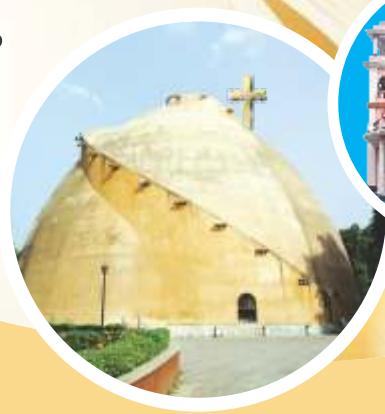


Patna Archdiocesan Samachar

Archbishop's House, Patna-800 004 BIHAR

Phone : (0612) 2677711

October. - December, 2025, No. - 12



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
Happy New Year**
2026



May God bless this new year with peace, strength, and guidance. May He watch over you and lead you to a year full of growth, happiness, and blessings.



Shepherd's Voice....

Grace, Peace, and Christmas Joy to you all,



Most Rev. Sebastian Kallupura

As we come to the close of the Jubilee Year, our hearts overflow with gratitude for the abundant blessings we have received as an Archdiocesan family. Through this sacred year of grace, we walked together in faith, renewing our commitment to communion, participation, and mission. The Jubilee invited us to remember God's fidelity, celebrate our shared journey, and recommit ourselves to living the Gospel with renewed zeal.

This Christmas, the words of Prophet Isaiah shine with renewed meaning: "He will feed his flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms, He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with the young" (Isaiah 40:01). Christ, the

true Shepherd, draws near to us, once again, bringing truth, hope, healing, and tender love. In a world weary with conflict, fear, and uncertainty, His coming assures us that God never abandons His people.

As the Holy Father reminds us in *Dilexi Te*, the Church is "called to be poor and for the poor," "a community that reflects Christ's humility and compassion. Our Jubilee celebrations remind us that we are a people sent forth – to go beyond our comfort zones, to the peripheries where Christ waits for us in the faces of the suffering, the forgotten, and the excluded.

This holy season invites us also to renew the beauty of family life. Let the families in the Archdiocese see the face of the Savior in one another, nurturing unity, forgiveness, tenderness, and the light of Christ's peace within their homes.

May the birth of our Savior rekindle in us the light of faith and the courage of love. Let our communities become places where hope is restored, wounds are healed, and every person feels the nearness of "Emmanuel" - God with us.

And so, as we conclude the Jubilee Year in faith and hope, we go forward witnessing Christ's love for His people, accepting and serving especially the poor, the needy, the marginalized, and those on the periphery, in the context of a truly Synodal Church.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year!



*God Bless You all!
+ Sebastian Kallupura*

New Assignments

- ❖ Fr. Bhagyaraju - Renewal
- ❖ Fr. Michael Ignatius – Parish Priest, Church of St. Joseph, Gulni.
- ❖ Fr. Irudaya Raj – In-charge, St. Mary's Church, Rajgir.

Atithi Devo Bhav

- ❖ Rt. Rev. Paul Simick – Bishop of Bagdogra.
- ❖ Rt. Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, SFX – Bishop of Dalton Ganj.
- ❖ Most. Rev. Raphi Manjaly – Abp. of Agra
- ❖ Bro. A. Victordass, SHJ – Superior General, Institute of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- ❖ Sr. Vijaya Chalil, SCN – Vice- Provincial, Bangalore Province.
- ❖ Sr. Sini Mathew, MSMHC – Provincial Superior, Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, Calcutta Province.
- ❖ Sr. Mikealin Bupu, SSpS – Asst: General, Servae Spiritus Sancti.
- ❖ Sr. Annie Kuriakose, CHF – Superior General, Congregation of the Holy Family.

Sr. Lissie Therese Thekkel, CHF – Provincial Superior, Arunoday Province, Bhagalpur

Congratulations / Jubilations

- ❖ **A Day of Grace and Celebration.** In a rare and joy-filled moment for the Patna Church, three Deacons, Dn. Ashish Paul, SJ (Barh Parish), Dn. Ravibhushan Kumar, SJ (Barbigha Parish), and Dn. Ravikant Kumar (Gulni Parish) were ordained to Priesthood at a solemn liturgy held on 13 December at St. Joseph's Pro – Cathedral, Bankipur. The historic celebration drew an exceptionally large congregation, filling the church to capacity and beyond as the



faithful gathered to witness this significant occasion. The ordination was conferred by Abp. Sebastian Kallupura. In his homily the Archbishop highlighted the meaning of Priesthood and encouraged the newly ordained to live their vocation with humility, dedication and compassion. The celebration concluded with heartfelt congratulations to the newly ordained and prayers for their ministry ahead.

- ❖ **First Profession**
Sr. Sabina Tudu, SCSC, Sr. Shila Hembrom, SCSC
- ❖ **Final Profession**
Sr. Nisha Kiran Besra, SCSC, Sr. Richi Dungdung, SCSC, Sr. Seema Xaxa, SCSC
- ❖ **Silver Jubilarians.**
Sr. Prisca Tirkey, SCN
- ❖ **Golden Jubilarians.**
Sr. Clara Thanchappan, SCSC, Sr. Shalini Kunnappally, SCSC, Sr. Diviya Ekka, SCSC, Sr. Geeta Alencherry, SCSC
- ❖ **Diamond Jubilarian**
Sr. Mary James Monterio, SCSC

Pastoral Initiatives

- ❖ **The Family Commission** organized the Magadh Deanery Level celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Married Couples at Barbigha on 11 October 2025. The program was meaningfully conducted by Fr. Joel, C.S.C, from Bengaluru and Sr. Blessy, CHF, from Patna with the assistance of Mr. Vijendra from Gaya. The gathering was an occasion for the



participants to reflect on their journey together, reaffirm their love and commitment, and cherish the joys and challenges they have shared over the years. (Fr. Paul Varikamthottiyil, SJ)

- ❖ **Sacred heart Church, Patliputra**, celebrated its Parish-level Jubilee Year 2025 celebration on **12 October 2025**. On this occasion, a new gate for the church campus was blessed and inaugurated, and the **Sacred heart Church Website** was launched by **Chevalier Alfred de**



Rosario. The newly installed **Digital System** was inaugurated by **Glen Galstaun**. (Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Anand)

- ❖ On 18 October 2025, Barbigha Parish hosted a successful and well attended **Magadh Deanery Level Cruz Veer Rally**. All the Parishes marked their presence with their small band of Cruz Veers. **Fr. Sanjay Minj** was the resource person. The rally was a powerful source of inspiration for young minds. **Congratulations to the Magadh Deanery and Fr. Jeyakumar.**
- ❖ **Fatuha Parish** pulled the curtain down on Parish level Jubilee celebration on 19 October 2025. The highlight of the concluding ceremony was the **night vigil** conducted by **Jesus Youth** under the guidance of **Fr. Jeyakumar** and morning **Holy Eucharist**.
- ❖ It was a day that shimmered with joy, color, and devotion as **St. Mary's Church, Chakkaram**, celebrated its **Parish Day and the Jubilee** on 26 October 2025. In his message, **Abp. Sebastian Kallupura** invited the faithful to foster unity and spiritual connectedness within the parish community. The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a vibrant cultural program and fellowship meal shared in joy and gratitude. **Congratulations to you, Fr. Bartholomew and team.**
- ❖ **Fr. Ashok Alexander and his team from Bareilly** conducted a three-day Spiritual Animation Program at Kurji Parish from 07 – 09 October at the request of Patna Deanery. **Congratulations to you, Fr. Selvin Xavier, SJ, and team**, for this spiritual outreach.

❖ **The Munger Deanery** level celebration of the Jubilee was on 09 November 2025 at **St. Joseph's Church, Jamalpur**. All the Parishes actively participated with great enthusiasm. A well organized and profound liturgy formed the spiritual core of the day, elevating the sense of devotion and thanksgiving. The celebration featured a variety of cultural programs, showcasing the talents of the deanery members. The celebration was graced by the presence of **Abp. Sebastian Kallupura**. Congratulations to all the Parishes and members of the Munger Deanery.

❖ **The Patna Missionary Meet.** A significant portion of the present religious leadership of the Patna Archdiocesan Church under the leadership of **Abp. Sebastian Kallupura**, came together on 27 & 28 November 2025 at **Navjyoti Niketan, Kurji**, for a two- day reflective and planning session. The meeting aimed to reclaim the historic glory of Patna Mission, enrich it with contemporary lived experiences, and chart a renewed and dynamic path for the future.

The sessions were enriched by the insights of the resource persons, **Rt. Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, SFX**, **Bishop of Dalton Ganj Diocese**, and **Sr. Inigo Joachim, SSA**. The program also featured panel discussions with **Fr. Maria Charles, SDB**, **Fr. Anto Joseph, SJ**, **Smt. Anukriti Jayapuriya**, **Md. M.K Yunus** and **Fr. Lawrence Eucharist, SJ**, whose contributions offered valuable pastoral and mission related perspectives. An additional input session was delivered by **Fr. Joseph Sebastian, SJ**, for further deepening the participants' understanding of the mission challenges and opportunities.

The gathering concluded on an encouraging note, with all participants expressing a firm commitment to bring fresh momentum and renewed dedication to the pastoral and missionary activities in the Archdiocese.



- ❖ **The Parishes of Nalanda Deanery** came together in a spirit of unity and thanksgiving on December 14 at Harnaut to mark the conclusion of the year-long Jubilee celebration. **Abp. Sebastian Kallupura** presided over the solemn Holy Eucharist, expressing gratitude for the many blessings experienced during the Jubilee Year. In his message, he encouraged the faithful to continue nurturing a strong, vibrant, and service oriented Christian community. Participants acknowledged that the Jubilee celebrations held throughout the year had greatly helped deepen their faith and



encouraged them to lead a spirit-filled and committed Christian life. Congratulations to all of you in Nalanda Deanery.

- ❖ **Closing of the Jubilee Year.** The Jubilee Year has indeed been a time of grace – offering every individual and group a precious opportunity to grow in faith, deepen their commitment and strengthen their dedication. The year-long celebration in the Archdiocese involving every group at various levels was formally closed on 28 December 2025. The radiant smiles and heartfelt laughter in Jubilee celebrations spoke of one truth – faith shared and celebrated together becomes a foretaste of heaven.

School Furrows

- ❖ The students of **St. Mary's School, Masaurhi**, participated in ADVAYA Inter School competition organized by St. Monfort School, Baruipur, Kolkatta and bagged four prizes. They also travelled down to Chennai to participate in science exhibition. Well done, St. Mary's Masaurhi! (**Niranjan Kumar**)
- ❖ The foundation for an extension of the **Creane School at Fatuha** was laid on 02 December. The ceremony was presided over by **Abp. Sebastian Kallupura**, marking the formal



beginning of a project crucial for accommodating the growing demand for student enrollment.

- ❖ The months of November and December were filled with vibrant annual events across various schools, showcasing cultural talents and promoting parent-child engagement through sports.

St. Mary's School, Masaurhi, hosted an enthralling cultural show on 22 Nov. As December arrived, the focus temporarily shifted to sports. **Creane School, Sherghati**, dedicated two consecutive days to physical activity. 03rd December was reserved for the Pre-School Parents Sports. The very next day, the energy continued with the Children's Sports. Students of **St. Mary's School, Biharsharif**, took to track and field events on 06 December. On 14 December, **Maria Ashram School** students welcomed its community with a cultural fiesta, specially organized for parents. Hot on its heels, on 15 December, the tiny tots of **Creane School, Fatuha**, took the stage to the merriment of their parents and family members. **Josephites at Rajauli** showcased skill, discipline, team spirit and agility on Sports Day held on 19 December. The cultural show staged by students of **Khrist Raja School, Bariarpur**, on 20 December was all music, rhyme and rhythm.

Formation Updates

- ❖ In the combined meeting of the Formation Commissions of Patna Archdiocese and Muzaffarpur Diocese, held on 29 October 2025, it was decided to fix duration of Minor Seminary Formation to five years. The initial program of four years, including intermediate studies will be conducted at St. Mary's Minor

Seminary, Chakaram, and the fifth year at Jamshedpur.

- ❖ **Bro. Prabhu Prakash (Goa)** was in Patna to consult a Nephrologist. The medical advice was not for any immediate medical intervention.
- ❖ **Regent Ajay Kumar** underwent a surgery at Ruben Memorial Hospital, Patliputra, to correct a Bucket Handle Tear of the Medial Meniscus.
- ❖ **Bro. Sandeep James (Pune)** was conferred the ministry of Lector on 05 December 2025 by **Rt. Rev. Sonatan Kisku**, Auxiliary Bishop of Dumka Diocese.
- ❖ Regents had a day of prayer and reflection on 17 December 2025 under the guidance of **Fr. Joachim Ekka, OFM Cap.**

Editor's Trove

- ❖ It is Jubilee and Jubilee again! This time, the celebration was for the **Pastoral Sisters and Catechists**, held at Jyoti Bhavan, Mokama. The event was marked by joy, gratitude and renewed spiritual fervor as participants came together to thank God for the manifold blessings received through their ministry. The gathering served as a moment of reflection on their mission of spreading the light of Christ through faith formation and compassionate service.
- ❖ Seven youths, along with **Sr. Johns, CHF, and Fr. Jeyakumar**, took part in the **Witness Program** (Mega Youth Convention) held at the Divine Retreat Center, Kerala, from 30 September to 05 October 2025. The vibrant gathering brought together around 3,500 young people from different parts of the country



for an inspiring week of spiritual renewal, faith enrichment and deep personal encounter with Christ. (Fr. Jeyakumar)

❖ **The Congregation of Sisters of Notre Dame, Patna Province**, celebrated the 175 years of their foundation on 30 September 2025. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by **Abp. Sebastian Kallupura** and was followed by a fellowship meal shared in gratitude and togetherness.

❖ Most of the Archdiocesan priests attended the two-day **Renewal Program** organized by the Conference of Diocesan Priests of India (CDPI), Bihar Region at Navjyoti Niketan, Patna. The program brought together Priests from six Dioceses of Bihar for a time of reflection, fellowship and spiritual renewal. **Fr. Joseph Xavier, SJ**, of Madurai Province was the resource person. Congratulations to you, **Fr. Sahaya Raj**, the **Regional CDPI Secretary**, for coordinating this regional program.

❖ A hundred and eighty Mahilas and Pastoral Sisters from six Dioceses of Bihar came together at Navjyoti Niketan, Patna, to celebrate the **Bihar Regional Mahila Sangh Jubilee** on 11 & 12 October 2025. The event was marked by a spirit of unity, gratitude and joyful participation, reflecting the vibrant faith and commitment of the women of the region. (**Sr. Jane, SCN, Regional Mahila Sangh Directress**)

❖ **Fr. Dharam Kishore** represented Bihar Region at the Regional Coordinators' Meeting of Human Rights Committee under the CBCI Legal Cell on 11 October 2025. The Committee has been constituted to address the rising incidents of human rights violations, particularly those affecting members and institutions of the Catholic community in India. It aims to safeguard constitutional rights, ensure access to justice and establish effective crisis response mechanisms at the national and regional levels. (**Fr. Dharam Kishore**)

❖ **The Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, North East Province**, Patna, celebrated the 200th Birth Anniversary of their Foundress **Bl. Mother Maria Scherer** on 31 October at Holy Cross Convent Hall, Fairfield, Digha, Patna.

❖ **Fr. Satya Prakash** participated in the National Symposium titled "Walking Together as One

Family: Building a Synodal Church in India”, held from 24 -26 October 2025 at St. Pius Collehege, Goregaon (East). The symposium was spiritually enriching and pastorally relevant, offering valuable insights that will contribute positively to the on-going efforts to strengthen Synodality in the life and mission of the Church in India. (Fr. Satya Prakash)

- ❖ **Fr. Robert Kumar and Fr. Sabu Davis** participated in the National Conference of Pontifical Mission Organization at Nav Sadhna, Varanasi, from 19 – 21 November 25. The theme of the Conference was Renewing the Spirit of Evangelii Nuntiandi @50: Rekindling the fire of Proclamation and Mission in India today.
- ❖ **Fr. KM Joseph, SJ, Fr. Peter Ladis, and Sr. Anupriya, SND**, attended the National Forum of Lawyers (Priests & Religious) Meet 2025, organized by the National Lawyers Forum of Religious and Priests (NLFRP) from 28 – 30 November 2025 at Jaipur on the theme, “Navigating Contemporary Challenges: Upholding Constitutional Values and Moral Responsibility.” (Fr. Peter Ladis. F)
- ❖ On 07 December 2025, delegates from all the six Dioceses of Bihar, under the leadership of their Shepherds, came together at Pro-Cathedral, Bankipur, Patna, for **Regional level Jubilee celebration**. The gathering had representatives of every segment serving in the region. The celebration commenced with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by **Abp. Raphy Manjaly of the Archdiocese of Agra**.



Agra. The liturgy served as the spiritual corner stone of the gathering, emphasizing themes of service and regional unity. During the cultural program each diocese presented a

*documentary showcasing its origins, faith journey, and current pastoral and missionary initiatives. The presentations offered a meaningful glimpse into the vibrant life and mission of the Church in Bihar. A special word of thanks is due to **Fr. Peter Charles**, Deputy General Secretary, BRBC, for coordinating this memorable event.*

- ❖ On 08 December 2025, a small delegation led by **Abp. Sebastian Kallupura** called on **the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri. Nitish Kumar**,



to congratulate him on assuming office as the Chief Minister of Bihar for a record tenth time.

- ❖ A small delegation led by the **Abp. Sebastian Kallupura** called on **His Excellency, Md. Arif Khan**, the Governor of Bihar, on 22 December 2025 to extend Christmas greetings and New Year wishes. The delegation also participated



in the Christmas dinner hosted by His Excellency on 23 December 2025

Celebrations – Birthdays **Celebrations Galore (Birthdays)**

January

01. **Fr. Jesu Raj**
06. **Fr. George Panna**
08. **Fr. Sabu Davis**
15. **Fr. Sanoj Kumar**
19. **Fr. Anselem Xess**
23. **Fr. Mahipal Blasius**



February

- 01. *Fr. Jerome Dungdung*
- 03. *Fr. Dinesh Kumar*
- 03. *Fr. Anselem Dungdung*
- 05. *Fr. Prabhu Das*
- 10. *Fr. Martin Anand*
- 11. *Fr. Joseph Unni*
- 18. *Fr. Manoj Kullu*

March

- 05. *Abp. E. William D'Souza, SJ*
- 18. *Fr. Anthony Samy*
- 20. *Fr. Andrews Thambi*
- 23. *Fr. Jose Muthuplackal*
- 25. *Fr. Anup Pius*
- 26. *Fr. James Rosario*

Health and Wellness



- ❖ **Fr. Thomas Olikathotty** underwent a heart surgery at Ruben Memorial Hospital, Patna, on 21 October 2025 to clear a major blockage. Fr. Thomas is back in Gaya.
- ❖ **Fr. A Sebastian** moved around for almost a month with a plastered left hand. He had a fall while playing during a training program in Bengaluru, causing dislocation of a bone below wrist.
- ❖ **Fr. Jose Muthuplackal** underwent a successful hernia operation on 03 December at Kurji Holy Family Hospital.
- ❖ **Fr. Rakesh Roshan** is on medication for ALK Cancer. He will be going to CMC, Vellore, for a review in the first week of January 2026.
- ❖ **Fr. Sabu Davis** was admitted to Tripolia Hospital for a week with cold and cough.
- ❖ The medical fraternity at Tripolia hospital has confirmed that **Fr. Mahipal Blasius** is having issues with BP and sugar control. The self-styled naturopathy specialist is advised to shift to allopathy medicines.

Called to Glory

- ❖ *Sr. Esther, C.J – 30 September 2025.*
- ❖ *Sr. Bridget Vadakkeattam, SCN – 11 October 2025.*

- ❖ *Sr. Shobita Panthaladickal, SCN – 14 October 2025.*
- ❖ *Fr. Mathew Kattathara, SJ – 15 October 2025.*
- ❖ *Sr. Beronica Toppo, SSH – 18 October 2025.*
- ❖ *Mr. Amal Kant, former catechist of Barbigha – 22 October 2025.*
- ❖ *Sr. M. Prerita Vattamthottiyil, C.J – 30 October 2025.*
- ❖ *Sr. Theodosia, SSH – 08 November 2025.*
- ❖ *Fr. Joseph Njarakulam, SJ – 21 November 2025.*
- ❖ *Sr. Priya Hansdak, SCSC – 11 December 2025.*

Archbishop's Engagements

January -2026

- 01 : Mass at Tapovan
- 03 : Sacred Heart Sisters' Jubilee – Kurji
- 04 : Christmas Gathering – Chakkarm
- 05&06 : Fr. Sebastian Kallupura's Guest
- 08 : Finance Committee
- 17 : PACE – AGBM
- 25 : Confirmation – Danapur

February

- 01 : Mokama
- 02-10 : CBCI Meeting in Bengaluru
- 14 : Bhagalpur
- 15 : Saksohara - Confirmation
- 22 : Basauni - Rehatad Feast

❖ Novena Schedule, Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Divine Grace, Mokama

Day	Date	Main celebrant
Friday	23 January 2026	Munger Deanery Priests
Saturday	24 January 2026	Fr. Sibi Anthony
Sunday	25 January 2026	Fr. Selvin Xavier, S. J
Monday	26 January 2026	Fr. James George
Tuesday	27 January 2026	Fr. Roy Mathew, CST
Wednesday	28 January 2026	Fr. Anup Pius
Thursday	29 January 2026	Fr. Gyan Prakash
Friday	30 January 2026	Fr. Avinash Kumar
Saturday	31 February 2026	Rt. Rev. Fulgence Tigga
Sunday (Feast Day)	01 February 2026	Abp. Sebastian Kallupura.