of the Immaculate Conception & Renewal of Vows

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception was solemnly celebrated along with the renewal of vows. Rev. Fr. Francis Aykaraparampil CMI, Rector, was the main celebrant, and Rev. Fr. Austin Joy MSFS delivered the homily. The brothers renewed their vows in a spirit of prayer and preparation. The day concluded with a solemn rosary procession around the campus.

Natale 2K25

Natale 2K25, this year's mega crib, was creatively prepared under the leadership of first-year brothers with the support of the second-year brothers. The campus was beautifully illuminated, attracting visitors from various places. Christmas was celebrated with joy through carols, gift exchange, and the Eucharistic celebration. Highlights included a lively flash mob and visits to the beautifully arranged crib.

Feast of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara

The feast of Kuriakose Elias Chavara was celebrated on 11th January by the CMI and CMC communities of the Wardha zone. The Holy Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Sarith Edayadiyil CMI. The celebration concluded with a cultural evening and fellowship meal, strengthening unity and joy.

Reception to Newly Ordained Priests

Darsana welcomed back 13 newly ordained priests on the 21st with great joy. The day included a concelebrated Holy Mass and a fellowship gathering, filled with gratitude and cherished memories.

Visit of Bishop Joseph Thachaparambath

His Excellency Joseph Thachaparambath, Bishop of Adilabad and the first alumnus bishop of Darsana, visited on 26th January. He emphasized the importance of holistic formation, integrating spiritual, intellectual, human, and pastoral growth.

RISONANZA 2K26 – Valedictory Function

The valedictory programme, Risonanza 2K26, was held on 26th January in the presence of Bishop Joseph Thachaparambath. It marked the culmination of DKS and DSKS activities. The event featured cultural performances and the honoring of outstanding students, concluding the academic year on a joyful note.

Bhopal



Samanvaya Theology College was blessed with its new seminary building, inaugurated by His Excellency Mar James Athikalam MST, Bishop of Bhopal, on 21 January.

The academic block and library were blessed by His Excellency Archbishop Dr. A. A. S. Durairaj SVD.

The newly built chapel, nine second-year brothers received the Subdiaconate on 28 February from Bishop Joseph Kollamparambil, and five third-year brothers were ordained Deacons on 1 March.

A National Seminar on “Catechesis in the Age of Social Media and AI” was held from 11–13 February under the leadership of Rev. Frs. Jacob and Lawrence. The theology students also organized a three-day programme, “Cittadella: A Celebration of Vocation,” in Bhopal, with 93 participants.



St. Xavier's Junagadh



Easter resounds as the triumphant proclamation that life, light, and love have the final word.

It is not merely a remembrance of the Resurrection, but a living invitation - to rise above despair, to rekindle hope amid uncertainty, and to walk forward with unshakable faith. In every cross we carry, Easter assures us that beyond it lies an empty tomb, a promise that suffering never has the last word.

An inspiring story is told of a farmer who, after a season of severe drought, continued to sow seeds in his dry and cracked field. When questioned about his persistence, he calmly replied, "If I stop sowing, I surrender to despair and close the door to God's miracle. But if I continue to sow, I keep my hope alive and leave space for God to act." In time, the rains came, and the barren land burst into life. What seemed like folly became a testimony of faith—reminding us that hope, when nurtured, can transform even the driest seasons into abundance. This is the spirit of Easter: trusting in life even when surrounded by signs of death.

Easter calls us, despite our fragility, to be bearers of Christ's light. Every act of kindness, forgiveness, and faith reflects the presence of the Risen Lord among us. As the members of the CMI Chavara Province family, our journey over the past three years has been one of grace and growth. Through our ministries and apostolates, we have sown seeds of faith, service, and compassion. The fruits we witness today are the result of collective dedication and God's sustaining presence.

As this marks the final issue of Gurjari under the present ministry, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all the Fathers for your constant support, wise guidance, and fraternal collaboration. Your encouragement has been a source of strength and inspiration in every endeavor.

May the Risen Lord renew our hearts and mission, filling us with courage to sow hope, to mend what is broken, and to radiate His light.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter!



Fr. Binu Kunnel, CMI
Councillor for Education and Media



REV. DR. PAUL ACHANDY CMI
PRIOR GENERAL

A Grace-Filled Moment on the Journey to the 200th Anniversary



FR. BENNY NALKARA CMI
Vicar General & Councillor for Evangelization & Pastoral Ministry



FR. TOM ARACKAL CMI
General Councillor for Social Apostolate & Health Care



FR. BINOY ELAVUNKAL CMI
General Councillor for Education & Communication Media



FR. JOSEPH PONMANY CMI
General Councillor for Finance & Agriculture



FR. SHEEJO ATTUPURAM CMI
General Auditor