



DIOCESE OF ITANAGAR

Bishop's House, P.B. NO. 294
Naharlagun – 791 110
Arunachal Pradesh – INDIA



Prot. No. BC/2025/03

19.04.2025

CIRCULAR

“FEAST OF EASTER A CULMINATION OF THE LENTEN JOURNEY”

As the Christian world observed the Lenten season, believers embarked on a profound journey of spiritual reflection, growth, and renewal. Many parishes had organized Lenten retreats of various natures, to help believers draw closer to God. I extend my congratulations to all the parish priests who took the Lenten retreats seriously, understanding their importance in the lives of our faithful.

The 40-day preparation culminated in the joyous celebration of Easter, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This sacred season invited us to introspect, repent, and rejuvenate our faith, fostering a deeper connection with God and our community.

During Lent, we guided our believers to examine their lives, acknowledging areas that require improvement and seeking forgiveness for past transgressions. Through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, we strived to purify our hearts and minds.

This season also provided an opportunity for us as priests and religious to come together for our annual recollection and celebration of the Priesthood and Blessing of Holy Oils. This gathering allowed us to deepen our understanding of Scripture, participate in devotional practices, and engage in acts of service and kindness.

The ultimate goal of the Lenten journey was to prepare us for the wonderful celebration of Easter. At the Feast of the Resurrection, we are reminded of the triumph of life over death, hope over despair, and love over sin. The Lenten season's emphasis on renewal and rejuvenation enabled us to enter into the Easter celebration with a sense of joy, gratitude, and spiritual vitality.

As believers, let us continue to celebrate the feast of Easter by embracing this profound journey of self-discovery, atonement, and transformation. May this season bring us closer to God and to one another, and may we emerge from it with renewed faith and devotion.



“EASTER CELEBRATION WITH THE PRESENCE OF OUR SHEPHERDS: A BLESSING FOR THE DIOCESE OF ITANAGAR”

The year 2025 has been a remarkably a blessed occasion for the Diocese of Itanagar, particularly during the sacred observance of Holy Week. We are deeply grateful for the presence of our esteemed shepherds, in our communities with their spiritual guidance and leadership.

During this holy season, we have been blessed with the presence of Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menampampil SDB of Guwahati Archdiocese, Bishop Emeritus Gabriel Kujur SJ of Daltonganj, Bishop Emeritus John Thomas of Itanagar, and Bishop Benny Varghese who were present with our communities at various parishes and mission stations.

The presence of our shepherds served as a powerful reminder of the importance of faith, hope, and love. Their guidance and support have been a source of inspiration and strength to our communities, and we are deeply grateful for their ministry. The Diocese of Itanagar feels particularly blessed to have such devoted shepherds who are committed to nurturing the spiritual growth of our faithful. As we celebrate the joy of Easter, we pray that the presence of our bishops will continue to inspire and guide us in our journey of faith.

“BLESSING OF ST. VINCENT RETREAT HALL AT GUMTO”

On March 22, 2025, Most Rev. Benny Varghese, Bishop of Itanagar, blessed the St. Vincent Retreat Hall at Gumto. The ceremony was attended by Rev. Fr. Paul Puthuva VC The Provincial, priests, sisters, APCA office bearers, and a large gathering of faithful.

This significant event marked a new chapter for the Vincentian Congregation, which began its ministry in Itanagar diocese back in 2007. The Mary Matha Province established the retreat centre at Gumto, with Fr. Augustine Kizakkevalayil VC as its first associate priest.

Gumto holds a historical significance as the site of the first Catholic Church and retreat centre. The Vincentian Congregation has expanded since its presence, establishing another retreat centre at Joram in 2012, which later became a parish. Both centres have played a vital role in serving the faithful and spreading the Gospel.



“SPLENDID FESTIVITIES AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH KAYING”

On April 23, 2025, St. Joseph Parish Kaying, celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph in the presence of esteemed dignitaries and a large gathering of faithful. The celebration was graced by Most Rev. Benny Varghese, Bishop of Itanagar. Shri Nabam Tuki, former Chief Minister; Shri Nabam Peki, President of Arunachal Pradesh Catholic Association (APCA); Shri Tarh Miri Stephen, President of Arunachal Christian Forum (ACF); Executive members of APCA and ACF, Fathers, sisters, and thousands of faithful from various villages and regions.

The festivities commenced with the laying of the foundation stone for the Perpetual Adoration Chapel, followed by the Holy Eucharist during which 14 elders were given the sacrament of confirmation and 40 children received the first Holy Communion. The celebration also featured a Eucharistic procession and a formal felicitation program. St. Joseph Parish Kaying has been designated as one of the Pilgrimage Centres in the Diocese of Itanagar for the Jubilee Year 2025, making this celebration even more significant.



“CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE: SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS”

On March 28, 2025, the Sisters of the Holy Cross marked a significant milestone - 25 years of dedicated presence in Itanagar. Their unwavering commitment, selfless devotion, and tireless service have touched countless lives, bringing hope, love, and compassion upon individuals, families, and communities.

Through various ministries, including education, healthcare, social welfare, and pastoral care, the Sisters have embodied the values of compassion, simplicity, and humility. They have empowered the marginalized, uplifted the downtrodden, and brought people closer to God.

We honour their achievements and sacrifices, acknowledging the challenging obstacles and difficulties endured. Their journey is marked by countless hours of prayer, work, and service. As they look to the future, we pray that God continues to bless and guide them. May their charism and spirituality inspire others, and may their love for God and humanity continue to shine brightly. Congratulations dear sisters on this remarkable achievement! May your 25 years of service be a witness to the power of faith, hope, and charity.



“A DAY OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND CONFIRMATION”

On 6th April 2025 I had the privilege of visiting St. Antony’s Church Yomcha, a vibrant community under Aalo Parish, located 56 kilometres away from the main centre. Holy Mass was celebrated during which 21 couples renewed their vows of Marriage and they were blessed in the presence of the community and 69 candidates were confirmed, who in turn reaffirmed their baptismal promises, empowered for service and witness. The community recalled notable visits from Late Robert Kerketta SDB in 1996, Bishop Emeritus John Thomas in 2006 and Bishop Benny Varghese in the year 2025.

Given the substantial Catholic presence in surrounding villages, the community requested for a new centre at Yomcha. The community's enthusiasm and commitment were palpable throughout our visit. We're grateful for the opportunity to serve and accompany them on their faith journey, looking forward to the positive impact of this new initiative. Our presence can enhance pastoral care, Community building and Evangelization endeavours.



“LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM EMPOWERS YOUTH LEADERS”

The Itanagar Diocesan Youth Commission successfully concluded its 3-day leadership training program from 4 - 6 April, 2025. Forty participants from 5 deaneries, including FCC sisters and postulants, benefited from insightful sessions led by esteemed resource persons.

The program's objective was to empower young leaders to become agents of positive change, fostering responsibility, compassion, and commitment to serving others. The training was a resounding success, with participants' evaluations highlighting its positive impact on their personal growth and leadership skills.

During the gathering Diocesan Youth Council meeting was held, discussing upcoming youth programs and initiatives. This initiative is a significant step towards developing capable young leaders who can inspire and guide their peers, contributing to a vibrant and committed faith community. Congratulations Fr. Roshan Bamin Peter, Director of the Itanagar Diocesan Youth Commission and his team.



“TRANSFORMATIVE LENTEN RETREAT AND CONFIRMATION CEREMONY AT SAGALEE”

A three-day retreat was conducted at Mary Help of Christians Parish Sagalee, led by Fr. Simon Kalladayil and his team from Jalandhar Diocese. The retreat was a time of intense spiritual growth and renewal for parishioners, marked by prayer, reflection, and community bonding. The final day culminated in a special celebration as Bishop Benny Varghese presided over the Holy Eucharist, administering the sacrament of confirmation to 71 individuals. His presence added a

special dimension, imparting words of wisdom, encouragement, and guidance to the newly confirmed. The retreat and Confirmation ceremony underscored the importance of faith, community, and spiritual growth in our lives.

“YOUTH RETREAT AT SACRED HEART PARISH, NAHARLAGUN”

Seventy young people from Naharlagun gathered at Sacred Heart Parish for a rejuvenating youth retreat. Rev. Fr. Joel VC delivered insightful talks and spiritual guidance, helping the youth reflect on their values and principles.

The supporting team, comprising Sr. Jesna MSMI, Miss Maria Nabam, and Miss Mili Angel, created a conducive atmosphere for spiritual growth. The retreat included various spiritual exercises, reflections, and communal prayers, culminating in the sacrament of Confession and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

The event fostered a renewed sense of faith and devotion among the youth, empowering them to live out their values and principles. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Jacob Mattathilany for his generous support in making necessary arrangements for the retreat.



“PRIESTS' & RELIGIOUS RECOLLECTION AND CHRISM MASS: RENEWING SPIRITUAL COMMITMENT”

The priests and sisters of Itanagar diocese gathered for a day of spiritual reflection, focusing on their vocation and mission. Rev. Fr. Nyson Luka's spiritual talk was profoundly impactful, inspiring a renewed sense of commitment to their ministry.

The diocese extends its gratitude to Fr. Nyson Luka the Assistant Director of NBCLC Bangalore, for his guidance. The recollection was followed by the sacrament of Confession. On 10th April the whole presbyterium gathered around the bishops to celebrate the Chrism Mass.

The Chrism Mass was beautifully celebrated at St. Mary's Parish, Itanagar. The diocese thanks Fr. Joseph Ngasami SDB and the parish community for their hospitality and meticulous arrangements. Bishop Benny Varghese extended heartfelt wishes to priests on Priesthood Day, expressing gratitude to those who attended the celebration and thanks to the parish community for their support.



“LAY MISSIONARIES ENRICH DIOCESE OF ITANAGAR”

The Diocese of Itanagar is blessed with 14 dedicated lay missionaries from 13 dioceses across India, placed in various parishes in collaboration with NBCLC Bangalore. Their presence has significantly enriched our missionary endeavors, bringing fresh perspectives and zeal to our communities.

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the parish priests for welcoming these lay missionaries and to Rev. Fr. John Baptist, Director NBCLC and Rev. Fr. Nyson Luka Assistant Director NBCLC for their tireless efforts in facilitating their placement. May the Lord bless these lay missionaries for their commitment to serving His people, and may their presence continue to bear fruit in our diocese. We're grateful for this opportunity to collaborate and grow together in faith and mission.



“THE IMPORTANCE OF EASTER FAMILY BLESSING: A MOMENT OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL”

I request all the Parish Priests to coordinate the Easter family blessing. This sacred tradition is a meaningful way to bring spiritual renewal and peace to families, strengthening their bond with God and with one another.

During these visits, use this opportunity to record details about the families, including their needs, joys, and challenges and record it properly. This exercise not only helps to deepen our understanding of the families we serve, but also enables us to provide more targeted support and accompaniment.

The Easter family blessing is a significant moment for families to come together in prayer, reflection, and celebration. It is an occasion for them to renew their commitment to their faith, to seek God's guidance and protection, and to experience the love and mercy of God in their lives.

"SHARING THE MESSAGE IN PRINT AND DIGITAL"

Bishop Benny Varghese, Bishop of Itanagar, proudly launched new website www.dioceseofitanagar.com of the Diocese of Itanagar marking a significant milestone in the diocese's digital journey. In a separate event, Bishop Emeritus John Thomas released a series of books enriching the formation house's resources, providing valuable insights for spiritual growth.

The diocese extends heartfelt gratitude to Franciscan Solutions Private Limited led by Mr. Sumit Dass for his generosity in developing the website for the diocese. Special thanks to Fr. Kampan Chinnam, Secretary of Social Communication North East India and a priest of the Itanagar diocese, for expertly coordinating this initiative.



“REVEALED 2025: A DIVINE ENCOUNTER”

From March 28 -31, 2025 over 1,000 vibrant Jesus Youth from across North East India, representing 75 colleges gathered at St. Clare Convent School, Borjar Guwahati. This four-day festival was a testimony to the power of faith and fellowship, packed with enriching programs that ignited spiritual fervour and rejuvenated our young people.

The Jesus Youth from the Diocese of Itanagar, numbering 90, were an integral part of this celebration. It was an honour for me to share in their joy, celebrated Holy Mass with them, and impart words of encouragement on the commitment of Jesus Youth to the mission of Christ.

This gathering served as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of faith and the boundless potential of young hearts dedicated to serving the Lord. The **REVEALED 2025** will undoubtedly leave an indelible mark on the lives of all who attended, inspiring them to spread the message of love and hope.

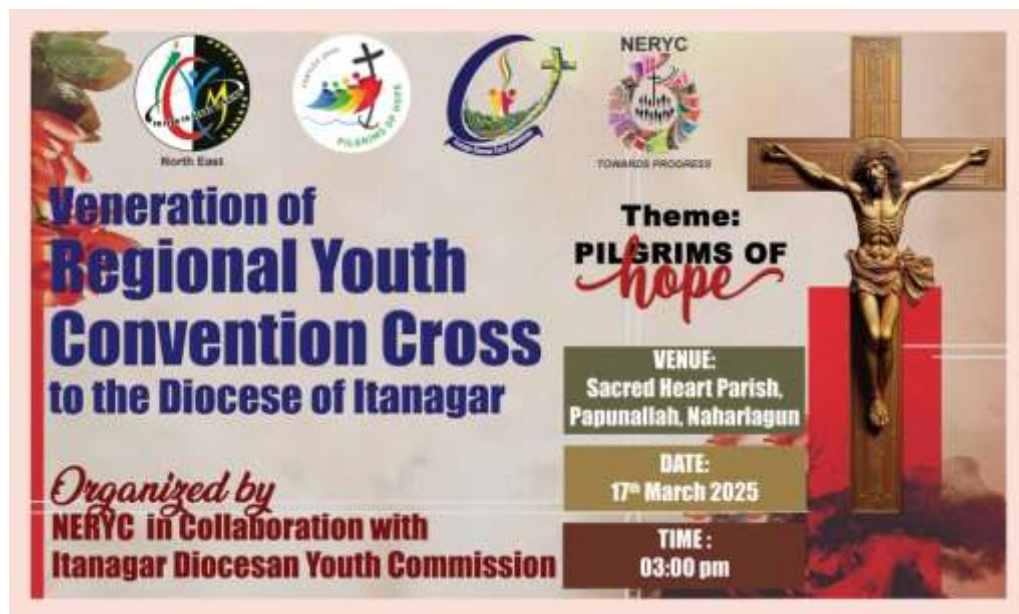


“VENERATION OF THE REGIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION CROSS”

The Diocese of Itanagar recently hosted the Veneration of the Regional Youth Cross, a significant event that brought together youth from across the diocese in a spirit of pilgrimage and preparation for the upcoming Regional Youth Convention.

This event was a key initiative of the Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM) North East, aimed at engaging and empowering youth in their faith journey. I congratulate Fr. Roshan Bamin Peter, Director of the Itanagar Diocesan Youth Commission, for successfully organizing the event, which drew a large number of enthusiastic youth participants.

The Regional Youth Cross arrived in the Itanagar Diocese on March 17, 2025, symbolizing the unity and shared purpose of youth across the region. The 5th Regional Youth Convention is scheduled to take place in Kohima from June 27 to 30, 2025, promising to be a transformative experience for all involved.



“CONGRATULATIONS REV. FR. SABU JOSEPH AND REV. FR. VARGHESE PHILIP”

Heartfelt Congratulations to Fr. Sabu Joseph, Parish Priest, and Fr. Varghese Philip, Assistant and Principal, on their new roles at the Yachuli Mission!



As they take up this significant responsibility, I wish them all the best in their endeavours to spread the message of love, compassion, and service. May their dedication and commitment inspire the community, and may they be guided by divine providence in their mission to serve and uplift the people of Yachuli. Their leadership and vision will undoubtedly make a positive impact on the lives of many. I pray for their success and joy in their ministry.



**“HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO MOST REV. BERNARD LALOO,
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF ARCHDIOCESE OF SHILLONG”**

The Diocese of Itanagar, rejoice with you in this joyous occasion and pray for continued blessings and guidance in your ministry. Your leadership and dedication is an inspiration to many. Wish you all the best.



“THANK YOU DOCTORS AND NURSES”

On April 13th, under the aegis of APCA, a gathering of dedicated doctors and nurses took place at Bishop's House, Papunalla, to evaluate the impact of various health camps conducted across the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Since 2023-2024, APCA has successfully organized six mega medical camps, providing essential healthcare services to the underprivileged sections of society in different parts in the diocese of Itanagar and Miao.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the selfless service of the doctors, nurses, and paramedics who generously contributed their time and expertise to this noble cause. Your dedication and compassion have made a significant difference in the lives of many. We sincerely appreciate your commitment to serving humanity and look forward to your continued support in our mission to promote health and well-being in our community.



“ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR FATHERS”

The diocese is organizing a spiritual retreat for priests (Diocesan and Religious). I kindly request the fathers to submit your names to Rev. Fr. Santosh Rabha # 8638710963 or Rev. Fr. Martin Munda # 8798047082 as soon as possible to ensure proper arrangements. We look forward to a spiritually enriching experience for all participants

Dates: May 19th Arrival by evening Departure on 24th 2025

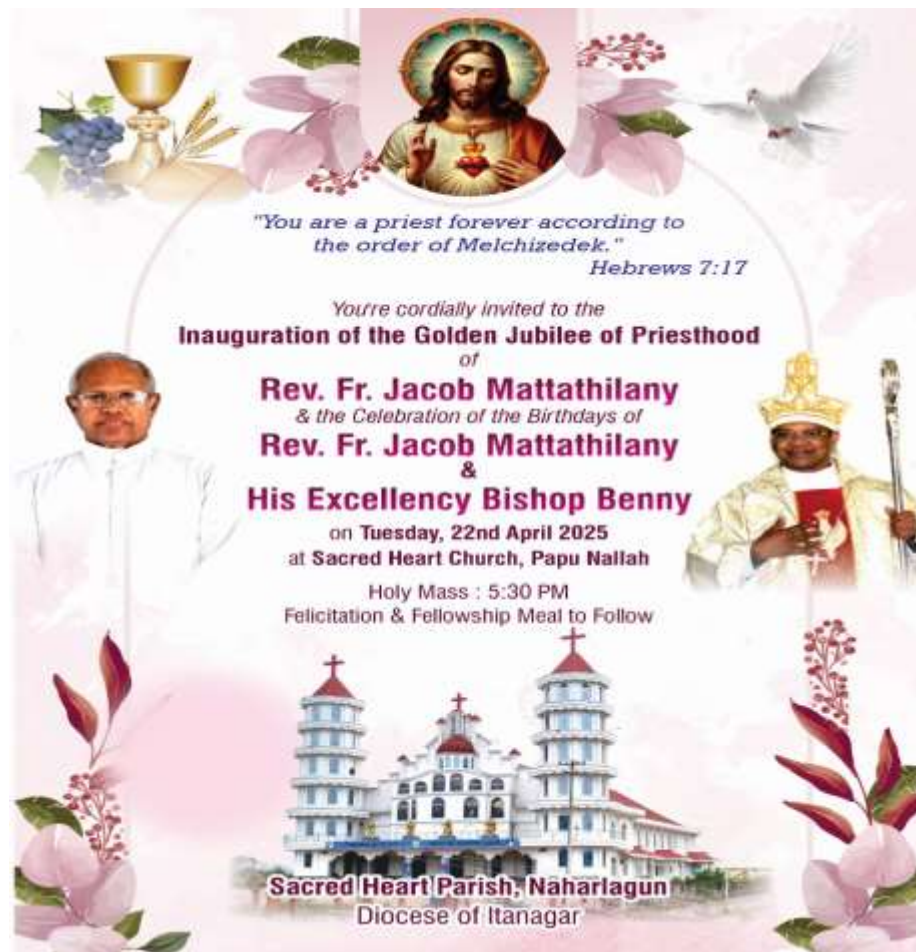
Venue: Bishop's House

Retreat animator: Rev. Fr. Arok SJ

“CELEBRATING GOLDEN YEARS AND BIRTH DAYS”

Let me take this opportunity to welcome all of you for the joyous inauguration of the Golden Jubilee of the Priesthood of Rev. Fr. Jacob Mattathilany, combined with the celebration of his

birthday and my birth day. The Holy Mass will be held on Tuesday, 22nd April 2025, at 5:30 PM at Sacred Heart Church, Papu Nallah. A felicitation and fellowship meal will follow the service.



“CONGRATULATIONS DEAR FATHERS”

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Fr. Touthang Zamkholet Joseph and Rev. Fr. Jipson Joseph Thomas on successfully completing their Licentiate degrees.

Fr. Joseph: Completed his Licentiate in Catechetics and Youth Ministry at Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore, demonstrating his commitment to nurturing faith and empowering youth.

Fr. Jipson Joseph: Completed his Licentiate in Pastoral Management from Jnana Deepa Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Pune, showcasing his expertise in effective pastoral leadership.

May their academic achievements and dedication to their ministry inspire and enrich the communities they serve. Wishing them continued success in their future endeavours!

“APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS”

Sl No	Name	Place of Appointment
1	Fr. Yeshudas OFM Cap	Parish Priest, Veo
1	Fr. Joseph Thouthang	Parish Priest, Damin
2	Fr. Jipson Joseph	Temporary In charge of Gangte Mission
3	Fr. Manu Mathew	Chancellor and Procurator
4	Fr. Santhosh Rabaha	Financial Administrator
5	Fr. Francis Fernandes SVD	Parish Priest , Naricamp

“NECROLOGY”

1. Francis Murry (51) Died on:07-03-2025, Brother of Sr.Arhoni UFS Chimpu
2. Johny Abraham (63) Died on 23 – 03 - 2025 Uncle of Fr. Ancel Naduthottiyil MCBS at Mengio
3. Rev. Sr. Jacinta Kattarkudiyil CFMSS (79) Died on 14-4-2025 Cousin Sister of Bishop Emeritus John Thomas

MY PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL – JUNE 2025

<i>April 2024</i>	
1	Meeting with Fr. Samson and Fr. Jinu George from Dimapur
2	Meeting with new boys for the seminary
3	Mass with PHCJ Sisters at Seva Kendra
4	Visit of NBCLC Team for Mission Exposure
6	Conformation at Yomcha under Aalo Parish (Baptim, Confirmation, Marriage Rectification)
7	Visit to Mebo
8	Visit of Bishop Emeritus Jose Mukala and Fr. Johnson VU from Kohima Diocese Arrival of Priests and Sisters for Recollection at Sacred Heart Church Nahrlagun Finance Committee meeting, Consulters Meeting
9	Priests Meeting at Bishop’s House, CRI Meeting, DF Meeting
10	Chrism Mass at St. Mary’s Parish Itanagar Meeting with Rev. Sr. Lissa FCC Provincial of Dimapur Province
11	Conclusion of Lenten Retreat at Sagalee and Confirmation
12	Visit to Yachali and Sangram
13	Palm Sunday Celebration at Yangte Meeting with the Doctors and APCA Executives at Bishop’s house
14	Visit to St. Patrick Seminary and meeting the seminarians
15	
16	
17	Maunday Thursday at Cathedral Church
18	Good Friday at Banderdewa Parish
19	Night Vigil at Jollang Parish
20	Ester Sunday at Ziro Parish
21	
22	Birthday Celebration of Bishop Benny Varghese and Fr. Jacob Mattathilany and Golden

	Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination inaugural Mass at Sacred Heart Church Naharlagun
23	
24	
25	Bishop John Thomas and Bishop Benny Varghese leaves for Kerala for the 6 th GGM of FIAT
26	6 th GGM of FIAT
27	6 th GGM of FIAT
28	6 th GGM of FIAT
29	6 th GGM of FIAT
30	6 th GGM of FIAT
May 2025	
1	6 th GGM of FIAT
2	6 th GGM of FIAT
3	6 th GGM of FIAT
4	6 th GGM of FIAT
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9	Back to Guwahati
10	Profession and Silver Jubilee of SH Sisters at Tezpur
11	Silver Jubilee of Radum Catholic Community under Boasimla Parish
12	Visit to Gangte Parish and Mass with the community and blessing of the presbytery
13	Blessing of FCC Convent (Bharanangama Province) at Raga
14	Blessing of FCC Convent (Imphal Province) at Likabali
15	Visit to Seppa
16	Visit to Pippu Circle under Seppa Parish
17	Blessing of Lapung Village Church under Bameng Parish
18	Annual Spiritual Retreat for Fathers in Bishops House
19	Annual Spiritual Retreat for Fathers in Bishops House
20	Annual Spiritual Retreat for Fathers in Bishops House
21	Annual Spiritual Retreat for Fathers in Bishops House
22	Annual Spiritual Retreat for Fathers in Bishops House
23	Annual Spiritual Retreat for Fathers in Bishops House
24	Annual Spiritual Retreat for Fathers in Bishops House
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June 2025	
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5	Meeting with Sr. Tessy Sebastian Provincial of Sisters of St. John the Baptist and Mary the

	Queen
6	Meeting with Sr. Leonsa MSMI, Provincial
7	To Bangalore for Catechism Teachers Orientation Program
8	Catechism teachers orientation program
9	Catechism teachers orientation program
10	Catechism teachers orientation program
11	Catechism teachers orientation program
12	Catechism teachers orientation program
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16	Back to Itanagar
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22	Corpus Christi Feast at Mengio and Confirmation and First Holy Communion
23	
24	Installation of Fr. Francis SVD at Infant Jesus Church at Naricamp and Confirmation and First Holy Communion
25	Visit to St. Thomas Parish Chayangtajo
26	
27	Visit of Rev. Fr. Mathu Stephen, Mr. Mih Jevsenak, Mr. Premosh from Slovenia
28	
29	North East Youth Convention at Kohima
30	North East Youth Convention at Kohima

"May Your Lent Be Holy & Your Easter Be Joyful!"



Bishop Benny Varghese