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Christ College, Bhopal

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CHRIST COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER



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Principal's Message



Today we are living in a fast changing complex society, which presents before us challenges as well as opportunities. In that precarious context Christmas comes with all the peace, love and hope. Everything is available in the market except peace and love. Christmas, the birthday of Jesus, is the celebration of peace and love. Angels at the birth of Jesus sang "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those whom he favors". Jesus came to seek and save the sinner, to heal the broken-hearted and to establish his kingdom of peace and joy on earth where hostility, turbulence and division rule.

In the Christmas season all are familiar with the figure of Santa Claus, the legendary Grand Papa or Christmas Father who brings gifts on Christmas Eve of toys and candy to well-behaved children. It may be a mythical character. But it propagates love and joy which the Christmas season would like to proclaim.

Jesus, the king of kings was born in a manger (Lk 1:26), to preach the gospel of love. He taught the message of love not only by words but also by deeds. Self-emptying of Jesus was the highest expression of Love. He upheld the message of forgiveness and love for the

enemy.

The universal message of Christmas is that God is a loving Father and we his children are all brothers and sisters. *Vasudhaiva Kuṭumbakam* वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् (Maha Upanishad VI.71-73) highlights the same message. If we transcend the 'fear, narrow domestic walls and dead habits' we can experience this universal brotherhood. Let us foster fraternity among individuals of every nation and culture. Like the angels, we too shall sing 'Glory to God and peace to all'; together with Santa Claus, the Christmas Father, we can share gifts to the poor. Let baby Jesus be born in our humble hearts instead in any man made crib.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Principal



**Rev. Dr. Johnson, the principal
welcoming the new Archbishop of
Bhopal, Most Rev. A.A.S. Durairaj,
SVD.**

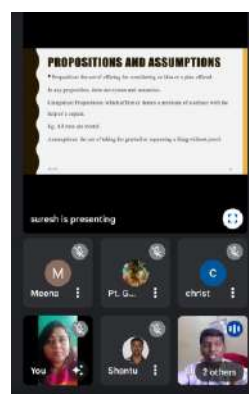
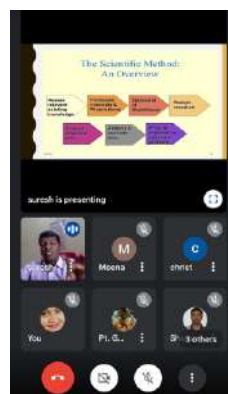
Diwali Celebrations

Christ College Bhopal has a tradition of celebrating the festivals with their full spirit and gaiety. In this sequence, a program was organized on 1 November 2021 in the assembly hall on the occasion of one of the biggest religious festivals of India, Deepawali. It was a fruitful coincidence that Madhya Pradesh foundation day also happened to be on this day, so the program was focused on the themes of common heritage and culture of Madhya Pradesh along with Deepawali festival. The students threw light on the various aspects of Diwali through their presentations. Madhya Pradesh anthem was sung by a group of students. A Quiz Competition was also organized on this occasion in which the students participated brilliantly. Group activities connect everyone together, so the group game gave this program even more flavour. At the end, Principal, Rev. Father Johnson CMI, in his speech, highlighted the importance of Diwali. The program was organized under the supervision of Mr. Shivaji Rai, Assistant Professor, Department of History, in which all other academic and non-academic staff of the college contributed significantly. The program was concluded with the distribution of sweets and best wishes of good health and prosperity to all.



Special Lecture Series

A special lecture series on Philosophical perspective of education has been organized from 18 November 2021 for the first year students of M.Ed. 2021-22 batch. The resource persons for the lecture are Dr. Fr. Suresh, Dean of KPRP, College of Philosophy Bhopal and Dr. Fr. Antony, Dean of SVD Vidyabhawan, College of Philosophy, Bhopal. The classes will be on 14 November, 28 November, 2, 5, 12 and 19 December. The purpose of the lecture series is to give students in depth knowledge from subject experts.



Preparation for a Professional Life

As students of B.A. and B.Com. complete their graduation this session, Christ College has organized a workshop series starting from 19 November 2021. In the workshop the students are taught resume writing, art of giving interview presentations, body language, IQ, EQ and SQ etc. The series will continue till January 2022. The coordinator of the workshop is Dr. Pallavi Shrivastava.

Joy of Giving

The Management, Students and Staff of Christ College organized a visit to a nearby village where rag pickers survive with their families, on 20 November 2021. The objective of the visit was to celebrate the joy of sharing with our needy brothers and sisters in our neighborhood. This would develop sensitivity towards all the members of the society. During the visit, warm clothes and food were distributed. 35 students, 7 teachers along with Rev Prof Johnson, Principal, visited the place. This visit marked the beginning of the Christmas Celebrations, as sharing is one of the major teachings of Lord Jesus Christ. Students enthusiastically proposed to continue the practice every month. This social exposure was important to understand the poor living standards of rag pickers of the city.



Birthday Celebrations

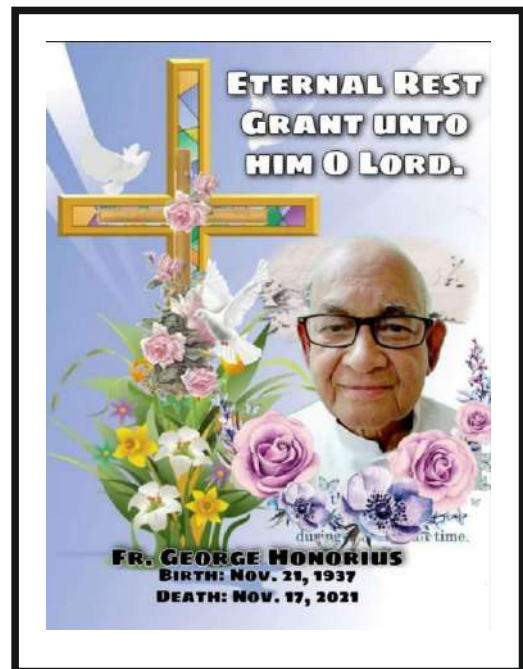
Rev. Fr. Antony Tathils' birthday was celebrated on 9 November 2021. Fr. Antony has been serving the institute as Administrator. Rev. Fr. Johnson, Principal appreciated the service that he has been rendering to the congregation, institution and society. Rev Fr. Antony is loved and appreciated by everyone for his helpful and jovial nature. He was showered with blessings and wishes from the Director, Rev. Fr. Dominic, the staff and students who assembled for the celebration. Father then cut the birthday cake and distributed it to everyone present and expressed gratitude.

Birthday of Dr. Diwakar Singh was celebrated on 20 November 2021. Dr. Diwakar Singh is Associate Professor who has been rendering his services for the last 10 years. Rev. Prof. Johnson, Principal of the college on the occasion appreciated Dr Diwakar for his contribution to the college and for his dedicated service in the field of Education. Cake was then cut and was distributed along with other delicious snacks. Rev. Fr. Dominic blessed him with best wishes for healthy and long life ahead. Every one present extended warm wishes to the senior most faculty of Christ College.



OBITUARY

Christ College community mourns the sad and sudden demise of Rev. Fr. George Honorius, CMI who died on 17 November 2021. He was 84. Father George was the finance counselor of the CMI, St Paul's Province, Bhopal for many years. He was a staunch supporter of Christ College and of always looked forward to the growth and flourishing it. May his noble soul rest in peace.



Eternal Teachings from a Guru - Guru Nanak Dev

The world celebrated 552nd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji on 19 November 2021. Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism was the first of the ten Sikh gurus who helped in formulating the pillars on which Sikhism was established. His teachings are inscribed in the Guru Granth Sahib and they continue to be the guiding principles for not only Sikhs but people across communities and religions. He preached many life-long lessons and teachings that can be even applied today and have become even more important and much-needed values in today's turbulent times. In order to get a better understanding of his philosophy, we bring you the 10 life lessons that you can learn from Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

“Ik Onkar” – One God

There is but one God. His name is Truth; He is the creator. He fears none; he is without hate. He never dies; He is beyond the cycle of birth and death. He is self illuminated. He is realized by the kindness of the true Guru. He was true in the beginning; He was true when the ages commenced and has ever been True. He is also True Now.

“Kirat Karo” – Work Honestly

Kirat Karo means *work honestly* and is one of the three pillars of Sikhism. Throughout his life, Guru Nanak Dev Ji propagated the idea that all humans need to earn their living through honest means and use their skills and talents to lead an honest life. And this is definitely an important lesson on the significance of honesty and reminds us how hard work is the only path towards success.

“Vand Shhakō” – Share and Consume

“If the people use the wealth bestowed on them by God for themselves alone or for treasuring it, it is like a corpse. But if they decide to share it with others, it becomes sacred food.”

Vand Shhakō which translates to *Share and Consume* is another pillar of Sikhism. Guru Nanak Dev Ji believed that those who are capable have the responsibility to take care of the needy.

“Sewa” – Selfless Service

The idea of *Sewa* forms the crux of Sikhism. Guru Nanak Dev Ji believed and practised the virtue of selfless service. He firmly believed that spiritual satisfaction and true contentment can be achieved only through engaging in acts which are completely selfless in nature. This is the idea behind the *langar* which is offered in Gurdwaras across the country even today. So, keep aside your greed and be selfless while leading your life.

Equality

Guru Nanak Dev Ji was a firm believer in the idea that God created everyone as equal and therefore everyone should be treated as an equal irrespective of their caste, religion and gender.

Respect Women

Even nowadays, Women are fighting for basic rights and religious scriptures are often used to justify the treatment that women are subjected to but even centuries back Guru Nanak Dev Ji stood for the rights of women. In one of his verses, he demands an equal position for women in the society by saying “*why to disrespect the one who gives birth to the majestic kings of the world*”.

God is Omnipresent

Guru Nanak Dev Ji was completely against idolatry. He believed that God is present everywhere in nature and therefore you don't need idols or temples or mosques to connect with God. He stressed this idea after witnessing how the lower castes were barred from entering temples.

Kindness and Compassion

Guru Nanak Dev Ji believed that only kindness and compassion can change the world in a positive way. By his actions, he proved his belief in the idea that every creature of this world no matter how evil deserves kindness from his fellow creatures and that kindness can change a person for good.

Every Life has a Purpose to Fulfil

Next time when you feel inconsequential and are willing to give up on your life, remember this teaching of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He believed that God has a clear purpose behind the creation of the world and all its inhabitants. If you look at the world like this, all the existential dilemmas that you feel in your life could be turned into something positive and productive.

Stand Against Oppression

Guru Nanak Dev Ji believed that one should never succumb to oppression no matter what the circumstances are. According to him, God always helps those who courageously stand against oppression. One of his verses translated to English *"Lord guides the sparrow that fights the eagle"* teaches us all a lesson of inner strength. No matter how powerful the enemy is, in us all there is a strength to fight it. So, raise your voice against everything that you think is wrong with the world and that's where the change begins.

Joy of Giving



Connecting to people living on the fringes of the society

Events in December 2021

1-December-2021: World AIDS Day
2-December-2021: National Pollution Control Day
3-December-2021: World Day of the Handicapped
4-December-2021: Indian Navy Day
7-December-2021: Indian Armed Forces Flag Day
10-December-2021: Human Rights Day
11-December-2021: International Mountain Day
14-December-2021: World Energy Conservation Day
16-December-2021: Vijay Diwas
18-December-2021: Minorities Rights Day (India)
22-December-2021: National Mathematics Day
23-December-2021: Kisan Divas (India)
24-December-2021: National Consumers Day
25-December-2021: Christmas Day
31-December-2021: Year End