



KS Vol. 99 No. 01

KARNATAKA JESUIT PROVINCE

January 2026

PROVINCIAL'S MUSINGS

The New Year opens before us as both gift and call — a moment to pause in gratitude and to step forward with renewed hope, deeper faith, and fresh apostolic energy. As we begin 2026, the grace of the Christmas season still lingers among us, reminding us that God continues to pitch His tent in our midst, often quietly, always faithfully.

The recent letter of our Father General, *Confirmed in the Charism, Sent on a Mission of Reconciliation and Justice*, offers us a timely and consoling horizon for this new beginning. Rooted in the experience of the Major Superiors' Meeting and the audience with Pope Leo XIV, the letter re-centres us firmly on what gives life to the Society: familiarity with Jesus, availability for mission, and courage to serve at the frontiers. We are reminded that we are not owners of the mission, but humble collaborators in Christ's reconciling work — servants sent with others, for others.

Across the Province, the reports of the past month speak eloquently of this living charism. From our formation houses to schools, colleges, parishes, social centres, and outreach programmes, we see communities alive with prayer, collaboration, creativity, and generous service. Christmas celebrations were not merely festive events but moments of encounter — with the poor, the elderly, the young, the vulnerable, and people of other faiths. These simple yet profound gestures embody the hope we are called to nurture in a fractured world.

At the same time, the beginning of the year invites us to responsible discernment and planning. The ongoing work of budgets, evaluations in view of RRSJSA post-process, and preparations for the next academic year is not a mere administrative exercise; it is an apostolic task. As Fr. General reminds us, *cura apostolica* and *cura personalis* must go together. Our planning must therefore be realistic yet faith-filled, attentive to sustainability, and collaborative with mission partners, as well as the long-term formation of persons and institutions entrusted to us.

The months ahead will call us to walk together — Jesuits and collaborators — in a spirit of synodality, especially as we engage new frontiers: the digital world, care for creation, safeguarding, accompaniment of young people, and vocation promotion. The vitality evident in our ministries, the generosity of our companions, and the dedication of our communities give us every reason for hope.

As pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee year, may we allow the Spirit to renew our inner freedom, rekindle our missionary boldness, and deepen our joy in serving the Lord. Anchored in the charism received from St Ignatius, and encouraged by the Church, let us move forward with confidence, trusting that the One who has begun this good work in us will bring it to completion. I wish you all a grace-filled New Year.



- FR DIONYSIUS VAZ, SJ



APPOINTED/APPROVED BY FR GENERAL

Fr. Pudota R. John Susai Raj (AND), as the new Provincial of Andhra Province
Fr. Edwin Anthony for the profession of final vows in the Society of Jesus

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

January 2026

02-03: Visitation: SRN (Pandithahalli)
04-06: RRSJSA Task Force Workshop: Prerana (B'luru)
07-08: Visitation: Ashirvad (Bengaluru)
09-10: Visitation: Xavier Sadan (Mysuru)
12: Visitation: SAC, Harihar
14: Province Consult: LM (Bengaluru)
15-16: Visitation: Loyola Sadan (Kalaburagi)
17-19: Visitation: De Nobili College (Pune)
20-21: Visitation: Manmad
21-23: Visitation: Vinayalaya (Mumbai)
25: Meeting with Regents: Bikkodu (Hassan)
26: Young Priests' meeting (after tertianship) in FRH
27: Death Anniversary of Juliet Vaz (Mangaluru)

31: PhD Scholars Symposium: SJU (Bengaluru)

February 2026

02-03: Visitation: Jnana Jyothi (Anekal)
05-07: Visitation: Arrupe Nivas (Bengaluru)
08-09: Province Consult (Budgets): LM (Bengaluru)
11-12: Visitation: Loyola Mandir (Bengaluru)
13: Scholarship Awarding Ceremony: SJU (B'luru)
15: Training Programme for Campus Ministres
19: GB meeting of St Joseph's Seminary
Visiting new Priests (Mangaluru)
20: Visiting new Priests (Basrur, Byndoor, Sagar, Shimoga)
22-28: JCSA (Kolkata)

CONGRATULATIONS

Fr. General has approved **Fr. Edwin Anthony** for the profession of final vows in the Society of Jesus. Fr. Edwin works in the interior of Guyana.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

26 Jan 2026: Young Priests' meeting (after tertianship) in FRH
31 Jan 2026: PhD Scholars Symposium: SJU (Bengaluru)
15 Feb 2026: Training Programme for Campus Ministers
10 Mar 2026: Final date to submit the evaluation of all ministries
20-22 Mar 2026: Post Process of RRSJSA in Prerana

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK (PWP): JANUARY 2026

For prayer with the Word of God: Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be a nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



KJES YOUTH WORKS (PCYM)



A significant highlight of the month was the participation of AICUF Karnataka State Council members in the 37th AICUF National Council held in Bhopal. The gathering brought together student leaders from across the country and provided a meaningful platform for dialogue on the AICUF student movement, social justice, leadership formation, and nation-building.

Fr. Dionysius Vaz, the Provincial, assisted by Fr. Merwyn Fernandes, conducted an online session on Campus Ministry on December 13. The session focused on offering guidelines to encourage active student participation in campus-based youth movements within Jesuit institutions.

AICUF Karnataka organized a Christmas celebration on December 21 at the AiR Humanitarian Home, Bannerghatta, with the aim of spreading joy, love, and companionship among the elderly residents. In another significant celebration, the North East Catholic Community of Bengaluru (NECCB) celebrated Christmas at Xavier's Hall, with around 400 faithful gathered in prayer and fellowship. The Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Denzil Lobo, who offered brief yet profound reflections on the meaning of Christmas. This was followed by a vibrant cultural programme. The community meal, featuring special North-Eastern dishes, brought the celebration to a joyful conclusion.

- Fr. Merwyn Fernandes

MID-LIFE TRANSITION PROGRAMME-PRERANA



The enlightening Mid-Life Transition Programme, held from January 9 to 11 at Prerana and led by Fr. Jose Parappully SDB, had 18 participants. God gives a very precious gift called life, and the way one lives it varies from one person to another based on one's attitudes and inner dispositions.



The gradual slowdown that follows post-midlife is a natural fact of life. Yet, the midlife transition can be a graceful experience if one is willing to embrace both the past and the present, even though

they might differ in some ways, in a positive spirit. The programme highlighted that the practice of gratitude and the attitude of positivity are among the strongest remedies for almost every struggle in life. The participants were led to build a spirituality that combines gratitude, positivity, integrity and surrender as its foundation. Throughout the programme, the secrets of a happy and significant mid-life and even post-midlife journey were wonderfully unveiled, resulting in participants being greatly enriched and inspired. The time spent for reading, reflecting, and contemplating together with our Emmaus walk in pairs helped us not only to absorb the lessons but also to attain a higher level of self-knowledge. The participants were grateful to the provincial and Prerana team for organising this programme.

- Fr. Vincent Pinto

ARRUPE NIVAS, Bengaluru



Fr. Victor Lobo has been appointed as a member of the Karnataka Minority Commission and also to the PM 15-Point State Level Committee. He was invited by the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce as a distinguished educationist. The Centre for Religion and Culture (CRC), St. Joseph's University, hosted Dr. Brent Howitt Otto SJ of Holy Cross College, USA, for a guest lecture on the historical development of an Anglo-Indian identity. Fr. Bala Kiran SJ, Director of CRC, delivered a lecture on religious harmony, addressing contemporary challenges to interreligious coexistence and emphasizing dialogue, mutual respect, and shared civic responsibility as essential foundations for social cohesion in a pluralistic society.

The ten-day Human Rights Celebration 2025 provided students with opportunities to creatively express their perspectives on key human rights issues. In observance of World AIDS Day, the Youth Red Cross conducted an HIV Test Awareness flash mob to promote public understanding of HIV. Members of the Interreligious Harmony

group visited the Senior Citizens' Home on Hosur Road, run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, to spread Christmas cheer among the elderly residents. Funds collected during the campus Christmas celebration were used to provide cakes, chocolates, snacks, and fruits to the children at Anatha Shishu Sevashram, Wilson Garden. Volunteers from the NSS Unit also conducted anti-child trafficking awareness programmes in some of the city's slums.

As part of the Christmas outreach programme, members of the Arrupe Nivas community visited the Dream India Network Care Home, where they shared the joy of Christmas with nearly 300 underprivileged children. Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation were organized to help Catholic students prepare spiritually for Christmas. Fr. Bala Kiran delivered an inspiring message to all students at the Christmas Soiree, and a carol night was held in the hostel.

- Fr. Aravind Royce

ASHA KIRAN, Mangaluru



We were happy to welcome the Provincials of Jamshedpur and Pune, along with the PCF of Delhi, who visited Asha Kiran to meet their respective scholastics. On December 11, the KHM Region Mass was celebrated. As Christmas approached, the community atmosphere gradually became joyful and festive. On December 22, the community went together to visit neighbouring families of all faiths, singing carols and sharing kuswar. Following the Midnight Mass of the Nativity

of the Lord on December 24, a grand community celebration was held on Christmas Day.

On December 30, Fr. Charles Lasrado celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination with his dear ones at the Asha Kiran campus. The month concluded with a community picnic. We had our triduum of renovation from December 29 to 31 at Rishivana, guided by Fr. Frederick D'Silva.

- Sch. Avin Fernandes

ASHIRVAD, Bengaluru



As part of the JESCOL-II programmes organised at Ashirvad by Fr. Brian Pereira, about 60 staff members from Jesuit colleges participated. The Christmas programme for Spandana volunteers, organised by the Ashirvad CSC, was coordinated by Fr. Arul Antony. A similar programme was organised by the Richmond Town Zone of the CRI for about 250 migrants at St. Joseph's PU College, Anekal, with Fr. Elvis Lewis as the coordinator.

Other initiatives of the Ashirvad CSC during December focused on child welfare, Bala Mela 2025, Christmas programmes, volunteer formation, community outreach, and the promotion of

social harmony. Health awareness programmes for students were conducted with the support of doctors from St. Philomena's Hospital. The CSC also took part in multi-faith celebrations of Christmas and New Year, fostering unity and inclusiveness.

Under the auspices of JESCOM, three Jesuits – Fr. Anthony Arul, Fr. Surthani Vijay (AND), and Fr. Adul Thomas (KER) - participated in a five-day film shoot at Pulivendula for a forthcoming film on the Two Standards (from the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius).

- Fr. Elvis C Lewis

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE, Mangaluru



The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was observed with a half-day Eucharistic Adoration at the Divine Mercy Church. Fr. Chetan Lobo, OFM (Cap), guided a recollection for the Santrupti Jesuit Community in preparation for Christmas. Fr. Fredrick D'Silva delivered a talk on *Dilexit Te* at FRH, which drew nearly 150 religious men and women from the city. He also guided the triduum for the Asha Kiran Scholastics at Rishivana.

Christmas celebrations at FRH were inclusive and joyful, with collaborators and their families sharing in the festive spirit. The Christmas get-together of Jesuits and their relatives had close to 150 participants. The Christmas Masses at the Shrine and at the Divine Mercy Church, presided over by Fr. Paul Coelho, SJ, and Fr. Aniso, SDB, respectively, were well attended. Similarly, the New Year Masses in Konkani and English were celebrated by Frs. Vishwas Misquith and Sujay Daniel, respectively.

Fr. Joseph Monteiro directed retreats for a few Jesuits and Sisters. A one-day value education seminar was conducted for the staff of St. Joseph's High School, Kankanady, run by the Bethany Sisters. The resource persons for the seminar were Frs. Edward Rodrigues, Don Prem Lobo, and Ajay D'Silva. During the seminar, Scholastic Rudolf D'Souza shared several helpful insights on effective study methods.

Fr. Edward Rodrigues attended the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Sacred Heart High School, Shimoga, where he had earlier served as Principal. He also preached a triduum for the Arrupe Nivas Scholastics and young priests. Fr. Norbert Fernandes participated in the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Sedam Parish in the Gulbarga Diocese. Frs. Maxim Rasquinha and Raymond D'Souza (KHM) are residing at FRH ad tempus.

- Fr. Edward Rodrigues

HOMBELAKU, Manvi



In observance of AIDS Day, the Centre for Social Concern joined hands with Loyola Degree College and the Loyola Health Centre to organize a Health Awareness Campaign. A rally was held in Chimlapur village, in collaboration with the SJPU students of Bangalore, to mark Human Rights Day.

Both Loyola School and St. Xavier's School celebrated their Annual Day and Sports Day, showcasing the students' energy, discipline, and sportsmanship. The Hostel Day added to the fes-

tive spirit. The PU College students shared the joy of Christmas with the elderly residents of the senior citizens' home, Neralu.

The Hombelaku Jesuit community visited Punitha Punyashrama, Sindhanur, a home for the destitute and the elderly, and shared the joy of Christmas with the inmates. The month concluded with a Christmas celebration with the staff communities of all our institutions at Jagir Pannur Parish.

- Sch. Anthony Jackson

INIGO SADAN, Bengaluru



During the month of December, the scholastics contributed actively to community life by setting up the Christmas crib and decorating the house. They also made a valuable contribution to the digitization of historical documents in the Province archives under the guidance of Fr. Arun Kumar, the Province Archivist, and Fr. Royston Pinto, the Assistant Archivist. The scholastics' carol troupe was warmly received by neighbouring communities and institutions, including St. Patrick's Church, the MCC Sisters, and the SND Sisters. The Community's Christmas Outreach programme was held at the Sumanahalli Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre. Inigo Sadan and Loyola Mandir communities jointly celebrated Christmas, with Fr. Periya (PAT) as the main celebrant at the festive Eucharist.

St. Joseph's Indian Primary School (SJIPS) combined the celebrations of Christmas and its Annual Day. St. Joseph's Indian High School (SJHS) continued its emphasis on integral formation. The Annual Alumni Meet brought together

over 1,000 alumni, while the Annual Day was celebrated with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Outreach initiatives engaged students through CLC and the Interact Club. St. Joseph's Indian Composite PU College (SJCPUC) observed AIDS Day with programmes promoting awareness and solidarity, and the Twinning Programme enabled a group of students to visit Vijayapura.

St. Joseph's School CBSE (SJS-CBSE) observed Constitution Day and hosted the annual Science and Mathematics exhibition. The school also welcomed students and staff from Loyola School, Sindagi, as part of the Student Exchange Programme. Students of St. Joseph Skill Academy (SJSA) made an outreach visit to a Senior Citizens' Home on Hosur Road and participated in the Traffic Awareness Drive organized by St. Joseph's University. The month concluded with a joyful celebration of Christmas.

- Sch. Denver A. Pushpam

JESUIT NIVAS, Bengaluru



In preparation for Christmas, the community engaged in several outreach initiatives, including a visit to Jyothi Seva School for the Blind, participation in celebrations organised by various units, and active involvement in pastoral ministries.

Faculty members of SJCC took part in a two-day Faculty Development Programme organised by XIME, Bengaluru. The Research Centre, in collaboration with the MSME of the Government of India, inaugurated a seven-day workshop on research methodology. Naisha Shetty brought national recognition to the institution by winning four silver medals in swimming at the Khelo India University Games.

SJCL observed Human Rights Week with a three-day series of programmes that included extempore speeches and a panel discussion on human rights. The college also hosted Chithara, an intercollegiate cultural fest that saw the participation of over 400 students from 32 colleges. Continuing the spirit of Christmas, the college organised a special programme for widows from the slums of KS Garden and Kothanur. The faculty and staff marked the season with a visit to St. Joseph's Home for special children.

SJIM celebrated the joy of Christmas with a vi-

brant programme organised by the students, followed by a warm and joyful fellowship of the staff with the members of the Jesuit Nivas community. As an expression of the festive spirit, students visited Asha Niketan Home, spent time with the special children, and shared Christmas gifts with them.

At SJPUC, Sports Day served as a prelude to the Valedictory Ceremony, which formally concluded the activities of the Student Council for the academic year. As a special feature, the Christmas celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from both staff and students at SJPUC and SJE-PUC. College Day further enriched the month by recognising student achievements in academics, sports, and co-curricular activities.

At SJBHS, formative and celebratory events included an Anti-Drug Awareness Talk by the Bengaluru Police, an Inter-Faith Retreat led by Fr. Anil Almeida SJ, and students' participation in the National Robotics League at IIT Bombay. Interactions with alumni further enriched learning in STEM disciplines and supported career guidance. The institution remains grateful for God's blessings and looks forward to the New Year with hope and renewed commitment.

- Fr. Shanthraj A.

JNANA JYOTHI, Anekal

Before leaving for home for Christmas, the pre-novices prepared a crib on the theme "Barren fades and bloom begins," inviting reflection on hope and new life. They also contributed in their own small way to the College Annual Day celebrations and reached out to the families of the poor in nearby villages through carol singing. We are grateful to Fr. Pradeep RS for conducting the monthly recollection on the theme, Rejoice at Christ's Birth.

The parish community of St. Joseph's Church was well prepared for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord. Nourished by Advent reflections and by the celebration of the feast of the Holy Rosary - during which the 'theru' procession drew over 500 devotees inspired by a stirring homily by Fr. Ashwin Cordeiro - the faithful were well attuned to the joy of Christmas. Fr. Antony Dass delivered an inspiring homily at the solemn Mass. Nearly 4,000 people of other faiths visited the church throughout the day, had *darshan* of the Infant Jesus in the crib, and received blessings. We are



thankful to Frs. Ronald Pais and Arun Lobo, Scholastic Divij, and the Brothers of the Holy Family Congregation for imparting Christmas blessings to the visiting devotees. The New Year was ushered in with a vigil followed by the festive New Year Mass.

St. Joseph's School celebrated its Annual Day on December 12, with Mr. S. Jaganathrao Bahule, writer, as the chief guest. The staff and students also came together to celebrate Christmas through simple gift sharing.

The Annual Day of St. Joseph's PU College was held on December 13, with Mr. Adhur Prakash, President of the Kannada Sahitya Parishad, Anekal, as the chief guest. At the Christmas celebration, Sr. Sonia Alexander, Headmistress of St. Joseph's High School, Hosuru Road, shared her Christmas message, highlighting the significance of the crib, the star, decorations, and above all, the spirit of gift exchange.

- Sch. Macwin D'Souza

JOSEPH NIVAS, Hassan

All the units of St. Joseph's, Hassan came together for a joyful Christmas and year-end celebration. Community members also extended their support to various parishes during the Christmas season.

In collaboration with the Bharathiya Gnana Center, St. Joseph's English Medium School organized an inter-school Mathematics Fest on December 12 at our premises, with the participation of eight schools. Dr. Sudhakar K. B. of the Government Science College was the chief guest for the occasion. Another memorable event of the month was the Annual Day celebration on December 22, graced by the presence of International Booker Prize-winning author and activist Mrs. Banu Mushtaq as the chief guest. The cultural programme was marked by a shadow play and a prayer dance performed by the KG students.



The Christmas celebration with the staff included cake and gift distribution and carol singing.

St. Joseph's Boys' Hostel also celebrated Christmas along with Hostel Day, fostering a spirit of joy, kindness, and helpfulness among the students. The beautifully crafted Christmas crib, created by the hostel boys, drew widespread appreciation. The festivities concluded with a heart-warming expression of brotherhood and generosity, truly reflecting the spirit of Christmas.

- Fr. Olvin Veigas

LOYOLA MANDIR, Bengaluru

Frs. Jeevan Gomes and Lumnesh Swaroop Kumar J joined the Loyola Mandir community ad tempus after completing their tertianship. The Provincial and his team from the MP Province spent a few days with us to learn about the best practices followed in our Province. Fr. Paulraj of the Kohima Province was our guest for a short while. The Jesuits of Loyola Mandir and Inigo Sadan came



together for carol singing in the neighbouring religious houses.

Despite being busy preparing material related to matrimonial annulment cases, Fr. Royston Pinto also completed a certificate course on the Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults. Loyola Mandir can take pride in an artistic Christmas crib, thanks to the creative efforts of Fr. Pradeep RS. The Loyola Mandir and Inigo Sadan communities also joined together for the Christmas celebration. A welcome visitor during the last week of



December was Fr Bernard Burgler, former Provincial of the Central European Province.

- Fr. Royston Pinto

LOYOLA PRE-NOVITIATE, Mangaluru



The registration formalities for the newly acquired parcel of land adjoining Loyola were completed in early December. Accompanied by their Director and Regent, the pre-novices cleared the land of shrubbery and levelled it, transforming what was once a wilderness into a space reminiscent of a highway prepared for the Lord. Lights, glitter, and joy adorned the campus, and a beautiful Christmas crib took shape in the quadrangle.

homes and returned by evening to their larger home at Loyola, where the celebrations continued with the exchange of gifts, laughter, and a joyful Christmas dinner. The Vocation Camp for high school boys proved vibrant and engaging, holding much promise for the future. Soon after, the pre-novices departed for their holidays and returned in time to face their preparatory examinations.

- Sch. Rudolf D'Souza

The pre-novices spent Christmas morning at their

LOYOLA SADAN, Kalaburagi



Two members of our teaching staff participated in the JESCOL-3 Seminar held at Ashirvad, Bengaluru, from December 11 to 13. In preparation for

Christmas, the institution organized an inter-religious prayer meeting on December 19, during which prominent leaders of various faiths shared messages of peace and harmony.



The school children enjoyed a one-day picnic to Asian Fun World. The Pre-Primary students celebrated Yellow Day, Blue Day, and Red Day, making their learning experience colourful, lively, and joyful.

- Fr. Joseph Jerald A

MAITRI SADHANA, Vijayapura



In December, Sangama CIRD conducted programmes on adolescent issues for high school and PUC students in four selected government schools. Human Rights Day was observed in collaboration with the Sangama Court team. An interreligious Christmas programme was organized on December 21 for Devadasi mothers, HIV-affected children, and differently abled persons, during which nearly 150 ration kits were distributed as Christmas gifts. A special dinner for government officials and media personnel was held on December 22, during which mementos were presented as tokens of appreciation for their continued support to Sangama and its beneficiaries.

The Centre for Non-Formal Education (CNFE) carried out various programmes focusing on skill development, health awareness, and community empowerment. CNFE also organized an AIDS Day programme in collaboration with St. Joseph Community Health Centre to promote health awareness. Chinnara Mela brought together around 600 children in a joyful atmosphere of games, entertainment, and health awareness activities. The observance of Disability Day promoted dignity and inclusiveness. Monthly review meetings of the Domestic Workers Union strengthened coordination, reflection, and planning of action. Interreligious celebrations of Christmas and New Year fostered harmony and

unity among people of diverse faiths.

The Advent and Christmas celebrations at St. Anne's Church included a spiritual retreat, carol singing, Christmas celebrations with the Christubhaktas, and Christmas with the prisoners. On Christmas Day, nearly twelve thousand people visited the church throughout the day to receive blessings, made possible through the cooperation of Jesuits, women religious, and parishioners.

At Prathibha Karanji, students of Loyola English Medium School won several prizes at the taluk level. Fr. Norbert Fernandes was a welcome guest

with us for a short visit. As part of the twinning programme, students of St. Joseph's Indian High School interacted with our students. Mr. Salimath Virayya, DDPI of Vijayapura, was the chief guest at the Annual Sports Day held on December 13.

The joint celebration of Christmas and the School Annual Day was held on December 23. Mr. Vittal Katakdhond, MLA of Nagathan, was the chief guest, while the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the BEO were the guests of honour. Our Scouts and Guides attended a week-long camp at Belagavi.

- Fr. John Thomas

MOUNT ST JOSEPH, Bengaluru



We had a meaningful and grace-filled preparation for Christmas. The entire MSJ community - seniors and novices - went carol singing to AiR, a home for the destitute at Bannerghatta; to Premasadan, the Working Women's Hostel at Chikkakamanhalli; and to neighbouring religious houses. We shared a warm and homely Christmas fellowship with all our co-workers. The Christmas gathering with the staff of our Loyola institutions was marked by cordiality and cheer.

Our novices were invited to a carol competition organized by Holy Spirit PU College and won the second prize. We also accompanied the Holy Spirit Sisters on a visit to Cadabams, a centre for the differently abled, to share the joy of Christmas with the inmates. Fr. Regin Joseph (KHM) offered an insightful talk on his life and experiences

in the Society of Jesus. The novices, along with Fr. Master, undertook a pilgrimage on foot to Anekal to the tomb of Fr. Manuel D'Cunha.

Fr. Joe Mathias conducted a three-hour session for 50 members of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales from India and abroad, including the Superior General and his Council, addressing the challenges facing the Congregation. Fr. Willie Sequeira, who was unwell, spent a few days at St. Philomena's Hospital and has since returned hale and hearty.

Students of Loyola Higher Primary School enthusiastically rehearsed for the Christmas programme, which had Sr. Mary Celine SSPS as the chief guest.

- Fr. Clarence D'Souza

SADHANA, Mundgod



Key activities of LVK-Mundgod included hosting rural immersion programmes for MSc students from SADU and BSW students from SJU, health campaigns across Mundgod, and a state-level land rights campaign in Yallapur. Fr. Vincent Jason and Fr. Anil D'Souza participated in a five-day international training programme in Cambodia, organized by Jesuit Mission Australia, on Disaster Risk Management. Community bonding was strengthened through a Christmas programme involving taluka CBOs, staff families, and LVK hostel students. Other initiatives reflecting LVK's commitment to holistic development and social transformation included a responsible parenting programme in four Siddi villages, led by Fr. Dheeraj, and a sports festival involving 49 Siddi students, organized by St. Joseph's University with the assistance of Dr. Biju Philip's family from Australia.

The village outreach efforts of LVK-Hangal received formal appreciation from the MLA, Shri Shrinivas Maane, and local taluk officials, acknowledging their positive impact. Skill development programmes empowered 120 women, who received certificates for successfully completing courses in tailoring, R.E., and embroidery. LVK also participated in the first-ever ecumenical Christmas celebration in Haveri.

At Loyola Primary and High School, students benefited from an educational tour to historical sites, followed by the High School Annual Day. The period concluded with a series of Christmas competitions for both Primary and High School sections, fostering joy, creativity, and a festive spirit across the campus.

The Science Department of LPUC conducted a study tour to Mangaluru, which included an

academic interaction at St. Aloysius Deemed-to-be University and visits to historic sites. A prayer service was held to commemorate the death anniversary of Fr. Lawrence Pinto, expressing gratitude and reverence for his enduring legacy. The month concluded with joyful Christmas celebrations for students and staff.

Both staff and students of Loyola Kendriya Vidyalaya contributed to creating a festive atmosphere through Christmas decorations on the school premises. Mrs. Archana Gurav, a teacher at a

Government School, was the chief guest at the get-together, and Sch. Sanson D'Souza delivered a timely Christmas message. The School Annual Day highlighted the inspiring contributions of Salumarada Thimmakka, and the presence of local leaders added vibrancy to the celebration. The cultural programme was widely appreciated by parents and the audience for its quality. The two-day study tour of the 10th Standard students to Bengaluru was both educative and entertaining.

- Fr. Melvin Lobo

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Harihar



Fr. Dionysius Vaz, our Provincial, was with us for the visitation, during which he listened attentively and encouraged us in our life and ministry. His visit was preceded by Fr. Harry Terry, who came as Revisor. At the deanery-level CRI meeting held on December 15 at Don Bosco House, Davanagere, Frs. Vinod AJ and John Baptist C represented our community.

celebrated in the institution with the staff and their families on December 21, followed soon after by a celebration with the hostel students. Catholic children were spiritually prepared for the feast of Christmas through a penitential service followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Likewise, the Jesuits and the FSI Sisters came together for a day of recollection guided by Fr Mathew.

The Annual Day of St. Aloysius International School and PU College was celebrated on December 20, with Shri B. P. Harish, MLA of Harihar, as the chief guest. Presiding over the function, Fr. Melvin Pinto, Rector, exhorted the students to be proactive and value-driven. Christmas was cel-

On December 23, Dr. Isabella Xavier delivered a meaningful message to the students of the school and college, highlighting the significance of Christmas. Fr. Anil D'Mello was the main celebrant at the Christmas Vigil Mass at Ranebennur.

- Fr. John Baptist C

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Mangaluru



The month of December opened with joyful news shared by Fr. Johnson Pinto regarding the ten-year recognition granted to all sections of St. Aloysius Higher Primary School.

Swebert D'Silva, who served the MJES institutions with dedication for 21 years.

The month was also marked by moments of deep gratitude and farewell. We accompanied Ms. Celine Lobo (96), a cherished benefactor, on her final journey. Fr. Melvin Pinto, Rector, was the main celebrant, and Fr. Dionysius Vaz preached the homily at the Requiem Mass. Community members also stood in solidarity with Fr. Derrick Anthony, Fr. Eric Mathias, and Fr. Johnson Pinto during the final rites of their beloved mothers.

Christmas celebrations across the institutions were vibrant and meaningful. The Christmas Vigil Mass was presided over by Fr. Melvin J. Pinto, with Fr. Sujay Daniel as the homilist. The New Year's Eve Mass was celebrated by Fr. Henry Saldanha.

The Christmas outreach programme, organized by Fr. Melwyn D'Cunha, took the Jesuit community to Sneha Deep Children Care Centre, where they spent time interacting with the inmates. The day concluded at St. Lawrence Parish, Bondel, and was marked by warmth, joy, and generosity. The Provincial Visitation included meetings, reflection, and discernment with both Jesuits and collaborators. During the visit, the Provincial also presided over the Requiem Mass for late Fr.

St. Aloysius Deemed to be University, alongside its regular academic programmes, broadened students' global perspectives through the Aloysius Model United Nations (ALUMN). The Vice-Chancellor, Fr. Praveen Martis, met Shri Thawarchand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka, to extend an invitation to inaugurate the Engineering and Law programmes.

Jesuit representatives from various provinces gathered at St. Aloysius ITI for the JESUITECH Meet, led by John D'Souza. The inaugural session was graced by the presence of Fr. Stany D'Souza, POSA.

- Fr. William M. Rodrigues

SWAMY RAJENDARA NILAYA, Pandithahalli



St. Joseph's School observed Children's Day and Constitution Week with due solemnity through academic and cultural programmes. A significant moment in the life of the school was the visit of the 1977 batch of students of SJBHS, Bengaluru, who formally inaugurated a few infrastructural facilities as a gesture of their continued support and collaboration. Our students also participated in the taluk-level Pratibha Karanji competitions

and won several prizes.

The Annual Day of the school was graced by Prof. Krishne Gowda, renowned Kannada litterateur and orator, as the chief guest. The Christmas and New Year celebrations provided occasions for students and staff to come together in a spirit of joy and togetherness.

- Sch. Agil Roy J.

VIDYA NIKETAN, Dharwad



The Provincial's official visit in early December offered us an opportunity to reflect on our personal lives and our life as a community. The Constitution Day programme on November 26, organized by the Samarasa Vedike of Vidya Niketan, featured Mrs. Priya Nayak, Professor at KSLU Law School, as the resource person. On the same occasion, Dr. Isabella Xavier also addressed the gathering on Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the context of elections.

We are grateful to Fr. Siggy, SDB, who guided us through a day of recollection in preparation for Christmas. The Jesuits of Vidya Niketan visited religious communities and parish families in Dharwad and Hubli for carol singing. In collaboration with the Samarasa Vedike and OLPS Parish, we organized Kristanjali 2025, an inter-

religious Christmas celebration, for the first time. The programme was inaugurated by Mrs. Jyothi Patil, Honourable Mayor of the Hubli-Dharwad Municipal Corporation, and presided over by



Bishop Derek Fernandes. Other dignitaries present included the CSI Bishop, Rev. Martin Borgavi, and Shri Basavaraj Hiremath of Hunashikatti, Belagavi. We also marked Christmas through other celebrations, sharing our joy with our teachers and friends, and through a visit to the children with special needs at MAMTA School.

Fr. Dheeraj D'Souza guided the retreat of the prepaedutic seminarians at Divya Dhama, Moodbelle, and also attended the JAGO Youth Convention at Christ Campus, Bengaluru. Fr. Pratap Chandru, in his capacity as PCF, visited various centres to meet the regents and scholastics.

- Sch. Little Merinth Aamose A.

XAVIER SADAN, Mandya



Fr. Godwin preached two retreats for religious Sisters in December. We shared our Christmas joy by distributing grocery items to Navajeevan Niketan, a home for mentally retarded men, run

by the Missionaries of Charity Brothers, and the Home for Destitute Women, run by Mother Teresa Sisters. We are grateful to the donors who made this possible.

- Fr. Steevan Gonsalves

XAVIER TRAINING COLLEGE, Belagavi



The sharing of experiences by the first-years on their long retreat and by the second-years on their novitiate experiments, along with attentive listening to one another, became moments of grace for all of us. Another notable experience was our visit to Old Goa, where we witnessed the final vows of Fr. John Fernandes of our community and venerated the relics of St. Francis Xavier at the Basilica of Bom Jesu.

The Jesuit Family Day, celebrated on December 14 at Milagres Church, Khanapur, was a joyful occasion that brought together the close family members of Jesuits from the Belagavi area. Some of the novices had the opportunity to participate in this gathering. Soon after, the novices were engaged in creatively decorating the house. The recollection, guided by Fr. Anthony Tribhuvan, helped prepare us spiritually for the great

feast of Christmas. A few days later, we expressed our gratitude to him for his dedicated service to the novitiate as we bade him farewell and wished him Godspeed in his new assignment.

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, Pune

The visit of POSA in November served as a timely reminder of the depth and responsibility of our vocation. The community rejoiced at the elevation of the Kohima Region to the status of a Province. The North Zonal Celebration, beyond being a joyful occasion of fun and fellowship, invited us to become more familiar with the provinces of the North Zone. With the mid-term examinations concluding on December 19, we were able to immerse ourselves joyfully in the preparations for

On Christmas Day, children from the neighbouring villages visited our crib and the church. That same evening, we were invited by the Canossa Sisters for an evening get-together.

- Nov. Lester Saldanha



Christmas, including the crib, decorations, and other arrangements.

After Christmas, the scholastics enjoyed a well-deserved time of relaxation. The first-year Philosophy students visited the Ajanta–Ellora caves, while the second-year students went on a picnic to Goa, making the holiday season both refreshing and enriching.

- Sch. Mathew Nicolas



SATYA NILAYAM, Chennai

The visitation of our Provincial, Fr. Dion, was an early highlight of the month of December, bringing us much joy and many blessings. Christmas



was celebrated with the customary festive Eucharist, followed by merriment that flowed into the Community Days. Centered on the theme of Utopia, these days offered us time for relaxation, recreation, sharing, and deeper bonding.

The Triduum, guided by Fr. ISF Jeyaraj (AND), was a period of spiritual renewal. Fr. Francis D'Souza attended the meeting of South Zone RRSJ Coordinators held at Prerana, Bengaluru.

- Sch. Prakash



VIDYAJYOTI, Delhi

Before the new semester could settle into its rhythm, all the scholastics set out on a five-day cultural tour to various North Indian destinations in small groups. Fr. Stanislaus D'Souza, the POSA, was with us on his official visitation, offering guidance and encouragement. Fr. Pratap Chandru, the PCF, visited Vidyajyoti to meet the Karnataka scholastics. At the invitation of SJBHS, Fr. Anil D'Almeida travelled to Bengaluru to conduct an inter-faith retreat for the staff. Fr. Joyson Vas also visited Vidyajyoti while returning to the province after completing his tertianship.

As part of the VJ–JD Seminar commemorating sixty years of *Gaudium et Spes*, Sch. Delson Vas presented a well-researched paper. Four scholastics of the Syro-Malabar rite were ordained deacons just before Christmas. The feast of Christmas was celebrated with our co-workers and staff, both in the Institute and in the community. Concluding the month, the Third Year scholastics made their eight-day diaconate retreat, while the First and Second Year scholastics undertook their triduum of renovation.

- Sch. Royster Monis



VIDYANIKETAN, Thiruvananthapuram

VN Juniors conducted a meaningful prayer service at the St. Xavier Jesuit Community on the occasion of the feast of St. Francis Xavier. The service was attended by members of religious communities from the neighbourhood. Fr. Antony Arul led us through a course on Media Education, offering valuable insights into critical engagement with social media and its judicious use in our mission. Fr. Anush D'Cunha addressed the AICUF unit of St. Xavier's College, Thumba, on team building.

The Juniors had the opportunity to attend the annual day celebrations of Sreekariyam School and Jyothi Nilayam School. They also participated in the Christmas gathering of the CRI deanery and presented a well-appreciated Christmas skit. The Christmas Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. John Francis (KER) and was followed by a cultural programme. Fr. Anush D'Cunha also attended a workshop on Emotional Intelligence at Dindigul.

- Sch. Gevin D'Souza

VINAYALAYA, Mumbai



We began the Advent season with a recollection led by Fr. Dean, SJ (BOM). Our preparations for Christmas - decorations, the crib, and stars - were not merely external but also invited us to interior readiness as we reflected on the various themes of Advent.

We were privileged to celebrate Christmas with many groups, beginning with the staff of Vinayalaya and the Jesuits in the infirmary. Our carol singing took us to neighbouring religious houses

as well as to a home for the specially abled.

Our cultural activities commenced with the South Bombay Darshan. In the days that followed, we were divided into three groups and engaged in friendly competitions through various activities designed to bring out our talents and foster group bonding. The celebrations concluded with a fellowship meal under the stars.

- Sch. Anish

GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY, Rome



The Bellarmino community held its Advent recollection on December 6, guided by Prof. Dona Orsuto of the Pontifical Gregorian University. The community also celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, a celebration made all the more joyful by the presence of Father General. Fr. Anthony D'Souza, having completed one chapter of his doctoral thesis, is presently spending a brief holiday in the Province.

We are pleased to share that the Rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University has nominated Fr.

Lancy Dias as *Consigliere di Fiducia* (Counsellor of Trust/Faith). In this role, he is one of four persons entrusted with attending to matters related to abuse cases. As part of their Christmas preparations, Frs. Sunil Ranjar, Lancy Dias, Ashwin Rebello, and Nithin Machado spent a few days of the festive season in Milan, engaging in active pastoral ministry, particularly through their participation in penitential services in parishes across the city.

- Fr. Nithin Machado

ST PETER FABER, Paris



One of the highlights of the month was the renewal of our vows, which was preceded by a triduum. December also marked the conclusion of our first semester. During this period, Anson Alex and Joel Dias successfully completed the A2 level in French, while three other companions took their first steps in Western philosophy.

The Christmas celebrations included a solemn

Mass, a well-prepared French dinner, and the Gaudioso, a traditional French evening. Adding to the festive spirit, we delighted the community with carols in Indian languages and a Baila concert. During the vacation, we spent a few days in the Alsace region of eastern France. At the same time, Steve assisted the Jesuits in organizing the Youth Meeting of the Taizé community.

- Sch. Joyal D Sa

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REST IN PEACE

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

Br. Timothy Macwan, SJ, (GUJ), 90/67, on 16 December 2025, in Vadodara.

Fr. Lourdu John, SJ, (MDU), 92/72, on 21 December 2025, in Dindigul.

Fr. M. Joseph Ignatius, SJ, (MDU), 84/64, on 31 December 2025, in Dindigul.

Br. Arockiam Peter, SJ, (MDU), 93/69, on 05 January 2026, in Dindigul.

Mrs. Leena Fernandes (70), beloved sister of Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, on 17 November 2025, in Mangaluru.

Mrs. Lilly Shanthi D (79), beloved mother of Fr. Derrick Anthony, on 18 December 2025, in Mangaluru.

Mrs. Mary Mathias (92), beloved mother of Fr. Eric Mathias, 24 December 2025, in Mangaluru.

Mrs. Gracy Pinto (93), beloved mother of Fr. Johnson Pinto, 28 December 2025, in Mangaluru.

IGNATIAN JESUS

When you walk the Ignatian path, you walk with Jesus. Ignatius was converted when he fell in love with Jesus, and his spiritual program is meant to help others love him too. Overwhelmingly, the Ignatian Jesus is a man of action. In the second week of the Spiritual Exercises, Ignatius proposes more than fifty Gospel passages for reflection and prayer. Almost all of them portray Jesus teaching and preaching, moving about, interacting with people, working to bring about the Kingdom of God.

Poverty is another feature of the Ignatian Jesus. Ignatius portrays Jesus as lowly and humble—a consequence of his mission in a world dominated by power, greed, and self-interested scheming. Jesus rejects these values and identifies with the poor and vulnerable. He empties himself completely to the point of death. He possesses nothing for himself but gives all to his friends.

Ignatius also sees Jesus as a friend and consoler. In the Exercises he says we should speak to Jesus like a friend, with great warmth and affection. He wrote to a group of Jesuits, "More than anything else I should wish to awaken in you the pure love of Jesus Christ."

- By Jim Manney