

SAGAR VOICE

Sagar Diocesan Monthly Newsletter

Faith in Fellowship, Mission in Action

(Diocesan and Church-wide events)

Sagar Delegation at National Divine Mercy Convention



Burari, Delhi: The Third National Convention of Divine Mercy was held at Jeevan Jyoti Ashram, Burari, Delhi, from 28 to 30 August 2026. The three-day convention brought together three Bishops, 20 priests, 30 religious Sisters and hundreds of Apostles of Divine Mercy from across India. The Diocese of Sagar was represented by Bishop Emeritus Mar Anthony Chirayath, Rev. Fr Thomas Philip, Rev. Fr Jose Prakash, Rev. Fr Sabu Puthenpurackal, Rev. Fr Philip Alumoottil, Sr Shovian DVS and Sr Aji CSM.

Family Tree Healing Retreat Strengthened Faith and Renewal



Khajuriya: A Family Tree Healing Retreat for Hindi-speaking people was held at Dayasagar from 3 to 8 August 2026. The retreat was conducted by Rev. Fr Jose Prakash and was attended by around 60 participants from Sagar and the neighbouring dioceses of Bhopal, Jabalpur and Delhi.

Night Vigil: A Night of Prayer and Communion

Khajuriya: A Night Vigil was held at Dayasagar on the night of 14 - 15 August 2026. The vigil was led by Rev. Fr Jose Prakash and Rev. Fr Paul Chungath, with participants coming from Sagar, Bina, Jabalpur and Katni.



Young Hearts, Living Faith (Youth, Fellowship and Formation)

Raisen Youth United in Faith and Joy

Raisen: The Raisen Zonal Gathering was held at St Francis Church, Raisen, as part of National Youth Sunday celebrations. The programme began with Eucharistic Adoration followed by Holy Mass. The inaugural function was presided over by Rev. Fr Benny Kallingal, the Protopresbyter of St Francis'

Zone, Raisen, who also delivered the Presidential Address. Rev. Fr Edwin Kundukulam, Assistant Director of Youth Department, delivered an inspiring and motivational talk, followed by games and activities for the youth. The gathering concluded with vibrant cultural programmes, creating a joyful and memorable celebration.



Sagar Zonal Gathering Ignited Faith and Fellowship

Jyoti Bhavan: The Sagar Zonal Gathering was held at St Thomas Church, Jyoti Bhavan. The programme began with Eucharistic Adoration followed by Holy Mass. The inaugural function was presided over by Rev. Fr Sabu Puthenpurackal, the Protopresbyter of St Theresa's Zone, Sagar, who also delivered the Presidential Address. An inspiring and motivational talk was delivered by Fr Nikson Kuttikat, followed by enthusiastic participation in various games and activities. The gathering concluded with vibrant cultural programmes, making it a joyful and grace-filled day for the youth.



Young Hearts Celebrated Faith and Mission

Sironj: On 16th August, a special International Youth Day programme was organized at Blessed Chiara Badano Church. The celebration brought together young people in a joyful and meaningful gathering centred on faith, values, leadership and social responsibility. The programme concluded with a message encouraging the youth to be responsible, compassionate, confident and committed to making a positive difference in the world.



Youth Honoured and Encouraged

Silwani: A special Holy Mass was offered for the youth of the parish, followed by a felicitation programme. Rev. Fr Benny Kallingal, the Parish Priest, and the parish representative addressed the gathering and highlighted the important role of young people in the Church and society. Rev. Fr Benny encouraged the youth to become a source of light and positive influence in their communities.



National Youth Sunday Celebrated Faith and Youth

Kolar: National Youth Sunday was celebrated on 9 August 2026, with the theme, *"Take courage, I have overcome the world"* (Jn 16:33). The youth actively participated in and led the liturgical services of the day. A felicitation programme was also organized by the Mathruvedi and Pithruvedi to appreciate the contribution and service of the parish youth.



Mission that touches Lives

(Social Outreach, Development and Community Empowerment)

MVSS Strengthened Support for Transport Workers



Sagar: Under the Raahi Programme, Manav Vikas Seva Sangh (MVSS) organised eye screening camps at various locations in Sagar district for truck drivers, assistants and other highway transport workers. The camps focused on the early detection of vision problems and the provision of

corrective spectacles, contributing to road safety and the well-being of transport workers. The initiative was carried out with the support and guidance of Rev. Fr Thomas Philip and Rev. Fr Kiran.

MVSS Strengthened Sustainable Farming Initiatives



Sagar: Manav Vikas Seva Sangh (MVSS) organized an interface meeting with farmers, scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Sagar, the Project Director of ATMA, government officials and the MVSS Director. The meeting facilitated interaction between farmers, technical experts and government departments, providing information on scientific farming practices, sustainable agriculture and government schemes. The initiative aimed to strengthen institutional linkages and support farmers in improving productivity and livelihoods.

World Tribal Day Celebrated Indigenous Identity and Heritage

Sagar: World Tribal Day was observed in various MVSS project villages with the participation of tribal families, women, youth, children and community leaders. The celebrations highlighted tribal culture, traditions, indigenous

knowledge and the communities' relationship with nature through gatherings and cultural activities. The observance also promoted awareness of tribal identity, dignity, rights and the preservation of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.



Families Rooted in Faith

(Family Ministry, Prayer and Parish Life)

St Monica's Feast Celebrated Faith and Family

Sironj: On 30th August, Blessed Chiara Badano Church Mathru Sangh celebrated the Feast Day of St Monica with great devotion and enthusiasm. Mothers and families gathered for prayer, a special Eucharistic celebration and inspiring reflections on the life and virtues of St Monica. Her faith, patience, perseverance and dedication to her family were highlighted, inspiring the participants to follow her example and deepen their faith.



Families United in Jubilee Prayer with St Francis

Raisen: The relics of St Francis were taken to parishioners' homes at St Francis Church, as part of the Jubilee family prayer and blessing programme. The initiative provided families an opportunity to pray together and seek the intercession of the saint.



Mothers Celebrated at St Francis Church

Raisen: St Francis Church celebrated Mother's Day with a special programme honouring mothers and acknowledging their contribution to family and community life.



Home Mission Brought Pastoral Care to Families

Kolar: St Sebastian's parish community conducted a Home Mission Ministry from 17 to 23 August 2026, with the participation of Rev. Sr Ancy P. and Rev. Sr Sangeetha of the SH Congregation. The ministry concluded with Holy Qurbana, a spiritual talk, Eucharistic Adoration and an opportunity for Confession. Parishioners participated in the spiritual activities.



Home Mission Reached Remaining Families

Awadhpuri: The second phase of the Home Mission was conducted in St Carlo Acutis Prayer Unit, with SH Sisters from Ujjain visiting the remaining 30 families. The sisters spent time with the families, offering prayer, encouragement and pastoral support. The programme concluded with a Christ-centred retreat for the catechism children.



Celebrating Saints, Serving the Church

(Parish Feasts and Spiritual Celebrations)

St John Maria Vianney Celebrated with Prayers for Priests

Awadhpuri: The Feast of St John Maria Vianney, patron saint of priests, was celebrated at St Alphonsa parish with Holy Qurbana and special prayers for priests. Rev. Fr Akhil Mlavil MST of the MST Generalate was the main celebrant. As part of the celebration, parishioners honoured the priests with festal blessings and flowers. The celebration was sponsored by the families of the St John Maria Vianney Prayer Unit.



St Euphrasia Celebrated with Devotion



Kolar: St Sebastian's parish community celebrated the feast of St Euphrasia on 30 August 2026. The celebration included Solemn Holy Qurbana and Ledeenju. Following the liturgy, Sr Archana CMC presented a talk on the life and spirituality of St Euphrasia.



Awadhपुरi: The feast of St Euphrasia was celebrated at St Alphonsa parish with Solemn Holy Qurbana and Ledeenju. The feast was sponsored by the CMC Sisters of BHEL.

Independence Day and Assumption Celebrated together



Kolar: St Sebastian's parish community celebrated Independence Day and the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15 August 2026. The celebrations included Morning Prayer and flag hoisting, followed by the evening Rosary and Holy Qurbana with Ladeenju. Rev. Fr Jithin Vellor MST served as the main celebrant, with Fr Twinkle Thottaplkcal MST concelebrating.

Forming Minds, Shaping Futures (Schools, Education and Holistic Formation)

Parent-School Partnership Strengthened



Sironj: Nirmala Convent Higher Secondary School conducted its Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) class-wise from 1 to 8 August to review academic progress and discuss key administrative and developmental matters. Parents and teachers actively shared their views and suggestions. A PTA Committee Meeting held on 19 August further strengthened collaboration between parents and the school, focusing on students' academic progress, overall development and school-related concerns.

Beyond the Classroom: Students Learned through Experience



Sironj: Nirmala School organized a series of creative learning activities in August. The Jungle Safari activity on 4 August introduced students to wildlife through costumes, role-play, art and teamwork. A Bagless Day on 14 August featured engaging activities including fancy dress, debate and fireless cooking. Kindergarten students also participated enthusiastically in an Independence Day Fancy Dress Competition on 10 August, portraying freedom fighters and national figures.

Health, Safety & Personality Development Took Centre Stage

Sironj: On 14th August, Nirmala School organized an informative seminar on Health, Hygiene and Personal Safety, conducted by Mrs Minimol Thomas. The session focused on personal hygiene, healthy habits, safe and unsafe touch, personal boundaries and the importance of seeking help from a trusted adult. On 22nd August, a seminar for parents on “*Positive Parenting and the Role of Parents in Education: Building the Foundation for a Bright Future*” was conducted by Ms Neetu Joshi, offering practical guidance on understanding and supporting children. On the same day, students participated in a seminar on “*Holistic Personality Development*” conducted by Rev. Fr Jacob Peenikaparambil, who addressed confidence, values, personal growth and SWOT Analysis.



Student Leaders Took Charge

Kurwai: The Investiture Ceremony of St Jude School of Excellence, Kurwai, was held on 7 August with the installation of the newly elected Student Council and Class Prefects. Rev. Fr Freejo, the Manager, conferred the badges on the student leaders. Vinayak Chouhan and Arya Rai were invested as Head Boy and Head Girl respectively. The ceremony emphasised responsibility, discipline and leadership among the students.



Forming Minds, Shaping Futures (Schools, Education and Holistic Formation)

Laurels Won at State-Level Taekwondo Competition

Sironj: On 24th August, students of Nirmala School achieved remarkable success at the State-Level Taekwondo Competition. Anshit Nagina and Parth Sharma secured Gold Medals, Ansh Sharma won a Silver Medal,

while Avni Dubey and Kanishka Shrivastava earned Bronze Medals. Their achievements reflected their dedication, hard work and consistent practice.



Teamwork and Sportsmanship Displayed on National Sports Day



Sironj: On the occasion of National Sports Day, Nirmala School organized a House-Wise Kabaddi Competition. Students from different houses participated enthusiastically, demonstrating strength, agility, teamwork and tactical skills. The matches fostered healthy competition, discipline, coordination and sportsmanship among the students.

Hazel Jaice Advanced in Logos Quiz



Awadhpuri: Hazel Jaice of St Alphonsa parish was felicitated for clearing the A Category of the Logos Quiz and qualifying for the semifinal round. The parish community congratulated her and wished her success in the forthcoming semifinal.

Alphonse Jince Honoured for Dedicated Altar Service



Awadhpuri: Alphonse Jince, a regular and active altar server of St Alphonsa parish, was felicitated on completing his Plus Two studies and leaving for Chennai for higher education. After Holy Qurbana, Rev. Fr C. T. Thomas, former Parish Priest, blessed Alphonse and presented him with a memento in appreciation of his dedicated service at the altar. The parish community conveyed its prayers and best wishes for his higher studies.

In Memoriam

Rev. Fr John Paul Alengattukaran CMI

(1938–2026)

A Pioneer Who Helped Shape the Sagar Mission



Rev. Fr John Paul Alengattukaran CMI, a pioneering missionary of the St Paul Province, Bhopal, passed into eternal life on 20 August 2026. A dedicated missionary during the formative years of the Diocese of Sagar, he courageously served in Sironj, Shampura and Intkheri, contributing significantly to the growth of the mission and its pastoral and educational institutions. He played a key role in establishing the mission at Sironj, including the parish, convent and Nirmala Convent School, and also served in communication and formation ministries. Known for his missionary courage, creativity and ability to build bridges with people, Fr John Paul leaves behind a lasting legacy in the Diocese he helped shape in its early years.

Patriotism, Culture and Community Spirit

(National Celebrations and Cultural Events)

Tricolour Spirit, One Nation, One Heart

Sironj: Nirmala School celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic spirit and enthusiasm. Mr Prateek Kumar Mehra, Block Education Officer, Sironj, hoisted the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem. Students presented inspiring speeches and vibrant cultural performances, highlighting the values of patriotism, unity and responsible citizenship.



Sagar: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated at Manav Vikas Seva Sangh (MVSS) as the programme included cultural and patriotic presentations. Rev. Fr Thomas Philip, Director of MVSS, addressed the

gathering and encouraged participants to contribute towards building a just and inclusive society. Tributes were also paid to the freedom fighters and patriots who contributed to India's independence.



Silwani: Pushpa High School, Silwani, celebrated Independence Day with a special programme that included a fancy dress competition. Students participated in the activities, reflecting the patriotic spirit of the occasion.



Moments in Focus



Prison Ministry India (PMI) Madhya Pradesh Diocesan Coordinators and State Executive Members meeting, held on 31 August at Pastoral Centre, Bhopal



Independence Day Celebration at St Joseph Co-Ed School, Bararu, Sagar

Raksha Bandhan Celebrated Creativity and Family Bonds

Sironj: On 25th August, Nirmala School celebrated Raksha Bandhan with great joy and enthusiasm. A Rakhi Making Competition was also organized, providing students an opportunity to showcase their creativity and artistic skills. The celebration helped students appreciate the cultural significance of the festival and cherish the values of family, affection, respect and togetherness.



Green Day Inspired Children to Care for Creation

Bararu: St Joseph Co-Ed School, Bararu, celebrated Green Day on 1 August 2026, with the participation of students from Nursery to Grade 4. The students came dressed in eco-friendly and nature-themed costumes, and saplings were planted as part of the celebration. Prizes were awarded for the best costumes and displays. The school management appreciated the efforts of the students, parents and teachers in making the celebration meaningful.



Appointments

- **Rev. Fr Alex Pulickaparambil** is appointed as the **Director of Eparchial Commission for Ecumenism**.
- **Rev. Fr Joshy Eriyattupadayatty** is appointed as the **Director of Eparchial Commission for Interreligious Dialogue**

Bishop's Diary

August 01- August 02: Participated in the CBMP Meeting at Bhopal

August 04: Participated in Vianney Day Celebrations & Monthly Recollection at Bishop's House, Sagar

August 06: Blessed the New Convent Building at Naisarai.

August 08: Officiated the First Profession of CHF Sisters at St Theresa's Cathedral. Sagar

August 10: Officiated the First Holy Communion, Singapore

August 17-28: Participated in the Synod of Bishops, Kerala

August 22: Officiated the Funeral Mass of late Fr John Paul CMI at Sagar Bhavan, Thrissur

August 31: Participated in the PMI Regional Meeting, Bhopal

Bishop's Engagements

September 03: Novena Holy Mass at St Theresa's Cathedral, Sagar

September 05: Feast of St Mother Teresa, Holy Mass at Missionaries of Charity Convent, Madia

September 06: Parish Feast, St Mary's Church, Vidisha

September 08: Vestition & Final Profession of SJ Sisters, Sagar & Parish Feast, Jyoti Bhavan, Sagar

September 10: Holy Mass at Jesu Bhavan, SJ Generalate, Sagar

September 12: Presbyteral Council

September 13: Parish Feast, St Mary's Church, Dourana

September 14: Mother's Day Celebrations - Annual Meeting

September 20: First Holy Communion, St Xavier's Church, Sanchi & Youth Meeting at Khajuria

September 23: Inter-Diocesan Priests Meeting

September 24: Seminary Visitation, St Ephrem's Theological College, Satna

September 28: Holy Mass at Snehabhavan Convent, Begumganj (Feast of St Lioba)

Birthday of Priests

September 06: Fr Jones Pallipuram

September 12: Fr Jackson Thekkumpedika

September 18: Fr Alex Pulickaparambil

September 22: Fr Nijo John

September 30: Fr Saul Toppo

Feast Day of Priests

September 21: Fr Sijo Chungath

September 27: Fr Vincent Akkara & Fr Devamitra Neelankavil

Important Days to remember

September 05: Feast of St Theresa of Calcutta

September 08: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Feast Of Velankanni Matha & Foundation Day of Sisters of Jesus

September 13: Feast of St John Chrysostom

September 14: The Exaltation of the Cross & Death Anniversary of late Fr Anil Francis

September 15: Death Anniversary of late Bishop Mar Clemens Thottungal CMI & Founder's Day of Sisters of Jesus

September 21: Feast of St Mathew, the Apostle & Regional On-going Priestly Formation Programme at Khajuria

September 27: Feast of St Vincent De Paul – Feast of the Congregation of Sisters of Charity (CSC)

September 29: Feast of Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

September 30: Feast of St Jerome