

Sharing



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Lent : Journey of Renewal



CAN Convention at Jalukie,
10th Jan, 2026



Kohima Diocese Representatives
at the BEC Silver Jubilee of NE at
Byrnihat on 1st Feb, 2026.



DPC Meeting at Mount Tabor, Kohima
on 13th March, 2026



Bishop and Fr Jaison with the
Head GB of Thahekhu Village
at the Platinum Jubilee of the
Village on 15th March, 2026



Blessing of New Ambulance of
St. Joseph Palliative Care
Center Chümoukedima, Spon-
sored by South Indian Bank on
18th March, 2026

SHARING

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The Sharing is published quarterly by the Diocese of Kohima. All the news, articles, questions, reader's reactions, etc. are to be addressed to the Editor. Your articles, news item could be submitted through Whatsapp and mail attachment. Please include your name and mailing address.

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)

Bishop's Programme

March - April 2026

MARCH 2026

1	Sun	2 nd Sunday of Lent : Peren
2	Mon	To Shillong
3	Tue	To Tezpur: NEIRBC meeting
4	Wed	“ “
5	Thu	“ “
6	Fri	“ “
7	Sat	“ “
8	Sun	“ “
9	Mon	To Shillong - OTC
10	Tue	Shillong – Inauguration of the Jesuit Province of Kohima
11	Wed	Guwahati – Strategic plan for 2033
12	Thu	Guwahati – Strategic plan for 2033
13	Fri	Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC – 09:30 am, Mt. Tabor Kohima) Consulters meeting
14	Sat	Tening; Pastoral visit
15	Sun	4 th Sunday of Lent: Tening: Pastoral visit
16	Mon	Tening: Pastoral visit
17	Tue	Tening: Pastoral visit
18	Wed	Tening: Pastoral visit
19	Thu	Kohima: Feast of St. Joseph
20	Fri	Chessore – Blessing of the new Convent
21	Sat	Kohima, FC meetings for the Budget
22	Sun	5 th Sunday of Lent -
23	Mon	Kohima
24	Tue	Kohima: 2:30 pm Meeting of the commission, regional animators and associations
25	Wed	Kohima; Senate (10:30, BH, Kohima), Priests meeting (Mt. Tabor), DF Meeting
26	Thu	Kohima, Recollection for Priests; Chrism Mass (03:00 pm Cathedral)
27	Fri	Kohima – Diocesan Level Way of the Cross.

5	Sun	Kohima - Easter
6	Mon	Phesama – Golden Jubilee – Sr. Jessin FCC
7	Tue	Kohima
8	Wed	Kohima
9	Thu	Lozaphuhu – Blessing of the Holy Family Church
10	Fri	Kohima
11	Sat	Bhandari - Silver Jubilee of Bhandari Village Church
12 - 23		In Kerala for Fiat Mission
24	Fri	Jalandar
25	Sat	Jalandar
26	Sun	Jalandar
27	Mon	Return from Jalandar
28	Tue	Kohima
29	Wed	Kohima
30	Thu	Dimapur – UFC Profession (9.30 am) to New Delhi

MAY 2026

1-22	UK	
23	Sat	Kohima
24	Sun	Pentecost, Feast of the Cathedral of May Help of Christians, Sisterhood day
25	Mon	Kohima
26	Tue	Kohima
27	Wed	Kohima
28	Thu	Pfutsero: Pastoral visit
29	Fri	Pfutsero: Pastoral visit
30	Sat	Pfutsero: Pastoral visit
31	Sun	Pfutsero: Pastoral visit

APRIL 2026

1	Wed	Kohima
2	Thu	Kohima – Holy Thursday
3	Fri	Kohima – Good Friday
4	Sat	Kohima – Dimapur – Easter Vigil



Shepherd's Voice

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Kohima!!

Warm greetings to you all as we journey through the New Year 2026 with hope and renewed expectations. As our schools reopen and academic activities resume, we continue to accompany our students who have appeared for the Class X and XII examinations conducted by the Nagaland Board of School Education. These examinations are crucial for their future, and I invite all of you to keep them in your prayers, asking the Lord to grant them success, confidence, and peace of mind.

In recent times, our educational ministry has received considerable media attention, at times accompanied by criticism that may undermine our sincere efforts. We should not be discouraged by such voices but rather renew our commitment with greater zeal. The larger community continues to value and trust the quality education and holistic formation we strive to provide.

This moment also calls us to reflection and

introspection growth. Let us strengthen collaboration and communication with Parents - Teachers Associations, management bodies, and all stakeholders through open dialogue and mutual understanding. At the same time, we must remain prudent and sensitive in our decisions, always keeping the well-being of our students, parents, and teachers at heart. It is important, too, to make known the various ways in which we support our students through scholarships, extra classes, and other dedicated efforts.

As we carry forward this noble mission, we are reminded of the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: *"We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty"* (Luke 17:10). May this spirit of humble service continue to guide us.

We are presently in the holy season of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and charity. Let this season renew our faith and deepen our commitment to love and serve one another, especially the poor and the suffering.

Amid the unrest and conflicts in the world today,



let us also pray earnestly for peace—within our hearts, our families, and among nations. May the Lord guide humanity towards justice, reconciliation, and lasting harmony.

I express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your dedicated service to the Church, especially in the field of education. May God bless and sustain you in all your efforts. I also wish you all a grace-filled Easter and God's abundant blessings. We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil
Bishop of Kohima

Most Rev. (Dr.) James Thoppil
Bishop of Kohima
P.B. No. 519, Kohima
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From the Editor's Desks

“Return to Me with All Your Heart” (Joel 2:12)



Dear Readers,

As we begin this New Year, the Church invites us into the grace-filled season of Lent—a sacred time of renewal, conversion, and deeper communion with God. The call of the prophet Joel echoes powerfully: *“Return to me with all your heart”* (Joel 2:12). Lent is not merely about external practices, but a sincere transformation of heart.

Sacred Scripture reminds us that true conversion begins within: *“Create in me a clean heart, O God”* (Psalm 51:10). This journey of renewal is fulfilled in Christ, who calls us to follow Him with faith and sacrifice (cf. Luke 9:23). In this light, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving become meaningful paths that lead us closer to God and to one another.

The wisdom of the Fathers of the Church continues to

guide us. St. Augustine of Hippo reminds us that our hearts find rest only in God. St. John Chrysostom teaches that fasting must extend beyond food to include purity of life, while St. Leo the Great emphasizes that true Lenten observance is expressed in charity and compassion.

For us in the Diocese of Kohima, Lent is a call to renew our families, strengthen our parish communities, and deepen our commitment to the Gospel. It invites our youth to grow in faith, our parents to lead by example, and our institutions to witness to truth, integrity, and service. It is also a time to foster reconciliation, promote unity, and reach out to the poor and the marginalized.

In a world marked by conflict and unrest, our Lenten journey must also be one of prayer for peace. Let us entrust our world to the Lord, that hearts may be transformed and nations guided towards justice and harmony.

As we walk this sacred path towards Easter, may we return to the Lord with sincere hearts, trusting in His mercy and embracing the hope of new life in Christ.

Rev. Fr. Gwatilo Alex Tep



SILVER JUBILEE OF CATHOLIC WOMEN ASSOCIATION, MON

concluding day. In his introduction and homily, the Bishop described the Jubilee as a sacred moment to celebrate, reflect, repent, renew, and rededicate

reminded the faithful that Christian values must permeate daily life and decisions. Citing St. James, he stressed that “faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2:17), urging the women to build their lives on the strong foundation of Christ and His teachings. He encouraged them to remain beacons of hope, drawing strength from the Word of God and the example of the Blessed Virgin



The three-day Silver Jubilee celebration of the Catholic Women Association (CWA), Mon, held from 12–14 December 2025, culminated meaningfully on Sunday at the Don Bosco Centre, Mon, marking 25 years of committed service, faith witness, and community building. The Jubilee was celebrated in conjunction with the Konyak Catholic Convention, under the theme “To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour” (Luke 4:19).

The Jubilee celebration was solemnly inaugurated with the blessing of the Jubilee Monolith by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. Rev. Fr. Francis T. J., Centre In-charge, extended a warm welcome to all the clergy, religious, invited guests, and faithful who gathered for the historic occasion.

The Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist, presided over by Bishop James Thoppil, was the spiritual highlight of the

oneself to the mission of proclaiming the Lord’s favour, drawing inspiration from the biblical tradition of Jubilee.

Reflecting on the readings from Isaiah (35:1–6,10), James (5:7–10), and Matthew (11:2–11), Bishop Thoppil highlighted that a Jubilee is a time of hope, healing, and joyful witness. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, he likened the journey of the Catholic Women Association to a desert that has blossomed, becoming a source of comfort and hope to many.

He commended the Catholic women of Mon for being the hands and feet of Christ, especially in a region where the Catholic presence is minimal. Through prayer, active participation in the liturgy, commitment to family apostolate, and charitable works, the Association has strengthened parish life and given a joyful witness to Christian womanhood.

Emphasizing that faith must be lived and not merely professed, the Bishop

Mary. A felicitation programme followed the Eucharistic celebration, with ShriPakonPhom, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mon, gracing the occasion as the Special Guest.

Rev. Fr. Arokiasamy, SDB, one of the pioneers of the Don Bosco Centre, expressed his deep joy at witnessing the remarkable growth of the Catholic community in Mon—from a small group of three families to a vibrant community of over forty families today. Recalling the early missionary efforts, he paid tribute to Fr. Chacko of the Imphal Diocese and other pioneers whose dedication helped nurture the young Church in the region.

Mrs. Ruokuoheü Roselyn, President of the Nagaland Catholic Women Association (NCWA), conveyed her greetings on behalf of the state association. She exhorted the women to ensure that every action reflects Christ, reminding

them that belonging to the Church founded by Jesus Christ is both a privilege and a responsibility. She encouraged Catholic women to live out Gospel values authentically, becoming credible witnesses in society.

The three-day Jubilee celebration featured enriching faith-formation sessions animated by distinguished resource persons. Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian, Director of the Nagaland Catholic Youth Association (NCYA), led sessions on "Catholic Faith" and "Participation: Catholic Social Teachings." Rev. Fr. Solomon Kevishe, Parish Priest of Holy Redeemer Church, Tobu, spoke on "The Role of the Laity in the Catholic Church."

The Jubilee was further enlivened by cultural performances, devotional songs, and community interactions, reflecting the rich heritage and vibrant faith of the local community. The celebration concluded with a community feast, symbolizing unity, gratitude, and shared joy.

- Correspondent

FIRST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN NAGALAND MARKS 75 YEARS OF FAITH, SACRIFICE AND MISSION

St. Paul Church, Burma Camp – the first Catholic community in Nagaland – celebrated its Platinum Jubilee (75 years) with deep spiritual fervour, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to Christian witness on 17th December 2025. The historic

milestone marked seventy-five years of enduring faith, shaped by sacrifice, resilience, and missionary zeal.

The jubilee celebrations began with the blessing of the Jubilee monolith and the release of 70 balloons, symbolising the community's long journey of faith and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His countless blessings.

The Platinum Jubilee Holy Mass was solemnly presided over by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. Drawing inspiration from the Jubilee message and Sacred Scripture, the Bishop reflected on the community's roots, recalling that St. Paul Church traces its origin to the post-Second World War period when Mr. Lawrence Gudenho the Rehabilitation Officer under the British Government first constructed a small Chapel which became the worshipping place for the first Catholic families. From a

Jubilee is not merely a celebration of the past, but a call to renewal, repentance, and recommitment. Referring to the Church's teaching, he highlighted the four marks of the true Church – One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic, emphasising that authenticity of faith is more important than size or numbers. He stated that a true Christian community is recognised not by its strength or structures alone, but by its faithfulness to Christ, unity, holiness of life, and missionary spirit.

The Bishop further pointed out that every Christian community is privileged to be an instrument of God's love in the world, often called to serve and witness through struggles and suffering. Drawing from the Gospel of St. Luke, he presented Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as a model of faith, humility, obedience, and courage – one who trusted God fully despite not understanding



small chapel, the community gradually grew into a vibrant centre of Catholic faith, becoming the foundation of Catholic presence in Nagaland.

In his homily, the Bishop reminded the faithful that the

the consequences of her "yes".

Highlighting the relevance of the Jubilee in today's context, the Bishop exhorted the faithful to become living witnesses of the Gospel. "Often, you may

be the only Catholics others encounter, the only Gospel they read," he said, encouraging the community to be a greater light and a stronger salt, even as a small community.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, a felicitation programme was held. Mr. Jianthalung Pius, Co-Convenor of the Jubilee Committee, extended a warm welcome to all invited guests and dignitaries. The parish community felicitated the invitees with special presentations as a mark of gratitude and respect.

Fr. John PM, Parish Priest of St. Paul Church, congratulated the community on behalf of the parish. Sharing his personal experience, he recalled that upon arriving in Dimapur, he initially knew only Holy Cross Parish, but gradually discovered the historic significance of St. Paul Church as the first Catholic community in Nagaland. He urged the faithful to keep the words and example of the pioneers close to their hearts, to live with zeal and courage, and to work hard in carrying forward the legacy of faith they inherited.

Sir Johnny Rungmei, President of the Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN), conveyed greetings on behalf of the Catholic laity of Nagaland. He stressed that the history of St. Paul Church is crucial for understanding the wider Catholic history of the state. Calling for deeper reflection, he encouraged the community to rededicate and recommit themselves to their faith and to actively

promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. He reminded the faithful that the Catholic faith contains a sacred mystery that can only be embraced through faith, urging everyone to live their Christian calling fully and authentically. Though small in number, he said, the community must strive to become the salt that gives flavour to society.

- Correspondent

ST. THOMAS CHURCH, PHELUNGRE MARKS GOLDEN JUBILEE AND DEDICATION OF NEW CHURCH BUILDING



St. Thomas Catholic Church, Phelungre, celebrated a momentous occasion with the Golden Jubilee and the Dedication of its newly constructed church building on 20 December 2025, marking fifty years of faith, growth, and Christian witness in the region.

The celebration began with the blessing and unveiling of the Golden Jubilee Monument, unveiled by Shri Johnny Raungmei, President of the Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN) and Joint CEO,

NSDMA, Government of Nagaland, symbolising the enduring legacy of faith and sacrifice of the pioneers of the parish.

The highlight of the celebration was the solemn Dedication and Golden Jubilee Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. The sacred liturgy commenced with the lighting of fifty golden jubilee candles, signifying fifty years of God's faithfulness and the steadfast journey of the Catholic community of Phelungre.

In his homily, Bishop Thoppil reflected on the biblical meaning of jubilee as a time of renewal, repentance, and re-dedication, drawing inspiration from the Book of Nehemiah. He emphasised that while the newly built church stands as a visible sign of God's presence, the true Church is the living community of believers, called to become temples of the Holy Spirit. Stressing the centrality of the Eucharist, he reminded the faithful that it is the source of strength that enables Christians to remain firm in faith and authentic in witness.

The Bishop acknowledged the sacrifices and perseverance of the pioneers, priests, religious, and lay leaders who nurtured the Catholic faith in Phelungre over the past five decades. He urged the faithful to carry forward this legacy by becoming genuine witnesses of Christ through unity, service, and love, transcending all tribal and social divisions.

The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a felicitation programme, during which the community expressed gratitude to dignitaries and special invitees with tokens of appreciation.

During the felicitation, Bishop Thoppil congratulated Shri John Tsülise on being conferred the prestigious IAS title, calling it a blessing for the Church and society. He reiterated that the Catholic Church is a universal Church, called to unite all people beyond distinctions of tribe or class. Sharing from experience, he noted that inter-tribal conflicts have led to the loss of many opportunities in the region and exhorted the faithful to become the salt and light of the world, carrying forward the mission entrusted by Christ and the pioneers of the Church.

Shri P. Tsaseto, Head GB of Phelungre, described the completion of the grand church building within a year as a clear sign of God's providence and remarkable community cooperation. He affirmed that despite the presence of two denominations in the village, the Village Council has always extended impartial support to all and appealed for reconciliation, forgiveness, and renewed harmony during this jubilee year.

Smt. i. Roukouheü Roselyn, President of the Nagaland Catholic Women Association (NCWA), conveyed greetings on behalf of the association and

encouraged the faithful to take pride in their Catholic faith. She reminded them that the mission of Christ is the responsibility of all Christians, not only priests and religious.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Johnny Raungmei congratulated the community on behalf of Catholics across Nagaland and expressed pride in Phelungre for producing one priest, four religious sisters, and several gazetted officers in service of the people. He described the Catholic Church as an umbrella that offers shelter to all tribes, urging the faithful to live out the inclusive spirit of the Church, guided by faith rather than appearances.

- Correspondent

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH, MEZOMA CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE



Mary Help of Christians Church, Mezoma, celebrated its Golden Jubilee with deep gratitude, prayer, and solemnity on 27 December 2025, coinciding

with the Feast of the Holy Family and the closing of the Jubilee Year 2025 in the local Churches.

The historic celebration marked 50 years of faith journey of the Mezoma Catholic community, recalling the sacrifices, perseverance, and strong faith of the pioneers, priests, religious, and lay leaders who laid the foundation of the parish. The Jubilee was celebrated under the biblical theme, "Give thanks to the Lord" (Isaiah 12:4), highlighting thanksgiving, repentance, renewal, and re-dedication.

The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. In his homily, the Bishop congratulated the Mezoma Catholic community for completing fifty years of committed Christian life and thanked God for the abundant blessings received by the community over the decades.

Reflecting on the Feast of the Holy Family, Bishop Thoppil emphasized the importance of family as the "domestic Church," where faith is nurtured through prayer, forgiveness, love, and mutual respect. Drawing from the day's readings, he urged families to "put on compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and above all love," echoing St. Paul's exhortation to the Colossians. Referring to the

Holy Family's flight into Egypt, the Bishop reminded the faithful that every family faces its own challenges and uncertainties, but faith in God's presence sustains and strengthens them. True holiness in family life, he said, does not mean the absence of problems, but the grace to face every challenge with God at the centre.

Highlighting present-day challenges to family life, Bishop Thoppil noted the growing pressures of modern living, excessive screen time, and the decline of family prayer and meaningful communication. He called upon families to rediscover the beauty of praying together, sharing meals, forgiving one another, and creating homes that radiate peace and faith.

The Bishop also paid rich tribute to the pioneers of the Mezoma Catholic community, acknowledging

their courage, determination, and unwavering faith, which made the Golden Jubilee celebration possible. He encouraged the present generation to carry forward their legacy with greater fervour by living authentic Christian lives and becoming visible witnesses of the Gospel in society.

As part of the Jubilee celebrations, the Golden Jubilee Souvenir was formally released, and the Jubilee Memorial was inaugurated by the Bishop. A felicitation programme followed, featuring jubilee greetings, a special choir presentation, and words of thanksgiving. The programme was led by community leaders, with the vote of thanks proposed by Neivikuolie Nicholas, while the Jubilee Feast prayer was led by Rev. Fr. Dr. George Pezalkhuko Rino.

- Correspondent

success." He motivates the young to have a big dream to become someone in the future with their hard work. For classes 6 to 8, develop skills and interests, for classes 9-10, focus on decision making and for classes 11-12, focus on transition readiness for the systematic preparation for entrance exams like JEE, NEET, CLAT, IITs, with mock tests and time management strategies. He also highlighted the streams like science, commerce and arts. He inspired the youth with the life story of Mr Pichai Sundararajan, the CEO of Alphabet and Google from India and his earnings. He encourage to work hard and achieve someone in the future.

Mr K. Sudanvito Justin highlighted the theme; *Believe in yourself even when no one else does!*. He said, "*The Road Not Taken*" by Robert Frost, moves us that Life's a journey, and youth are at the crossroads. Don't be afraid to face challenges. When you face challenges, believe in yourself even if others don't. Learn to trust yourself to achieve certain goals, he gave an example of Thomas Edison's story. Failure isn't the end; it's a stepping stone to success! He failed 1000 times, but he didn't give up. He kept going, and boom! Discovered the

CAREER GUIDANCE FOR THE YOUNG HELD AT SJCK

St. John Church, Kiusam Town, held Career Guidance on 27th December 2025 with the theme "*Charting Your Path to Success*." A resources persons were Mr. K Sudanvito

Justin, Women Resource Development Officer (WRDO), Nagaland, Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, Associate priest, Kiusam Town and Bro. Henry Orien's Theological College, Shillong.

Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, while speaking to the young, said, "Chart your path to



Sharing: January - March 2026

bulb and how the world is enjoying today.

Bro. Henry, in his talked quoted Winston Churchill, who once said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal" he encourages learning, not to be afraid to make errors. He further encourages not to repeat the same mistake but to refine the life. In mistakes, we should take the strength, keep going and keep growing.

There were lots of fun learning, treasure hunting and group activities. Later miss Asang Mary thanked the resource persons and the youth for spending a day fruitfully. A day concluded with the common meal.

- *Correspondent*

PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF DN. JAMES CHOMITHUNG EZUNG HELD AT LONGSA

The Priestly Ordination of Deacon James Chomithung Ezung was solemnly held on 29 December 2025 at Longsa Village Ground under Wokha district. The priestly ordination was conferred by

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima Diocese, in the presence of priests, religious, family members and a large gathering of the faithful.

The occasion held special significance as it was the first priestly ordination from Longsa village, making it a red-letter day for the village, the Diocese of Kohima and the region at large. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Bishop James Thoppil as the main celebrant, with Rev. Fr. Paul Thungbemo Yanthan, Vice-Rector and Professor of Oriens Theological College, Shillong, serving as the master of ceremonies. The liturgical celebration was solemnly animated by the choir of St. Peter's Church, Longsa.

During the Rite of Ordination, several profound and symbolic rituals were observed, including prayers offered by the parents of the candidate, the removal and handing over of traditional attire, the formal calling and presentation of the candidate, the election by the Bishop with the consent of the people, examination and

promise of obedience, and the Litany of the Saints followed by the Prayer of Consecration. Deacon James was invested with the stole and chasuble, his hands were anointed with the Sacred Chrism, and the sacred vessels were presented to him, signifying his new role in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The rite concluded with the kiss of peace.

In his homily, Bishop James Thoppil described the day as a moment of immense joy and thanksgiving. Reflecting on the ordination motto chosen by the newly ordained priest, "Thy will be done" (Mt 6:10), the Bishop highlighted the meaning and mission of priesthood as a gift to the Church and a service to humanity. Drawing from the Scripture readings, he reminded the faithful that priesthood begins with discipleship and calls for a life rooted in prayer, humility, holiness and ongoing formation. He further emphasised that a priest belongs to the universal Church, serving all people without distinction, beyond



family, village or tribal affiliations.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, a felicitation programme was held, chaired by Mr. James C. Ezung, DWO. The programme featured congratulatory messages from St. Peter's Church Choir, a shepherd's message by Bishop James Thoppil, words of gratitude expressed by the newly ordained priest Dn. James ChomithungEzung, special

presentations by brothers and sisters from Longsa village, greetings from church leaders, and a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Samuel M. Ezung. Grace before the community meal was said by Rev. Fr. Sebastian, Parish Priest of St. Paul's Church, Wokha.

Welcoming Dn. James into the priestly ministry, Bishop Thoppil called upon him to be a true witness of Christ and a faithful steward

of the Divine Mysteries. He also expressed gratitude to the parents, family members and all those who accompanied the new priest through his years of formation and training. The ordination concluded with prayers invoking the intercession of Mary Help of Christians, as Dn. James ChomithungEzung begins his ministry in the service of the Church in the Diocese of Kohima. - *Correspondent*

CHIEPHOBOZOU TOWN WITNESSED FIRST PRIESTLY ORDINATION

The Catholic community of Chiephobozou witnessed a historic and grace-filled moment on Tuesday as Deacon Dominic Keneisalie Rülho was ordained a priest of the Catholic Church in a solemn ceremony held at Chiephobozou on 31st December. The ordination marked a significant milestone for the Diocese of Kohima, as Fr. Dominic became the first priest from Chiephobozou town.

The Holy Mass of priestly ordination was presided over by the Bishop of Kohima, in the presence of priests, religious sisters, village and community leaders, relatives, friends, and a large gathering of faithful. The liturgy was marked by deep reverence, joy and thanksgiving as the Church welcomed a new priest into its fold.

In his homily, the Bishop highlighted the sacred nature of the priesthood, reminding the faithful that priesthood is not a human achievement but a divine calling and gift from God. Drawing from the readings of the day, he said that every priest



is chosen, anointed, consecrated and set apart for God's service, just as Aaron and his sons were consecrated for priestly ministry in the Old Testament.

Quoting St. Paul, the Bishop described priests as "earthen vessels carrying a divine treasure," emphasizing that the power of priestly ministry comes not from human strength but from God Himself. He underlined that it is God, working through the Holy Spirit in the Church, who makes a priest, even though the sacrament is mediated through the hands of a Bishop.

Reflecting on the Gospel, the Bishop

reminded the newly ordained priest of his missionary responsibility to proclaim the Good News and bring God's Kingdom to the people through priestly, prophetic and pastoral ministry. He stressed that a priest is entrusted with sacred duties – celebrating the Eucharist, administering the sacraments, preaching the Word of God, and guiding the faithful towards salvation.

Addressing Fr. Dominic directly, the Bishop urged him to strive not merely to be a priest, but a good and faithful priest, rooted in prayer, Scripture, humility and love for God's people. He cautioned that while priestly powers are indelible, the personal holiness and faithfulness of a priest

profoundly impact the life of the Church.

The Bishop also expressed gratitude to the family of Fr. Dominic for offering their son to the service of God and the Church, and acknowledged all those who accompanied him through years of formation – from school and seminary to philosophical and theological studies.

Following the Holy Mass, a felicitation programme was held in honour of the newly ordained priest. Representatives from the village, Church organisations, family members and well-wishers offered greetings, prayers and words of encouragement, celebrating the historic occasion with cultural expressions and speeches. The programme reflected the joy and pride of the entire community on the gift of a priest from their midst.

- Correspondent

HISTORIC ORDINATION AT RAZEBA: THREE NEW PRIESTS FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

In a moment of deep spiritual joy and historic significance, three deacons—David Zholia, John Dukru and Abraham Krocha—were ordained priests at St. Ignatius Parish, Razeba, on January 7, 2026. The sacred celebration marked a red-letter day for the parish, the Diocese of Kohima and the Catholic Church in the region.

The solemn priestly ordination Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop, and witnessed by a large gathering of clergy, religious, parents, relatives, village elders and faithful from different parts of the region.

In his homily, Bishop Thoppil reflected on the readings from Jeremiah (1:4-9), Hebrews (5:1-10) and Luke (5:1-11), emphasizing that priestly vocation is always initiated by God. He reminded the ordinands that they were chosen by God even before they felt worthy, and called upon them to be shepherds after the heart of Christ—faithful in preaching the Gospel, administering the sacraments and leading God’s people in prayer and holiness.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, a felicitation programme was organized to honour the newly ordained priests. Addressing the gathering, Bishop Thoppil urged families and the Christian community to actively encourage priestly

and religious vocations, stressing that vocations flourish in homes rooted in faith and prayer.

During the felicitation programme, Fr. Valerian delivered a powerful message to the youth, challenging them to embrace a life of service and sacrifice, and to respond courageously to God’s call without fear.

Speaking on behalf of the newly ordained priests, Fr. Avi Abraham expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Bishop, parents, formators, parish priests and the faithful for their prayers, guidance and unwavering support throughout their journey to the priesthood.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Stephen Dukru, who acknowledged all those who contributed to the successful organization of the ordination and felicitation, including the parish community, volunteers and well-wishers.

- Correspondent



NEWMAN HSS, TOBU, MARKED A HISTORIC MILESTONE ON JANUARY 8, COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION



The jubilee celebration was attended by special guest Wennyei Konyak, Deputy Commissioner of Mon; guest of honour Chemang Paul; guest speakers including Naiba Konyak, MLA of 55 A/C Tobu, and Nyamnyei Konyak, MLA of 48 A/C Moka. The event was also blessed by the presence of the jubilee patron, Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, the school stated in an update.

The programme commenced with the traditional beating of the log drum by junior students, followed by the lighting of five jubilee candles led by the Bishop along with the dignitaries, symbolising five decades of imparting knowledge and igniting the light of education in a once-remote region.

In his address, the special guest encouraged students to compete with a healthy competitive spirit and strive for excellence in all fields. The guest of honour emphasised the importance of hard work, willpower and determination as the key ingredients for achieving success in life.

Guest speakers Naiba and Nyamnyei lauded the

Catholic missionaries for bringing modern education to the remote corner of Nagaland and nurturing young minds with discipline, values and vision. The guest speakers also requested the Bishop of Kohima to initiate steps towards the establishment of a college in the near future.

The presidents of Konyak Union Tobu and TASU acknowledged the tireless efforts of both past and present management and appealed to the Diocese for the establishment of a Newman Catholic College, citing the genuine educational needs of the region.

The school's alumni president also shared his reflections and appreciation during the programme. Conveying his jubilee greetings, Bishop James Thoppil congratulated the school community and encouraged continued commitment to holistic education and moral values.

Earlier in the day, the jubilee monolith was inaugurated by Wennyei Konyak and blessed by the Bishop of Kohima. The jubilee

memorial hall and library were inaugurated by Chemang Paul and Dr. Haku Anshao, Medical Officer, District Hospital Mon.

"Though Newman Higher Secondary School, Tobu is run by the Diocese, it remains deeply rooted in the hearts of the people of Tobu and continues to serve as a beacon of learning and progress for the region," the update stated.

- Correspondent

HOLY REDEEMER CHURCH, TOBU, CELEBRATED ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE

Holy Redeemer Church, Tobu, celebrated its Golden Jubilee on January 9, with Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, as the chief celebrant of the solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration. According to a press release from jubilee planning committee joint secretary Davidson Ngushu, the historic occasion was attended by a large gathering of priests, nuns, and Catholic faithful from various parishes and centres across Nagaland. Public leaders and pastors from Baptist churches of the Tobu



area also graced the event, reflecting the spirit of unity and inter-faith harmony. The monolith was blessed by Bishop James Thoppil and unveiled by YangbaKonyak, DIGP Kohima. During the Holy Eucharist, 59 children received their First Holy Communion, while 54 faithful received the Sacrament of Confirmation. In his homily, Bishop Thoppil congratulated the parishioners on reaching this significant milestone and encouraged the community to remain firm in

their faith, serve God with humility, and continue building a vibrant and spiritually strong parish.

Earlier, the programme was chaired by Davidson Ngushu, while John Khangnyu felicitated the delegates and invitees. Special numbers were presented by the SABS Sisters and Diocesan Brothers, adding grace and devotion to the celebration. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Changku Augustine.

- Correspondent

7TH CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION CULMINATES IN THRENTSUWONG

The 7th conference of Catholic Women's Association (CWA) concluded at Threntsuwong on Sunday, bringing together 90 delegates from

six villages under the theme 'Strong Women, Strong Future'.

Held from January 9 to 11, the conference resource persons were Rev Fr Thomas Toretkiu, Rev Fr Peter Pithungo, and Rev Fr Mathew Neni.

On the opening day, Rev Fr Thomas Toretkiu spoke on 'women who made a difference.' He drew

inspiration from global figures like Mother Teresa, Kalpana Chawla and Indira Gandhi, and biblical characters including Esther, Mary, Ruth, Deborah and Hannah. He highlighted lessons of trusting God's plan, showing loyalty, fervent prayer, and courageous leadership from their stories, urging delegates to draw strength from these examples to make a positive impact.

Rev Fr Mathew Neni, focusing on the sub-theme 'Women on their knees keep their family standing', praised the resilience of mothers. He stated, "women often bear the weight of family responsibilities and their resilience is awe-inspiring," encouraging them to keep prayer as their primary weapon.

Rev Fr Peter Pithungo, Parish Priest, emphasised the pivotal role of mothers, calling a mother's love "the fuel that enables a family to run," and urged them to stay rooted in faith.

The conference culminated with a solemn Eucharistic celebration on Sunday, officiated by Rev Fr Peter Pithungo of St. Paul Parish, Pungro, and concelebrated by Fr Thomas Toretkiu. Special prayers were offered for all mothers and for David Yanseki and Rosemary, who celebrated 56 years of married life. The mass was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony and a special musical piece performed by the parish priest.

The event was organised by office bearers



led by President Catherine Sangsula, along with Vice President Alphonsa Anong, Secretary Seraphina Sukyala, Joint Secretary Esther Sumila, and treasurers Prisca Tsupishe and Leosa Leshela, with support from executive members from the six participating villages: Pungro, New Vongti, Vongwa, Cedevevong, Khongiri, and Threntsuwong.

During the session, Elina Keyeholi was elected as the new Vice President, replacing the outgoing Alphonsa Anong.

The conference also included various competitions, including quiz, singing, and other creative performances by delegates from the different villages.
- *Correspondent*

5TH CONVENTION OF THE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION OF NAGALAND (CAN) AT ST. XAVIER PARISH JALUKIE

The Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN) held its fifth convention from January 9 to 12, 2026, at St. Xavier Parish, Jalukie. Hosted by the Zeliangrong Catholic Association of Nagaland (ZCAN), the four-day gathering carried the theme "Pilgrims of Faith, Hope, and Love."

The convention was graced by Bishop Eugene Joseph of Varanasi, chairman of the Commission for Laity of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), alongside Bishop James Thoppil of Kohima,

who presided over key liturgical celebrations. Over 2000 participants—including clergy, religious, and lay delegates from across the state—attended the event. Highlights included Eucharistic celebrations, thematic sessions, faith-sharing, and cultural programs.

The convention began with a solemn tribute to former CAN executives who passed away during the 2023–2026 tenure, offering a reflective and prayerful moment. A minute of silence was observed, commending the departed souls to God's mercy.

Presiding over the Mass on day two, Bishop Eugene Joseph shared the mission realities of his diocese, a region with nearly

99.99% Hindu population and a Catholic community of about 22,000 faithful. Expressing hope and solidarity, he looked forward to bringing leaders from his diocese to a future CAN convention to experience the vibrant faith of the Church in Nagaland.

Congratulating CAN and Bishop James Thoppil for their sustained efforts, Bishop Eugene Joseph prayed that the Association would continue to model committed lay leadership. He described CAN as "a God-blessed body of faith", making the mysteries of the Church—such as the Incarnation and the Sacraments—tangible and accessible. Through its witness and service, he noted, CAN makes Christ visible and His love experienced, especially by those in need. "An occasion like this shows that the reality of CAN is the foundation of communion in the Church, which must be synodal. Such communion unites all as one body, with Christ as the Head," he said.

The second day featured enriching sessions by several speakers:

- Fr. Kokto Kurian, Diocesan Youth Director, on "A Journey Through the History of the Catholic Church"
- Fr. Mhabemo Mathew, Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Church, Kohima, on "Scripture and the Foundations of Catholic Practices"
- Sr. Margaret Sekhose, MSMHC, Provincial Superior of the Sacred Heart Province, Tinsukia,



on “The Rosary: Encountering Christ Through Mary”

These sessions offered participants deeper insights into the faith, its foundations, and its lived expression.

The convention formally concluded on January 12 with a Mass and closing ceremony. Teisovi Gerard Meyase, Secretary-

General of CAN, described it as a grace-filled and historic gathering that, for the first time beyond urban centers, reached rural faithful, deepened unity, renewed commitment to the Church’s mission, and offered a meaningful glimpse into the life of the Church in mainland India.

Currently, the Catholic population in Nagaland stands at 61,905 across 36 parishes and 21 mission centers, encompassing 17 major tribes, all with active Catholic communities. The Angami and Lotha communities constitute the largest Catholic populations. The diocesan workforce includes 109 diocesan priests, 100 religious priests, 3 religious brothers, and 493 women religious from 22 congregations, actively involved in evangelization, catechesis, education, and social welfare.

Today, over 60 local priests and more than 300 nuns from various tribes continue the mission with dedication, striving to carry forward the legacy of the first missionaries who brought the Gospel to this part of the world. - *Correspondent*

ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH, LAKHUTI CELEBRATES PLATINUM JUBILEE

The St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Lakhuti celebrated its Platinum Jubilee from 16–18 January 2025, marking 75 years of Catholic faith under the theme “*Thy Kingdom Come, O Lord*” (Mt. 6:10). The celebration concluded with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima.

The jubilee served as a call to forgiveness, reconciliation, and unity,

highlighting the steady growth of the Catholic faith in Lakhuti across generations. The 75-year milestone was remembered as a testimony to God’s enduring grace and the sacrifices of the pioneers who embraced the faith amid challenges and opposition.

The first day began with the blessing of the jubilee site by Rev. Fr. N.K. George, followed by the release of a commemorative postal envelope by E chungthung Yanthan, Assistant Director of Postal Services. Eucharistic Adoration led by Rev. Fr. Marcus Yanthan and Sr. Rita Humtsoe, FCC, concluded the day.

On the second day, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Abraham Lotha, the first priest from Lakhuti, followed by a Eucharistic procession around the village and evening adoration with confessions.

The final day was marked by the Bishop’s visit and the blessing and dedication of the new church building and the Platinum Jubilee monolith. The monolith was unveiled by Yanjo Veronica Yanthan, wife of pioneer YantsaoLucus Yanthan, while the ribbon cutting and opening of the church door were performed by Abraham SantsuoHumtsoe, son of pioneer Shanpano Zechariah Humtsoe.

In his homily, Bishop Thoppil congratulated the faithful for their enduring witness and recalled the sacrifices of the early converts. Citing Romans 8:35–39, he affirmed that nothing can separate believers from the love of Christ and described Lakhuti as a beacon of faith where the Church first took root before spreading to neighbouring villages and the wider Lotha community. He urged the faithful to remember the past with gratitude, renew their commitment in the present, and live Christian values of



love, service, forgiveness, and sacrifice.

The felicitation programme following the Mass was chaired by Jonas Yanthan. Short speeches were delivered by Dr. Johnny Ruangmei, outgoing President of the Catholic Association of Nagaland, and Mhathung Yanthan, Advisor to the Government of Nagaland. The vote of thanks was delivered by Elias T. Lotha.

The jubilee concluded with renewed gratitude for the past and hope that the faith of the pioneers will continue to inspire future generations. *- Correspondent*

A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO COUPLES

Mrs. Esther, received the Sacrament of Rectification after their marriage. Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, prepared

good Lord continue to bless these loving couples, guiding them on their journey together."



The congregation congratulated Mr. Michael and Mrs. Abigail, Mr. Albert and Mrs. Esther on this special milestone!

The atmosphere was filled with love, hope, and blessings as the couples reaffirmed their commitment to each other.

A heartwarming ceremony took place at St. John Church, Kiusam, on Sunday, 25th January, as two couples, Mr. Michael and Mrs. Abigail, Mr. Albert and

them with marriage classes, received them into the Church. In the homily of Fr. Thomas said "what God has joined, let no one put asunder." He added "May the

The ceremony was a beautiful testament to the power of love and faith. The couples' dedication to one another was truly inspiring, and the congregation came together to celebrate their union. *- Samuel Kurak*

TEACHERS ORIENTATION PROGRAM HELD AT ST. XAVIER HSS SHAMATOR

St. Xavier Higher Secondary School in Shamator successfully hosted a comprehensive Teachers Orientation Program on 11th February 2026. These pedagogical skills and crucial awareness were on contemporary educational issues. The program saw an enthusiastic participation from the teaching faculty, keen to enhance their professional development.

The insightful sessions were led by esteemed resource persons, Rev. Fr. John Lichoï and Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu. Their expertise guided discussions on a diverse range of topics vital for modern teaching. Key themes included effective classroom



management strategies, meticulous lesson plan development, and the essential skills of teaching that foster an engaging learning environment.

A significant portion of the orientation focused on the psychology of a child and the overarching philosophy of child-centred teaching, emphasizing methods that prioritize students' individual needs and learning styles. Furthermore, the program provided critical awareness on the National Education Policy (NEP), the Protection of

Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and the detrimental effects and legal implications of corporal punishment.

This initiative was by Rev. Fr. John Poji and the Staff of the St. Xavier HSS Shamator. Its commitment is to nurturing a progressive and safe educational atmosphere, ensuring its teachers are well prepared to meet the evolving demands of the educational sector and provide the best possible learning experience for their students.

- Fr. John Poji

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SHINES AT KIUSAM TOWN SPORTS EVENT

St. John's Church made a remarkable showing at the football and volleyball matches organized by the Kiusam Town Student Union, securing second place in

both events on 28-30th January 2026. The community is beaming with pride, and we extend our heartiest congratulations to all participants who represented St. John's Church.

The events brought together various communities, promoting unity and

sportsmanship. The Kiusam Town Student Union deserves a big thank you for organizing these games, which emphasize the importance of integrity and teamwork over winning.

Kiusam Town's sports scene is thriving, and St. John's Church is proud to be a part of it. We're looking forward to more such events that foster camaraderie and healthy competition. Congratulations again to St. John's Church.

- James Khiungju SM, VG



Sharing: January - March 2026

LUKE 18:27

"The impossible becomes possible when God is in it."

THANKSGIVING EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION ON THE ELEVATION OF JOSEPH PANJIKARAN TO THE RANK OF VENERABLE

A solemn Thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration was held on 13th February 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Palliative Care Centre, 7th Mile, Chümoukedima, in gratitude to God for the elevation of the Servant of God Joseph Panjikaran to the rank of Venerable.

The celebration was presided over by Rt. Rev. James Thoppil, Bishop of the Diocese of Kohima, who graciously officiated as the main celebrant. He was joined by Fr. Chacko, Fr. George Rino, and twenty-seven other priests who concelebrated the Holy Mass, making the occasion a profound expression of ecclesial unity and communion.

The programme was well organized and prayerfully conducted. Sisters from various religious congregations, well-wishers, benefactors, doctors, town committee members, parish-level office bearers, and numerous faithful were



present to participate in this grace-filled celebration. Their presence reflected the wide impact of the life and mission of Venerable Joseph Panjikaran.

A special highlight of the evening was the inspiring address delivered by Rev. Fr. Joe Mariadas, Director of Shalom Deaddiction and Rehabilitation Centre. In his speech, he eloquently reflected on the visionary leadership, healing ministry, and heroic virtues of Venerable Joseph Panjikaran, emphasizing the relevance of his charism in today's world. His words deeply moved the gathering and renewed in all a commitment to continue the

mission of compassionate service.

The atmosphere throughout the celebration was one of reverence, gratitude, and spiritual joy. The faithful actively participated in the Holy Eucharist, offering heartfelt thanksgiving for the life and witness of our beloved founder and seeking his continued intercession.

The programme concluded successfully, leaving all participants spiritually enriched and strengthened in their dedication to carry forward his vision of healing, evangelization, and service to the poor and marginalized.

- Correspondent

GOLDEN CUM SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION OF SABS SISTERS, CORPUS CHRISTI PROVINCE, DIMAPUR

The Golden and Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession was solemnly celebrated on 14th February at 5:30 pm at the SABS Provincial House, Chumuokedima, Dimapur. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Bishop James Thopil, the bishop of Kohima, who was the main celebrant for the auspicious occasion.

The celebration honoured Sr. Elsy Manikompel SABS, the Golden Jubilarian, marking fifty years of her faithful and

dedicated religious life. Along with her, the Silver Jubilarians – Sr. Mary Minj SABS, Sr. LiyLemoru SABS, Sr. Reena Olapurackal SABS, Sr. Stella Rose Thouthang SABS, Sr. Clare P. Awungshi SABS and Sr. Martha Athing SABS – gratefully celebrated twenty five years of committed service in the vineyard of the Lord.

The solemn Eucharist was prayerful and meaningful, filled with thanksgiving to God for the gift of vocation and for the generous witness of the Jubilarians. The celebration was graced by the presence of many priests and religious sisters, as well as the parents and relatives of the Jubilarians, making the occasion a joyful family gathering.

Following the Holy Mass, a short felicitation programme was held in honour of the Jubilarians. The programme concluded with a fellowship meal, fostering a spirit of joy, unity and thanksgiving among all present. The celebration was a moment of grace and gratitude for the beauty of a life totally dedicated to His Service.

SCCG MARKS TRIPLE JUBILEE IN CHUMOUKEDIMA WITH GOLDEN, SILVER AND PLATINUM CELEBRATIONS

The Sisters of Charity of St. Bartolomea Capitanio and St. Vincenza Gerosa (SCCG) celebrated a threefold jubilee at St. Joseph's Convent, Chumukedima, in the Diocese of Kohima on Saturday (14 February 2026). H.E.Msgr. James Thoppil offered the Holy Eucharist along with many other concelebrant priests.

The celebration marked the Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr. Magdalene Athisa SCCG the Silver Jubilee of St.

Joseph's Convent, and the Platinum Jubilee of the canonisation of the congregation's foundress, St. Bartolomea Capitanio, and her first companion, St. Vincenza Gerosa.

A commemorative silver brick was laid to symbolise



the sisters' dedicated service in education, pastoral ministry, boarding care for young girls and family outreach. The convent is part of the Northeast India Province of the SCCG, which currently has 194 members.

The Northeast Province was carved out of the Kolkata Province in 1993 and is presently administered by its fifth Provincial. In India, the SCCG operates through eight provinces.

The congregation's presence in Chumukedima traces back to the invitation extended by Bishop Emeritus Jose Mukala, who encouraged the Sisters of Charity to contribute to the mission of the Diocese of Kohima through education and pastoral work, living their charism of love, compassion and self-giving service.

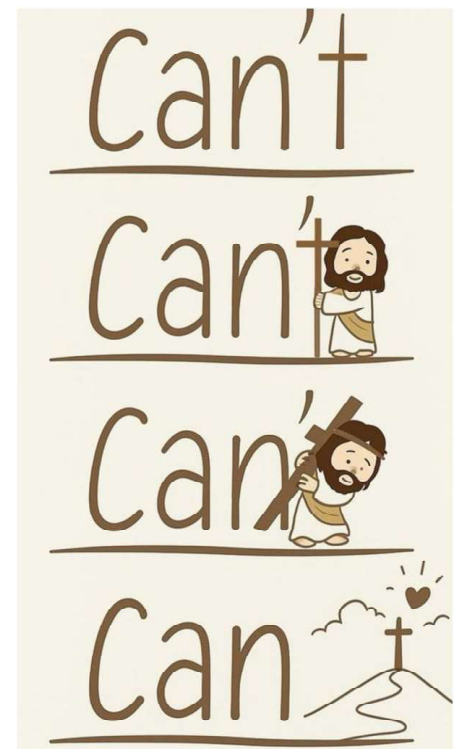
The platinum jubilee also commemorated 75 years since the canonisation of St. Bartolomea Capitanio

and St. Vincenza Gerosa, who were declared saints in 1950 during the Holy Year by Pope Pius XII. Founded on a mission to serve the poor, the sick and the marginalised, the congregation continues to carry forward the legacy of its foundresses in caring

for youth, orphans, widows, prisoners and others in need.

The jubilee celebration highlighted the enduring spiritual and social contribution of the Sisters of Charity in Northeast India.

*- Sr. Juliana Masharing
SCCG*





TEACHERS ATTEND COMPREHENSIVE ORIENTATION AT CHRIST KING SCHOOL, PHUVKIU



Christ King School recently hosted a pivotal one-day orientation program on 14th of February 2026. one-day orientation programme for its teaching staff, focusing on enhancing educational practices and professional development. The comprehensive session covered a diverse range of topics crucial for modern pedagogy and school community building.

The programme also delved into critical policy matters such as the New Education Policy (NEP), the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and the implementation of non-corporal punishment strategies. Emphasis was placed on fostering teamwork among staff and strengthening the vital relationship dynamic between parents, teachers, and students to create a supportive learning environment. The initiative aims to equip teachers with advanced skills and insights for the upcoming academic year. - *Correspondent*

54 YOUTH LEADERS ATTEND NCYM RETREAT-CUM-CEC MEET IN KOHIMA

The Kohima Diocese Youth Leaders Retreat-cum-CEC Meet 2026 of the Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) was held from February 13 to 15 at Mount Tabor Retreat House, Kohima, under the theme "Courageous Witness: Living Hope in Christ."

The inaugural Holy Eucharist was presided over by Rev Fr. Kokto Kurian, Diocesan Youth Director (DYD). In his homily, Kurian emphasised that "we are called to lead our fellow youth, and leadership is fundamentally a mission of service." He further reminded the gathering that a leader formed by Christ learns to pause, to listen attentively, and to discern before acting, allowing the Lord to guide every decision and action.

The retreat was animated by Rev Fr Thomas SDB, Novice Master, who



An update informed that the 3-day gathering brought together diocesan youth leaders and Central Executive Council (CEC) members from across the Diocese. The retreat was organised with the objective of fostering spiritual renewal, strengthening leadership commitment, and discerning the future direction of youth ministry within the Diocese.

reflected on Jesus' leadership, our response to emulate his servant leadership and the need for leaders to repent and convert like St. Peter did.

Dr Johnny Ruangmei, CAN President, Dr John Murry, Public Leader & Mhonbeni Florence addressed the Youth Leaders focusing on leadership rooted in faith, responsible stewardship, collaborative

ministry, and the role of youth as courageous witnesses in today's Church and society.

A significant highlight of the gathering was the presence and pastoral guidance of His Lordship, Most Rev Dr James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, who presided the Holy Eucharist and addressed the youth leaders. Thoppil encouraged them to remain steadfast in faith, united in mission, and committed to authentic Christian witness. He also called on the youth to resolve issues case by case with objective justice as the standard rather than pulling in groups and tribes.

The event witnessed the participation of representatives from 24 Parishes/Centres and 4 Tribal Associations across the Diocese. A total of 54 youth leaders attended the programme, demonstrating active engagement and a strong sense of responsibility towards the mission of youth ministry in the Diocese.

-Correspondent

JONAS YANTHAN ASSUMES OFFICE AS CAN PRESIDENT

The Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN) held its handing and taking over ceremony on February 15 at the Administrative Hall of Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, Kohima, marking the formal transition of leadership for the new term.

The programme began with an opening hymn and

prayer. The Scripture reading from the gospel Matthew (20:25-28) was read by Khamkiumong L John, emphasising servant and leadership, while Veronica Nriame led the intercessory prayers.

Special prayers were offered in gratitude for the outgoing office bearers and for wisdom, integrity, and



guidance for the incoming team. The gathering also prayed for unity among Christians, peace and harmony in Nagaland, and for all present to remain committed to the mission of the Church.

Most Rev Dr James Thoppil, Bishop of Nagaland, in his exhortation, encouraged the newly elected office bearers to lead with humility, integrity, and a spirit of service, reminding them that leadership in the Church is entrusted for the good of the faithful and society at large.

The report for the period 2020-2026 was presented, highlighting key initiatives and activities undertaken during the tenure. Moses P Yimchunger, Outgoing Treasurer, presented the Statement of Accounts for the term, which was also duly adopted.

In his farewell address, Outgoing President Dr Johnny Ruangmei (2020-2026) expressed gratitude to

the clergy, executive members, and the faithful for their support and prayers.

Reflecting on his tenure, Ruangmei said that this journey has been less about leadership and more about grace – God's grace working through ordinary and imperfect people like us. He further observed that leadership in the Church is a

s h a r e d pilgrimage and added that the mission continues beyond individuals.

T h e formal transition of office included the signing of the 'handing over document' and the exchange of official files and financial records between the outgoing and incoming leadership, signifying continuity, accountability, and responsible stewardship.

Jonas Yanthan formally assumed office as President of CAN, assuring the gathering of his commitment to serve faithfully in accordance with the Constitution of the Association and in communion with the Church.

The gathering included the Bishop and diocesan administrators, Parish Priest of Mary Help of Christians Cathedral, officials of the Nagaland Catholic Women Association (NCWA) and the Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM), former CAN officials, and members of the Association.

- Correspondent

SJS HOSTED AN INCLUSIVE TEACHERS' ORIENTATION

On 17th February St. John School, Kiusam hosted a inclusive Teachers' orientation. A program was focusing on enhancing pedagogical skills and understanding the evolving educational landscape. The session brought together edu-



cators for an insightful day dedicated to professional development.

Key highlights of the program include deep dives into the fundamental ques-

tion of "who is a teacher?" Fostering introspection and reaffirming the pivotal role of educators. Significant time was also devoted to effective classroom management techniques, alongside innovative teaching methods and strategies designed to transform complex subjects into simple, engaging lessons.

- Sir A. David

LOTHA CATHOLIC KHÜMSHÜM KOHIMA CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Lotha Catholic Khümshüm Kohima marked its Golden Jubilee on 22 February 2026 at the LCKK Community Hall, Peraciezie, Kohima. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, with Yanthungo Martin Patton, Deputy Chief Minister of Nagaland, as the Special Guest.

Observed under the theme "One in Christ, United in Mission," the celebration highlighted the community's commitment to unity, evangelization, and shared responsibility in strengthening the Church's mission.

The jubilee flag was hoisted by Rev. Fr. Matthew Mhabemo, Parish Priest of St. Francis De Sales Church. Bishop Thoppil blessed the Golden Jubilee monolith and the grotto of Mother Mary, while the monolith was unveiled by the Deputy Chief

Minister. Earlier, the Jubilee Hall was blessed by the Bishop; the ribbon was cut by Johnny Humtsoe and the Jubilee candle lit by R. David Yanthan.

In his homily, Bishop Thoppil congratulated the community for fifty years of steadfast faith and witness. Recalling the early acceptance of the Catholic faith among the Lotha people, he compared it to emerging from darkness into light, urging the faithful to remain rooted in Christ. Linking the Jubilee theme with the Lenten season, he reminded the congregation that unity in mission flows from unity in Christ and called them to prayer, repentance, and spiritual renewal.

During the felicitation programme, Deputy Chief Minister Patton praised the pioneers of the community for their perseverance and strong faith foundation. Referring to his visit to Vatican City for the inauguration of Pope Leo XIV, he emphasised the importance of unity beyond denominational differences.

He also spoke on environmental protection, preservation of the mother tongue, unity among Naga tribes, and the importance of education and responsible use of technology. He assured the gathering of his continued accessibility in public service.

The Holy Mass was chaired by C. James Ezung, while the felicitation programme was chaired by Sorenbeni Esther Yanthan. The celebration concluded with gratitude for the past fifty years and renewed hope for continued unity and mission in the years ahead.

- Correspondent



ST. JOHN SCHOOL KUSAM HOLDS INSPIRING INVESTITURE PROGRAM

values and progress of the institution.

During the ceremony, Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu delivered a powerful message on the importance

All the house captains and assistants came forward and solemnized the oath-taking ceremony, where the young leaders pledged to embody honesty, responsibility, and unwavering commitment towards the betterment and growth of St. John School Kiusam. These students, handpicked for their leadership potential and exemplary conduct, were formally entrusted with their duties in the assembly in the presence of teaching faculties.



St. John School Kiusam hosted a dignified and inspiring investiture program on the 2nd of March, marking a significant event in the school's calendar. The ceremony, held on the school premises, saw newly appointed student leaders officially assume their roles, committing to upholding the

of integrity and dedication, resonating deeply with all attendees and reinforcing the school's vision for holistic education. He illustrated that the school's commitment is to nurturing future leaders and fostering a sense of responsibility among its students and the vision of the school.

The initiative aims to provide practical training and instill leadership qualities in students from a young age, preparing them to be responsible and impactful citizens in the future. - *Correspondent*

ST. PETER'S CHURCH TRONGER HOSTS INSPIRING RETREAT

St. Peter's Church, Tronger conducted Retreat on 5th March, with the theme, "Renew us O Lord." The spiritual gathering, provided a powerful opportunity for attendees to deepen their faith and reflect on the core tenets of Christian belief.

The retreat featured the insightful guidance of Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, a preacher who eloquently highlighted the critical importance of a healthy belief system in Christian life. Fr. Thomas emphasized that without unwavering belief, the very foundation of being a

Christian becomes baseless. He passionately articulated that genuine faith is cultivated through consistent devotional practices. These include devotional practices through Church attendance, fervent prayer, heartfelt adoration, participation in the Stations of the Cross, and the recitation of the Rosary. These acts, he explained, are not mere rituals but vital pathways to a stronger connection with God.



He further elaborated that once individuals are

firmly grounded in faith, the sacraments of the Church naturally become integral pillars of their spiritual journey. This foundational strength, he noted, leads to a heightened awareness of one's state of life and a profound consciousness of sin. This awareness, in turn, empowers believers to actively strive to avoid committing sin and to live a life aligned with divine principles.

At the very outside Rev. Fr. Gabriel, a parish priest welcome Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu to the community. Community during the

interval provided tea and later for the lunch. A retreated ended with a solemn Eucharist celebrated by the preacher. Attendees

left feeling spiritually invigorated, ready to embrace a deeper and more intentional practice of their faith.

-Sr. Mary Chandan MSMHC

RENEWAL RETREAT HELD AT CHRIST KING CHURCH, ANGANBA

Christ King Church Anganba successfully hosted a rejuvenating one-day retreat centered around the profound theme, "Renew Us." The spiritual gathering, held on a Friday 6th March, during the Lenten season, offered attendees a much-needed opportunity for introspection and connection to God.

The day commenced with a warm welcome from Rev. Fr. Gabriel, setting an inviting tone for the day's spiritual journey. The highlight of the retreat was the insightful preaching by Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu. Father Thomas emphasized the invaluable preciousness of each individual in the eyes of God, a message that resonated deeply with the congregation. He passionately spoke about



the transformative power of prayer as a direct conduit to divine connection.

Addressing the challenges of modern life, Father Thomas acknowledged how overwhelming media and information can distract hearts and minds, leading to anxiety and unrest. He reminded the faithful of Jesus' comforting invitation, "Come to me, I will lighten your burden," (Matthew 11:28) underscoring the importance of spending time with God for enlightenment. His discourses comprehensively covered essential aspects of faith, the manifold benefits of church attendance, the significance

of the sacraments, and the crucial awareness of sin in one's life.

As the retreat drew to a close, a Catechist extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all participants and organizers. The day culminated in a solemn Eucharist celebration, bringing the community together in prayer and communion. Fittingly for a Friday in Lent, the spiritual day concluded with the Stations of the Cross, allowing attendees to reflect on the Passion of Christ and embrace the spirit of renewal. The retreat left many feeling spiritually uplifted and re-energized.

- Sr. Henrytha MSMHC

TEACHER TRAINING SEMINAR HELD AT ST CLARE SCHOOL, AKULUTO

Teacher training seminar was successfully conducted at St Clare Auditorium, Akuluto, on 7th March 2026. All the teachers gathered at 8:30 a.m. to participate in the programme. The seminar



was conducted by FrSanthosh SDB from Salesian B.Ed College, who served as the resource person for the day.

During the session, FrSanthosh shared valuable insights on modern teaching methods, c l a s s r o o m

management, and the importance of motivating students for holistic development. He encouraged teachers to adopt creative and student-centered approaches in their classrooms. The seminar was thought-provoking and inspired the teachers with many new ideas to enhance the teaching-learning process.

Teachers actively participated in discussions and shared their experiences, making the session lively and interactive. The seminar concluded with a note of gratitude to the resource person for his enriching guidance and encouragement to educators

CATECHETICAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM BY REV. DEACON DR. SHERMAN KUEK OFS

The Catechetical Certification Program, a diploma course initiated by the Diocese of Kohima, was conducted at the Newman Pastoral Center, Chūmoukedima, in two phases under the guidance of a renowned Professor Deacon Dr. Sherman Kuek OFS from Malaysia who extends his service to the people through his Splendour Project. This course was designed to equip Catechists and lay leaders with deeper theological and pastoral knowledge in keeping with the laity. In addition to the in-person sessions, the same

course was also made available online for those unable to attend physically.

The first batch (2023-2024) successfully completed their course, and certificates were awarded to 46 participants in recognition of their dedication and achievement. While 10 of them from Second Batch (2025-2026) received their Certificate.

The new batch for 2026 commenced on 23rd February and concluded on 1st March 2026. The inaugural session began with a brief introduction by Sr. Rita Kera MSMHC, Newman Pastoral Centre Coordinator followed by a hymn to the Holy Spirit led by Catechist Samuel. Opening prayer and Scripture was read from Acts 4:27-31 "Prayer of the community" by Emeritus Bp. Jose Mukala. The Director of Newman Pastoral Center, Fr. Sabu Chenackal, formally introduced the resource

welcome, they were presented with traditional Naga mufflers.

On 24th February, Rev. Bp. James Thoppil the Bishop of Kohima paid a short visit and addressed the participants. "Why do I do what I do" was the clarion call Bp James gave to the participants to reason and understand what they believe and do. He also thank Rev. Dn. Sherman Kuek for his generosity in sharing his expertise in theology and catechetical teachings. He presented them the books on, "The Essential Catholic Survival Guide" and "Youcat for Confession."

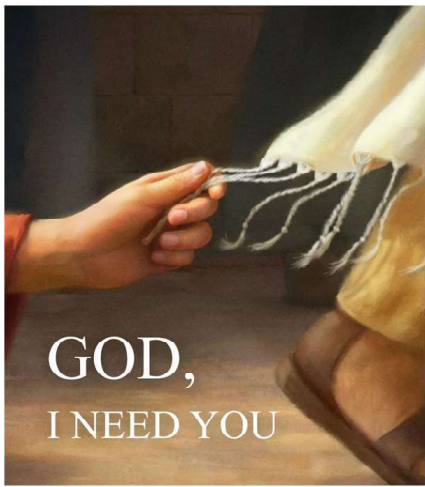
There were 42 participants from 21 Parishes and Centres. Emeritus Bp. Jose Mukala, Fr Sabu Joseph, Fr George Rino, Fr James MD and Fr. C.P Anto took turns to celebrate Holy Mass. Throughout the program, all the participants actively engaged in the sessions and discussions, gaining



person, Rev. Deacon Dn. Sherman Kuek, along with his brother Sylvester. As a token of respect and warm

valuable insights from Deacon Sherman Kuek's teachings. The evenings were packed with group dynamics and discussions.

The class ended on 28th February afternoon and in the evening a short entertainment program was organized which includes group songs, bible skit and choreography as a gesture of appreciation for the esteemed resource person. The course ended on 1st March with Sunday solemn Mass in St. Joseph church Chümoukedima. The Participants took up the liturgy and choir. Rev. Fr. Sabu Chenackal was the main Celebrant. After the Mass 10 of them who completed the full two year course were awarded with certificate by Sir Nosazo Charles Nagaland state Information Commissioner followed by special number from the choir and photo session. The Participants left for their respective places after the meal. Many have expressed that the course had enriched them in deepening their catholic faith. In fact some of them who had completed the course attended the course again. This Catechetical Certification Program continues to be a significant initiative in the Diocese of Kohima, strengthening faith formation and leadership of the laity within the Church.



NAGALAND CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY-MARCH, 2026



1. Seminar on 'My Catholic Faith': *The seminar on 'My Catholic Faith' was held on 8th February 2026 at St. Peter's Church, Atoizu. The programme was facilitated by Rev. Fr. KoktoKurian, Director of NCYM, who served as the resource persons.*



2. Seminar on 'My Catholic Faith': *The seminar on 'My Catholic Faith' was held on 21st February 2026 with the campus hostellers of St. Joseph's (A) College. Rev. Fr. KoktoKurian, Director of NCYM, was the resource persons.*



3. Seminar for Teachers on Navigating Mental Health & Common Mental Disorders, Psychological First Aid and Pathways to Care were held on 27th Jan 2026 at St. Mary's Cathedral Hr. Sec. School, Kohima: *Ms. Veronica Nriame, General Secretary, NCYM was the resource person.*



4. Veneration of 11th NCYM Convention Cross: The 11th NCYM Convention Cross will journey across the **38 Parishes and 20 Centres of the Diocese of Kohima**, serving as a spiritual pilgrimage that invites the faithful, especially the youth, to a deeper and transformative experience of faith.

This prayerful initiative provides a meaningful opportunity for young people to gather in prayer, unity, and reflection, seeking God’s blessings and spiritual preparation for the successful celebration of the **11th NCYM Convention**. On **21st February**, the **Veneration of the 11th NCYM Convention Cross** commenced at **Holy Cross Parish, Dimapur**.



5. On 28th February and 7th March, the Veneration of the 11th NCYM Convention Cross continued at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 4th Mile Chekiye, and St. Francis de Sales Parish, Tening. The programme included a prayerful procession, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and the veneration of the NCYM Convention Cross.



6. 8th NCYM Outreach Programme :8th NCYM Outreach Programme was held from 7th – 9th March, 2026 at *St. Francis de Sales Parish, Tening on the theme, “Rooted in Christ: Living the Faith.”* The Seminar was participated by the six unit Churches. *Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian, Diocesan Youth Director* was the main speaker of the event.



8: Northeast Diocesan Youth Director’s Meet 2026-Imphal: The North East Diocesan Youth Director’s Meet 2026 was held from 25th to 27th February, bringing together Diocesan Youth Directors (DYDs) and Diocesan Youth Lady Animators (DYLA) for prayer, reflection and planning under the banner of North Eastern Regional Youth Commission (NERYC). *Rev. Sr. Mariyam Chothe Khyang* represented the **Diocese of Kohima**.



9: Acknowledgements:



Ms.PremyNchumbeni E Ezung D/o Lt. Mr. S. Emmanuel Ezung and Mrs.Renchumi of St. Peter's Church, Longsa for securing the post of Staff Nurse under Health & Family Welfare Department.



Mr.Nzanthung Ezung S/o Mr. Robert R Ezung & Mrs. Liponi Felicita Ezung of St. Peter's Church, Longsa for securing the post of Agriculture Inspector under Agriculture Department.



Er. Asuto Roderick Kisos S/o **Mr. Melevito Anthony** and **Mrs. Akhule Margaret** of **St. Francis De Sales Parish, Kohima** for securing the post of **Junior Engineer** under **Power Department**.



Er. Tsopenthe Jobor Sor S/o **Mr. Y. Instangju William** and **Mrs. K. Maria Sangtam** of **St. Francis De Sales Parish, Kohima** for securing the post of **Junior Engineer** under **Power Department**.



Er. Heboka Samson Yeothomi S/o **Mr. Vikheto Joseph** and **Mrs. Kihoshi Elizabeth** of **St. James Church, Phisami Village** for securing the post of **SDO** under **Works and Housing Department**.



Dr. Nyuwisie R Nyuwi S/o **Mr Ratsiepa Nyuwi** and **Mrs. Zathothsü Nyuwu** of **St. Xavier Church, Meluri Town** for securing the post of **Medical Officer** under **Health and Family Welfare Department**.



Dr. Longtila Catherine S. Sangtam D/o **Lt. Mr. Roland K. Sukhamong Sangtam** and **Mrs. Tsusola Carolyn** of **St. Peter's Parish, Kiphire** for securing the post of **Medical Officer** under **Health and Family Welfare Department**.

9. The Office of the Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) extends its heartiest congratulations to the following individuals for Successfully enrolling as an advocate with the BAR Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim under the BAR Council of India.



Ms. Mhabeni Lotha D/o **Mr. Yanrenthung** of **St. Peter's Church, Longsa** for Clearing the **BAR Exam** under **BAR Council of India**.



Mr. Shanthungo L Ezung S/o **Mr. Likao Ezung** of **St. Peter's Church, Longsa** for Clearing the **BAR Exam** under **BAR Council of India**.

10. The Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) Office extends its heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Vishü Rita Krochaon being awarded with Governor’s Award 2025 in the field of Literature on 2nd February, 2026 at Dr .Imkongliba Ao Hall.

Ms .Vishü Rita Krocha, a devout Catholic youth from St. Ignatius Parish, Rezeba, has brought great pride and joy to the entire Catholic youth fraternity of Nagaland. She is an Author, Writer, Journalist and Publisher. She is also the proprietor of Penthrill Publication House. Her dedication, discipline, and exemplary performance in the field of literature serve as an inspiration to all young people to pursue excellence while upholding Christian values.

It is indeed jubilation for our Catholic Community for the remarkable achievement. May you continue to thrive and inspire the younger generations.

“May He grant you according to your heart desires, and fulfill all your purposes.”- Psalm 20:4 - General Secretary, NCYM



May their Souls Rest in Peace!

02nd January, 2026:Mr. Niesapra Nelson D’Vadeo (80 Years), the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Nancy D’Vadeo UFS (Superior St. Xavier’s Convent Meluri).

19th January, 2026:Mr. Albert Kerketta (40 Years), the beloved younger brother of Mr. ArnesKerketta (Bishop’s Driver).

26th January, 2026:Mr. Thruba Peter (58 Years) the eldest brother of Rev. Sr. Regina Chawang FMA (Superior of Auxilium Dimapur).

27th January, 2026:Mr. Rovikeze Vincent (56 years) the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Rebecca Mengutuno CMC (St. John the Evangelist Church, Khonoma).

01st February, 2026: Mr. Mark Touthang the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Angela Touthang and Rev. Sr. Esther Touthang (Sacred Heart Convent Jotsoma).

08th February, 2026:Mr. Brutus (55 Years), the Nephew of Rev. Fr. John S Kavas (Parish Priest, St. Peter’s Parish Tesophenyu).

23rd February, 2026:Mr. Mr. Paul (81 Years), the beloved brother of Rev. Fr. C.M. Joseph (Parish Priest, Christ King Parish Kohima)

24th February, 2026: Er. RitachuThurrIsaac , the beloved uncle of Rev. Fr. John TapituThurr (Dean of studies St. Xavier Seminary Jalukie).

27th February, 2026: Mr. Nasü (Athi) Krocha S/O RhokhoKrocha, the beloved elder brother of Rev. Fr. Avi Abraham SJ (China Mission).

28th February, 2026: Mrs. Chinnamma , the beloved Mother of Rev. Fr. Thomas Muttathil (On Sabbatical).

02nd March, 2026: Mr. Thomas Chacko(60 Years), the beloved brother in law of Rev. Fr. Abraham Nirappel (Parish Priest, St. Dominic Savio Church Chiephobozo).

05th March, 2026: Mrs. Mary D’Almeida(68 Years), the beloved sister of Rev. Sr. Ursula Baretto (Superior of Lazami convent).

06th March, 2026: Mrs. Puhuii Paulina Savino (87 Years), the beloved grandmother of Rev. Fr. Thomas MegorikhoPunyii (Assistant Priest, Sacred Heart Church Bhandari).





NAGALAND CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT

Presents

IGNITORS: NCYM's Path to Empowering Youth

OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS AT YOUR SERVICE
TOPICS & RESOURCE PERSONS

MY CATHOLIC FAITH CHURCH HISTORY YOUTH & MARRIAGE

REV. FR. KOKTO KURIAN, DIOCESAN YOUTH DIRECTOR (DYD)
Qualification : Masters in English & Social Work
Licentiate in Canon Law

YOUTH & MENTAL HEALTH

MS. VERONICA NRIAME, GENERAL SECRETARY, NCYM
Designation : Psychiatric Social Worker, DMHP, Naga
Hospital Authority Kohima
Qualification : M.Phil (Psychiatric Social Work)

YOUTH & START UP LIVELIHOOD & FINANCIAL LITERACY

- DR. ROSOU RONALD PONEHA, PRESIDENT, NCYM**
Designation : Veterinary Assistant Surgeon NPSC CTSE
2017
Qualification: B.V.Sc & A.H.
- MR. SEDENGULIE LEO, TREASURER, NCYM**
Designation : Demonstrator (Interior Design) NPSC CTSE
2024
Qualification : M.Sc. Interior & Furniture Design

YOUTH & VOCATIONS

- REV. SR. JOSEPHINE KATH, MSMHC**
Diocesan Youth Lady Animator (DYLA)
- MS. MAGDALINE RONGMEI**
Vibes Co-editor
- MS. SAMLANGWANGLE MELODY**
Spokesperson, NCYM

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VP & Administrator, NEISSR
- MS. MHABENI ESTHER YANTHAN**
Female Repre, NERYC
- MS. POSARHO ESTHER KAJIRI**
Joint Secretary, NCYM

LEADERSHIP

- DR. KEKHRIESENO CHRISTINA**
Designation : Associate Prof. (HoD) Dept. of Sociology,
Kohima College, Kohima
- MR. TEISOVI GERARD MEYASE**
Designation : Asst. Prof. & Controller of Examination (COE)
Kohima Science College, Jotsoma
- REV. FR. LAWRENCE KHING**
VP & Administrator of NEISSR

CAREER GUIDANCE

- MR. LIYINGCHAN AIDEN HUMTSOE**
Designation : BDO (RD)
Qualification : B.A. (History) NPSC Batch 2023
- MS. ROSEMARY MERO**
Designation : Assistant Jailor, Dept. of Prisons
Qualification : B.A. (History) LLB NPSC Batch 2022
- MR. STEPHEN J KITHAN, VIBES CHIEF EDITOR**
Qualification : M.Sc. Chemistry

YOUTH & ENVIRONMENT

ER. KEVISEDE IMMANUEL PUCHO, MALE REPRE, NERYC
Designation : Asst. Environmental Engineer, Nagaland
Pollution Control Board.
Qualification: B. Tech. Civil Engineering

MUSIC

- MR. PAUL MAGH**
Former Music Secretary, NCYM, ICYM National Youth
Awardee 2024
- MS. VALENTINA THERHUNGUNO MEYASE**
Music Secretary, NCYM
- MR. KEVINGUTUO JAMES SOLO**
Vice President, NCYM

HEALTH & HYGIENE

- REV. SR. DR. MEDOSENH THAKRO**
MBBS
- REV. SR. DR. ROSMY VARGHESE**
BHMS
- REV. SR. DR. ROSEMARY YANTHAN**
MBBS



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COMMISSION FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS



The Commission for Tribal Affairs under the banner of North East India Regional Bishops Conference (NEIRBC) Commission for Tribal Affairs convened a consultative meeting at Bosco Reach Out, Guwahati, on the 19th and 20th February 2026. Fr. Lawrence Khing, Commission for Tribal Affairs, Diocese of Kohima, attended the meeting. Fr. George Plathottam SDB, Secretary, Commission for Tribal Affairs, was the resource person. 25 delegates from 15 dioceses of Northeast India, along with Chairman Bishop Ferdinand Dkhar of Jowai Diocese, Archbishop Linus Neli of Imphal Archdiocese, Bishop Wilbert Marwein, member CBCI Office of Scheduled Tribes (ST) of Nongstoin Diocese and Secretary Fr. Nirdosh Ekka participated in the meeting.

The meeting emphasised the formation and rejuvenation of the Commission for Tribal Affairs in the 15 Dioceses of North East India. The sessions dealt with the 9-year plan of NEIRBC in preparation for the Great Jubilee 2033, the church's concern for the pastoral ministry among the indigenous peoples, cultural experience of the indigenous people, women leadership and Synodality in Northeast India, CBCI Perspectives on Tribals in India, Indigenous People and *Laudato Si*, Indigenous media traditions of the North East. The consultative meeting brought out the roadmap and plans for the Commission.

Rev. Fr. Lawrence Khing
Commission for Tribal Affairs
Diocese of Kohima

CFC INDIA NATIONAL LEADERS CONFERENCE AND RETREAT HELD IN KOHIMA



The CFC India National Echo International Leaders Conference and Theme Weekend Retreat 2026 was successfully held on 14–15 March at Mt. Tabor Retreat House, Kohima, hosted by Couples for Christ (CFC) Nagaland.

The two-day spiritual gathering brought together leaders and members from various parts of India under the themes "In the One, We Are One" and "Mensa Christi – The Table of Christ." The event focused on unity in Christ, renewal of faith, and strengthening missionary commitment.

The conference began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, setting a prayerful tone for the sessions. Key talks highlighted the importance of being rooted in Christ as the foundation of unity, and challenged leaders to live out visible and intentional unity in their mission. Sessions were complemented by testimonies, praise and worship, and a vibrant cultural program that reflected the diversity of the Church.

The retreat segment invited participants into a deeper spiritual encounter, emphasizing the "Table of Christ" as a place of nourishment, forgiveness, formation, and mission. Reflections centered on Christ as the heart of relationships and family life, symbolized through the "Table of Three" — Christ at the center of all human relationships.

On the second day, the Holy Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, further deepening the spiritual experience of the participants. The sessions continued with a call to “extend the table” by welcoming, including, and reaching out to others, especially those in need of God’s love. The final talk emphasized that true Christian mission flows from joy in Christ.

The retreat concluded with a spirit-filled Praisefest and a commissioning of participants to return to their communities as renewed missionaries. The gathering ended on a note of gratitude, with participants encouraged to carry forward the spirit of unity, communion, and joyful service in their daily lives.

Mengukhrietuo Marcus
Evangelization and Mission
Head, CFC India



If every tiny flower
wanted to be a rose, spring
would lose its loveliness.

- Saint Therese of Lisieux

Sharing: January - March 2026

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: FAR FROM TRIBALISM!

(N.B: For Private Circulation only)

The Catholic Church provides an opportunity to grow in faith maturity and allows participation in the Holy Eucharist globally, regardless of race or color. While languages vary by location, a state like Nagaland should not allow tribes or dialects to create divisions. The Catholic population in Nagaland, numbering 63,443, is a sufficient presence to maintain unity.

Challenges of Tribalism in the Church

While the diversity of tribes can make the Church beautiful, there is a concerning trend toward celebrating the Eucharist and constructing chapels under specific tribal banners. This “spiritualizing” of tribes is particularly prevalent in towns and is viewed as unhealthy for the Church’s growth, though villages remain largely unaffected.

Key concerns regarding this trend include:

- **Relationship Gaps:** Tribal masses and tribal-specific chapels in towns may create gaps between people of different tribes.

- **Loss of Catholicity:** A rigid focus on tribal identity can distance members from each other within the universal Church.
- **Inequality:** Tribes with more financial resources may unintentionally leave others behind by purchasing land for their own chapels.
- **Disintegration:** If tribal assertion overtakes unity, the Church may fragment, potentially leading to a form of “Protestant Catholics” in Nagaland.

The Importance of Unity

The document argues that the “Oneness and Universality” of the Catholic Church is undermined by separation. Compartmentalizing people by tribe or race is described as harmful and emotionally divisive. True beauty in the Church is found when diverse people worship together under one roof.

- **Unity as Strength:** Strength comes from the grace to adapt and adjust to one another.
- **Preserving Identity:** There are many ways to promote tribal dialects and identity without making chapel construction the sole means.

- **Communion:** The Church encourages the communion of all races and tribes rather than overshadowing tribal identity.

Call to Action

To maintain the flame of unity, negative influences and narrow-mindedness must be discouraged. The Church in Nagaland progresses when members live together in love and solidarity.

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." (Col. 3:14)

With Prayers & Concern,
Rev. Fr. G. L. Khing

THE SPIRITUALITY OF LENT: A JOURNEY OF THE HEART

Spirituality is not just about prayer or rituals. It is a *Vision of Life* and *Way of Living*. It is an inner experience that shapes how we think, act, and relate to God, to others, and the world around us. This inner experience flows from two sources. First, there is *Emotional experience*, which comes from our personal life - our joys, struggles, failures, and hopes. Second, there is *Mission experience*, which comes from serving others and living out our faith in daily life and ministry. Lent invites us to reflect deeply on both of these experiences.

The season of Lent is a powerful call to step out of our comfort zone. The prophet Joel urges us to "return with all our heart" (Joel 2:12-17). St. Paul reminds us that this is a favorable time, a moment of grace and reconciliation (2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2). Jesus Himself calls us to go into the room and pray in silence and sincerity (Mt 6:1-6, 16-18). Lent is not about outward display; It is about inner conversion.

At the heart of Lent, there are three pillars of Christian living, which invite us into movement:

Fasting is a movement towards the *self*. It helps us discipline our desires and rediscover what truly matters.

Giving (Almsgiving) is a movement towards *others*. It opens our hearts to compassion, generosity, and justice.

Prayer is a movement towards *God*. It deepens our relationship with Him and aligns our life with His will.

Through these practices, Lent becomes a journey of transformation.

On Ash Wednesday, we hear two meaningful statements:

Repent and believe in Gospel.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

These words remind us both of our need for conversion and our human fragility. While our body comes from earth, the breath of life comes from God. We are earthly, yet called to live for something divine.

Human life unfolds in three interconnected worlds: *The Material world*, *The Human world* and *The Divine world*. Every year, on the first Sunday of Lent, we hear the Gospel of Jesus being tempted in the desert. These temptations reflect these three worlds:

1st temptation: turning stone into bread-points to the *Material world*.

2nd temptation: jumping from the temple to gain attention-points to the *Human world*.

3rd temptation: bowing down for power-points to the *Divine world*.

Jesus rejects all these, showing us the right order of living. From here we learn three important principles:

Things are meant to be used, not loved; this relates to the material world.

Persons are meant to be loved, not used; this relates to the human world.

The word of God is meant to be lived, not just read; this relates to the divine world.

The word of God passes through stages in our life. First, we listen to it, then we meditate on it. Finally, it must remain within us, shaping our actions and decisions.

Therefore, Lent is not merely a season of sacrifice; it is a journey of *awareness, humility, and love*. It teaches us to reorder our lives—using things wisely, loving people deeply, and living God’s word faithfully. As we walk through Lent, may we move closer to God, more open to others, and more truthful with ourselves.



Aviwiesie Gabriel Poji

St. Peter’s Pontifical Seminary,
Malleshwaram, Bengaluru,
Karnataka.



Sharing: January - March 2026

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV FOR LENT 2026

Theme:

“Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion”

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through *listening*. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone. In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry” (*Ex 3:7*). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and



suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*. We must recognize that “the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.”^[1]

Fasting

If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we “hunger” for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our “appetites,” keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: “In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in

desire expands the soul and increases its capacity.”^[2] Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because “those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly.”^[3] As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since “austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic.”^[4]

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian

communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one’s conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity’s thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a

greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

From the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

LEO PP. XIV

POPE LEO XIV: PLANES SHOULD BRING PEACE, NOT WAR AND DESTRUCTION

- Vatican News

Pope Leo XIV thanks the Italian national airline ITA Airways for carrying the Pope on his Apostolic Journeys, and laments the use of aircraft as carriers of death and destruction in theaters of war.

The Pope thanked ITA Airways and its predecessor, Alitalia, for its service to the Popes, beginning with Pope St. Paul VI.

He praised its “qualified and experienced professionals” for creating a “serene atmosphere” for the Pope, his entourage, and the journalists who fly with him to cover his Apostolic Journeys.

ITA Airways, he added, helps papal visits abroad become filled with “almost a family atmosphere, where respect is joined with devotion.”

“Meeting you gives me the opportunity to express my personal appreciation and gratitude, and that of the Holy See, for this precious service,” he said.

Pope Leo said papal flights offer an eloquent symbol of the mission of the Successor of Peter in contemporary society, as he always travels to countries as “a messenger of peace.”

“His routes are what they always should be, namely bridges of dialogue, encounter, and fraternity,” he said.

However, noted the Pope, aircraft have often been used in theaters of war to bring destruction and fear.

“Airplanes should always be carriers of peace, never of war!” he said. “No one should be afraid that threats of death and destruction might come from the sky.”

Pope Leo recalled the aerial bombardments of the World Wars and other conflicts, which still continue today.

“After the tragic experiences of the twentieth century, aerial bombings should have been banned forever!” he said. “Instead, they still exist, and technological development, positive in itself, is being placed at the service of war. This is not progress; it is regression!”

In conclusion, Pope Leo XIV renewed his gratitude to the employees of ITA Airways for their help in his mission to spread the peace of the Gospel.

“In our current scenario,” he said, “it becomes even more important to trace routes of peace in the skies, and I thank you because, in the mission the Lord has entrusted to me, I know I can count on you.” ●

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LOTHA CATHOLIC KHUMSHUM KOHIMA

Year of Establishment: 1976

A Brief History of Lotha Catholic Khumshum Kohima

The Lotha Catholic Community of Kohima had its humble beginning in the early 1970s with a handful of devout Lotha Catholic members. In those days, there was only one Parish in Kohima - the present Christ King Parish. The Lotha Catholic Community was looked after by the Parish. Prayer, fellowships and services were held at the residences of the members on a rotational basis at the initiative of **Shri. R. David Yanthan**.

When the Chapel was established in the year 1975 at 'D Block' area for the Catholic Community residing in Kohima Town, the Lotha Catholic Community held Sunday Services and Holy Eucharist in this Chapel.

As the members steadily increased each year, it was a felt need to form an association for the welfare of the community. Consequently, the first meeting was convened after the Sunday service on **25.01.1976 at 11:30 AM** to discuss the formation of the 'Kohima Lotha Catholic Okho' (KLCO) under the chairmanship of Shri. R. David Yanthan. During this meeting, the members resolved to establish the KLCO.

The following members were present at the meeting:

1. Shri. Nthio Kikon, Mechanic NST (Mekukla)
2. Shri. Nmeri Ezung, Student (Sunglup)
3. Shri. E Thomas Kikon, Student (Lakhuti)
4. Shri. R Sebastian Humtsoe, LDA Sectt (Lakhuti)
5. Shri. R David Yanthan, LDA Sectt (Lakhuti)

6. Shri. Mhonchumo Humtsoe, Mandal LR (Lakhuti)
7. Shri. Joseph Odyuo, UDA NBSE (Pangti)
8. Shri. Zana Marcus Kikon, Peon Sectt (Mekukla)
9. Shri. Lichio Yanthan, LDA Sectt (Lakhuti)
10. Shri. Y Justus Odyuo, Inspector, Industries (Lakhuti)
11. Shri. B Pius Humtsoe, Student (Lakhuti)

Following members were nominated as office bearers w.e.f 25.01.1976 to initiate the formation of KLCO.

1. **President:** Shri. R David Yanthan
2. **Secretary:** Shri. Nmri Ezung
3. **Deacon:** Shri. Mhonchumo Humtsoe

The second meeting was held on 1st February 1976 and decided to hold the third meeting-cum-get together on 14th February 1976 to finalise the formation of the KLCO.

To ensure the approval of all the members, house visits were made. As planned, the third meeting-cum-get together was convened on 14th February 1976 at Agri Farm, Agri forest Colony, Kohima. During this meeting, the members unanimously decided to form the 'Kohima Lotha Catholic Okho,' which would come into effect from **22nd February 1976**.

The following Office Bearers were selected at the meeting to lead the KLCO:

- **President - Cum - Catechist:** Shri. R. David Yanthan
- **Secretary:** Shri. Nmeri Ezung (14th Feb-11th April 1976) / Shri. Lichio Yanthan (wef 25.04.1976)
- **Treasurer:** Shri. Francis Kikon
- **Deacons:** Shri. Nthio Kikon, Shri. Mhonchumo Humtsoe, Shri. Litsemo Humtsoe, Shri. Orlandus Orhumomo Yanthan
- **Chowkidar:** Shri. Zana Marcus Kikon

The first Lotha Mass was Celebrated on **22nd February 1976** in the Chapel at 'D Block' by Rev. Fr. Michael Mundathanathu SDB, the Parish Priest of Christ King, Kohima. It was on this day that the 'Kohima Lotha Catholic Okho' came into being with 54 members.

Shri. Nmeri Ezung resigned from the post of Secretary with effect from 11th April 1976 upon entering Government service outside Kohima. Against the vacancy, Shri. Lichio Yanthan was selected to the post of Secretary with effect from 25th April 1976.

From 22nd February 1976 to 31st May 1996, Shri. R. David Yanthan rendered dedicated voluntary service as President-Cum-Catechist.

The nomenclature of 'Kohima Lotha Catholic Okho' was later changed to **Lotha Catholic Khumshum Kohima (LCKK)**, after due deliberation in its Annual General Meeting in 2006.

By the late 1980s, the community had grown significantly, prompting the elders

to seriously consider the need for a Catechist. This became a reality by mid-1990. In 1996, the Lotha Catholic Khumshum Kohima appointed Shri. T. Samuel Ezung as Catechist to look after the spiritual needs of the Community by assisting the Parish Priest.

The following members were Selected LCKK Office Bearers:

- **Chairman:** Shri. Yantsao Martin Yanthan
- **General Secretary:** Shri. Joseph Odyuo
- **Joint Secretary:** Shri. T. James Ezung
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Martin Kithan
- **Catechist:** Shri. T. Samuel Ezung

The Successive LCKK Catechist

1. Shri. R. David Yanthan: 22.02.1976 to 31.05.1996
2. Shri. T. Samuel Ezung: 01.06.1996 to 30.06.2001
3. Shri. Rhonthungo Andreas: 01.07.2001 to 30.04.2003
4. Shri. Y. Abel Lotha: 01.05.2003 to date

In the year 2001, the LCKK sponsored Shri. Y. Abel Lotha for Catechist Training at Imphal, Manipur. On completion of the training, he was officially appointed as the Catechist of the LCKK on 1st May 2003.

Women Department

The **Lotha Catholic Eloë Khumshum Kohima (LCEKK)**, established on 30th January 2000, has been an integral part of the LCKK and the parish community. LCEKK has been actively participating in various programmes and initiatives, fostering spiritual growth. The association holds its monthly prayer fellowship on 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

Over the past 25 years, LCEKK has made significant contributions to the spiritual life of the Church. This milestone was joyfully commemorated with the celebration of its **Silver Jubilee on 30th January 2025** with the theme: **"I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me"** (Philippians 4:13), marking a quarter-century of dedicated service and commitment.

The Jubilee Celebration was solemnly graced and presided over by Rev. Fr. Rhanben Mathew, Parish Priest, Sacred Heart Parish, Bhandari, Wokha, Nagaland.

Youth Department

The **Lotha Catholic Youth Movement Kohima**, was established on 10th May 2015 with the objective of addressing the spiritual needs of the Youth. Since its inception, the Youth Department has been actively involved in various parish activities as well as in programs organized by the Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM).

Community Building Project

A General meeting was held on 20th June 2010, during which the members resolved to acquire a plot of land and construct a community building. Accordingly, a **Community Building Project Committee** was constituted with the mandate to acquire land and oversee the construction of a community hall.

A joint account was opened for the building project fund transactions at Bank of Baroda, Main Bazar Branch, Kohima on 14th December 2010.

In fulfilment of its mandate, the Committee purchased a plot of land on **28th November 2018**, located at Gasie, Peraciezie Colony (High School Area), Kohima under the signature of Shri. Johnny Humtsoe, Shri. R. N. Yanthan, Shri. Chumchamo Ezung and Shri. Y. Abel Lotha.

The land has been registered under Patta/Permit No. 11758 (P), Dag/Plot No. 5088, Land Patta Book No. 3086, Settlement Order: REV/PATTA-2/2000-01(Pt), Dated 15.01.2013, issued vide No. REV/TRANS-6/2019 dated 12.03.2020.

All the registrations were made under the name "Lotha Catholic Khumshum Kohima". Subsequently, the construction of the Lotha Catholic Khumshum Kohima building commenced in 2019 in a phase-wise manner. The resources for this project have been derived solely from contributions by the members and donations from the well-wishers.

Under the visionary leadership of the pioneers, the small fellowship has grown and evolved into a vibrant and thriving community, continually nurturing and strengthening the spiritual growth of the members. The LCKK currently records a membership of more than 500 faithful.

The LCKK gratefully acknowledges the sacrifices and contributions of the pioneers. We also fondly remember and pray for the departed souls. May they rest in peace!

As we celebrate 50 years of God's abundant blessings, on this blessed occasion, the Lotha Catholic Khumshum Kohima expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the Clergy for their devoted service and steadfast spiritual guidance.

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SHARING extends Prayerful Wishes to Lotha Catholic Khümshüm Kohima on the occassion of their Golden Jubilee.

