



# INDIAN PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

*Dear Brothers and friends of Edmund,*

Greetings from Goa where we continue to have heavy rains. So far from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June we have had 76" of rain. The excess rainfall has caused havoc in some villages in Goa. NGOs are busy collecting clothes, food items and other basic necessities for those affected.

Early in the month we were very saddened to get the news that Fr. Stan Swamy had gone back to the God whom he had served so faithfully. Besides sadness there are feelings of outrage, helplessness and collective guilt. A U.N. human rights expert has said that she is devastated to hear about the demise of Jesuit priest Stan Swamy in custody, saying **there is "no reason" for a human rights defender to be denied his rights and that his death will forever "remain a stain" on India's human rights record.** And now the Bombay High Court hearing his appeal posthumously says he was a "wonderful man and we respect his work." Real Rip Van Winkles. (The Bombay High Court had to withdraw the last statement on the advice of the National Investigation Agency!!!!)

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of July an international group called "Voices of Faith" that meets every month held a Webinar on "The hierarchical exploitation of nuns in India". An account of this Webinar is included in this Newsletter, Part 1 this month and Part 2 next month because this is a very important issue for our world today and just does not apply to Nuns and the church but the attitude of all of us to Women. Also it highlights the dangers that are lurking when there are unequal power relationships.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, we received the sad news that Sarita da Silva, the mother of Vivek da Silva passed on. May she rest in peace. Sarita taught for many years in our school in Goa. Included in this Newsletter is a Eulogy given by her grandson -Johann.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of this month, the Brothers celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Bap Finn. The Province Leader - Steve Fernandes was present for the occasion along with Larry Miranda who arrived just in time for the Jubilee celebrations. Fr. Valentine, the Rector of Palotti Home, celebrated the Eucharist. An evening to remember for all of us.

Fraternally.

*Mark*



## PRAY ALWAYS

*As you may know from previous newsletters, I am having surgery as treatment for the return of my cancer. My operation is set for this coming Friday morning, July 16. It will be extensive, and I'll be in hospital for about a week. I have "budgeted" the rest of July and all of August as recovery time. This surgeon is one of the best in the USA, so I am good hands ... but prayers will be appreciated.*

*I have received so many prayers and good wishes from so many already, for which I am very grateful. God knows, and I know, that you are praying for me, so there is no need to send a note. I will update you through this newsletter, and on my website and Facebook as I am able.*

*Peace,*

One classical definition of prayer defines it this way: "Prayer is lifting mind and heart to God."

That means lifting up, at any given moment, exactly what's there and not what, ideally, might be there. It would be nice if we always felt warm, reverent, altruistic, full of faith, chaste, hopeful, connected with others and nature, happy about who we are and what life has dealt us. But that isn't the case.

We all have moments and even seasons of doubt, anger, alienation, pettiness, boredom, obsession, and tiredness. Our thoughts are not always holy and our hearts are not always warm or pure. It's at times like this we need prayer and what we need to take to prayer is, precisely, those bitter thoughts and unholy feelings.

All thoughts and feelings are valid material for prayer. Simply put: When you go to pray, lift up what's inside of you at that moment. If you are bored, lift up that boredom; if you are angry, lift up your anger; if you are tired, lift up that tiredness; if you feel selfish, don't be afraid to let God see that.

To "pray always" invites us rather to live our lives against a certain horizon. It doesn't necessarily mean to stop work and go to formal prayer, important though that is at times. The point is rather that we need to do everything within the context of a certain awareness.

Our relationship with God is the same. We need to "pray always" by doing everything out of that kind of awareness. Moreover, when we do spend time in formal prayer, we

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need, like children do, to tell God exactly how we feel and invite God to deal with that.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel points out how, in prayer, the great figures of scripture did not always easily acquiesce to God and say: "Thy will be done!" They sometimes fought bitterly and said: "Thy will be changed!"

That can be good prayer. It lifts mind and heart to God.

When I was 23 years old, in the space of just three months, both my parents died. They were young, I was young, our family was young – too young, we felt, to let them go. Their leaving left a gaping hole in our lives.

*Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**BROTHER FINN  
ON COMPLETING**

**75**

**RELIGIOUS YEARS**



**MAURICE BAPITIST FINN**



"Around this time 75 years ago today my Mum, who was crying, took me aside and said, 'Your Dad and I are very happy with your choice. But if you ever want to come home, the door is wide open.' And then I boarded the train for Dublin. I entered St. Joseph's Juniorate and had the full rigours of the rule from Day One. There were prayers, spiritual reading, silence; no money, no radio, no newspaper, no going out alone or with family members who paid infrequent visits. The monthly letter home was censored as was the reply from my Mum.

At one stage I was asked, 'What do you require?' to which I gave the stock answer, 'The society of the





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Brothers and the charity of the Institute.' I have been enjoying these for the last 75 years - never so much so as today.

The Platinum Jubilee celebration on 29th July was all that I would have wanted under the circumstances. Covid restricted the number of people who could attend as we are still under lockdown. Fr. Valentine of nearby Pallotti Home came to celebrate Mass for the seven members of the community, the Provincial and Principal from Delhi, and four staff members (nursing and culinary). I was very conscious of family and friends and all those who sent congratulations and prayed, All were mentioned in the bidding prayers. I would have been very happy had you been physically present but you were not forgotten.

The Brothers in the community went all out to prepare well. Martin and Arthur are very artistic and made suitable decorations to adorn the chapel, sitting room and dining room. Gerard prepared the Mass booklet with beautiful readings, prayers and hymns. There were some inspired innovations. A large circle of flowers was made on the floor in front of the altar. During the Mass each Brother in turn came forward with an item purporting to represent how he saw me. Before placing the item in the circle he explained why he had chosen it.

There was a flute, a sketch, a compact mirror, a tablet, a crucifix, a lamp, a boarding card and a plastic Smiley! The Brothers were embarrassingly kind in their explanations. Here is what they conveyed in short.

God breathed his life into Adam and into me. The flute needs breath to spread happiness and music. Similarly God breathes through me to bring joy to others. The sketch represented my interactions with the poor, particularly among the tribals. The mirror represents how I reflect the image of God to people. The tablet is a marvellous instrument with a multitude of facets and a phenomenal memory - like me! The crucifix represented the pain I bore uncomplainingly. The lamp represented taking the lead in difficult situations and showing others the way. The boarding card represented





all the well-wishers who would love to have been present and the hundreds of people in Delhi - teachers, Brothers, pupils, parents - who sent prayerful congratulations. The Smiley was from a Brother who never remembers me being in bad humour. I'm so grateful to the Brothers and pardon their excess in honouring an old man.

Mark had prepared the formal Jubilee Address on behalf of the province. It was cleverly executed and departed from the sometimes stilted style of such addresses. It described a conversation between the Guardian Angels of the two Popes. One of the angels had been commissioned to write a current appreciation of a Christian Brother named Maurice Baptist Finn for KOG.com. They discuss the findings.

The meal was a gourmet's delight. Much of it had been prepared by Arthur's family and other well-wishers. The cake by Donnabelle was a work of art. It also tasted delicious!

I was very happy to learn that friends in India, Ireland, England, Canada, Australia and the USA provided food for the poor in my honour or made donations to the SVdP and other organisations caring for the poor and abandoned.

My heart is full of gratitude. I thank you for your love and support over the years - not just on the Jubilee Day. Please continue to pray for me.

All my love and God bless. Thank you, Brothers."





## MY EULOGY FOR MY GRANDMOTHER



When I first heard of the news of my grandmother's stroke the day before. I didn't know how to react. But I feared that the time had come for God to welcome her home. Avozinha always longed to be with my grandfather in heaven. And it's beyond reasonable doubt that they're both united together probably smiling down on us now. This is one of the things that bring me a great deal of peace in this otherwise so troubled moment.

To the other things that bring me peace, is that my grandmother spent her life educating children for so many years, from the times I met the students she taught what I always understood from them was that she was a teacher who didn't only teach them how to master numbers but also to be the kind of individuals people would thank God for. She always held God close to her heart and firmly believed in his promises till her last moment, evidently.

It was last Sunday, 4 days ago on the 25th of July that I last saw my grandmother for a quick stop I had to make at her place. I still remember my last words to her, that I'd see her again soon. Little did I know that was the last time I'd see her.

When her grandchildren were at her place, there were no excuses. Three servings were the bare minimum. I reminisce the times when all of us grandchildren would gather around the table for a good hearty meal. She'd make the best curry, one that nobody else could replicate regardless. That is something I will miss the most.

Her face would always light up for every family gathering because she would be so happy to have her family around her. We've had some amazing times. Picnics, birthdays and even trips abroad. These are memories so beautiful, that will always

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stay with me. Death is one of the greatest comforts if one has lived a life the way Avozinha did because as an angel in heaven she will no longer be limited by a physical body, but can intercede and continue to help her family and even more people like she always did. My greatest comfort in this moment was a message she sent to me by mistake which was intended to be sent to Pikush(Vivek) in Ireland. It was a message about how proud she was of me. Such a small thing back then that today has become one of the most meaningful events.

Thank you Avozinha for everything you did for us, for my dad and his siblings. Everything they are today is because of you. And everything we are today is because of them. We will miss your presence for every function henceforth. I long for that day that I will see you again. Love you always my Avozinha.



*Johann*

## **I AM HAPPY FOR FR. STAN SWAMY....**

**(by Rev. Valson Thampu- written when Fr. Stan had just passed away )**

Fr. Stan Swamy is no more. I feel awkward about mourning his death. Instead, I feel a strange sort of happiness. An eerie sort of relief, if you don't mind.

Who are we to mourn his death? We, who dare not utter a word, fearing for our skin?

Who are we to feel sorry for the loss of this noble soul, when our concerns rarely go beyond the stomach?

Surely, Fr. Stan must have been somebody! At 84, and unsteady on his feet with the Parkinson's, he was such a threat to national security that he had to be shut up in a prison.

What was the threat he posed?

Well, very grave indeed, if you think of it. He sympathised with those who were struggling for their basic rights and dignity. Can there be anything more subversive?

I feel sorry for those of us who are left behind. We may not be shut up in prisons. There is no need to. We are our own prisons.

So, we survive like scarecrows. But prisons too have their days; and then they will be no more. A new sun will arise, and mock its debris.

There is only one practical problem left now. How will they dispose of the body of Fr. Stan?





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He is still an accused under the UAPA. He is not entitled to bail. Unless the court grants bail to his dead body, how will he be buried or cremated? Only one thing is lawful; his body has to be despatched to the prison, under armed escort.

Let a speedy trial begin over the dead body, for God's sake. Let the truth about Fr. Stan be brought to light. Let the whole world know what the crime was for which Stan was shut up.

There is a compelling reason for saying so. Under the UAPA, the accused is GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT. So, Fr. Stan has died guilty. That is to say, he died condemned without a trial: an injustice not done to any accused, under any law anywhere in the world, or in any period of the human history of rule of law.

The State has a duty, besides, to prove the merit of its stand. Though, it is in the nature of the idea of the State itself that it is not accountable to anyone. All the more so, when it is patronised by a committed judiciary. That notion is of the very essence of the UAPA act and all other draconian laws.

If UAPA is to make chilling sense, it should also be prescribed under its rubrics that an accused under its provisions should not be granted burial or cremation, unless his innocence is established. The bodies of the accused, when dead, should be preserved in a UAPA mausoleum under heavy guard. Just in case, the corpses escape and express solidarity with the poor and the powerless!

Well, there is this other humanitarian thing, you know? The hospital, treating Fr. Stan, was ordered to 'do all it can' to save Fr. Stan, when he was critically ill. The thought of his soul flying away from the prison was unbearable, perhaps?

But there is a humiliating truth in this. The State may have a seeming authority over the life of its citizens. But it has no authority over death. But, then, what has no authority over death, cannot have any authority over life too; for life is primary, and death is merely complementary.

The truth is that the State has absolutely no authority over life and death. It merely pretends to have, till truth comes with its bodkin and pricks the bubbles of mundane pretensions.

Sleep well, Fr. Stan, Your struggle is over. Ours remains: except that we are unequal to it. Our struggle now is only with ourselves; or what is left of us.

*Valson*







## Fr. Cedric: “Fr. Stan still lives on, he is a beacon of hope”

Indian Jesuit Father Cedric Prakash, a human rights and peace activist, mourns his fellow Jesuit Fr. Stan Swamy, who died on July 5 in Mumbai.

“There is darkness today with the death of Fr. Stan but he is truly a light for thousands of people of India and elsewhere.” This is how Indian Jesuit priest Father Cedric Prakash reacted soon after hearing about the death of jailed fellow Jesuit Father Stan Swamy on Monday.

Fr. Stan, who championed the cause of indigenous and marginalized people in eastern India’s Jharkhand state, died in Mumbai’s Holy Family Hospital. He was being treated there for Covid-19, which he contracted behind bars in Taloja jail, near Mumbai.

The ailing 84-year-old priest, affected by Parkinson’s disease and hearing impairment, was arrested on October 8 from Bagaicha, a Jesuit social action centre on the outskirts of Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, on charges for alleged links with Maoist insurgents who were said to have been behind the

violence in Bhima Koregaon village in Maharashtra state in January 2018. He was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) that is tasked with fighting terrorism and sedition under the controversial Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The following day, he was lodged in Taloja Central Jail.



Father Swamy has denied all charges against him saying Bhima Koregaon is “a place that I have never been to in all my life.”

Like Jesus, with the marginalized

Fr. Cedric of Gujarat Jesuit Province, also a human rights, reconciliation and peace activist like Fr. Swamy, felt for his fellow Jesuit and the long suffering he underwent. “From the day he was arrested, Oct. 8, till today, Fr. Stan had been in jail, incarcerated under the dreaded Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, for a crime, we know, that he did not commit,” Fr. Cedric lamented. Fr. Stan, who





belonged to the Jamshedpur Jesuit Province, Jharkhand, loved the poor, the down-trodden, the marginalized and the excluded of society, especially the tribals or indigenous people, known as Adivasis in India. "He lived his life for them, he accompanied them on this journey for a more humane, just, equitable and dignified life. Fr. Cedric, the founder of "Prashant", a Jesuit centre for human rights, justice and peace in Ahmedabad, noted that Fr. Stan walked the road with the indigenous and marginalized people, "just as Jesus would have done, if He were living physically in our world today."

### A light for thousands

For Fr. Cedric, "Fr. Stan is a beacon of hope". "Fr. Stan has been a great mentor and motivator to hundreds and thousands of people, both the poor and the marginalized, the human rights defenders and many people across the board." He said he is convinced that "Fr. Stan still lives on". "Fr. Stan will never die. He will continue to live in the hearts and the lives of hundreds and thousands of people everywhere from all walks of life."

Fr. Cedric recalled that when Mahatma Gandhi died, the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, had said, "The light has gone out of our life and there is darkness everywhere." Similarly, the Jesuit priest said, "There is darkness today with the death of Fr. Stan but he is truly a light for thousands of people of India and elsewhere." "Long live Fr. Stan, you will never die," Fr. Cedric emphasized.



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## Webinar airs survey results on hierarchical exploitation of nuns in India

### Part 1

Sacramental blackmail, clergy sexual abuse, clericalism and property disputes are among challenges facing Catholic women religious in India, an international webinar was told. The July 10 meeting organized by Voices of Faith, a Rome-based international network, discussed the findings of a Conference of Religious India survey conducted among the leaders of the women religious in the country. Around 370 nuns, priests and laypeople from many English-speaking countries, Germany and Italy attended the two-hour program.

The survey was commissioned in 2018 by the women's section of the Conference of Religious India, the national association of religious major superiors in the country, after media reports indicated widespread exploitation of nuns in the Catholic Church.

A four-member team conducted the study in 2019-20 and published the findings as a book in June this year. "It is a landmark document," Astrid Lobo Gajiwala, a laywoman theologian who coordinated the webinar, said of the book. "For the first time, we have hard data that cannot be discounted. Women religious from across India have courageously called out the exploitation they experience in the church."

The book lists these problems faced by the Indian nuns: low wages, disputes over property, harassment from priests, refusal of sacramental celebrations, and verbal abuse in person and from the pulpit. The issues discussed in the book were earlier discounted, Gajiwala says, lest they invite "the wrath of powerful priests and bishops," adding the concerns "are finally out in the open." The India conferences of both bishops and religious have not responded to the survey or its findings.

The 86-page book titled *It's High Time: Women Religious Speak Up on Gender Justice in the Indian Church*, was written by a three-member team led by Sr. Hazel D'Lima, former superior general of the Society of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary.

The team contacted about 500 women major superiors and persons of influence in different women's religious congregations in India. "Only 121 people replied. A 25% sample is good enough for an exploratory survey," D'Lima told the webinar.



Sr. Noella de Souza of the Missionaries of Christ Jesus, a member of the survey team, said the book speaks of the economic, spiritual and sexual abuses women religious face in the Indian church.

India has more than 103,000 members in 292 women religious congregations, according to the





conference of religious directory. De Souza said they were told that bishops were not happy about the survey. "Later, the executive commission of [the Conference of Religious India] seemed plagued by fears and withheld their consent to publish the study," she explained. "Towards the end we had to seek legal counsel to reassure ourselves that we could and should get it printed and, more important, disseminate the study to all the respondents and bishops in the country," De Souza said.

The study was "almost silent" about clergy sexual abuse, she said, "because the respondents were major superiors and not the sisters in the field."

The webinar, she said, was organized to take the book's message further. "Being the first study of its kind, we were keen to know the issues that mattered to our sisters, and their feelings about the working relations in the mission," she explained. She expects the participants to take the message to their congregations, dioceses and bishops.

Br. Philip Pinto, who wrote the book's preface, endorsed the study. "I have sat in silence as individual sisters wept through telling their stories. Enough! It's high time. ... This is now the call for action," asserted the former superior general of the worldwide Congregation of Christian Brothers. Pinto was a panellist in the online forum.

*Lissy Maruthanakuzhy*

## Simran, Bhopal

In the month of June, after the postulants went home for their vacation, Brs Parag, Elton, Con and myself drove up to Mt. Abu. We left Simran (Bhopal) around 5 am, and reached the hill station after a speedy 12 hours' journey.

A week in the Mount, and Brs Parag and Elton went home, leaving Br. Con and myself to enjoy the cool weather and scenery of Abu.

In the first week we went for walks to different places,



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which included Plummy, Golden Horn and Polly's Peak. In the second week I attended classes with Br. Con on Mark's gospel. It was great getting to know that first gospel.

I was thrilled staying with the Brothers in St Mary's, enjoying the hospitality, food and magic tricks of Br Miles, the stories and music of Br Robert, and the scrabble and company of Br Maurice at walks and fishing. It was wonderful to have my birthday celebrated there as well, and having some dinners with the present and ex-Bishops too. Overall, it was a grand holiday, even though I missed seeing any of the much-talked about bears and panthers.

We came back to Simran on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. When we reached home, we saw the campus overgrown with grass and weeds. This we managed to get cut. The following week, the two fresh novices, Sanjoy and Dilip, arrived. They stayed in quarantine for a week. During that time, we planted about 70 trees mostly along the boundary. Last week we put structures in place, to organize our days. We set up a policy which ensures the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our premises. Also, we shared on our family history a few days ago.

We look forward to the new month of August now.

*Ranjeet Kujur*

## Football Fever: St. Edmund's school, Shillong gives holiday for Euro Cup matches

While the Euro 2020 finals are rolling on through the knockout rounds, there have been plenty of wild fan interactions already. Even though India is not a part of the league, crazy enough fans from India are eagerly waiting for the drooling finals of the UEFA EURO 2020 finals between Italy and England.

Meanwhile, a fan of the Euro cup Br. Solomon Morris principal of St. Edmund's School in Shillong has announced a holiday for the students to have a lie-in for the match. He has mentioned that the online classes will resume from 13th July 2021, after the Euro Cup is over.

"Enjoy and God bless all. I am rooting for team Italy as my team bowed out in the quarter-finals!"





Morris mentioned. (From the Shillong Newspapers)

The following questions were asked by the North-East TV live and responded to by Br. Solly.

What prompted you to take a decision of giving holidays to children for the Euro cup semi-finals and finals?

*I operate on instinct sometimes. (Read my quote on Messi below. I know he was playing in the Copa America. But the quotation is fascinating). I try to feel the pulse of our children and parents in school. The Euro Cup brought so much joy and cheer to our children and indeed to so many across the world. North-Eastern states love their football and young people follow the EPL, La Liga, Bundesliga, and Serie A. They know their International Footballers. I have children who wear T-Shirts donning their names. And if I am insensitive to their interests and hold classes while the games are on (pretty late at night, which makes getting up early quite a challenge), that would be a tragedy. Imagine parents sitting down to watch the matches at midnight and children being sent to bed early so that they can get up early for 'online classes'! I think they deserve to enjoy these life time events. They can always catch up on studies but to experience the live matches with their families, is an experience they will never get. Families bond during these occasions. That is far more important than one or two classes they would have missed. And I am sure teachers would also love to watch. And I love football too. It is a win-win situation for all. Besides, I am being human.*

Did you face any criticism for this?

*Well, I did not face any criticism yet and why would anyone (at least the boys) criticize me for giving them holidays?*

c) What is your message to the children and parents of your school?

c) See



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# Poetry Section

## HATE IN LOVE

Some staggered home, some rested in the garden.  
Drunk shouts amused – but then they heard a name.  
He paled, and begged his friends to stay by him.  
They did – but slept. Closer the killers came.

Hate smirked. Tonight there would be pain and power.  
They met. His heroes fled. The mob smelt blood.  
But suddenly his world went Bang, and thus he learned  
That all was well: hate must succumb to love.

Hate screamed and scourged and tore and savaged him  
Hate cursed through lust and torture, howled for more.  
Then Peter saw, and understood, and wept.  
And hate's last lunge drove hubris from the door.

The rest is mystery. "Let there be love!"  
And all was joy. Jesus they killed, but see,  
Hate spurned, he throbs as love in every life:  
The cosmos smiles: this was his victory.

*Brendan July 2021*





## JTI Cluster Bulletin AUGUST 2021

*I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please,  
not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep,  
but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk  
or a snooze in the sunshine.*

*I don't want enough of God to make me love a black person  
or offer refuge to a migrant.*

*I want ecstasy, not transformation;  
I want warmth of the womb, not a new birth.  
I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack.  
I would like to buy \$3 worth of God, please .*

*Wilbur Rees*

### ERPAKON



*Farewell Mahendra*



*When Sunil turned 45*

We underwent our Covid turbulence here after Mahendra was tested positive before he was due to leave for home. After a couple of days, we all were tested and our reports were negative. None of us showed any symptoms. For a week the village of Jyntru was declared a containment zone and sealed.

Our week is full of online meetings dealing with ministry and life of the Brothers. Online platforms were a great way to connect as we remained in lockdown. The Cluster brothers from the three places joined in a few online meetings organised by the State Health Department for Faith leaders to encourage religious leaders to promote vaccination in their religious communities. Ceddy, Theo, Edwin and Sunil got

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their second doses during the month.

Mahendra left for home on the 23<sup>rd</sup> after he completed his isolation period. The Cluster Brothers had an online Farewell for him. We all shared the gift that he was for us in the Cluster and he responded to us individually. It was an experience of deep brotherhood.

Jerry Ekka was with us in the Hub for a week to recharge himself. The month ended with the birthday celebrations for Sunil.

## UMTYRKHANG



*The Brothers collectively preparing for their classes*



*A SHG member is doing the maintenance duty in the piggery*

The Brothers in Umtyrkhang are collaborating with Mait Shaphrang, a local Self-Help Group, in setting up a Piggery Project in the village. The Self-Help Group members and their families did all the labour work of carrying the stones and sand and constructing the piggery shed. They will also take care of daily cleaning and upkeep. The Brothers have offered the land near their house and will support them financially.

On 29<sup>th</sup> of June, Edwin and Bipin went to Mairang and bought five piglets and one female pig which is pregnant. Part of the project is to set up a breeder system with newborn piglets which can be offered to families to start their own piggery.

Due to the lockdown, children have been out of school for a long time. The Brothers have decided to answer this need by holding remedial classes for children from class 3 to 10. The Brothers had a meeting with the village headman and the parents who have given their consent. 50 students have registered.

Jerry and Bipin got their first dose of vaccination done in Umsning on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June. With that all the Brothers in the Cluster have received their first dose. The Brothers are promoting vaccination when they meet people in the village. The Block Administration is organising a vaccination drive in the village in the coming weeks.





**PATHARLYNDAN**

The Brothers in Patharlyndan are engaging with Tobias Jana, a confident young man in the village to co-assist in the mission in Patharlyndan. In his role as the Field Worker, he will take part in the planning work with the Brothers and get trained in potential income generating activities. He will have a critical role in gathering information on government welfare schemes and disseminating that information to the people.



*Induction sessions for Tobias Jana, the newly chosen Field worker*



*David farewelled by the Village Organisation members*

The Brothers in Patharlyndan welcomed Theo on the 17th June. Theo's ease of interacting with people will be a great advantage to the mission in Patharlyndan. The Brothers had numerous conversations with Theo orienting him to the ministry and life of the Brothers there. Theo's own insights of ministry will be valuable in our goal of people empowerment.


David leaves Patharlyndan on the 20th of July. David will be immensely missed. During his three and half years, he engaged with the people with his whole heart. He played an extremely pivotal role in both the life and ministry of the Brothers as the Patharlyndan mission was taking root. We wish him well.



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**A Tribute to Fr. Stan by a well wisher**



**God set him free!**

*Shabbir Taher Beguwalla*

Never knew him; Never met him; Not even once, Till he was in the news. An octogenarian; A Jesuit priest, A life spent for and amongst, Those who had the least. He stood up, For what was right; Uncaring about the price, To be paid for his fight. What then was, His purported crime? To incarcerate him Without limits of time? Firmly wedded to The Ignatian Paradigm, Upliftment of the downtrodden, Was his only 'crime'.	It was sad to see him Petition the Law; Just for a sipper And also a straw. Relentlessly, he Applied for bail. All he got was An extension in jail. Prolonged days In the prison cell, Soon on his health It began to tell. As his health Began to fail Hospital care He was allowed to avail. But all this was Too little, too late; By which time Stan Swamy Had resigned to fate.
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To grant him bail,  
 They could not agree,  
 GOD intervened  
 And set him free!

