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KARUNĀḌA SAURABHA
KARNATAKA JESUIT PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

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KARNATAKA JESUIT PROVINCE

December 2025

PROVINCIAL'S MUSINGS

Christmas places before us the profound mystery of life generously offered and life graciously received. In the Babe of Bethlehem, God chooses closeness over distance, accompaniment over authority, tenderness over power. The Incarnation reveals a God who does not stand above humanity, but walks with us—listening, healing, and guiding us gently as Emmanuel, *God with us always*. This nearness of God is the source of our Christmas joy and the heart of our Jesuit and Synodal way of proceeding.

This year, our celebration of Christmas carries within it both gratitude and grief. We remember with deep affection Dr. Celine Lobo, whose extraordinary generosity continues to bless the Society of Jesus beyond her lifetime. Her quiet and decisive gift speaks eloquently of a life rooted in trust, gratitude, and faith. In offering all that she had (property and possession) to the Province, she reminds us that true legacy is not measured by possession, but by giving totally without any expectation. Her life stands as a luminous Christmas witness to the Gospel of generosity.

Alongside this gratitude, we continue to mourn the sudden passing of Fr. Swebert Sylvan D'Silva, SJ. His home-going during his golden jubilee year pierced our hearts with sorrow. Yet even in grief, grace revealed itself. The calm dignity with which the Province, SJU, and our collaborators came together bore testimony to the deep bonds that unite us. In Swebert, we remember a companion whose simplicity, generosity, and quiet dedication touched the lives of countless people. He leaves us with a gentle but enduring invitation: to live our Jesuit vocation with joy, humility, and a freedom unburdened by noise, ambition, or self-importance.

In this season marked by loss and hope, we inaugurated the Centre for Religion and Culture at SJU. This new initiative stands as a sign of Christmas hope. It affirms dialogue over division, encounter over exclusion, and depth over superficiality. In a fractured and polarized world, the Centre becomes our concrete response to the Incarnate God who continues to dwell among us—inviting us to listen attentively, to learn humbly, and to walk together across religious, cultural, intellectual, and social boundaries. This is synodality lived in the light of Christmas.

In a world wounded by indifference, fatigue, and fear, the Babe of Bethlehem reminds us that the smallest gestures of compassion can rebuild trust and the simplest acts of listening can restore dignity. At Christmas, we are drawn to a God who places Himself among the most vulnerable, identifying with the child, the poor and the powerless. This mystery commits us anew to safeguarding every minor and vulnerable person entrusted to



- FR DIONYSIUS VAZ, SJ

our care. It is in this spirit that the Safeguarding Policy of the Province was promulgated on 8 December 2025, as a concrete expression of our Christmas faith. To welcome Christ is to create spaces that are safe, respectful, and life-giving—where no one is harmed. We pledge ourselves to a culture of care and accountability, so that every child may grow in dignity, security, and hope.

May the birth of Christ renew our individual selves, our communities, strengthen our commitment, and make hope visible in our workplaces.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2026



APPOINTED/APPROVED BY FR GENERAL

Fr. Arjen Tete (CCU): as Consultor to the President of JCSA

Fr. Bernhard Bürgler (ECE): as Regional Assistant for Central & Eastern Europe

Fr. Joseph Cardozo (GOA): as Regional Secretary for South Asia, effective from 01 June 2026

Fr. Vincent Hansdak (HAZ): as Consultor to the President of JCSA

Fr. General has approved **Frs. Arun Sunil Lobo** and **Harry Noel Terry** for the profession of final vows in the Society of Jesus

APPOINTED BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr. Melwyn Sunny Pinto: Vice Superior of Arrupe Nivas, Bengaluru

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

December 2025

04-05: Visitation: SN (Chennai)
 08: Inauguration of the Centre for Religion and Culture
 09: Visitation: SAC (Harihar)
 10: Funeral of Dr. Celine Lobo (Mangaluru)
 11: Formation Commission: LM (Bengaluru)
 12: Visit of Provincial Team of MAP Province / SJIM
 GB: Bengaluru
 13: Meeting of Campus Ministry Team Online
 15-19: Visitation: SAC (Mangaluru)
 20: Visitation: New Priests
 21: Province Consult Online
 22: Requiem Mass of Fr. Swebert D'Silva (Udyavar)

January 2026

02-03: Visitation: Swami Rajendra Nilaya (Pandithahalli)
 04-06: RRSJSA West & South Zone Review Meeting:
 Prerana (Bengaluru)
 07-08: Visitation: Ashirvad (Bengaluru)
 09-10: Visitation: Xavier Sadan (Mysuru)
 11: Province Consult: LM (Bengaluru)
 12: Visitation: SAC, Harihar (continued)
 15-16: Visitation: Loyola Sadan (Kalaburagi)
 17-19: Visitation: De Nobili College (Pune)
 20: Visitation; Sch. Pratap (Manmad)
 21-23: Visitation: Vinayalaya (Mumbai)
 25: Meeting with Regents: Bikkodu (Hassan)
 27: Death Anniversary Mass of Mrs Juliet Vaz (M'luru)
 31: PhD Scholars Symposium

ANNOUNCEMENTS

08 Dec 2025: Inauguration of the Centre for Religion and Culture

11 Dec 2025: Formation Commission Meeting: LM (Bengaluru)

04-06 Jan 2026: RRSJSA West & South Zone Review Meeting: Prerana (Bengaluru)

31 Jan 2026: PhD Scholars Symposium

Nov. Anideekshith K A left the Novitiate on 11 November 2025. We wish him God's abundant blessings as he begins a new phase in his life.

Sch. Manvith D'Souza left the Society of Jesus on 15 December 2025. We invoke God's abundant blessings upon him as he enters a new phase of his life

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK (PWP): DECEMBER 2025

For Christians in areas of conflict: Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.



Ignite the Way, a workshop for the facilitators in Discernment in Common, took place at Salamanca, Spain, from 23 November to 03 December with nearly 100 participants consisting of lay partners, Diocesan priests, religious and Jesuits. Eleven Jesuits and one diocesan priest from Goa represented the Jesuit Conference of South Asia. The overall aim of the meeting was to

studies related to discernment in common were presented on 28 November. The daily schedule followed a pedagogy of input – reflection – spiritual conversation – plenary. The participants from JCSA came together on 1 and 2 December to work out a follow-up for the Conference. This concrete action plan was presented to the POSA. Fr Vivian Richard, who was actively involved in



develop essential skills in training for facilitation in discernment in common, explore diverse approaches in our organisations and cultures, and arrive at an agreed core curriculum in each Conference. The inputs were centred on the theme of discernment in common, highlighting its theory and practice. Some of the topics were: the Biblical and the theological foundations of Discernment in Common; why synodality matters for the Church; Discernment in Common in the Society of Jesus; Building a discerning group: I ... We ... I, with an emphasis on psychology and spiritual disposition; profile of a facilitator of discernment in common; and developing a curriculum to form facilitators in discernment in common. Thirty case

the communication section during the workshop, presented a case study on “how communications can strengthen engagement in a communal discernment”. I was asked to make two presentations: one on “Discernment from the lens of the Contemplation to Attain Love [SE 230-237]” and another on “Promoting a culture of discernment in common in our life-mission”. Since I was part of the core team, it was both an enriching and a learning experience for me. Listening to the voices on synodality from different parts of the world was itself a blessing. Needless to say, the conference has rekindled the fire of synodality in every participant.

- Fr. Joseph A. D'Mello

Inauguration of Centre for Religion and Culture (CRC)



The Centre for Religion and Culture was formally inaugurated at St. Joseph's University in Xavier Hall on 8 December 2025. The ceremony was graced by Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore, Rev. Fr. Dionysius Vaz, SJ, Provincial of the Karnataka Jesuit Province, Dr. (Fr.) Victor Lobo, S.J., Vice-Chancellor of SJU, Dr. (Fr.) Melwyn Pinto, SJ, Acting Superior of Arrupe Nivas, Prof. S. Japhet, Chairperson, Karnataka Christian Community Development Corporation, Dr. (Sr.) Deepthi, Secretary General of the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India, Mr. Alan Machado, writer-historian, and Dr. (Fr.) Bala Kiran Kumar Hrudayaraj,

SJ, Director of CRC.

Fr. Bala Kiran SJ welcomed the gathering. Archbishop Peter Machado inaugurated the Centre by unveiling its official website and emphasized the significance of preserving, documenting, and celebrating the Christian legacy of Karnataka. Fr. Dionysius Vaz, SJ, Fr. Victor Lobo, SJ, and Prof. S. Japhet stressed the importance of researching and preserving the rich Christian heritage in the state.

Then Fr. Jerome D'Souza's book - was released, and he was honoured for his biblical scholarship and contributions



to Kannada Bible and theological literature in Kannada.

Mr. Alan Machado delivered the keynote address, offering a rich historical overview of the evolution of Christianity in Karnataka and underscoring the

need for continued research and documentation. The event was attended by Jesuit fathers, brothers, religious sisters, students, and the faculty of St. Joseph's University.

- Fr. Bala Kiran Kumar

KJES YOUTH WORKS (PCYM)

AICUF Karnataka organized a Rural Exposure Camp from November 5 to 9 at Mundgod. Twenty-six AICUFers from Bengaluru and Mangaluru immersed themselves in rural life by staying with village and tribal families. In the same spirit of service, AICUFers celebrated Children's Day on November 14 in two government schools, conducting a half-day of games and competitions and distributing stationery. On November 29, AICUF Karnataka organized SAMATVA (Unity in Diversity), marking AICUF Day and Constitution Day. Mr. Shaik Salman, the AICUF full-timer, was selected to serve on the core committee for the Human Rights Celebrations to be held from December 1 to 10 in Bengaluru. Fr. Merwyn Fernandes accompanied Mr. Salman, Ms. Jessica, and Ms.



Jesvita (KJES youth animators) to represent AICUF Karnataka at the inaugural programme at ISI, Bengaluru, on December 1.

Fr. James Chin and his team conducted a one-day workshop on health and hygiene on November 29 for 50 IDP students from Classes 5–10 and their mothers. The resource persons were nursing students from St. John's Medical College. Adoration and Confessions were held on December 7 at SJU for the NECCB family in preparation for Christmas. As usual, Scholastics Simon and Matheus assisted Fr. James in the NECCB ministry.

- Fr. Merwyn Fernandes

ARRUPE NIVAS, Bengaluru

On November 20, 2025, Fr. Swebert D'Silva, Rector of Arrupe Nivas and Pro-Chancellor of SJU, passed away following a massive cardiac arrest. The funeral service, held on 22 November on the University grounds, brought together Most Rev. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore, Most Rev. Bernard Moras, Archbishop Emeritus, Jesuits, family members, friends, alumni, staff, and students of SJU, all united in gratitude for a life lived with profound dedication.

Fr. Victor Lobo participated in an event of the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, where he also interacted with Ontario's Minister for Economic Development. Distinguished visitors to SJU included Rev. Dr. Sali Augustine, President of Sophia University, Japan, accompanied by Prof. Mariko Iijima and Mr. Kento Ueda.



Mr. Satish Kumar Sivan, Consul General of India in Dubai, expressed deep appreciation for the Jesuits' contribution to society and commended the university's ongoing initiatives. A group of 43 students from the School of Business, accompanied by faculty members, visited the American University in Dubai (AUD).

Bembala Outreach Centre received a Certificate of Appreciation from ITC Limited in recognition of its partnership in the 'WOW – Wellbeing Out of Waste' initiative. Recycled waste collected through the programme was used to produce 3,500 notebooks which, along with 500 stationery kits from ITC, will be distributed to government school children in Nelamangala.

Fr. Bala Kiran addressed the Provincials and Superiors of the Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters on Ignatian Leadership at Carmelaram, Bangalore; conducted a session at Prerana on deep listening and spiritual conversation for a group of priests and nuns; and delivered a talk at the meeting of Jesuit Superiors and DOWs on Pope Leo XIV's address to Jesuit major superiors. The Arrupe Nivas community members had a formation session on the use of AI tools, conducted by Mr. Pranav MB.

- Fr. Aravind Royce

ASHA KIRAN, Mangaluru



On November 6, we joined the Jesuits of Mangalore at the Jesuit cemetery in Jeppu to remember and pray for our departed companions, commending them to eternal rest.

We spent our semester holidays fruitfully by visiting the Karnataka mission communities in Manvi, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Mundgod, Pandithahalli and Hassan, gaining valuable and personally enriching experiences. Some of these included our involvement in hospital service, a study project on waste management, and other environmental concerns.



The cultural tour of North Karnataka from November 24 to 28 gave us not only a welcome break from routine but also an opportunity to explore the history, art and architecture of ancient monuments. Upon our return to Ashakiran, we had a group sharing session and recollection during which we reflected on the experiences of the month. We remain grateful to the Jesuits of the communities we visited for their warm welcome and kind hospitality, and to the dedicated trio of our own community – Frs. Henry Saldanha, Sujay Daniel and Maxim D'Souza - for their constant and supportive accompaniment.

- Sch. Avin Fernandes

ASHIRVAD, Bengaluru



Our ministries during the month included a six-day retreat preached by Fr. Elvis Lewis for the SRA Novices in Mangaluru; a programme on RRSJSA for the Dumka Jesuits by Fr. Brian Pereira; a media course for the Jesuit Juniors in Trivandrum by Fr. Arul Anthony; participation in a three-day pilgrimage to Velankanni with about sixty migrants by Fr. Anup Minji; supervision of the sponsorship programme and project work in Mundgod, and a visit to Pandithahalli by Fr. Arun Luis.

Ashirvad organized Bala Mela 2025 in partnership with SJBHS, SJCC, and SJPUC under the leadership of Fr. Anthony Arul. More than 450 children from twenty Bengaluru slums participated in the event held at SJBHS. A new study centre under the Spandana project, serving over thirty children, was inaugurated at the Kothanur Dinne

Maramma Temple. A welfare session on labour rights and government schemes for migrants was also conducted by CSC staff in collaboration with ISIB and Jana Shakthi.

An awareness programme was conducted at Avadadenahalli by the MAIN Karnataka State Hub in collaboration with CIRW Anekal. During the month, MAIN supported migrant families in three cases of bereavement and one instance of rescue. The video presentation made by CSC, Ashirvad, at "Chittara 25" at SJCL received warm appreciation.

The community enjoyed an overnight outing on the first of November at Biccodu Farm, which turned out to be a memorable experience.

- Fr. Elvis C Lewis

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE, Mangaluru



Fr. Freddie D'Silva preached a recollection for the diocesan clergy in Mysore and later conducted a course for a group of formators in Bangalore. Fr. Edward guided a retreat for a group of Sisters in Belagavi. He was also joined by Fr. Leston Lobo, Fr. Roydon Misquith, and Sch. Rudolph D'Souza to conduct a day-long seminar for the students of Carmel School.

FRH hosted a three-day "Holy Spirit Retreat," which attracted a good number of participants. Fr. Pradeep Sequeira preached an eight-day retreat for the deacon candidates of the Mysore Diocese. A talk, delivered by Fr. Freddie D'Silva at FRH on Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te*, had nearly 150 religious attending.

- Fr Edward Rodrigues

HOMBELAKU, Manvi



Kaladarshini, the annual sports and cultural fest of Loyola PUC held on 13 November, had Mr. Manu Johnson as the chief guest. Students also took part in an intercollegiate commerce fest in Bellary. During the Constitution Week, the col-

lege organized several informative sessions to raise awareness among students about the core values of the Indian Constitution.

A group of students from St. Joseph's Institute of

Management (SJIM) spent a few days here (12–15 November) to gain first-hand experience of rural life. On 14 November, Lok Manch leaders organized a Climate Change Rally in Madagiri village. The Loyola Social Centre, together with other Loyola institutions, conducted various competitions for children from neighbouring schools to highlight the importance of constitutional rights and duties. Women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) of Ramathnal and Pannur participated in the Kala Utsav at St Joseph's College of Law, Bengaluru.

JESUIT NIVAS, Bengaluru

Significant events at SJC — Kannada Rajyotsava Day, a Constitution Awareness Programme by SJCL, and the Green Corner Initiative — brought together students from various institutions. The College organised a health camp that offered dental and eye check-ups, and our students visited Bosco Rainbow Home as part of their social outreach programme. EQUINOX 2025 featured a range of cultural and literary events, complemented by HRD sessions. The month concluded with the Annual Athletic Sports Meet.

SJCC hosted several programmes, including a Rural Exposure Camp for Honours students, National Education Day, a seminar for First Years on "The Human Code: Moral Compass

Children's Day was celebrated at Loyola Kappepaladi School with a special assembly and cultural performances by the teachers. Arrupe Hostel also observed Children's Day with its own programmes and activities.

The Hombelaku community was delighted to welcome Frs. Jerry, Roshan and Prashanth as guests for a few days. Meanwhile, Fr. Cyprian Tellis is in Pune teaching a course at Jnana Deepa.

- Sch. Anthony Jackson



for Success," and a talk by Dr Jimmy Anklesaria on Global Supply Chain Management. The Eco Club led a tribute to Salumarada Thimmakka and coordinated the National Integration Day and Children's Day programmes. The College also observed the International Day of Tolerance.

SJIM organised Tea with Jesuits, an informal evening that brought together the staff and the Jesuit Nivas community. The Kannada Rajyotsava celebration featured Dr. Kumar Swamy Bejjihalli as the chief guest. The highlight of the month was VERVE, the Inter-Collegiate Business and Cultural Fest, which drew 350 participants from 22 colleges.

- Fr. Shanthraj A.

JNANA JYOTHI, Anekal

St. Joseph's School celebrated with due grandeur significant events such as Kannada Rajyotsava Day and Children's Day. A one-day picnic to Green Holiday Resort and the celebration of Fruits and Vegetables Day brought joy and excitement to the children.

St. Joseph's P.U. College organized an awareness seminar on the POCSO Act, conducted by the faculty and students of St. Joseph's College of Law. Constitution Day was also observed, with students offering thoughtful inputs and reflections.

Scholastics Rahul and Robinson from Inigo Sadan spent a week at Navasadhana assisting the pre-novices in various community activities. Navasadhana Day, "NAVASAT 2K25," brought together the families of the pre-novices, neighbours, parishioners, and teachers. The solemn Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Sandeep Gonsalves. The highlight of the day was a play on Fr. Stan Swamy, which included a tribal dance per-



formed by the Xavier Nilaya brothers.

A visit arranged by CIRW enabled 180 students of St. Joseph's School to tour the brick factories of Anekal, where they interacted with migrant workers and gained insights into the dignity of labour and the resilience of the human spirit. Balame-la-2025, jointly organized by CIRW and Jnana Jyothi, saw the participation of 450 children from various study centres, children's clubs, and the brick workers' colony. The success of this vibrant celebration was made possible by the coordinated efforts of the pre-novices, Balajyoti hostel girls, CIRW staff, and tailoring students.

On Constitution Day, CIRW conducted a session on "Rights and Duties" for Self-Help Group women. Students from St Joseph's College of Law held a two-day outreach programme during which they interacted with residents of Karkalgatta and Chudenahalli, learning about the social and legal challenges they encountered and the importance of fostering justice at the grassroots.

The pre-novices extend their condolences to Pre-Novice Prajwal on the loss of his mother and

to Pre-Novice Nishal on the passing of his grandmother. - Sch. Macwin D'Souza

JOSEPH NIVAS, Hassan



The 70th Kannada Rajyotsava Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at St. Joseph's College, with Rajyotsava awardee - our own Fr. Prashanth Madtha - as the chief guest. Students welcomed him with a procession through the town of Hassan on a decorated chariot, accompanied by drums and dance. The EDUNET Foundation conducted an introductory session for female students on potential AI-related career opportunities for women. The annual sports day featured Mr Infant Nishanth, an international volleyball player and alumnus of SJC, Hassan, as the chief guest. More than 60 AICUF students participated in the leadership camp held on campus.

The Jesuit community at Joseph Nivas hosted the Hassan clergy for a fellowship dinner. Fr. Olvin Veigas delivered an online presentation of his research findings on stress management among teaching faculty at an international congress held in Rome from November 17-19, 2025.

St. Joseph's English Medium School organized a mock parliament session to promote leadership

skills among students. A two-day spoken English programme for the staff was conducted by Mr. Sohan. A highlight of the Children's Day celebration was the performance by Yoga Prodigy, 12-year-old Miss Rutvi AM. The Constitution Day celebration, aimed at fostering democratic values, featured Mr Kantaraju, District Child Protection Officer, as the chief guest.

The High School celebrated its annual day on November 29. On December 3, the campus hosted a training session for over 300 selected staff members and officials on improving SSLC results. Senior officials of the education department were present for the session.

Scholastics Wilson, Gladson, and Samuel from Ashakiran conducted a one-day retreat for the Catholic students on campus. They also supported other SJ institutions by offering enriching sessions on spoken English, singing, basketball coaching, study methods, cleanliness, and good manners.

- Fr. Olvin Veigas

LOYOLA MANDIR, Bengaluru



Fr. Royston Pinto conducted a half-day session for the sabbatical group at Prerana on the relationship between bishops and religious. Fr. Ramesh Vanan of the Caribbean Province spent an evening with us at Loyola Mandir. The province archives benefited greatly from the dedicated service of Schs. Royal R. K. and Jayanth Christy from Asha Kiran, who assisted in scanning the old KNLs.

As part of his ministry as vocation promoter, Fr. Pradeep R. S. accompanied a group of Catholic students from SJBHS to Mount St. Joseph for their retreat. Fr. Pradeep R. S. also visited several his-

torical temples in Chennai as part of his academic pursuits. Fr. Olvin Veigas was our guest for a few days while he was in the city for a medical checkup at St. John's Hospital. The Loyola Mandir community shared in the joy of Fr. Jerome D'Souza as he celebrated his platinum birthday at Inigo Sadan.

- Fr. Royston Pinto



LOYOLA PRE-NOVITIATE, Mangaluru



The much-awaited annual tour to Mysore and Mandya finally took place, with the pre-novices setting off with bags full of snacks and hearts full of excitement. Their day at GRS Fantasy Park was filled with pure fun and frolic. A special highlight of the trip was the visit to the Shivanasamudra Hydroelectric Power Plant. The Loyola community remains grateful to the Jesuit communities at Mysore and Pandithahalli, without whose support this tour would not have been as inspiring and

enjoyable as it was.

After weeks of intense practice and lively debates, Loyola Day was celebrated with great joy. Fr. Henry Saldanha presided over the Eucharist. The pre-novices staged a powerful drama titled "Naavu v/s Neevu," written and directed by Fr. Leston. The play addressed the widening generation gap and the pressing need to build bridges of understanding. Parents were moved, delighted,

and at times surprised to see their sons act, dance, sing, and play musical instruments—many of them for the very first time. The event beautifully showcased the hidden talents of every pre-novice and the tireless efforts of the community.

LOYOLA SADAN, Kalaburagi

Kannada Rajyotsava and Children's Day were celebrated with customary festivity and enthusiasm. We were privileged to host Schs. Ajay (PUN) and Andrado (SRI) from Ashakiran, Mangalore, who conducted training sessions for our college and school students in leadership, singing, and related activities. An awareness programme on legal issues and drug-free living was also held in the college, with Fr. Suman Balu and Mr. Hussain Basha (Inspector of Police) serving as resource persons.

The observance of Constitution Day was preceded by a week of competitions for college students. On the day itself, the formal programme featured Dr. Kariguleshwara, Principal of the Government PU College, as the chief guest, and Advocate Ramesh as the principal speaker. The Annual Day was celebrated on November 29 with the theme "Children of Democracy, Leaders of Tomorrow." The dignitaries present included

The director, the regent, and Fr. Roydon collaborated with Fr. Edward Rodrigues to conduct an orientation programme for the students of Carmel ICSE School.

- Sch. Rudolf D'Souza



Shree Jagadguru Dr. Sarangadhara Deshikendra Mahaswamy, Shri Allama Prabhu Patil (MLA, Kalaburagi South), and Rev. Fr. Stany Lobo.



A session on priestly and religious vocations was conducted for Catholic students of the college by Fr. Joseph Jerald, with Schs. Andrado and Ajay as resource persons. Fr. Maxim Misquith attended the 125th anniversary celebration of his home parish in Mangalore.

- Fr. Joseph Jerald A

MAITRI SADHANA, Vijayapura

The Annual Athletic Meet of Loyola School CBSE, Sindagi, featured Mr. Ganesh, a national-level Kabaddi player, as the special guest. The twinning programme brought a group of hostel students from St. Joseph's CBSE School, Bengaluru, giving them an opportunity to interact with their counterparts in Sindagi. The visit of 40 Asha Kiran scholastics, accompanied by Frs. Henry Saldanha and Maxim D'Souza, greatly motivated our students and staff. A well-appreciated gesture by Sangama on Children's Day was the medical camp organised for the children of Loyola School. Constitution Day was observed on November 26, with Mr. Anwar Angadi as the guest speaker.

Sangama CIRD in Sindagi organised key events such as a cricket tournament for rural youth and Children's Gram Sabhas in 12 panchayats, which earned appreciation from government school teachers and headmasters. Its advocacy efforts included participation in the protest on November 17 against the Public-Private model of hospitals. On November 27, twenty CIRD beneficiaries represented Sangama at the Kalotsav held at



St. Joseph's Law College, Bengaluru.

The Chinnara Mela held at Loyola School on November 30 attracted nearly 600 children from villages around Sindagi and focused on raising awareness of the POCSO Act.

CNFE-Bijapur organised a wide range of programmes promoting awareness, empowerment, and community engagement. These included an awareness session on women's rights for 80 participants, staff dynamics and capacity-building programmes for teachers, a jewellery-designing workshop for 40 tailoring students, and outreach initiatives such as health camps, home visits, and visits to PHCs and Anganwadis. Other activities included an inter-religious Deepawali celebration, an immersion programme exposing students to community initiatives, Constitution Day celebrations, and monthly review meetings to evaluate ongoing activities.

At Loyola School, Bijapur, Children's Day celebrations were preceded by various competitions, with prizes presented at a common gathering.

The surprise visit of Fr. Daniel Fernandes, Rector of St. Joseph's Institutions, Bengaluru, and his interaction with the community encouraged students and staff to excel in curricular and co-curricular activities. The Social Science Exhibition by our higher primary students drew a good number of visitors from neighbouring schools. Constitution Day was marked by a quiz on the Preamble of the Constitution. Students and staff went on a study tour to places of interest in Karnataka.

At Loyola PU College, Fr. John Crasta was the chief guest for the annual sports day. Nearly 80 percent of parents and guardians attended the annual PTA meeting. Constitution Day was celebrated through programmes aimed at instilling constitutional values in students. Asha Kiran scholastics on their cultural tour were hosted in the college building.

- Fr. John Thomas

MOUNT ST JOSEPH, Bengaluru



Fr. Rector Jossie D'Mello attended the Colloquium on Discernment in Salamanca, Spain. Fr. Joe Mathias conducted a course on 'Personality Integration' for a group of junior sisters at the Indian Institute of Spirituality, Bengaluru. The Annual Day celebrations of LHPS, LHS, and LPUC were held over three days.

Ignatian spirituality for the staff and addressed AICUF students. An FDP on certificate courses was held in collaboration with SJU faculty. The college fest 'Xperencia' saw participation from several PU colleges.

The second-year Novices have returned from their hospice experiences. The feast day liturgy of St Stanislaus Kostka, the patron of Novices, was presided over by Fr. Ronald Pais, Novice Director, and was followed by a short cultural programme organised by the Novices. A week-long course on prayer was conducted by Fr. Merwyn Fernandes. Fr. Ronald Pais also led a week-long seminar on "Healing the Inner Child" for propaedeutic-year seminarians in Moodubelle. The Novices spent four days at Vidyavanam Ashram, deepening their understanding of Indian forms of prayer.

Children from Loyola Primary School visited the Krushi Mela at GKVK, as well as the Nehru Planetarium and Vidhana Soudha. Two students won prizes in the cluster-level Prathibha Karanji speech competition. Mubarak Asundi of Grade VII secured first place in Pratibhanveshana, hosted by Christ Academy, Begur. Loyolympia 2025, the annual athletic meet of all Loyola institutions, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff.

Staff members from Loyola Degree College visited Jesuit missions in Hangal, Mundgod, Dharwad, and Bijapur. The college organised several events, including Aikyam (Unity Day), Constitution Week, a blood donation camp, Library Day activities, Kannada Rajyotsava, and an eight-day rural camp at Sugganahalli, South Bangalore. Fr. Merwyn Fernandes conducted a session on

Loyola ITI organised a Traffic Awareness Programme on road safety. Following an NGO initiative, experts from Carrier and AC Pvt. Ltd. visited the ITI to plan an advanced Air Conditioning Lab. State awardee Sri Rajesh V. Anekal, a Janapada singer, was the guest for Kannada Rajyotsava Day. Blue Star Ltd. has begun setting up a Skill Development Centre in AC and Refrigeration. Constitution Day was observed with the recitation of the Preamble.

- Fr. Clarence D'Souza

SADHANA, Mundgod



We at LVK Hangal were happy to host scholastics from Asha Kiran, Mangaluru, and Xavier Nilaya, Bengaluru, who spent a week assisting hostel children in Dasankoppa. Fr. Provincial, who was on visitation, inaugurated the 15 kW Solar Project and blessed the newly constructed second floor. Batches of students - two each from SJIM, AIMIT, and SADU - were here for their outreach programme. The LVK team also participated in the Constitution Day celebration organised by Pragathi para Okkuta.

Mundgod at SJC, provided an opportunity for SHGs from various mission centres to come together to display and sell their products. A group of students from AICUF and the PG Departments of St. Aloysius Deemed-to-be University visited LVK-Mundgod and deepened their understanding of social engagement and rural realities.

Students from Loyola School and LCH took part in the Student Parliament for Uttara Kannada, an initiative designed to foster leadership, participation, and democratic values among students. Constitution Day was observed with programmes

highlighting the importance of Constitutional values, rights, and duties.

Loyola Kendriya Vidyalaya (LKV) celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava with great enthusiasm. We were privileged to welcome Ms. Chetan Marla and Ms Chaitra from the Aarunya Team, Bengaluru, who visited our school to monitor and guide the classes conducted by our phonics teachers. The Investiture Ceremony of the newly elected school cabinet was held with Mr. Nyamgyal Ymphel, Principal of Sambota CBSE Tibetan School, as the chief guest. Various competitions and moti-

ational sessions enriched the Constitution Day celebrations.

At Loyola Children's Home, Mundgod, Children's Day was celebrated with Mr. C. A. Vittal Rao as the chief guest. Our hostel students participated in district- and state-level sports events. Kannada Rajyotsava and Constitution Day were observed with patriotic zeal.

The Annual Visitation of the Provincial deepened our sense of mission.

- Fr. Melvin Lobo

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Harihar



St. Aloysius International School and PU College jointly celebrated the 70th Kannada Rajyotsava. The Annual Sports Meet was inaugurated by the chief guest, Mr. Sushruth M. S., a national-level gold medalist in cycling. For Children's Day, the teachers organized a variety of enjoyable activities. Our PUC students brought laurels to the institution by securing first place in singing, essay writing, and science model presentation at Siddaganga College, Davangere.

The I PUC students visited Sudhama Ashram, run by the Mother Teresa Sisters, where they interact-

ed with the residents. The visit fostered empathy, social awareness, and a sense of service among the students. Sports Day for Kindergarten children was conducted separately. The School and PU College observed Constitution Day, emphasizing the importance of the Constitution and its guiding principles. In keeping with the PU Board's directive, St. Aloysius PU College organized a week-long awareness programme (November 19 to 25), focusing on social, cultural, and environmental issues, and encouraging students to reflect on their responsibilities as citizens.

- Fr. John Baptist C

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Mangaluru



Fr. Melwin J. Pinto and Fr. Marcel Rodrigues attended the centenary celebrations of the canonization of St. Thérèse of Lisieux at Bendur Parish. Community members enjoyed a series of performances, beginning with *Chiri, Thees Nanyanchi* (A Purse with Thirty Coins) by Fr. Alwyn Serrao, which won hearts with its sensitive portrayal of pastoral issues. The New Mangalore Port Authority visited the Aloysian campus with an exclusive exhibition.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga School celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava with great enthusiasm and hosted Viva Gonzaga, a lively Children's Day fancy fete. At the AICS Athletics Meet 2025 in Talapady, students secured the Overall Championship. The school also presented a skit and video titled "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully," and organized an input session on good parenting during Open House Day.

St. Aloysius Primary and High School added vibrancy with a lively Children's Day programme

supported by the staff.

Constitution Day was observed across campus units through creative and engaging activities. At the PU College, the month was abuzz with Kannada Rajyotsava, the Aloysian Premier Cricket League, Music Day 2025, Children's Day, Constitution Day, the Annual Day, a study tour by arts students to North Karnataka, and *Planet in Peril*—a compelling street play on environmental concerns.

University Jesuits and staff interacted with Dr. Maura B. Mast of Fordham University, USA.

Fr. Praveen Martis took part in the Jesuits in Higher Education meeting in Kolkata, while several staff members enhanced their skills through various FDPs.

The campus mourned the passing of Fr. Swebert D'Silva, who dedicated 21 years of committed service to the institution, including a decade as Principal of the Autonomous College. May he rest in peace.

- Fr. William M Rodrigues

XAVIER SADAN, Mandya



Fr. Edward Philip attended the meeting of 'Jesuit Counsellors and Psychologists South Zone' at Prerana. He also addressed the students and parents of St. Anne's School, Palahalli on

Children's Day. Fr. Godwin preached retreats for two groups of Religious.

- Fr. Steevan Gonsalves

SATYA NILAYAM, Chennai



Soon after their semester examinations, the philosophy students embarked on a cultural tour of significant places in South India, which proved to be a rich and rewarding experience. We were pleased to welcome our PCF, Fr. Pratap Chandru, who was with us on his official visit.

Scholastics Austin Rodrigues, Anvil Mascarenhas, and Sharun D'Silva presented papers at the SN-JD seminar titled "From Protest to Possibility," which focused on youth and ethics.

During the month, we also joined in prayer with Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, who lost his elder sister, Leena Fernandes. May her soul rest in peace.

Even as I prepare to send this brief news report, I wish to share that Fr. Dionysius Vaz, our Provincial, has just arrived at SN for his annual visitation. We Karnatakans are looking forward to meeting him and drawing inspiration from him.

- Sch. Joshua Fred Lobo

VIDYANIKETAN, Thiruvananthapuram



The VN staff accompanied the Juniors on a visit to Loyola School, Mukundara, to view the science exhibition, followed by a trip to Neyyar Dam. We also had a two-day workshop on the art of listening and comprehension, conducted by Fr. Anush D'Cunha. In addition, we attended a webinar based on Fr. John Dardis' reflections on the recent Meeting of Major Superiors of the Society of Jesus held at the Vatican.

A talk by Fr. Sunny Jose (KER), offering an overview of historically significant places in Central Kerala, helped prepare us for a meaningful cultural tour. We were also privileged to have Fr.



Dionysius Vaz, our Provincial, with us for three days during his annual visitation, giving us an opportunity to count our blessings and reflect on our life and mission.

- Sch. Lestern D'Souza

VINAYALAYA, Mumbai



We began the second semester with a course on speech and drama conducted by Mr. Conan

Pereira. We were glad to welcome Fr. Pratap Chandru, our PCF, during his official visit. As part of the annual jubilee celebrations of the Jesuits of the Bombay Province, we felicitated the senior Jesuits who have laboured faithfully in the Lord's vineyard. The course on pastoral management and leadership skills, led by Mr. Adrian Rosario, offered us valuable insights into the present realities of the Church and society.

- Sch. Adarsh Paul

ARRUPE HOUSE, Kandy



It has been nearly three months since Teyol and I arrived in Kandy. In September, we had several guest speakers who introduced us to the history, culture, religions, and current context of Sri

Lanka. In preparation for the Long Retreat, we attended a course on the Autobiography of St. Ignatius and made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. After the retreat, we visited

the Shrine of St. Joseph Vaz, followed by a few days of study on the Spiritual Exercises. Our weekend visit to Batticaloa offered an enriching opportunity to meet many Jesuits of Sri Lanka. Upon our return, we devoted time to studying the spiritual diary of St Ignatius and participated in a course on Non-Violent Communication.

Cyclone Ditwah, which devastated Sri Lanka, is among the worst natural disasters the island has experienced in recent times. The death toll has now exceeded 600, with hundreds more reported missing. The destruction of infrastructure has been extensive, with roads, power lines, and

communication networks severely affected. Rescue and rehabilitation efforts are ongoing, and many Jesuits are actively involved in the relief and recovery work.

As part of our tertianship “experiments,” Teyol is serving with the Little Sisters of the Poor in Colombo, while I am assisting the MC Sisters in Kurunegala.

Kindly pray for the people of Sri Lanka during these difficult times.

- Fr. Antony Pais

SHEMBAGANUR, Tamil Nadu



The October pilgrimage took the Tertians to Vailankanni, to the Shrine of Our Lady of Health, where they had the enriching experience of celebrating the Eucharist in multiple languages - Telugu, Konkani, English, Hindi, Tamil, and Kannada. The group also undertook a pilgrimage along the southern coastal belt of Tamil Nadu, retracing the missionary footsteps of St. Francis Xavier.

In early November, we were visited by the POSA who, while listening to us and encouraging us, also shared the broader vision of the Conference in the light of RRSJSA. We were privileged to have enriching sessions with eminent Jesuits such as Fr. Jerry Rosario and Fr. Joe Arun, whose thought-provoking classes challenged and inspired us, deepening our love for the Society. Other valuable courses by guest Jesuits focused on Safeguarding and Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults, Social Communication, Temporal Administration, and Ecology.

The final days of the Tertianship were marked by an exciting event - Balamela. Around 275 children participated enthusiastically in a variety of games and cultural performances. With generous support from benefactors, the Tertians organized the entire programme with great care. Every child returned home with a school bag and gifts, their smiles reflecting a day filled with joyful memories.



After a day-long pilgrimage to La Salette, the Tertians entered into a Triduum guided by Fr. Santosh Minj. This period of silence and discernment became a fitting culmination to their journey in the “school of the heart.”

- Fr. Jeevan Gomes K A

OURS IN PUBLICATION

Fr Ajay Nelson D'Silva, “Waiting: Bliss or Bane? A Deep and Practical Reflection for the Season of Advent” in *Daijiword Network*, on Dec 03 2025.

Fr Ajay Nelson D'Silva, “One and a Half Saar! – The Daily Auto Comedy” in *Daijiword Network*, on Dec 12 2025.

Sch. Arun Lobo, “ರಕ್ಷಣಾಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ರಕ್ಷಕನ ತಾಯಿ”, *Tabor Vaani*, Vol. 13, Issue 12, December (2025), p. 15.

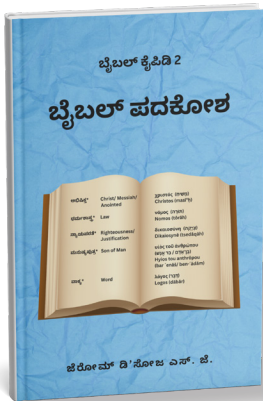
Sch. Royster Monis, “ದೇವರಿಂದ ದೇವರು, ಬೆಳಕಿನಿಂದ ಬೆಳಕು: ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತ ಜಯಂತಿಯ ಸುದಿನ, ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತನ ಮನುಷ್ಯಾವತಾರವನ್ನು ಅರಿಯಲು ಸಾಧನ”, *Tabor Vaani*, Vol. 13, Issue 12, December (2025), pp. 13-14.

Fr. Royston Pinto, Children’s Day: Are Children Safe Today? *Krista Prakash*, Vol. 14, November (2025) 8, pp. 20-21.

Fr. Royston Pinto, Safeguarding the Dignity and Safety of Children Today, *Indian Currents*, Vol. 37, November (2025) 45, pp. 28-31.

Fr. Royston Pinto, Holiness in the Life of the Church, Smart Companion, Vol. 15, November (2025), pp. 7-9.

Fr. Jerome D'Souza: ಬೈಬಲ್ ಪದಕೋಶ – ಬೈಬಲ್ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ ೨, St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru 2025.



**Hearty Congratulations
to
Fr. Jerome D'Souza, on his
new Book**



REST IN PEACE

Fr. Swebert D'Silva, SJ, (KAR), 68/50, on 20 November 2025, in Bengaluru.

Fr. Kustas Lima, SJ, (GOA), 50/27, on 07 November 2025, in Goa.

Fr. Joseph Kochupura, SJ, (DEL), 85/65, on 19 November 2025, in Jaipur.

Fr. Joseph Njarakulam, SJ, (PAT), 85/61, on 21 November 2025, in Patna.

Fr. Lawrence Tirkey, SJ, (HAZ), 72/52, on 23 November 2025, in Ranchi.

Fr. Joseph Ovelil SJ, (GUJ), 92/70, on 26 November 2025, in Vadodara.

Fr. Dominic Devraj, SJ, (BOM), 84/60, on 05 December 2025, in Mumbai.

Br. Amalraj Michael, SJ, (MDU), 82/63, on 11 December 2025, in Dindigul.

Fr. Bereciartua (Beretxi) Iñaki, SJ, (GUJ), 90/73, on 12 December 2025, in Spain.

Fr. Agapit Tirkey, SJ, (MAP), 81/60, on 12 December 2025, in Chhattisgarh.

Dr. Celine Lobo (96), w/o late Dr Lawrence Lobo, benefactor of the province, on 08 December 2025, in Mangaluru.

FR SWEBERT D'SILVA, SJ (68/50) (12 March 1957 – 20 November 2025)

Just a week ago, we stood together celebrating Fr Swebert's Golden Jubilee in the Society of Jesus. I remember watching him that day—quiet, content, surrounded by his family members and friends—and none of us could have imagined that within a few days we would gather again, not in joy, but in grief, to bid adieu to him and to commend him to God. Life can be painfully swift, and today our hearts feel that heaviness.



Dear brothers and sisters, I speak to you not only as a fellow Jesuit but as someone who has known Swebert for more than fifty years. My first memories of him go back to 1972, when a young boy from Udyavar came to St Aloysius for his Pre-University studies. I was a young scholastic then, and I remember him as a quiet, earnest student with a gentle smile. Our paths crossed again in 1979 when he returned as a scholastic and I happened to be his Chemistry lecturer. Even then, his sincerity and steadiness and his commitment to studies stood out.

Over the years, our Jesuit journeys kept bringing us back together. In 1983, when I was at St Joseph's College after my ordination, he came to St Joseph's Boys' High School as a regent in charge of the big dormitory. Many of his old students are here today—they remember him not just as a strict regent, but as someone who genuinely cared for them.

Later, when he began teaching at St Aloysius College, we again found ourselves working side by side. Those were years of real camaraderie—years, when sometimes we used to go for a walk and have masala dosas!- I saw up close his dedication, his hard work, and his deep love for education. When he became Principal of the PU College, and later Principal of St Aloysius College from 2007 to 2017, I watched him grow into an outstanding administrator and an educationist. He was firm when he had to be, but never harsh; disciplined, yet deeply human.

I still remember the excitement in his voice when he first spoke about the idea of St Aloysius becoming a university. It was not a passing thought—it was a dream he carried, nurtured, and worked for, year after year. The process he began when he was principal, that dream is today a reality.

When he moved to Bengaluru in 2017 to establish St Joseph's Law College, I saw the same quiet determination in him. And when he became Rector of St Joseph's College in the difficult COVID

years, he carried that responsibility with humility, strength, and deep faith showing care for the victims of Covid by establishing a centre for their treatment at St Joseph's. As Pro-Chancellor of St Joseph's University, he continued that same spirit of service.

But beyond all his achievements and positions, what I remember most—and what I will miss deeply—is the person he was.

At his core, Fr Swebert was first and foremost a Jesuit—a deeply committed religious, disciplined in his life, yet gentle and understanding in his dealings with others. As Pro-Chancellor of St Joseph's University and Rector of Arrupe Nivas, he was caring, considerate, and unfailingly supportive. His leadership at the national level as Coordinator for Jesuit Higher Education was also significant, shaping the growth and mission of Jesuit academic institutions across India.

Fr Swebert was a man on principles, grace and legitimate love. That is what many of his colleagues have beautifully expressed in their condolence messages. Though he demanded strict discipline from his subordinates, he was kind and compassionate and loving. This is what they had to say.

One said:

"Even though he was a disciplinarian, he was kind-hearted and had a deep concern for the down-trodden."

Another wrote:

"He combined discipline with compassion. We have lost a noble soul."

Yet another colleague described him in words that touched me deeply:

"He was not only a superior, but a moral and spiritual anchor in my life."

A long-time colleague added:

"He was a true disciplinarian, an astute administrator, and an excellent financial manager. He set benchmarks for quality and efficiency. He consulted everyone before launching any new venture. Beneath his stern exterior was a deeply affectionate and considerate human being. He was not only a superior but a moral and spiritual anchor in my life."

These are not casual compliments. They come from people who journeyed with him, worked with him, and were formed by him.

And then, there was his simplicity. Many of you know his love for animals. I can still picture his pet dog quietly lying in his office while he worked—completely at ease because it knew it was loved. At Arrupe Nivas too, Alsi, Whyti, and earlier Wilsie were his constant companions. They will miss him terribly. Animals know when they are loved, and he loved them with childlike tenderness.

He was also a man of deep, unfaltering faith. Early mornings he would be in the Chapel before anyone could come for Mass. Jesuit spirituality was the backbone of his life. It shaped his decisions, his leadership, and his relationships. He was also instrumental in initiating JESCOL program which introduces the faculty members who joined the Institutions afresh to Jesuit history, spirituality and educational philosophy, characteristics and ethos.

Just yesterday, when he came to know that Fr Swebert was no more, Mr Anand Nayak, a close friend of his and a Jesuit Collaborator wrote so beautifully:

"I regard Fr Swebert as a man of substance—a Jesuit of deep faith, rooted in the values of St Ignatius, a champion of the marginalized, a visionary educator, and above all, a compassionate human being."

Today, as I stand here, I realise how difficult it is to sum up a life like his—a life full of quiet goodness, steady commitment, and gentle strength. He leaves behind not only institutions that bear his mark but also hundreds of lives he touched in unseen ways.

For me personally, it is the loss of a brother, a colleague, a friend of many decades. Someone whose presence I took for granted, someone whose quiet smile and calm voice I will miss in the corridors of Arrupe Nivas. The rest of us mourn the loss of a confrere, a leader, a mentor, a teacher, a friend. But we also celebrate a life lived generously, purposefully, and in service of God and His people.

We entrust him today to the God he served so faithfully.

May he now rest in the peace he so richly deserves

- Fr. Denzil Lobo

(Delivered on 22 November 2025 at SJU Grounds, Arrupe Nivas, Bengaluru)

**Fr Provincial and Loyola Mandir Community
wish all the readers of KS, a very Happy Christmas
and a Hope-filled New Year-2026
May the Babe of Bethlehem bless each one of you!**