

# DIOCESAN NEWS (Apr 2021)



 by admin

MARCH 31, 2021

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**23<sup>RD</sup> ORDINARY SESSION OF THE BARRACKPORE DIOCESAN COUNCIL**





On 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 the Diocese of Barrackpore successfully conducted its 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Barrackpore Diocesan Council at St. Bartholomew's Cathedral, Barrackpore, under the able leadership of The Rt. Rev. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Moderator's Episcopal Commissary to the Diocese of Barrackpore, CNI.

Of the 219 listed delegates, 209 delegates recorded their presence (37 Clergy & Laity 172).

Bishop Dr Paritosh Canning conducted the proceedings. The Nomination Committee submitted its recommendations for Diocesan Office Bearers, Executive Committee, Standing Committees, Diocesan Ten for Episcopal Electoral Body and Diocesan Representatives to the CNI Synod. All the recommendations were unanimously accepted by the delegates present.

The Newly elected office bearers are as follows:

The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, President (Ex-Officio); Revd. Subrata Chakraborty, Vice President; Mr. Sukalyan Halder, Hony. Secretary and Mr. Manjur Halder, Hony. Treasurer.

We thank one and all, especially the Office Bearers of CNI Synod and all the CNI Bishops for upholding the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Barrackpore Diocesan Council in your prayers.

## **DIOCESE OF CALCUTTA AND BARRACKPORE**

### **JOINT CLERGY RETREAT**

From March 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 the two Dioceses had the Joint Clergy retreat in Berhampur, Murshidabad, West Bengal at the initiative of Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI and Moderator's Episcopal Commissary for Diocese of Barrackpore, CNI.

Clergy of the two Dioceses felt that the joint Clergy Retreat in Berhampur was in itself an achievement, where Clergy of the two Diocese joined in big number to be part of one fellowship being united and learn from each other. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning was thanked for making the Retreat possible for the Clergy. Mr. Ritesh Sarkar, Finance Secretary and Mr. Raghab Naik, Hony. Secretary, CDTA(P) also joined with the Clergy in this retreat.

Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning shared that while we call this outing "Clergy Retreat"; in general, we have traditionally understood to take it very seriously and spend all the time in prayer which may not be right. Knowing very well what the life of a Clergy is like, in the Diocese and Bishop himself being a Presbyter for many years, Bishop wished the Clergy to definitely spend time in prayers but there is something more to it. So Bishop had planned morning Holy Communion in the open-air Mango Grove. At the same time Bishop encouraged the Clergy of the two Dioceses to be in fellowship with each other, spend time in getting to know each other and also to learn from the challenges they face in their respective Diocese.

The Clergy of the Diocese of Barrackpore spent time in praying for the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI for the Ministry of the Diocese and Clergy of the Diocese of Calcutta offered prayers for peace, harmony and unity among the Clergy for the Barrackpore Diocesan Council to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at St. Bartholomew's Cathedral, Barrackpore.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021 the Clergy of both the Dioceses stopped on their way at Shikarpur for breakfast and a short programme was organized in the honor of Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning, Office Bearers of the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI and Clergy of both the Dioceses.





Finally ,before heading for home, Clergy of the two Dioceses stopped at Ranaghat and were treated to a sumptuous lunch at St. Luke's Church, Ranaghat, Diocese of Barrackpore, CNI organized by Revd. David Roy, Hony Secretary, Diocese of Barrackpore, CNI.

**"THE NEIGHBOUR" – PROJECT INAUGURATION**





On March 18, 2021, The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta, CNI inaugurated '*The Neighbor*', an initiative of Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning . The Project was first conceived in September 2019 but owing to the lockdown was stalled.

The objective of this project is not to search who our neighbors are but how we can be good neighbors to those living around us. '*The Neighbor*' has two dimensions; one being skill development and the other is helping to establish small scale businesses. The target beneficiaries of the project are the urban economically marginalized people. A total of 175 families will benefit from this initiative.

The time frame for each family member enrolled in this project is one year, during this time the families will be encouraged to enroll themselves in various skill development programmes so that at the end of the training process they will be able to earn a livelihood and support their families.

Revd. Pradip Nanda, a senior Presbyter of the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI introduced the project to all gathered and asked all present to pray for the success of the project and invited Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning to share his vision with all gathered.

Revd. Abir Adhikari led the gathering in the inaugural prayer, seeking the Almighty's blessing upon this project.

Mr. John Ghosh welcomed all present, especially the newly elected Office-Bearers of the Diocese of Barrackpore, CNI in the recently concluded Barrackpore Diocesan Council viz. Revd. Subroto Chakraborty, Vice – President; Mr. Sukalyan Halder, Hony. Secretary and Mr. Manjur Halder, Hony. Treasurer and several Presbyters of the Diocese of Calcutta as well as Heads of institutions.

The Revd. Pradip Nanda felicitated Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning and thanked him for reaching out to the poor during these trying times.

Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning shared with all gathered, how the pandemic, the subsequent lockdown, loss of jobs and livelihoods and the loss of homes owing to the Cyclone Amphan has affected all of us, making the Diocese of Calcutta more mindful of the condition of the poor and being the bridge between the haves and have-nots.

Bishop Canning stressed that the main thrust of this immediate support project is to provide basic capital to start small scale businesses like selling fruits and vegetables or even fish. Also, providing the capital to purchase cycles or cycle vans and the initial stock of goods. The second area of focus is for those wishing to develop a skill like tailoring or some similar skill-based training that will enable them to earn a living. Plans for increasing the scale of production to compete with the market is important. Showrooms for display and sale of the items made are also in the pipeline. The focus of these skill training programmes will be women's empowerment. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning also emphasized that since this is a post pandemic project, it will be limited to one year owing to financial constraints. Emphasis was laid on the need to mentor and monitor these families so that they could use this support to do well for themselves and become self-reliant in the process. Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning also took the opportunity to announce yet another project in the pipeline, a set of one year job-oriented diploma courses- Four courses on Hospitality and one course on IT management. This is aimed at youth to enable and equip them to find gainful employment and establish themselves in the society after completion of these internationally recognized courses.

Mr. Ritesh Sarkar, Finance Secretary of the Diocese of Calcutta, threw light on the source of funds for the project. He said that a corpus was raised from the funds that were lying idle but had been originally allocated for such projects. Since the funds were limited, this project is also limited in scope of its beneficiaries as well as being time bound. However, based on the success of the project this year, funds can be arranged so that similar projects could be envisaged in the years to come.

The beneficiaries shared their testimonies, acknowledged the contribution of the Church and the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI to support them in their time of crisis and very specially thanked Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning.

The programme concluded with closing prayer by Revd. Martin Pakhare followed by the distribution of the cycle van rickshaws, bicycles and raw materials to set up the businesses, to the families earmarked for the support followed by the fellowship lunch for all present.

### **UNITY CRICKET MATCH – 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

The Diocese of Calcutta, CNI and the Diocese of Barrackpore, CNI led by The Rt. Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta and Moderator's Episcopal Commissary to the Diocese of Barrackpore, has been constantly trying to find ways to unite the two Dioceses, building on the unity and friendship that have developed between the two Dioceses since the time Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning was installed as the 5<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Barrackpore in 2018 after serving in the Diocese of Calcutta for over two decades. Clergy of both Dioceses have already been playing tournaments and sporting events so the idea of the Cricket was not new. Playing for Unity between the two Dioceses was the first of its kind. Both Dioceses thanked Bishop Paritosh for bringing the Clergy and the Diocese together through this fun filled event with a unique display of sportsmanship.

St. Thomas' Boys' School, Kidderpore organised the game with logistical support and funding for the game with future plans for many such events between the two Dioceses, next time involving the Heads of Institutions.

Office Bearers, Heads of Institutions, Youth and the Laity from both Dioceses were present to cheer on the teams. The Diocese of Calcutta, CNI were declared winners of the game but Bishop Dr. Paritosh Canning remarked that the display of Unity between the two Dioceses made everyone on the ground and all those who participated as winners.

The Unity Cricket Match was live streamed on You tube with support from La Martiniere for Boys.

After the game all present joined in fellowship lunch.






## THANKSGIVING SERVICE 2021 AND

### THE TRIBAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Diocese of Durgapur celebrates its Thanksgiving service every year. It is one of the most important occasions within the Diocese and these many years we have seen congregations from the different pastorates travelling to participate in the service. Due to the Pandemic, we scaled down the numbers of the celebration to less than 350; in keeping with government guidelines. For the many who couldn't attend, the service was live-streamed on Facebook to ensure that even if one couldn't attend in the body, they could join us in prayer online. To further protect all those attending the service in person, we had hand-sanitizers stands all over the compound and masks for anyone who may not have brought their own. This year, the service was held in St. Michael's and All Angels' Cathedral with a tent outside for the congregation as the seats were placed in accordance with COVID protocols.

As is tradition, the day began with the feet-washing ceremony- a tribal tradition performed to honour and refresh guests or people held in high esteem. After which, a small procession began from the St. Michael's Church gate to the main gate of the Cathedral till the Cathedral itself. The theme for this year's Annual Thanksgiving was "Hope in the Lord-Being Transformed in Strength" and the key verse was from Isaiah 40:31: 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew 



their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.'

In accordance with the theme, the symbol for the year was an eagle. The Bible was carried on a lectern decorated with an eagle. The sermon delivered by The Rt. Revd. Sameer Issacs Shimla, Bishop, invigorated and touched the hearts of all who listened as he reminded them of the importance of developing and strengthening our relationship with God as an individual and after as a community.

The Bankura pastorate choir sang beautiful hymns and the Durgapur Child Study and Development Centre String Orchestra led by Mrs. Ruth Pugh performed a few lovely pieces. After the service was completed, the winners of the Bible Quiz were announced. The prizes were handed over to the respective priests. The Tribal awards ceremony then began with Revd. Nabin Chandra Tudu, Secretary and Convenor of the Tribal Awards committee, beginning with a short prayer and introduction. These awards are a recognition of the work and efforts of the tribal community. It is also to encourage and bring together the tribal community with in our congregation. Mr. Aditya Kumar Mandi was honoured with the Literature award, 2020 for his special contribution to literature and Mr. Shyamaprasad Hasda was honoured with the Social Work award for his efforts during the pandemic. After a short speech by the Bishop, the Guest of honour for the awards, Revd. N. C. Tudu concluded the programme with a vote of thanks and a prayer.

## **WORKSHOP ON CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

A workshop was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February in Sarenga for all the field workers in the rural and urban areas. The resource person for this workshop was Mrs. Soma Chakraborty. The main agenda of the training was to teach everyone attending about 'Child protection' 'Child Abuse' and 'Child Rights'.

The Bishop, Rt. Rev. Sameer Issac Khimla graced the occasion and began the workshop with a prayer and a short introduction on the topic. He shared his personal experiences about Gender equality and advised us all to begin changing starting at home. The first session started with a quick recap of the previous day's material. She then went onto how to lodge a complaint if any child is found missing, what should we carry when going to lodge a complaint and how to reach the child welfare committee when the child is a minor. She even highlighted the POCSO RULES (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.) which is very important for rescuing a minor child.

The second session focused on child abuse and the rights that children have. The resource person first described what is and can be legally defined as child abuse. Many in the audience

said things such as 'We thought it was normal' or 'We never understood'. "This was the reaction of the village community workers as they learnt that child is abused not only physical but mental also. Soma further taught us how to talk to the children about scary and uncomfortable situations, personal and physical boundaries and its boundaries. A list of names was shared with the community workers of those who can come to help in such cases of child abuse.

After the end of the day training, we became more sensitive and responsible to our surroundings. The change in society will surely happen.....from ME, my family, my friends and relatives. Only then can we proudly say "Yes!! We're capable of being the change in our societies and families".

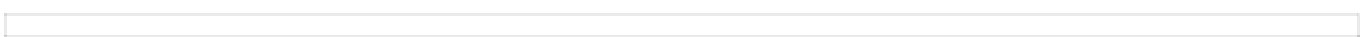
## **TRAINING ON PREVENTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN INDIA**

A One-day training workshop was organized by the Community Development Programme, Diocese of Durgapur, CNI for all the community workers working in urban and village areas of the project. The main focuses of the workshop were 'Sexual exploitation and Anti-Trafficking', 'Child and Women trafficking' and 'Women empowerment'.

On February 9, 2021, we had our 1st session. Soma Chakraborty, the Associate Director, the Anti-Trafficking of Indian Baptist Mission sponsored by American Baptist Mission and CBO Liaison Manager, GFEMS Project, Operation Red Alert, and My Choices Foundation, led us through the workshop. She spoke of trafficking cases which are occurring frequently and how we can read of them in our daily newspapers. However, that it hardly makes any difference for those vulnerable children as there are many cases which never even make it to the police or the newspapers. With different videos, short movies and audio recordings she tried to portray the terrible reality of these unfortunate children. From explaining what can be termed as trafficking, what is trafficking, how it is perpetrated, the means and purpose of trafficking, who are the traffickers and their behaviour and nature towards the victim before and after trafficking. Everything was explained with a number of true-life incidents.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> session began with the different forms of exploitation resulting from human trafficking and how do traffickers exercise control over the victim. After which a "SWOT ANALYSIS" was conducted by the team members. Each had to focus on the strength, weakness, opportunity and threat of Exploitation. By the end of the day's training programme, a basic knowledge of what is trafficking and sexual exploitation had become clear in the eyes and minds of community workers especially for those working in the villages.

## **CHURCH INAUGURATION AND STATUS OF ONGOING CHURCH CONSTRUCTION**



On 20th February 2021, years 1st Church was dedicated at Kasarpori under Pakari Pastorate of Diocese of Phulbani for the Glory of God by Rt. Revd. B K. Nayak; Bishop of Diocese of Phulbani and Dy. Moderator, CNI. This Church was planted long back, and people were continued to worship in a hut but with the support of God-fearing donors and also with local Church Contribution finally, the Kasapodi people also got their own place of Worship. Reaching to Kasarpori quite challenging from Bishop's House, G. Udaygiri. Out of 80 km, about 30km is completely off-roading, but it was great encouragement to witness the love of people and also their love for the Lord.


## UAAPUCHI CNI CHURCH DEDICATED

On February 22, 2021, Uapuchi CNI Church was dedicated by The Rt. Revd. B K. Nayak, Bishop, Diocese of Phulbani. UaaPuchi is one of the isolated villages in the Rayagada District and the modernity is yet to taste. Recently the road is built, nevertheless, there is no public transportation. But the good things the Love the Lord so much and through the above pictures, this is experience. As Bishop Nayak arrived, the crowd flocked into welcome and with a large gathering, a procession was organized. One more interesting fact about the newly dedicated church is that, bricks are not used rather tree logs. And with mud, they have plastered the building. Therefore, someone rightly said, "Where there is a will, there is a way". There financial condition did not stop them for constructing the building. And we all can take a lesson from this Church.

**Dedication Service by Rt. Revd. B K. Nayak**

**New Church building which is plastered by mud over tree logs**

## MUCHULIGUDI CNI CHURCH DEDICATION

It was again a proud movement for the Diocese of Phulbani to inaugurate one more self-sponsored Church of Muchurigudi CNI Church on 23rd February 2021. The Rt. Revd. B. K. Nayak, Bishop, Diocese of Phulbani dedicated it for the Glory in presence of 3000 people. About 25 villagers gathered together to witness the inauguration ceremony and their presence made the day historic. Construction of the Church began in the year 2015 and after 6 long years, the work got completed. There was house to house collection, individual member collection, yearly individual donations and finally, people worked collectively under Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Regulation Guarantee Act (MGNERGA) and whatever they got, everything donated for Church Construction. And finally, this is how, the work got completed and created a history as a large number of people came for the celebration. The Rt. Revd. S. K. Nanda, Bishop, Diocese of Cuttack was the Chief Guest of the occasion. As a Diocese when we saw this large gathering and the peoples  for God, indeed it was an emotional moment for all of us. And we believe that it is the result of many prayers that are strengthening our Diocese.

**More than 3000 people attended the thanks giving service with Muchuligudi CNI Church members for having a own place of worship.**

## **PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING STATUS**

What you can do to complete the 276 Church Building

1. Pray for us and ask other pray about it
2. You can support us financially even with a small amount
3. Come and visit our diocese, see the need and raise fund to complete the work.

276 huts like this will be having their own building and for which we need your sincere prayer, support and fundraising. For more information, please write to us. [bp.bkn@rediffmail.com](mailto:bp.bkn@rediffmail.com)

we are waiting for your support, kindly join hands with us. For financial support kindly use the following banking credential

Bank Name	<b>UNION BANK OF INDIA</b>
A/c Holder Name	<b>DIOCESE OF PHULBANI CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA</b>
A/c number	<b>767902010000289</b>
A/c Type	<b>savings</b>
IFSC Code	<b>UBIN0576794</b>
Branch	<b>G.Udaygiri</b>

## **1<sup>ST</sup> GOSSI SOBHA OF 2021**

### **Pastorate Level Gospel Convention**

#### **Executive Summary**

Jesus said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." ( Luke 18:27) and indeed what the Matankupa CNI Church did hardly a human mind could imagine. Only 15 households but they could host more than 2000 people by organizing the 1st Gossi<sup>1</sup> Sobha<sup>2</sup> of 2021 of Diocese of Phulbani, CNI on 15th, 16th Mar 2021 and were the channel of blessing for many through the Word of God. Rt. Revd. S. K. Nanda: the Cuttack Diocesan Bishop, represented the CNI and he was also Chief Guest and main Speaker for Gossi Sobha. As usual under the able leadership of Rt. Revd. B. K. Nayak; Diocese of Phulbani, Bishop the entire two-day Gospel Convention was organized.

## **Purpose of the Gossi Sobha**

This is a Pastorate Level Annual Fellowship to keep the church united, identify the young generation and to nurture as future church leaders and also time to reflect the annual achievement of the pastorate.

## **15 family Hosted 2000 people (Background of the event)**

Lamdang Pastorate has 15 Churches and means each Church gets the opportunity to host or Organize the Gossi Sobha only after 15 years. And hosting an event like this is an honour and therefore whether it small or large congregations they grab the chance and this time the turn was Matankupa. Kindly click the link (<https://goo.gl/maps/ZvSQHF4567ZE68qL6> ) to locate the place.

<sup>1</sup> Group of people united for a good cause

<sup>2</sup> Meeting or assembly

This is a small village only with 15 household, with no electricity, no transportation, no mobile communication but by faith grab the opportunity successfully organized the event. Each family contributed Rs.10000 which was equal to Rs.200000. This steps of their inspired and motivated the entire pastorate and this how the entire cost was met for two days Gospel Convention.

## **Emphasis of Unity-Witness-Service: The Diocesan Greeting from the Secretary Desk**

In recent past some of the Christian organization completely destroyed the hard toil of our pastors missionaries by engaging in Sheep Stealing business. Due to this bad experience, the Diocese grabbing every opportunity to address the issue and training the local churches to boycott any lure such as education for children, building the new Church Building and so at Matankupa Gossi Sobha the CNI Motto was emphasis to aware people about the carrier in Medical and Theological opportunity with some of the prestigious institution of India. Also, it was emphasis that people with divided spirit should not allow to enter to any CNI congregations.

## **Moderator's Consent for Gossi Sobha and CNI Representative**

At Bishop's Council Gantok, Sikkim Bishop Nayak shared about organizing the 1st Gossi Sobha post Covid19 pandemic with the CNI Moderator the **Most. Revd. Dr. P. C.** Singh and finally with his consent the Gospel Convention was organized. Further, CNI Synod graciously sent its representative in form of Rt. Revd. S. K. Nanda, Bishop of Cuttack. He was the Chief Guest and

also main speakers. He took session and on Eternal Peace of Christ and also elaborated clearly about why there was a necessary to form CNI and asked people

to remember the sacrifice of Church Leaders who toiled day and night for 40 long years to unite the Churches to form CNI for the Glory of God.

### **Bishop's Address**

Rt. Revd. B. K. Nayak in his address ask the organizer to use the local talent for choir, music and presiding. Because this is the time to sow the seed among the younger generation that how Local CNI Church shaped their talent and this how the future powerful leaders are created. Also, he acknowledged the Gossi Sobha Hosting Church; the Matankupa CNI Church for their faith and courage serve more than 2000 people.

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MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

May 13, 2021





DIOCESAN NEWS (May 2021)

May 13, 2021







MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

May 12, 2021



## ARCHIVES

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April 2019

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March 2019

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February 2019

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January 2019

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## CNI MISSION STATEMENT

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The Church of North India as a United and Uniting together is committed to announce the Good News of the reign of God inaugurated through death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in proclamation and to demonstrate in actions to restore the integrity of Gods creation through continuous struggle against the demonic powers by breaking down the barriers of caste, class, gender, economic inequality and exploitation of the nature.

## SYNOD OFFICE

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