

DIVINE ECHO

Editorial Message

With hearts filled with gratitude and joy, we celebrate a momentous milestone in the life of our parish, the 20 glorious years of the Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhopal. These two decades stand as a powerful testimony to God's abiding presence among us and to the loving intercession of the Infant Jesus, whose tender yet mighty grace continues to touch countless lives.

A special highlight of this quarter year has been the Novena of the Infant Jesus, prayerfully observed from 23 – 31 January 2026. What made this novena truly enriching was the active participation of devotees and representatives from various churches of the Bhopal Deanery, who came together in unity of faith. Each day, different parishes took the lead in animating the novena prayers, reflecting the beauty of communion, shared devotion, and collective thanksgiving. This coming together of the faithful strengthened our bond as one Church and reaffirmed our shared trust in the Infant Jesus.

The faithful continue to bear witness to the abundant blessings of the Infant Jesus in their personal and family lives, healings received, prayers answered, hope renewed, and faith deepened. These lived experiences stand as silent yet powerful testimonies of God's mercy and love poured out through this beloved devotion.

Also, the month of December was marked by a rich spiritual and festive journey. The spirit of Christmas resonated beautifully through Carol Singing from 9th December to 19th December 2025, as our parish community carried the message of hope, peace, and salvation to homes and neighborhoods. These melodious proclamations of Christ's birth not only spread joy but also strengthened bonds within the community.

The joyful celebration of Christmas and New Year, followed by the Feast of the Epiphany, reminded us of God's self-revelation to all nations and peoples. Adding to the joy was the celebration of Parish Day and Parish Get-Together, which fostered fellowship, gratitude, and a renewed sense of belonging among parishioners.

As we celebrate the completion of 20 years of the Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhopal, we look back with thanksgiving and look ahead with hope. May the Infant Jesus continue to bless our families, guide our parish, and draw more hearts closer to His loving embrace. Let us remain united in faith, service, and devotion, carrying forward this rich spiritual legacy for generations to come.



भूतपूर्व पल्लीपुरोहित का संदेश

अब तक प्रभु ने हमारी सहायता की है।" (1 समूएल 7:12)

प्रिय पैरिशवासियों,

जब मैं पीछे मुड़कर देखता हूँ, तो हमारे पैरिश का वह शुरुआती दौर मेरे जीवन के सबसे आशीषपूर्ण अध्यायों में से एक प्रतीत होता है। उन दिनों हम वास्तव में "चलती-फिरती परमेश्वर की प्रजा" (Floating People of God) थे। हमारी कोई स्थायी छत नहीं थी, लेकिन हमारा विश्वास अडिग था।



हमारी आराधनात्मक यात्रा की शुरुआत सर्वाइट कॉन्वेंट स्कूल की तीसरी मंज़िल के एक छोटे से कमरे से हुई। वह पवित्र मिस्सा, वह सादगी और वह समर्पण आज भी मेरी स्मृतियों में ताजा है। इसके बाद, प्रभु की योजना के अनुसार हम कल्पना नगर (मकान क्रमांक 512) में स्थानांतरित हुए, जिसे हमारे तत्कालीन आर्चबिशप ने इस धर्मप्रान्त की नींव के रूप में खरीदा था।

उस समय के पल्लीवासियों का जीवंत विश्वास और सक्रिय सहभागिता आज भी मेरे लिए प्रेरणा का स्रोत है। मुझे आज भी याद है:

- पल्ली परिषद (PARISH COUNCIL) का अटूट सहयोग।
- मरिया सेना और करिश्माई प्रार्थना समूह की निरंतर प्रार्थनाएँ।
- युवाओं और बच्चों का वह निस्वार्थ उत्साह और ऊर्जा।

भले ही उस समय हमारे पास संसाधन सीमित थे, लेकिन हमारी सहभागिता बहुत गहरी थी। एक पल्ली पुरोहित के रूप में, आप सभी के साथ मिलकर प्रार्थना करना और सेवा करना मेरे लिए आध्यात्मिक समृद्धि का समय था। मैंने आप सभी के बीच रहकर न केवल सेवा की, बल्कि विश्वास में स्वयं को बढ़ते हुए भी पाया।

प्रभु की असीम अनुकंपा और आप सभी के साझा प्रयासों का ही फल है कि जो पैरिश कभी 70 परिवारों से शुरू हुआ था, वह आज सात गुना बढ़कर एक सशक्त और जीवंत समुदाय बन चुका है।

मैं उन सभी निष्ठावान पैरिशवासियों और सिस्टर्स के प्रति हृदय से कृतज्ञ हूँ, जिन्होंने उस समय कलीसिया की मशाल को जलाए रखा। अंत में, मैं उस महान परमेश्वर को धन्यवाद देता हूँ, जो हम सभी के लिए सर्वस्व रहा है।

प्रभु आप सभी को निरंतर अपनी आशीषों से सराबोर रखे।

आपका अपना,
फादर जॉर्ज स्टीफन
पूर्व पल्लीपुरोहित (IJS)

Testimonies



“He Sent Out His Word and Healed Me” – Francy Chacko

For a long time, I had been suffering from trigeminal neuralgia, and the intense, recurring pain deeply affected my daily life. I depended constantly on medication and often felt physically drained and emotionally helpless. During this difficult period, Fr. Benito encouraged me to pray at the Infant Jesus Shrine, sharing that many had received healing through prayer there. Trusting his guidance, I placed my suffering at the feet of the Infant Jesus.

With sincere faith, I prayed for healing and strength. As I knelt in prayer, I experienced a profound sense of peace and comfort, holding onto the Lord’s promise: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28).

Gradually, and to my great surprise, the pain began to lessen. Over time, I have been healing from trigeminal neuralgia. I truly experienced the Lord’s healing touch, just as Scripture says: “He sent out his word and healed them.” (Psalm 107:20).



Mr. Francy Chacko



I am deeply grateful to the Infant Jesus for this miraculous healing and offer all glory and thanks to God.

“Blessed Under the Shadow of the Most High”

संत लूकस (1:35) स्वर्गदूत ने उत्तर दिया, “पवित्र आत्मा आप पर उतरेगा और सर्वोच्च प्रभु की शक्ति की छाया आप पर पड़ेगी। इसलिए जो आप से उत्पन्न होगा, वह पवित्र होगा और ईश्वर का पुत्र कहलाएगा।” मेरे बेटे की शादी को ढाई वर्ष हो चुके थे। हम प्रतिदिन Infant Jesus Shrine जाकर प्रार्थना करते थे। जब Infant Jesus Shrine की घोषणा हुई, उस समय Fr. Jose Prakash के Adoration के दौरान मैंने चर्च में रोते हुए प्रभु से मन ही मन यह प्रतिज्ञा की कि यदि मेरी बहू को संतान का अनुग्रह प्रदान होगा, तो मैं इसकी साक्षी अवश्य दूँगी। प्रभु के अपार आशीर्वाद से उसी महीने मेरी बहू गर्भवती हुई और सामान्य प्रसव द्वारा एक सुंदर पुत्री का जन्म हुआ। इसके लिए मैं प्रभु को हृदय से धन्यवाद देती हूँ।

— बेला प्रिंस एवं परिवार



The Christmas Bliss

The Christmas Celebration 2025 at Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhopal, was a season of profound joy, prayer, and fellowship. The festivities began with ten days of vibrant Carol Singing from 9th to 18th December 2025, as parish groups and families went forth spreading the glad tidings of the Birth of our Savior. The grand conclusion of the Carol Festival was held at the Shrine with nearly 150 members joining in harmonious praise, filling the campus with melodies of hope and peace.

On the sacred night of 24th December, the Christmas Mass was celebrated in a magnificent and prayerful manner. A beautifully prepared crib depicting the Nativity and a towering giant Christmas tree with a special Wish Tree drew countless devotees to offer their prayers and intentions to the Infant Jesus. The celebration radiated faith, unity, and gratitude, inviting all to receive the abundant blessings of the Divine Child.





FEAST OF INFANT JESUS



From 23rd January to 1st February 2026, the Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhopal, joyfully organized the solemn Novena and Feast of the Divine Child Jesus with deep devotion and vibrant community participation. Each evening was prayerfully enriched with the Rosary, Novena prayers, and Holy Mass, led by esteemed priests from various parishes including Harda, Kolar, Berkhedra, Lambakheda, Cathedral, Assumption, Seva Sadan, Holy Family, and Bairagarh. Faithful pilgrims from different churches gathered day by day, offering their intentions at the feet of the Infant Jesus, while respective parish choirs uplifted hearts through sacred hymns. The unity of neighboring churches in liturgy, responsibility, and service beautifully reflected the spirit of communion within the Archdiocese. The grand Feast Day celebration on 1st February, presided over by the Archbishop of Bhopal, crowned the Novena with thanksgiving, drawing countless devotees to receive the abundant graces and blessings of the Infant Jesus.



The Sundays of Advent were devoutly celebrated at Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhopal, as the faithful journeyed in prayerful preparation for the Birth of the Lord. Each Sunday, the lighting of the Advent wreath candles symbolized hope, peace, joy, and love, inspiring the parish community to renew their hearts in anticipation of Christmas.



The Shrine gratefully acknowledges and appreciates the active and generous participation of the youth in organizing and supporting all the activities during this blessed season. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and spirit of service greatly enriched every celebration and reflected a vibrant faith in action. May the Infant Jesus abundantly bless them for their commitment and loving contribution to the parish community.



Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhopal, hosted a joyful retreat for catechism children from various churches, fostering faith and fellowship. The day included prayer, praise, reflection, and fun activities, helping the children grow closer to the Lord. They returned home strengthened in unity, friendship, and the blessings of the Infant Jesus.



OTHER IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES



The Christmas Gathering and Parish Day were joyfully celebrated on 4th January 2026 at Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhopal, bringing together parishioners in a spirit of unity and thanksgiving. The day was filled with exciting games, vibrant cultural competitions, and joyful fellowship, strengthening bonds within the parish family. The celebration concluded with a shared festive lunch, as all thanked the Infant Jesus for His abundant blessings and the gift of community.

The Feast of St. Sebastian was devoutly celebrated on 18th January 2026 at Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhopal, with a solemn Holy Mass and special prayers. Devotees gathered in faith, seeking his intercession for courage and protection, and rejoiced in the loving blessings of the Infant Jesus.

The New Year Mass was solemnly celebrated on 31st night at Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhopal, with heartfelt thanksgiving adoration. Devotees gathered in prayer, praising the Lord for His blessings of the past year and seeking grace and guidance for the year ahead under the loving care of the Infant Jesus.

26 October 2025

माता मरियम समिति

वार्षिक उत्सव 2025

Assumption चर्च में आर्चडायसिस स्तर पर मारिया समिति के सदस्यों द्वारा वार्षिक उत्सव मनाया गया, जिसमें सभी महिलाओं ने उत्साहपूर्वक भाग लिया। डांस ड्रामा प्रतियोगिता में कुल 18 पल्ली ने भाग लिया, जिसमें हमारी पल्ली की 15 महिलाओं ने सहभागिता की और प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया। बाइबल लेखन प्रतियोगिता में हमारी पल्ली की आयरन जॉर्ज ने तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त किया। बाइबल से 'आशा वचन' प्रतियोगिता की विजेता रोजा लिया एवं क्रिस्टीना रहीं।



वार्षिक उत्सव के अवसर पर हमारे प्रिय पल्ली पुरोहित फा. जॉन बेनिटो

"विश्वास में सजग, भक्ति में उज्वल – बुद्धिमान कुंवारियों से प्रेरित एक विजयी नृत्य नाट्य प्रस्तुति।"
प्रथम पुरस्कार – नृत्य नाट्य प्रतियोगिता



"जो प्रभु में आशा रखते हैं, वे नया बल प्राप्त करेंगे।" (यशायाह 40:31)
बाइबल से 'आशा' शब्द लेखन हेतु प्रथम पुरस्कार



हमारी चर्च के लिए उनके उत्कृष्ट कार्य और निःस्वार्थ सेवा के सम्मान में श्रीमती लिली बेनेंस को सम्मानित किया गया।

A Joyful Birthday Celebration of Rev. Fr. John Benito, Parish Priest

The birthday of our beloved Parish Priest Rev. Fr. John Benito was joyfully celebrated along with the parishioners. A Holy Mass was offered for Father's intentions, followed by cake cutting and the singing of the birthday song. The celebration reflected the spirit of love, respect, and unity within our parish community.





The 1st Inter Church Volleyball Tournament BY IJS Youth

The Infant Jesus Shrine (IJS), Bhopal, proudly marked a historic milestone with the successful conclusion of its first-ever Inter-Church Volleyball Tournament, organized by the IJS Youth. Welcoming 16 parish teams from across the city, the tournament stood as a vibrant celebration of Christian unity, fellowship, and youthful enthusiasm, expressed through the spirit of sport.

This landmark event was made possible through the constant encouragement and pastoral guidance of our beloved Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. John Benito, and Assistant Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Johny Wilson. Their inspiring vision of fostering stronger bonds among diocesan youth laid the foundation for the tournament.

Under their leadership, the IJS Youth team meticulously organized every aspect of the event, including the preparation of a professional-standard volleyball court within the church premises, ensuring a high-quality and memorable experience for players and spectators alike.

The tournament followed a well-structured format, beginning with league matches and advancing into intense knockout rounds. Each of the 16 participating parishes demonstrated exceptional skill, discipline, and sportsmanship.

The electrifying best-of-five finals drew enthusiastic crowds, transforming the IJS grounds into a hub of energy, encouragement, and celebration. After a series of gripping encounters, the tournament concluded with the following winners:

- **First Prize (₹21,000):** Father's Team
- **Second Prize (₹10,000):** Infant Jesus Shrine
- **Third Prize (₹5,000):** St. Edmund Campion Church

Adding further pride to the occasion, Royzen Francis (Infant Jesus Shrine) was honored as the Player of the Tournament for his outstanding individual performance.

More than a sporting event, the tournament became a powerful platform for unity and brotherhood, transcending competition and strengthening relationships among parishes across Bhopal. The dedication of the IJS Youth, combined with the spiritual guidance of our priests, ensured the resounding success of this initiative.

This memorable event has not only left a lasting impression on the community but has also set the stage for future inter-parish collaborations, where faith, friendship, and fair play continue to flourish together.



ACTIVITIES OF SOCIETY OF VINCENT DE PAUL, INFANT JESUS CONFERENCE, INFANT JESUS SHRINE, BHOPAL

- **Ongoing Ration Aid**

The society is providing monthly ration aid of Rs.2000 to 8 needy and financially backward families for the past year, resulting in improved living conditions and better education for their children.

- **Vincent De Paul Day**

IJS celebrated Vincent De Paul Day on September 28, 2025 (Sunday) with a special Holy Mass, followed by lunch for all parishioners and beneficiaries. The beneficiaries appreciated the support they received from the Society, both spiritually and financially.

- **Education Support**

IJS Vincent De Paul Society is providing annual tuition fees to 4 students through Jahangirabad Parish.

- **Community Engagement**

Three members of the Society participated in the engagement ceremony of a poor lady's daughter at Budgery Church, Ratibad, and provided financial aid.

- **Long-term Support**

Since 2007, the IJS Vincent de Paul society have been supporting a poor lady in Jahangirabad Area, helping her daughter pursue B.Sc Nursing by covering tuition fees.

Obituary



Mrs. Philomena George
04/11/2025



Mrs. Jane Vincent
15/11/2025



Mrs. Florence Ekka
(06/12/2025)



Mr. George Tirkey
20/01/2026



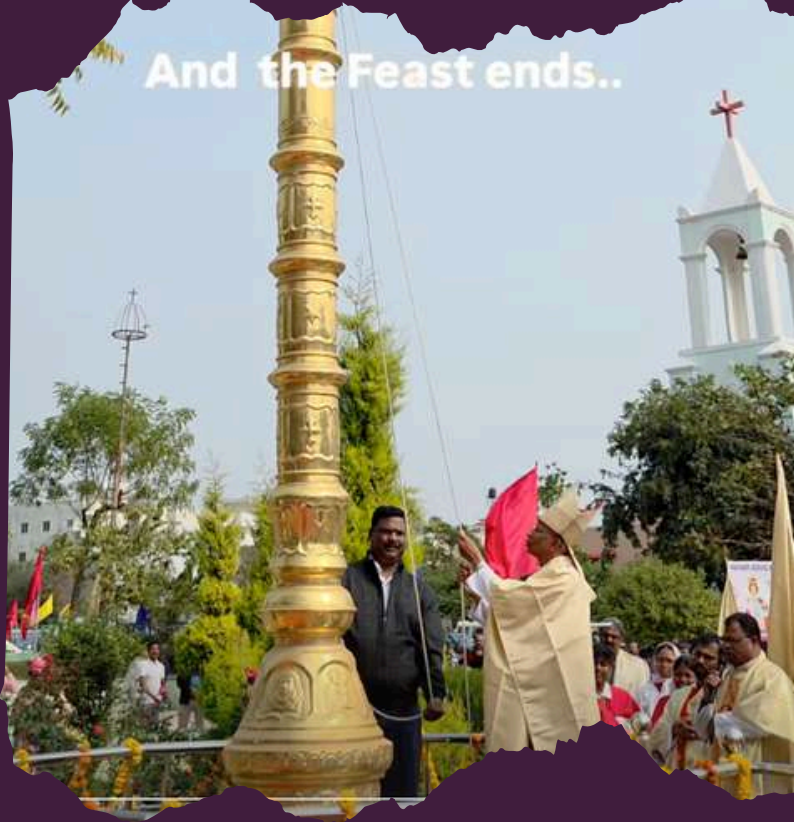
Mrs. Cresensia Tigga
28/01/2026



Mr. Charles Toppo
29/01/2026



Concluding the Christmas Season with an action song



And the Feast ends..



But his Grace never ends!

Editorial Board

1. Fr. John Benito
2. Fr. Johny Wilson
3. Mrs. Irene George
4. Mrs. Prabha Biju
5. Dr. Annsi Sojan Joseph
6. Mrs. Julie Thomas
7. Mr. Saiju Chacko
8. Mr. Shashank Minj