



Diocese of Kohima

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil
Bishop of Kohima

Bishop's House
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Nagaland

July 01, 2025

BPKOH/CIR/02/2025

Dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters, Brothers and Lay Faithful,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Kohima !!

We are in the month of July and most of our schools are on holidays especially those in the Hills and others will have it in this month. This is also the season for cultivation for most part of Nagaland. We continue to support our people with our prayers so that God may reward them with the fruit of their labour – a plentiful harvest.

Summer holiday is also the time when many of the parishes/centers can and should organize special bible/catechism camps in the parishes and centers. It gives the opportunity for those who do not study in our schools to come together and learn more about our faith. Therefore I request all the parish priests/ center in-charges to hold such camps during the summer holidays.

We are having monsoon rains which are causing hazards and havoc, especially with landslides that block travels in most places. Kindly take care while travelling. As you know the road to Imphal is totally cut off for heavy vehicles, which will affect the classes at St. Joseph College (autonomous), Jakhama. We hope and pray that the authorities will restore the traffic at the earliest.

I will be away from the diocese for five weeks for the mission appeal in the US from July 1st, 2025. This year Fr. Sunny Joseph and Fr. Anto C.P. will also be joining me for the mission appeals. Kindly keep us in your prayers. **During my absence Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou, the Vicar General of the diocese will take care of the ordinary administration of the diocese.** I am expected to return on 6th August 2025.

Congratulation to NCYM & Cathedral Parish, Kohima

We sincerely congratulate and thank our Diocesan Youth Movement (NCYM) under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian, along with CAN, NCWA and the Cathedral Parish for successfully organizing the 5th Regional Youth Convention 2025. More than 2000 youth from the seven states

and fifteen dioceses from the NE region took active part in the convention. The program went very well and the youth who participated in the convention were very happy with the program, place and all arrangements. I would like to congratulate personally all those who worked day in and day out to make the program a grand success.

New Directory – 2025-2027

I would like to thank and congratulate Rev. Fr. Jacob Charalel, the Chancellor of the diocese for bringing out the New Diocesan Directory of the years 2025-2027. As you all know it is not easy to get details from many of the parishes and congregations. At times by the time, the Directory is prepared and published the persons mentioned in the Directory are changed. Therefore there may be some errors inadvertently I request that if you find some mistakes, kindly inform Fr. Jacob so that in the next issued of the same, the correction can be included.

Career in Journalism and Mass Media

NISCORT is a national college offering Bachelor Degree (BA) in Journalism and Mass Communication (BJMC), various Master Degree programmes (MA), Certificate Courses in Media, and Diploma in Pastoral Communications. It is established and managed by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI). Since there is much job opportunity for mass media and communication, I encourage those with an aptitude and flair for journalism and reporting to join the program. The diocese will offer partial scholarship through Bishop Abraham Memorial Scholarship (BAM). Attached please find the brochure for the same.

Vocation Camps – 2025

As you are well aware and informed the dates of the first vocation camp had to be changed since we hosted the 5th Regional Youth Convention 2025. Now the first vocation camp will be held from 4-7 July 2025 at Kiphire. The dates of the second vocation camp remain the same (October 03-06, 2025, at Holy Cross, Dimapur). As per the policy of the Northeast Bishops any congregations that has house in the region can come and talk to the children during the vocation camp with permission and as per schedule from the vocation Director. As a diocesan policy we do not permit any religious groups to visit parishes and centers to recruit vocations in order to avoid unnecessary rivalry, competition, strained relationship, etc.

Retreat for Priests and Sisters

I thank Fr. Joy Joseph Arackal, from the Diocese of Alleppey, who came to animate this year's diocesan retreat. He is an accomplished moral theology professor. This year we had to make some changes in the dates due to the 5th Regional Youth Convention hosted by our diocese at the Cathedral Campus. The Sisters retreat was concluded on Thursday (June 26). There were 44 participants for the Sisters retreat. Priests retreat begins on Monday, June 30th, after supper. I wish all the priests a fruitful and spiritually energizing retreat. Thank you Fr. Joy Joseph for your availability and spiritual animation.

Retreat for Catechists

This year we will hold two retreats for Catechists. I am attaching a letter from Fr. Sabu Chenackal giving the details about the retreat.

ANNUAL CATECHISTS RETREAT 2025

RETREAT - I 14 - 18 JULY, 2025

14, Monday : Arrival
18, Friday : Departure

4:00pm
Morning

RETREAT - II 5 - 9 AUGUST, 2025

5, Tuesday: Arrival
9, Saturday: Departure

4:00pm
Morning

venue: MOUNT TABOR, KOHIMA

50 Hour Adoration

We thank Fr. Sabu Chenckal, the Director of Newman Pastoral Centre for organizing 50 hours of perpetual adoration during this year of special Jubilee 2025. It was a good spiritual initiative and I encourage other parishes and centers to hold such or similar spiritual program during this special jubilee year.

The new Way of the Cross at the Cathedral ground, blessed and inaugurated.

For the Golden Jubilee of the diocese, we renovated the Cathedral campus and began construction of new Way of the Cross around the Cathedral ground. The work is completed and the Stations of the Cross were blessed on 25th May 2025 during the celebration of Sisterhood day and parish feast of Cathedral. We thank Rev. Fr. George Punnolil for his innovative planning and execution of the project to make the captivating way of the Cross in the Cathedral campus which is recognized as one of the National Pilgrim Centers by the Central Government. We also appreciate and thank Mr. Amal and his Team who worked for the last three years for making it very attractive and captivating. As our Cathedral has been designated as Pilgrim Centre for the diocese in this jubilee

year, I encourage all who make pilgrimage to the Cathedral this year to make the way of the cross and receive indulgences.

Enclosures

I have enclosed few official documents for your knowledge that will help us in our daily activities. CCBI has brought out **Guidelines for Online Holy Mass**. Though it is not used much after the Covid, yet there may be an occasion one decides to join such masses out of necessity.

Another enclosure is the **FABC Pastoral Letter on the Care of Creation**, an urgent pastoral necessity in our time. In our diocese we have set up a commission for the Care of the Earth, in order to spearhead activities related to environmental care and protection. Kindly cooperate with the commission when they suggest or plan activities at the diocesan, parish and village levels.

Third enclosure is the Liturgical toolkit to observe the “World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly” which is celebrated this year on July 27, 2025. Since it’s intuition by late Pope Francis in the year 2021, it has become very popular and wholesome especially in the Church and family circles.

Transfers and Appointments

Since all the latest transfers and appointments are included in the new Directory of the diocese, I am not mentioning them, although many transfers and changes have taken place during the last three months,

May their Souls Rest in Peace!

15th March, 2025: Mr. Niphisier Philip Punyü (82 Years) the beloved Father of Rev. Sr. Irene Asano FMA (presently working at Goalpara Assam).

26th March, 2025: Mr. Pantisingpou Malangmei, the beloved father of Sr. Rose Abiliu MSMHC (St. Mary's Convent/School, Taphou-Senapati).

29th March, 2025: Rev. Sr M. Saritha BS (65 Years) who worked in Holy Cross Dimapur, Viswema and was currently in Guwahati Provincial House.

5th April, 2025: Mrs. Lhoutseiü Sabina the beloved sister of Rev. Fr. Carolus Neisalhou Kuotsu (Vicar General, Diocese of Kohima).

8th April, 2025: Mr. T.R. Isaac (72 Years), the beloved father of Mr. Johnny Ruangmei (President of CAN).

8th April, 2025: Mr. Mathew Madayankal (92 Years), the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Tessy Madayankal SABS (Superior of Little Flower Convent, Pungro).

15th April, 2025: Mrs. Sarah Achevii (98 Years) the beloved Mother of Rev. Fr. Phillip Magh (Parish Priest of St. Peter Parish, Kiphrie).

21st April, 2025: Pope Francis, head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 13th March 2013 until 21st April, 2025

23rd April, 2025: Mr. Abraham Randankattil (66 Years), the beloved Brother-in-law of Our Bishop Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil.

30th April, 2025: Mr. Rhokho Pohena , the beloved Elder Brother of Dr. Rosou Ronald Pohena, President of Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement.

3rd May, 2025: Mr. Felix Cutinha (78 Years), the beloved brother of Rev. Sr. Matilda Cutinha UFS (Assisi Convent Dimapur).

4th May, 2025: Mrs. Lhouseù Catherine (100 Years), the beloved Mother of Rev. Sr. Rita Miasalhou SCCG (First Angami Sister).

13th May, 2025: Rev. Sr. Tresa Joseph FCC (86 Years) of St. Clare Province, Imphal. She was in Kohima in the year 1998- 1999 in perpetual adoration.

23rd May, 2025: Mr. C.Selvaraj, the beloved elder brother of Rev. Fr. C. Joseph (St. Joseph College (Autonomous) Jakhama).

7th June, 2025: Mr. TS Nicholas (92 Years), the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Rose Monsang SABS (San Joe Novitiate House, Medziphema).

15th June, 2025: Rev. Fr. Devasy Pudessery (Former Parish Priest of St. Thomas Church Tuensang and Tobu Catholic Mission).

17th June, 2025: Mr. Heibangchi the younger brother of Rev. Sr. Reluiheile Herie Rachel CMC (Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh).

24th June, 2025: Mr. PC Varkey (104 Years), the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Tessia Puthenpurayil SABS (SABS Provincial House Chumoukedima Dimapur).

Bishop's Program

July 2025

1-31 : US – for MCP 1

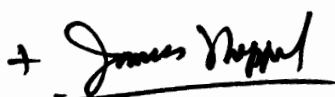
August 2025

5-9	Retreat – 1- for Catechists	
6	Wed	Returns from the US
7	Thu	Medziphema – Blessing of St. Thomas Church at Tsüüma – Chumöukedima - DF
8	Fri	Chumöukedima – DF, Consulters meeting (Pastoral Centre)
9	Sat	Bangalore
10	Sun	Bangalore
11	Mon	Bangalore
12	Tue	Bangalore
13	Wed	Bangalore

14	Thu	Bangalore
15	Fri	Feast of the Assumption – Independence day
16	Sat	Kohima
17	Sun	Kohima
18	Mon	Retreat
19	Tue	Retreat
20	Wed	Retreat
21	Thu	Retreat
22	Fri	Retreat
23	Sat	Retreat
24	Sun	Kohima
25	Mon	Kohima
26-30 – Retreat -2- for Catechists		
27	Wed	Kohima
28	Thu	Kohima
29	Fri	Phesama: Pastoral visit
30	Sat	Phesama: Pastoral visit
31	Sun	Phesama: Pastoral visit

September 2025

1	Mon	Guwahati – NE Pastoral Conference
2	Tue	Guwahati – NE Pastoral Conference
3	Wed	Guwahati – NE Pastoral Conference
4	Thu	Guwahati – NE Pastoral Conference
5	Fri	Shillong – NE Bishop's meeting
6	Sat	Shillong – NE Bishop's meeting
7	Sun	Kohima



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