

Patna Archdiocesan Samachar

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Shepherd's Message

A Relook into Our Own Conscience



"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (Proverbs 4:23).

In an age marked by rapid change, technological advancement, and growing moral confusion, the formation and preservation of a good conscience have become more important than ever. Conscience is the sacred sanctuary where God

speaks to the human heart. The Second Vatican Council teaches: *"Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, tells him inwardly at the right moment: do this, shun that"* (Gaudium et Spes, 16).

A breach of conscience is not merely a personal weakness; it is a sign of the gradual collapse of humanity. A good conscience preserves our humanness, protects us from spiritual decline, and safeguards the moral fabric of society.

St. Paul warns us: "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). Many public failures are not sudden events; they are often the visible result of years of hidden spiritual decline.

Signs of a Declining Conscience

1. The Fear of God Disappears

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). When holy reverence for God diminishes, sin is easily rationalized. The heart

gradually loses its sensitivity to God's voice. What was once recognized as wrong begins to appear acceptable.

A weakened or poorly formed conscience often reveals itself through certain attitudes and behaviors. These may include rationalizing sinful actions instead of acknowledging them, living a double life in which one's public image differs significantly from one's private conduct, and interpreting Scripture selectively to justify personal desires rather than seeking God's truth. Other signs are the deliberate suppression of the inner voice of conscience, a continued persistence in immoral behavior without genuine repentance, and a growing indifference toward prayer and spiritual practices. Such tendencies gradually distance a person from God and can lead to spiritual blindness if left unaddressed.

The Catechism reminds us: "Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened" (CCC 1783). When conscience is neglected, spiritual blindness follows. Jesus himself warned: "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness" (Matthew 6:22-23).

2. Private Life and Public Ministry Do Not Match

One of the most serious threats to the Christian life is hypocrisy—the tendency to project an appearance of holiness while neglecting genuine interior conversion. Jesus sharply criticized such attitudes when He said, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead" (Matthew 23:27). A compromised conscience often becomes evident through various forms of moral and spiritual inconsistency, such as sexual misconduct, jealousy and unhealthy comparisons, pride and an inflated self-image, financial dishonesty, resentment and an unwillingness to forgive, harmful addictions,

deceptive relationships, and even corruption concealed beneath a façade of religiosity. Pope Francis frequently warns against what he calls “spiritual worldliness,” a subtle temptation that seeks personal recognition and advantage rather than the glory of God. In *Evangelii Gaudium*, he identifies this attitude as one of the gravest dangers confronting the Church because it places self-interest above the demands of the Gospel. Therefore, St. Paul's exhortation remains ever relevant: “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them” (1 Timothy 4:16), reminding us that authentic Christian witness requires both integrity of life and fidelity to the truth.

3. Resistance to Correction, Denial and Self-Glory

A conscience that is gradually losing its moral sensitivity often becomes resistant to guidance and correction. When pride takes root in the heart, a person may begin to believe that he no longer needs advice, accountability, or spiritual direction. This attitude can manifest itself in an unwillingness to accept constructive criticism, a lack of transparency and accountability, and a tendency to view ministry merely as the management of activities rather than as a mission of evangelization. It may also be seen in the desire for human recognition and praise instead of seeking God's approval, in acting independently without proper spiritual guidance, and in drawing attention to oneself rather than glorifying Christ. Sacred Scripture strongly cautions against such attitudes: “Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy” (Proverbs 29:1). Likewise, St. Peter urges believers, “Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5). The Catechism of the Catholic Church further teaches that pride is the source of many sins because it elevates the self above God and the needs of others. Therefore, cultivating humility and remaining open to correction are essential for preserving a healthy and well-formed conscience.

4. The Remedy: Returning to the Lord

The Good News of the Gospel is that God never abandons His children, even when they fall into sin. His mercy is always available to those who turn to Him with sincere and contrite hearts. No failure is too great, and no wound is too deep for God's healing grace. The journey of spiritual renewal begins with humble surrender before God, accompanied by an honest examination of one's life and a sincere acknowledgment of personal weaknesses and shortcomings. It is nourished through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, guided by spiritual direction and

accountability, strengthened by a willingness to accept correction, and sustained by a renewed devotion to prayer and meditation on the Word of God.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, the Lord extends a tender invitation to His people: “Return, faithless people; I will heal your backsliding” (Jeremiah 3:22). Similarly, the Psalmist cries out, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10), expressing the deep desire for inner transformation that only God can accomplish. Pope St. John Paul II frequently emphasized that conversion is not a single moment but a lifelong process of continual renewal and growth in holiness. Every disciple of Christ is called to return to the Lord Day after day, allowing His grace to purify the heart, strengthen the conscience, and conform one's life ever more closely to the image of Christ.

Conclusion: Guard the Heart

Our world today does not simply need Christians who are successful in the eyes of society; it needs Christians who are holy in the sight of God. Likewise, the Church is enriched not merely by active ministers but by authentic witnesses whose public service flows from a deep and faithful relationship with the Lord. Genuine Christian discipleship begins in the heart and is sustained by a life rooted in prayer, integrity, and obedience to God's will.

Therefore, we are called to examine our conscience regularly, approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation with humility, remain accountable to the teachings and guidance of the Church, and nurture a profound reverence for God. Such spiritual practices help us remain vigilant against complacency and strengthen our commitment to living the Gospel faithfully.

St. Paul urges believers: “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves” (2 Corinthians 13:5). This invitation to self-reflection reminds us that the Christian life requires continual conversion and renewal. May we never allow our conscience to become dull or indifferent to God's voice, but instead seek each day the transforming grace of Christ. As the Book of Proverbs wisely counsels, “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it” (Proverbs 4:23). A well-guarded heart and a well-formed conscience remain the foundation of a faithful and fruitful Christian life.

Fear God. Walk humbly. Live authentically. Serve faithfully.

God Bless You all!

+ Sebastian Kallupura

New Assignments

- ❖ *Fr. Sanoj Kumar : Asst: Director, S. Mary's Minor Seminary, Chakaram*

Atithi Devo Bhava

- ❖ *Sr. Anjana Therattil, CSJ - Provincial Superior, Congregation of St. Joseph's of Chambery.*
- ❖ *Mar Mathew Nellikunnel, Bishop of Gorakhpur.*
- ❖ *Fr. Anthoni Adimai SdM. Superior General, Society of St. Eugene de Mazenod.*
- ❖ *Most. Rev. Victor Henry Thakur, Archbishop of Raipur.*

Congratulations / Jubilations

Diamond Jubilee

- ❖ *Sr. Elise, SSH*
- ❖ *Sr. Sabina Mundianpuram, SCSC, Sr. Matilda Kollamparambil, SCSC, Sr. Frederic Thottukadavil, SCSC.*

Golden Jubilee

- ❖ *Sr. Meera, SSH*
- ❖ *Sr. Genevieve D'Silva, SCSC, Sr. Clementina Toppo, SCSC, Sr. Lilly Chandanathil, SCSC, Sr. Pius Puzhakarayil, SCSC*
- ❖ *Sr. Eva Maria, AC*

Silver Jubilee

- ❖ *Sr. Julie, SSH, Sr. Nishi, SSH, Sr. Nibha, SSH*
- ❖ *Sr. M. Gracy, AC*

Perpetual Vows

- ❖ *Sr. Mary Meena Kujur, SND, Sr. Mary Sumani Beck, SND, Sr. Mary Wanmin Pdang, SND, Sr. Mary Monica Prema Hansdak, SND.*

Pastoral Initiatives

- ❖ ***Empowering the Next Generation.*** *Recognizing the pivotal role of communication in the modern world, a specialized four-week intensive English language coaching program was conducted for post – intermediate girls at Sewa Kendra, and boys at Jyoti Bhawan, Mokama. This is to bridge the linguistic gap for students transitioning into higher education and professional spheres. The curriculum focused on practical language application, enhance students' confidence in speaking, writing, and analytical thinking. The success of this month-long endeavor was made possible through the dedicated leadership and vision of the organizing committee. Special gratitude is*



extended to Fr. Dinesh Kumar, Fr. Sanjay Minj, and their hard-working team.

- ❖ *Music is an integral part of human life, possessing the profound power to deeply impact the human person, uplift the spirit and enrich divine worship. Recognizing this, a highly successful month-long music course was recently organized at the expert*



tutelage and guidance of Fr. Arun Ignatius,

SJ. Thank you, Fr. Arun and team, for your laudable efforts and dedication. May this transformative course leave a lasting melodic impact on all who attended.

- ❖ **The Archdiocesan Summer Camp** (25 – 30 May 2026) for Christian students of class VII – IX, held at Jyoti Bhavan, Mokama, was attended by students from different Parishes and Mission Stations.



Congratulations to you, Fr. A Sebastian, Fr. Sanjai Minj and team.

- ❖ **The annual night vigil at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Divine Grace, Mokama, was held on the night of June 20 and concluded with a morning Mass on June 21. Devotees from various parishes gathered to participate in the spiritual program. The vigil featured prayers, hymns, and moments of reflection, providing participants an opportunity for worship and renewal. We are grateful to the Archdiocesan Family Commission (Sr. Blessy, CHF, Fr. Dharam Kishore and Mr. Vijendra), Fr. Satya Prakash, Fr. A Sebastian, Jesus Youth and many more for making this program a spiritual experience for all.**



School Furrows

Samachar welcomes the new leaders of our school community.

- ❖ **Prakash High School, Maner : Sr. Pauline, CSJ.**

- ❖ *St. Joseph's Primary School, Barh : Sr. Deepti, SSH.*
- ❖ *St. Mary's School, Mokama : Mr. Vinay Kumar*
- ❖ *Vimala Vidyalaya, Bhaktiyarpur : Sr. Tarcilla Cibiya Kandulna, SCN.*
- ❖ *St. Joseph's School, Basauni : Sr. A. Pastina Mary*

Class X & XII - Board Results - CBSE - 2025 -26

	Name of the School	1	2	3
1	Creane memorial School, Gaya	98.8	98.2	97
	X11 – Science	97.6	93.6	91.6
	XII - Commerce	95	91.2	90.8
2.	Creane School, Sherghati	94.8	94	93.8
3.	Khrist Jyoti School, Hilsa	89.6	88.8	85.8
4.	Loyola School, Harnaut	94.4	94	92.
5.	Maria Ashram School, Sheikhpura	89.4	88.4	83.4
6.	St. John's Academy, Kankarbagh	95.4	95.2	93.
7.	St. Joseph's School, Nawada	95	94.2	93.
	X11 Science	84.8		
	X11 Commerce	85		
8.	St. Joseph's School, Rajauli	94.8	93.2	91.
9.	St. Joseph's School, Roh	92	91.4	90
10.	St. Mary's Academy, Ashiana Nagar	98.9	6.4	96.2
11.	St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School, Biharshariff	95.8	93.4	91.4
12.	St. Mary's School, Masaurhi	96.4	95.2	94.6

- ❖ *Overcoming prolonged hesitation fueled by the rising “non – attending” trend, St. Mary's Academy in Ashiana Nagar, Patna, has taken the plunge and opened the Higher*



Secondary Section. The landmark event was graced by **Abp. Sebastian Kallupura**. To begin with, the Senior Secondary Section is offering admissions in two core academic tracks: Science stream and Commerce stream. Admissions for the academic session are currently underway.

- ❖ In a major boost to campus infrastructure and holistic student development at Creane Hr. Sec. School, Jehanabad, **Fr. Anslem Xess** laid the foundation stone for the school extension on 18 May 2026. By



providing ample space, we are ensuring our students have the environment they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

- ❖ In a striking role reversal, the heads of several prominent Catholic institutions, including eight of our Archdiocesan school principals, swapped their mahogany desks for classroom chairs from 17 – 20 May 2026. This seminar was aimed at providing a refreshed legal toolkit designed to safeguard the heritage and operational integrity of our institutions for years to



come. The legal luminaries, served as faculty, provided deep dives into the specific rights and protections afforded to the Minorites under the constitution.

- ❖ In an effort to foster more inclusive and engaging learning environments, Archdiocesan school principals gathered for a workshop on **“Organizational Climate in Schools: Leadership, Culture and Kingdom Impact”** on 20 June 26 at Sewa Kendra. The workshop was a help to translate theoretical climate – building



concepts into practical, actionable plans. Animating the sessions, **Fr. James George** pointed out that a school's 'climate' is the foundation upon which all learning is built.

Formation Updates

As part of our ongoing formation for priestly ministry, **Bro. Nishan and I, Bro. Prabhu Prakash**, together with the Third – year Theologystudents of All India Mission Seminary, Pilar – Goa, had the enriching opportunity to participate in a month-long Counsellor Training Programme (CTP) at the **Anugraha Institute of Counselling and Psychotherapy, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu**, from 04 – 30 May 2026. This exposure created a meaningful platform for learning, sharing experiences, and understanding the varied realities of human life. (Bro. Prabhu Prakash)

Second Year Regency

- ❖ **Bro. Ajay Kumar** : Jehanabad
- ❖ **Bro. Sandeep Surin** : Minor Seminary, Chakaram

First Year Regency

- ❖ **Bro. Anmol Dang** : Rajauli
- ❖ **Bro. Gunjan Kumar** : Mokama
- ❖ Four of our theologians participated in a two-day capacity building program on the

“Framework on Safe Migration”, held at Navjyoti Niketan, Kurji, on 24 -25 April 2026. The program was focused on creating awareness about the challenges and risks associated with unsafe migration, while equipping participants with practical tools to promote safe, informed and dignified migration practices.

- ❖ Seventeen of our Major Seminarians actively participated in the Regional Gathering of men in formation, held at Navjyoti Niketan, Patna, from 23 – 25 May 2026. This coming together offered the participants a unique opportunity to get to know one another as they journey together in their vocational formation.
- ❖ **Bro. Nishan and Bro. Prabhu Prakash** were conferred the Ministry of Acolyte by **Most. Rev. Simiao Purificacao**



Fernandes, Auxiliary Bishop of Goa and Daman, on 20 June 2026. Congratulations, dear Nishan and Prabhu.

Editor's Trove

- ❖ From Ahmednagar, Pune, **Fr. Anthony Swamy** has moved to the **Center for Geoinformatics at the Xavier Institute of Engineering (XIE)** in Mahim. It is a sister-institution of the prestigious St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. Fr. Anthony is an Asst. Professor and Head of the Center for Geoinformatics. He will reside at the Mahim Church, serving as assistant to the Parish Priest.
- ❖ **Fr. Dr. Peter Ladis** was one of the recipients of National Excellence Awards 2026. **The Excellence in Legal Education**

Award was given by the MSME approved Kiteskraft Production LLP. It is a recognition for his teaching Law and Legal Aid to the needy and underprivileged. Congratulations, Fr. Peter Ladis.

Celebrations Galore (Birthdays)

July

- 01 Fr. Peter Ladis
- 10 Fr. Irudayaraj
- 14 Abp. Sebastian Kallupura
- 22 Fr. Sebastian Kallupura
- 25 Fr. Sanjay Minj
- 30 Fr. Andrews Raja



August

- 04 Fr. Dominic Peter
- 15 Fr. Thomas George, Fr. Augustine Hembrom
- 20 Fr. Reni Prakash
- 25 Fr. Sahaya Stalin
- 26 Fr. Antony Osta, Fr. Bhagyaraju
- 30 Fr. Michael Ignatius

September

- 05 Fr. Dharam Kishore, Fr. Anil John Kandru
- 10 Fr. Robert Kumar
- 11 Fr. James George

Health and Wellness

- ❖ **Fr. Martin Anand** underwent a lengthy and complex robotic surgery for Adenocarcinoma at **Apollo Hospital, Delhi**. After getting discharged from Apollo, Fr. Martin was at Holy Family Hospital, Delhi, for nursing care. The constant presence of family members and the dedicated accompaniment of **Fr. Ravikant** served as a vital source of



encouragement. Fr. Martin is under medication including general chemotherapy from **Big Apollo Spectra Hospital, Patna**, as part of the post-operative healing process. Presently, Fr. Martin is at Prerana.

- ❖ **Fr. Thomas George** travelled to Vellore for a scheduled medical review. The clinical assessment brought positive news, as doctors reported no major concerns. They noted that the age-related factors continue to play a role in his overall health profile.
- ❖ **Fr. Sabu Davis** is recovering well following a successful laparoscopic procedure at CMC, Vellore. The surgery was performed to correct issues related to protruding L4 and L5 vertebrae, a condition that often causes significant discomfort and mobility challenges.
- ❖ **Fr. Peter Ladis** has returned to his normal routine following a week of rest and recovery after undergoing eardrum surgery.

Cork Board

- ❖ 04 July 2026 : Recollect
ion for  Priests & Religious
- ❖ 14 July 2026 : Birthday celebration of Abp. Sebastian Kallupura.
- ❖ 13–14 Aug 2026 : Seminar for Priests of the region by CDPI
- ❖ 16–18 Sept 2026 : Archdiocesan Days
- ❖ 26 Sept-02 Oct 2026: Annual Retreat for Archdiocesan Clergy

Called to Glory

- ❖ Sh. Singeshwar Das, father of Fr. Dharam Kishore : 09 April 2026
- ❖ Sr. Marie Jessie, AC – 25 April 2026
- ❖ Sr. M. Silveria Pauvath, C.J – 27 May 2026
- ❖ Fr. Seraphim John Lal, SJ – 04 June 2026
- ❖ Bro. Maurice Ekka, MC – 25 June 2026

Archbishop's Engagements

July

- 04 : Recollection
- 06 – 09 : BRBC meeting at Bettiah
- 10 : Meeting with Mother General of Sisters of Bon Secours
- 16 : Mass at Patna Women's College
: At 11: 00a.m. Mass at Carmel Tapovan
- 26 : Grand Parents' Day celebration

August

- 13-14 : Seminar for Priests- Navjyoti Niketan
- 16 : St. Monica Day celebration
- 21-23 : Jubilee of Cardinal Baselios Cleemis - Trivandrum
- 28 : Birthday of Fr. James Amakatt - Buxar
- 30 : Parish Day celebration - Barh

September

- 14 : Mass - Holy Cross, Balupar
- 15 : CCBI Meeting - Bengaluru
- 17-18 : Archdiocesan Days
- 19 : SND Jubilee Mass
- 26 : Annual retreat begins

Centenary Celebration of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Patna.

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Patna, joyfully celebrated its Centenary on 11 June 2026 at the



School Auditorium of St. Michael's High School, Patna, marking one hundred years of God's faithfulness, abundant blessings, and dedicated service to the Church and society.

The day began with a solemn procession commemorating the nine founding sisters who courageously established the Congregation with our Beloved Founder on 11 June 1926. Nine sisters carrying lighted lamps symbolized the spirit,



vision, and enduring legacy of these pioneers. The Superior General carried the Centenary Emblem bearing the theme, "Rooted in Faith, Radiating Love." The procession was followed by a graceful entrance dance by the candidates, creating a prayerful and festive atmosphere.

The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. Sebastian Kallupura, Archbishop of Patna, and concelebrated by Most Rev. William D'Souza, SJ, Archbishop Emeritus of Patna, Most Rev. Cajetan Francis Osta, Bishop of Muzaffarpur, Most Rev. James Shekhar, Bishop of Buxar, Vicar Generals Rev.

Fr. James George, Patna, Rev. Fr. Finton Sah, Bettiah, and Rev. Fr. Vimal Kishor SJ, Provincial



Superior of the Patna Jesuits, along with many priests from the dioceses of Patna, Bettiah, Muzaffarpur, and Buxar.

A special highlight of the Eucharistic Celebration was the sacred music that enriched the liturgy and deepened the spirit of prayer and thanksgiving. All the hymns sung during the Eucharist were specially composed for the Centenary Celebration by Sisters of the Sacred Heart. The hymns beautifully reflected the Congregation's centenary theme, "Rooted in Faith, Radiating Love," and added a unique and memorable dimension to the celebration.

The cultural programme that followed vividly portrayed the Congregation's century-long journey through songs and dance presentations, and a multimedia display showcasing significant milestones and achievements.

As the Congregation enters its second century, it renews its commitment to being a living witness of Christ's love through compassionate service, especially among the poor, marginalized, and those in need. The centenary celebration was not merely a remembrance of a glorious past but also a call to move forward with renewed faith, hope, and zeal, trusting in God's providence and guidance for the years ahead. (Sr. Kusum, SSH)

