



Advent

Hope · Love · Joy · Peace

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 11

INDIAN PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

Dear Brothers and friends of Edmund,

Greetings from Goa. While the rest of the country is moving to a colder climate, Goa is perceptibly beginning to get a bit cooler in the mornings.

On the 2nd of November, Br. Bap Finn celebrated his 90th birthday. It was a wonderful occasion to celebrate the life of this gifted brother who has had varied missions in many parts of our Province. About 70 friends attended this unique celebration. Fr. Valentine, the Rector of Palloti Home, officiated at the Eucharist.

In the evening, the Brothers gathered at the cemetery to remember in prayer all our Brothers who have gone before us and are buried in the Chicalim cemetery. Following this the Brothers in our community together with those from the Edmund Rice House gathered to wish Bap with a special dinner in his honour.

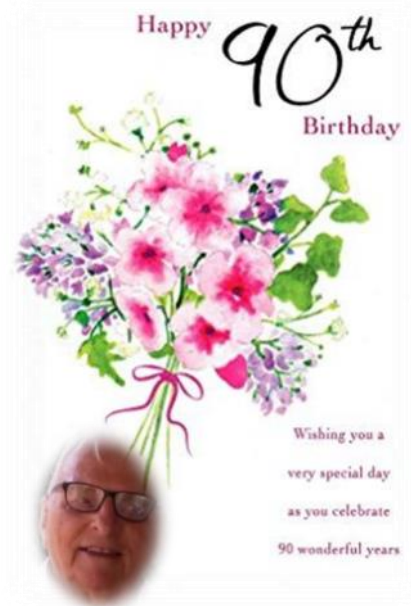
On the 5th of November, St. Edmund's College inaugurated their Centenary celebrations with a spectacular ceremony. Some of the Past Principals of the college were present for the occasion.

The 14th of November was observed by the church as World Poverty Day. While the Pope had lunch with about 1700 poor people and inaugurated a medical clinic for the poor, the rest of the catholic world seems to have been unaware of this day.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27) held in Egypt between 6th and 20th November promised much but delivered little. The Promise of 1 billion dollars a year by developed countries to save the planet seems a distant dream.

Yours fraternally.

Mark





A SAINT FOR A SPIRITUALITY OF OUR TIMES

In an era when women were marginalized, 12th-century mystic **St. Hildegard of Bingen** stood out as an outspoken, controversial figure. At the same time, kings, popes, abbots, and bishops sought her advice.

As a writer, composer, philosopher, Christian mystic, Benedictine abbess, healer, artist, feminist, and student of science — St. Hildegard, known as the Grandmother of Creation Mystics, was a pioneer in many fields.

Hildegard rebelled against the patriarchy of church and society, asserting that God was both female and male — and that God existed in all of the cosmos and everything within it. She oversaw a Benedictine monastery overlooking the Rhine River in Germany.

For many centuries after her death, Hildegard was ignored and even ridiculed. Today, she's finally being recognized for her substantial contributions to **developing both the healthy masculine and the healthy feminine**, to understanding our spiritual relationship with the Earth, and more.

Hildegard maintained that the outer defiling of the natural world is mirrored by an inner drying up of our souls. It's time for us to follow in Hildegard's footsteps and acknowledge and honour our interdependence with all things.

Where did Hildegard derive her courage from? Her wisdom? Much of her prophetic work was based on *art as meditation*. The Artistic dimensions of Hildegard's teachings — from her music, painting, gardening, poetry — as well as her work in the healing arts and her connection to the universe, which we would refer to today as shamanism.

Hildegard practiced prayer and meditation in her music, painting, gardening, music, poetry, and more. She deeply understood that art **expands the heart and inspires courage**. Given Her bold, radical life of faith lived in the 12th century can transform our own spiritual journey.

Adapted from a Seminar given by Mathew Fox

Humankind, full of all creative possibilities, is God's work. Humankind alone is called to assist God. Humankind is called to co-create. With nature's help, humankind can set into creation all that is necessary and life-sustaining.

— **St. Hildegard of Bingen**



OUR GREATEST STRENGTH LIES IN THE
GENTLENESS AND TENDERNESS OF OUR HEART.
RUMI





FOUR SCORE AND TEN AND COUNTING



Introduction to the Eucharist— by Br. Martin

Good morning friends, and thank you for being here today.

The Bible, in Psalm 90, says this about life: “Our years are seventy, or eighty if we are strong. Yet they pass quickly in fruitless labour and trouble and sorrow.”

Br. Baptist Finn has proved to be an exception to these attributes mentioned in the Bible- -on all counts.

Today we come together to celebrate his ninetieth Birthday. ... out-living the ‘strong’ man of the Bible by a decade.

We recall with gratitude his outstanding and fruitful labour in our many schools and institutions .

And while he has had his share of trouble and sorrow, he has, in his inimitable way, generously spread good news, joy, happiness and love.

Each of us here and innumerable others have been touched by the life and friendliness of this warm-hearted person. So today, through this Eucharistic celebration, let us express our gratitude to God for Br. Finn’s presence among us.

We ask you also to remember his parents and members of his family, living and dead, and thank them for the gift of Br. Finn.

May God bless you, Brother, and may Jesus live in your heart, forever





An outline of Fr. Valentine's Homily: What 90 something's regret the most:

They regret not developing a close relationship with their children.

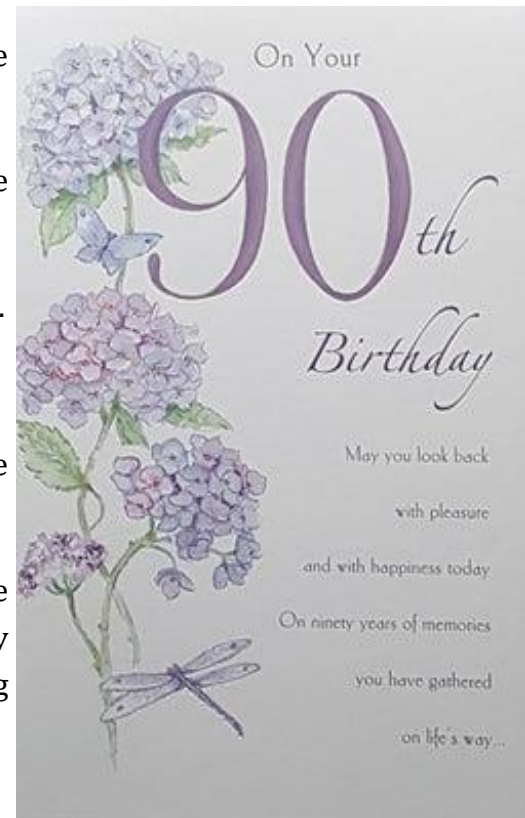
They regret not putting their children on the right path of life.

They regret not taking risks to be more loving.

They regret not being better listeners.

They regret not spending more time with the people they love.

Br. Finn by the example he has given in his life will have no such regrets. He has live a life totally dependent on God. He has lived a life declaring God's work.



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The Pilgrims meet again










The meeting was held in the Edmund Rice Centre at Bogmalo, Goa on the 14th and 15th of November. There were 5 sessions in all and ended with a sumptuous lunch hosted by the ERC community.

The highlight of our time together was the sharing of personal stories. There were 8 brothers present. A few Brothers were not able to attend because of other commitments.

It was good to meet in person as in previous years the meeting were held on Zoom because of the pandemic.

Following in the footsteps of Blessed Edmund Rice

Ex students who became Christian Brothers

 Br Lawrence Colaco (SSC 1991)	 Br Elton Fernandes (SSC 2000)	 Br Solomon Morris (SSC 1977)	 Br Augustine Jairaj (SSC 1983)	 Br Griban D'silva (SSC 2003)	 Br Parag D'costa (SSC 1992)	 Br Ruvan Rebelis (SSC 1997)
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"One thing you may be sure of, that whilst you work for God, whether you succeed or not, he will amply reward you."

"Cast all your cares into the arms of divine Providence."

"Were we to know the merit and value of only going from one street to another to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we should prize it more than silver and gold."

"But let us do ever so little for God, we will be sure He will never forget it, nor let it pass unrewarded."

"The will of God be done in this and every thing we undertake."



"Have courage; the good seed will grow up in the children's hearts later on."

"Be intent on prayer and whatever may happen will turn to our good."

"The will of God be done in this and every thing we undertake."

"O God, did we even now rightly begin to serve you, your loving heart would take us all to its final embrace."

"Above all, beg of him to give you the virtue of humility which is so necessary for religious in every station, but particularly for those who have the care and direction of others. If you only acquire this virtue, it will always guide you safely, let your paths be ever so cross or difficult."

"Have great devotion to Our Blessed Lady. Say in her honour the Memorare daily."

"Give to the poor in handfuls."





St. Edmund's College kicks off year-long centenary celebration



St. Edmund's College, a name that finds its place among one of the best educational institutes in the state, began its year-long centenary celebrations on Saturday, 5th November with the unveiling of the statue of Edmund Rice on the college premises.

Dignitaries who were present during the inaugural ceremony include Education Minister Lahkmen Rymbui, and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Shillong, Rev Fr Richard Majaw, besides intellectuals, teachers, former and present students of the college and invitees.

Father Paul Pudussery, in his keynote address, spoke about the change taking place in the contemporary world. He said the normal dominant change is in the field of information and technology, with it having a far reaching implication on how one acts and interacts at work, education, and civic life.



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He suggested that the students be trained to harness the best of mobile technology and open platform in creating a better future for themselves and not to become slaves of the same. According to him, education and educators need to encourage students to be self-driven learners acquiring skills related to cooperation, communication standards, literacy, social and cultural skills, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving skills, learning skills, management, planning, flexibility, willingness to take risks, entrepreneurial skills and interdisciplinary thinking.

Education Minister Lahkmen Rymbui, who is an alumnus of the college, recalled how the experiences in his college days shaped him and helped him rectify his mistakes. Giving an account of the incidents he encountered in the college which were part of a lifelong lesson, he said that he learned three things from the institute, which he follows till date — punctuality, importance of attendance, and being careful.

He urged the students to be competitive and open to change as they work hard. Other speakers also recalled their fond memories of the heydays in the college, as they lauded the efforts of the institute for the services and shaping the future.



Meanwhile, soulful singing by the college choir and other artistes added colour to the celebrations. Moreover, a video tribute to deceased staff in service accompanied by live singing moved souls.

Colourful performances by the students enthralled the audience as they showcased the rich cultural heritage of the Northeast. The teaching and non-teaching retired staff were also felicitated on the occasion.

Shillong Times





Our Latest Entrants to Simran, Bhopal



Hello Everyone! How are you all? I hope you are all good. I am also good. I want to tell you about myself. Isn't it always good to know each other? My full name is **Billiam Kujur**. I am from Dherai Tea Estate, Dhekiajuli, Sonitpur District of Assam. There are five members in my family. They are my parents, two sisters and I. My sisters are studying. I studied in Don Bosco High School Dhekiajuli and finished my Matriculation in 2019, and then I got an admission into L.O.K.D. College in Dhekiajuli to pursue my 11 and 12. After

finishing my class 12, I thought of joining religious life but I didn't know which congregation to join. One of my uncles told me about the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Listening to him about the life of the Brothers, I joined them in 2021. I was sent to Shillong to do my English course. After completing the course, I have come to Bhopal for Postulancy. Being in the Brothers, I learned many things, such as speaking in English, cooking, computer, music, sports, indoor games, art and craft and many more things, among them I like to play music. Now, I am in Simran, Bhopal, and our formation house because I am a Postulant and next year I will be here in the Novitiate.

"Beauty begins the moment you decide to be yourself!" I am **Sajit Surin**, from Kolebira

village in Simdega District of Jharkhand. We are four in my family, my father, younger sister, cousin sister and me. I lost my mother when I was five. I completed my High School and Higher Secondary from Kolebira, Simdega. When I was in class 10, Br. Sameer came to our School and told us about the Christian Brothers. I found the lives of the Brothers different from priesthood, so I decided to join the Brothers. I attended a vocation camp in Kolkata. Soon after I joined the Brothers, I went to Shillong for the English Course; after that I went to Bajpe,



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Mangalore for my graduation. I have completed my graduation this year. Now I'm in Simran, Bhopal doing my Postulancy program. Being in the Brothers I learned many things such as reading, writing, and speaking in English. I'm good at playing Games such as basketball, football, table tennis, and cricket. I also play cards like UNO, and Mindi Coat. I'm also good at singing, dancing, acting and cooking. Every day I enjoy learning new things with the help of the Brothers. Not only that but I am also looking forward to go to the Novitiate.

My name is **Wanlambok Mawlong**. I am from Meghalaya, Shillong Archdiocese of Marbisu, Parish, of Krang village. I have six siblings; four sisters, my younger brother and myself. My parents are keeping very well. I studied in my village school till matriculation run by the VSDB Sisters. I had met the Christian brothers when they use to come and teach in our school many years ago. I have done my graduation; after my graduation I stayed at home for two years. As I reflect on myself I decided to listen for God, and joined the Christian Brothers, I love to work as a Mason I am skilled at it, and I also love to work and rear animals. I love singing, especially group singing and spending time reading books. Right now I am doing my Postulancy program in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. As of now I have hope that I will keep listening to the gentle voice from heaven above, pray that the Lord may shower His gift of blessings to guide me ahead as I follow in the footsteps of Edmund Rice.



"YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME, BUT I CHOSE YOU" (JOHN 15:16)

I am **Selvin Dung Dung**. I come from a village called Ramabahal, Sundargarh District of Odisha. I was born on 1 of March 2001. In my family, I have my grandparents, parents, two elder brothers, two elder sisters and myself. I am the youngest. Both my brothers are married and one of them has a daughter, and my sisters have completed their graduation and are continuing their further studies. My father is a driver in an Iron Rod factory and mother is a home maker. I have done my Primary and High schooling from my Parish school, and then I did my Class 11-12 in INSO Ranchi being with the OCD Congregation for three years. I came to know about the Christian Brothers from

Mukesh who was in touch with me talking to me about, the Christian Brothers what they do and their mission. When I left the OCD congregation, I made my mind to join the congregation of Christian





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Brothers. Brothers came to my house to meet me and my family, to know about me and tell us who the Brothers are. Then I joined the Brothers in Shillong on 13 June 2019. I was there for three weeks and since I knew English, I was sent to Bajpe community for my graduation course for three years. There I did my graduation in Pompie College Aikala, Mangalore University. It was a good experience with classmates who spoke different languages and belonged to other cultures. It was a good opportunities to learn many about the Brothers. When I speak about my skills, talents and hobbies, I get excited as I am good at so many things like cooking, gardening, games like basketball, football and table tennis. My hobbies are playing the keyboard, guitar, craft, woodcraft, paper-cutting etc. I like cycling and going out for walk. Now I am in Bhopal, Simran house doing my Postulancy Program. I came here on 14 October 2022. After my Postulancy I will be doing my Novitiate here for two years.

“What you do with your heart affects the whole universe!”

Hello everyone, I am Romanus Barla from Moinajuli village, Sonitpur District of Assam. I have my mom and dad in my family, one elder sister and one elder brother and me; my brother is married with two children. I did my schooling from my Parish school and there I was inspired by the priests to join a religious congregation. When I passed my matric, I came to know more about the Congregation of Christian Brothers from one of my cousin brothers and I was inspired by the work of the Christian Brothers, how they help the people especially the poor and how they take care of nature. So I joined the Brothers and I came into contact with the vocation promoter and I expressed my desire to join the Congregation. This came into reality, on 13th of June 2019. I was sent to Shillong to do my English course for one year. After the English Course, I was sent to Bajpe for my class 11th and 12th and after finishing my studies over there I came to Bhopal to do my Postulancy Program. Right now I am in Bhopal. Being in the Christian Brothers, beside English, I learnt many things; like playing games, cooking, singing and acting etc. I love to play the guitar as my hobby and making paper craft. After this, my next program will be the Novitiate.



The Postulants 2022





MANGALORE UNIVERSITY DECLARE THEIR DEGREE RESULTS



Marks scored by our Brother candidates are as follows

John Dang - 79%

Mukesh Soreng - 77%

Abinash Aind - 76%

Selvin Dung Dung - 74%

Sajit Surin - 74%

Congratulations John, Mukesh, Abinash, Selvin and Sajit.

John Pereira

POETRY SECTION

YEARS

We old folk know differently

Space challenges me,
Like cliffs climbers.
Anthropomorphism suffuses,
This new space voices





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Do-don't's, hesitantly.
But see, I dare.

I dare to let go.
Always my demand has been
Reveal your meaning,
Say loudly why.
But why is for youth,
Not for us aged.

We old folk recognise
Reason is teen.
Answers explain, satisfy.
We wise and worn ones
Need no answers.
We gaze, and know.

Brendan November 2022

A POEM THAT MOST OF US CAN RELATE TO..

I remember the food of my childhood,
The curries made with chilli and spice
When the servants helped out with the housework,
And the dog chased the goats, cats and mice
The curries were kept in a meat safe,
The chapatis were well baked and hot
We children were seldom unhappy,
And mama was content with her lot.

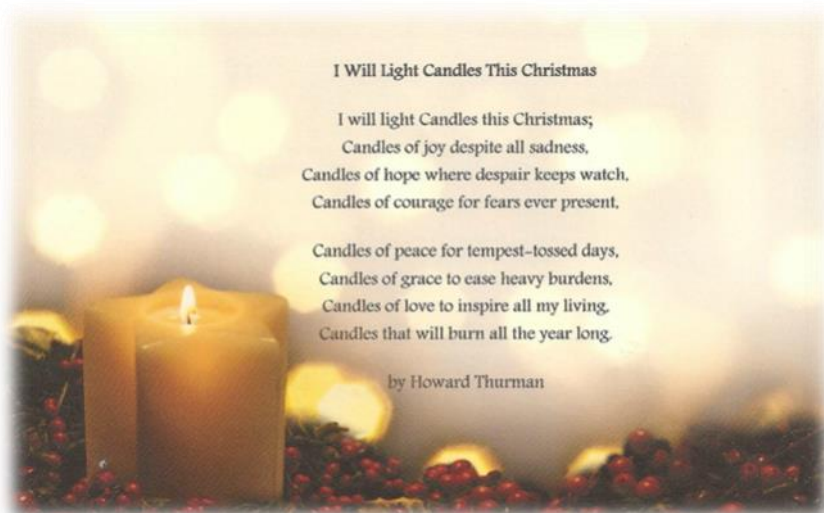
I remember the milk in a milk can,
From a cow it gave cream on the top,
Our dinner came hot from an oven,
And not from a fridge or a shop.
The kids were a lot more contented,
They didn't need money for kicks,
Just a game of gillie -dandu or cricket
And sometimes the Saturday flicks.





I remember the shop on the corner,
 Where bhajias, and chikki were sold
 Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic?
 Or is it...I'm just getting old?
 I remember the 'loo' was the lavatory,
 And the bogey man came out in the night,
 It wasn't the least bit amusing,
 With power cuts when there was no light.
 Our clothes were washed in the river
 By dhobis who mixed up the wash,
 And they used a nice hot coal iron
 That burnt a huge hole in our socks,
 I remember the slap on my backside
 And the taste of soap if I swore,
 Anorexia and diets weren't heard of,
 And we hadn't much choice what we wore.
 Do you think that it bruised our ego?
 Or our initiative was destroyed?
 We ate what was put on the table
 And I think life was better enjoyed.

John Doe



I Will Light Candles This Christmas

I will light Candles this Christmas,
 Candles of joy despite all sadness,
 Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
 Candles of courage for fears ever present.

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
 Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
 Candles of love to inspire all my living,
 Candles that will burn all the year long.

by Howard Thurman

