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CHRIST COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER



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*“Celebrate **endings** - for they
precede new **beginnings**.”*

-Jonathan Lockwood Huie





Principal's Message

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

There is the story of the tyrannical king who ruled over his people, who even wanted to destroy their faith in God, so that all would turn to him alone in their needs, and not to God. He therefore called his counselors together and asked their advice on where he might hide God that the people would never find him. One wise man suggested that God be hidden beyond the stars, where he could not be reached. "No," said the ruler, "Someday they will conquer sky and find him there." Another minister suggested that God be hidden on the bottom of the deep seas. "No", said the ruler again, "One day science and technology will plumb the depths of the ocean and he will be found out." Then one wiser sage suggested his view. He said, "Let us hide God among the people themselves, that is the last place they will ever look for him."

Christmas is all about God's coming into human history; celebration of the event of the incarnated Word of God in the person of Jesus Christ. The good news is that God is with us. Let us not look for him up in the heavens, but find him among ourselves, in our hearts, in the poor, in the suffering and the lonely. Let us find him in places where we least expect to meet him. The mighty God of the Old Testament revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ. The love of God is manifested in the birth of Jesus, and the joy that fills our hearts at the very thought of God's ineffable love revealed to the whole world turns into a celebration. May I wish all students, staff, teachers, parents and well wishers of Christ College Peace, Prosperity and Happiness in this festive season and in the New Year.

Prof. Fr. Johnson
Principal



Director's Message

Dear Friends,

To begin with, let me wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Christmas is the festival of the world. May this festive season and the New Year bring God's choicest blessings on us all. There is no land and no people without the Christmas celebration. The Yule Tide brings joy and happiness to every heart. Nothing holds us back from a joyful celebration of the Christmas event, not even the pains of the pandemic. The key word associated with Christmas is 'Emmanuel' which means 'God is with us'. The accumulated sin of the mankind necessitated another divine intervention in human history that the loving God did not leave mankind to its fate of doom. Man could be saved from the vicious power of sin by God alone; and God sent his son Jesus Christ into the world that whoever believes in him will have the light of life and be saved.

The humble birth of Jesus Christ in a lowly manger in an obscure village, in the middle of the night, two thousand years ago is the most significant event in human history, that has changed the course of history by dividing it as A D and B C. At his birth the angels sang "Glory to God in heaven and Peace to all men on earth". The joy that fills our hearts when we behold the mystery of Jesus' incarnation, overflows into the whole world. The crib scene explains it all. The life and message of Jesus Christ is the eternal 'good news' for the world. At this time of blessing we wish abiding peace to all our loved ones; we pray for healing, joy and prosperity for the whole world. Let the goodness of our lives enrich the lives of many.

Time is grace from God. We usher in another New Year. Let us wish one another a happy year ahead. May this be a time of God's blessings to us all. Begin every day with a prayer and a smile; close every day with a prayer and a smile. And you will find life worth living!

Wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fr. N.K. Dominic, CMI

Internal Exams Held

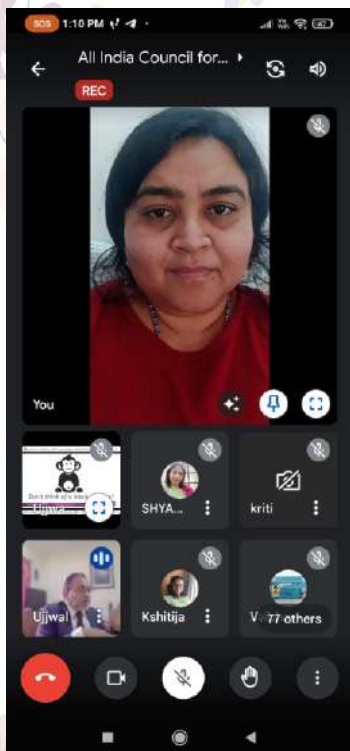
Christ College conducted exams for the B.A. and B.Com. students of all the three years. The purpose of the exam was to evaluate the knowledge of the students and to give them practice for writing the university exams. The exams began from 8 December 2021 and ended on 17 December 2021. The Exam Coordinator, Mr. Adarsh Raushan, made all the necessary arrangements and conducted the exams without any hurdle. The students evidently benefited from this internal evaluation arranged by the college.



Faculty Development Program

Dr. Pallavi Shrivastava, Associate Professor of Christ College participated and completed successfully AICTE Training And Learning (ATAL) Academy Online Elementary FDP on "Acquiring Life Skills for Professions" from 22/11/2021 to 26/11/2021 at the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies.

She also participated & completed successfully AICTE Training And Learning (ATAL) Academy Online Elementary FDP on "Developing Interpersonal Skills and Effective Communication Intelligence" from 06/12/2021 to 10/12/2021 at Sardar Patel College of Engineering, Mumbai. Both the FDPs were in online mode. The purpose behind this FDP was to enhance knowledge and understanding about the life skills. On being asked about the experience, Dr. Pallavi was thrilled to share that she got the opportunity to learn from experts like Air Marshall Anil Khosla, Mr. Avelo Roy CEO of Calcutta Ventures and the great grandson of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Professors from various IITs along with scholars from ISKCONs. The sessions were truly enriching and life changing. She expressed deep gratitude towards the Principal, Rev. Fr. Johnson who gave her the opportunity to participate. On the final day a test was conducted where she scored 90 out of 100 for which the Principal congratulated her.





A Funfilled Educational Tour

Christ College organized a picnic cum educational tour for the students and staff of the college on 18 December 2021. The students were taken to Sanchi and Halali dam. The purpose of the trip was to impart fun filled education. Our first halt was at the Tropic of Cancer marked on the road. The teachers explained the geographical importance of the 23 ½ degree North Tropic on the globe. The Tropic of Cancer passes through the middle of India as well as the state of Madhya Pradesh. It was also explained to the students how to locate a place on the globe on the basis of the degrees of longitudes and latitudes.

At a distance of 40 km from Bhopal, Halali Dam is a manmade reservoir located at Khoha village in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh. It is one of the famous picnic spots near Bhopal, and among the best places to visit in Bhopal. Also known as Samrat Ashok Sagar Project, Halali Dam was constructed in 1973 across Halali River, a tributary of the Betwa river. The dam is 945 m long with a maximum height of 29.57 m above the foundation level. With a catchment area of around 699 sq. km, the colossal dam is quite popular among the locals of Bhopal as an excellent spot for picnics and boat rides.

Students and teachers took boat ride and had lots of fun filled activities. Students enjoyed the slides and swings, played dumb charads and badminton and danced to the contentment of our hearts. After lunch we moved towards Sanchi.

Sanchi is a Buddhist complex, famous for its Great Stupa, on a hilltop near Sanchi Town in Raisen District of the State of Madhya Pradesh, India. It is located at 46 kilometres north-east of Bhopal, capital of Madhya Pradesh.

The Great Stupa at Sanchi is one of the oldest stone structures in India, and an important monument of Indian History and Architecture. Here the students were educated about the historical perspective of Sanchi. Mr. Shivaji Rai, Assistant Professor, department of history, narrated several stories and historical facts about Sanchi. Students were seen enjoying the learning and sight seeing together. They got real life experience and learnt the historical, social and political facts about Sanchi and its surroundings.

Overall it was a funfilled great learning experience for everyone. The Coordinator of the program was Dr. Pallavi Shrivastava and the students' in charges were Mr. Royce Paul and Mr. Arpit from B.A. department. Everyone felt the joy of learning outside the classroom as history came alive in front of us on those monuments and the stone structures of the past. We came home extra refreshed and re-energized.





Blessed Christmas Friend

Christ College under the guidance of Rev.Fr. Johnson, the Principal follows a wonderful tradition of making a Christmas friend one month before Christmas every year. This year too chits with names of the staff members were picked up and everyone got a Christmas friend who was secretly prayed for and cared for. The name of the Christmas friend was kept secret and on 23 December after the main Christmas celebration all revealed their Christmas friend in front of the gathering present by saying two lines about them and offered a gift to the Christmas friend.

This practice brought everyone closer and developed the feelings of togetherness, care and love towards each other.

Christmas is all about Giving!

Christmas is all about giving! Yes, and this year too gifts were exchanged among all the staff members. The Management offered wonderful gifts to everyone on Christmas. Gifts were distributed on 23 December 2021 after the celebrations. On the occasion Christmas cakes were also distributed to every member of the staff. We all sat together and enjoyed delicious Christmas snacks, spreading sweetness and positive vibes every where. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Celebration

Christ College celebrated Christmas with joy and enthusiasm. Celebrations could be felt way back when the planning and preparation began. Wreaths and pots were painted to decorate the crib. Melodious voices practicing carols under the leadership of Augustin Williams brought joy and happiness to the whole environment. Christmas was celebrated on 23 December 2021 in the quadrangle of Christ College campus. Master of the Ceremony, Dr Pallavi Shrivastava, commenced the program with an introduction and the story of Christmas. Candles were then lit by the Chief Guest Rev Fr. Dr. James M.L., Rev Fr. Dominic, Director, Rev Fr. Antony, Administrator, Rev. Fr. Dr. Varghese, the Co ordinator of the Christmas program and Dr Diwakar Singh, Associate Professor and staff representative, followed by a prayer dance by Ms Alpana Minj and Ms Nandita Prajapati, students of B. Com. Then came the choir of Christ College singing melodious carols praising the birth of Lord Jesus Christ. Rev.Fr. Dominic, Director, delivered the welcome speech and addressed the gathering present. Reverend Father also conveyed the message sent by Dr. Fr. Johnson, Principal. A play based on the video of Dhar Mann titled 'Joy of Giving', was then presented by the students. It was prepared under the guidance of Mr. Adarsh Roushan, Mr. Shivaji Rai



and Dr. Pallavi Shrivastava. The message of the play was that Christmas is all about giving. The Chief Guest, Rev. Dr. James M. L. was then invited to give the message on the occasion where he made everyone realize that Jesus is among us and in order to serve God we must serve and take care of people around us. Then came the dancing Santa with gifts along with his retinue to spread the sweetness of jingles and distributed sweets to everyone present. Carols then continued with the praises and joy to the world. Finally a beautiful dance titled, 'Jhoomo Nacho' was presented by Ms. Seema and Ms. Nikita students of B. A. The program concluded with words of gratitude from Ms. Aishwarya and Ms. Ria, students of B. Ed. Everyone shared the joy of Christmas and the best wishes for a Happy New Year as we munched the sweets and relished the Christmas Cake. The grand ceremony was attended by Rev. Dr. Paul Pattath, invited guests and all staff and students of Christ College.



One - Day Workshop

The Research Cell and Computer Department of Christ College organized a one day workshop on 'Identifying the problem and writing a research title' on 29 December 2021. The workshop was organized by Dr. Diwakar Singh, Associate Professor and Mr. Adarsh Roushan, Assistant Professor.

The workshop was for the students of M.Ed. and the research scholars in Social Sciences. There were 19 participants including 2 research scholars from Nutan College and 1 from Mittal College. It was an interactive session throughout. The workshop started with the basics of research by Dr. Diwakar Singh followed by activity based session on problem identification and it was concluded a session on the use of Google Scholar in Research, by Mr. Adarsh Raushan.



Obituary

Mrs. Mary Lonappan, the eldest sister of Rev. Prof. Johnson, Principal, Christ College, left this world to be with our Lord on 11 December 2021. She was 89. Christ College deeply mourns her death and extends heartfelt condolences to the sorrowful family. May her soul rest in peace.

"I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the victory prize of being put right with God, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day—and not only to me, but to all those who wait with love for him to appear."

2 Timothy 4:7-8

Christmas and New Year Holidays

The College was closed for Christmas and New Year celebration from 23 December 2021. Regular classes for all students will resume on 3 January 2022. The college office will function as usual during the holidays.



(10 February 1805 – 3 January 1871)

Introduction

Kuriakose Elias Chavara, C.M.I. was an Indian Syro-Malabar catholic priest, philosopher and social reformer. Chavara was the first Indian who **not only** dared to admit the untouchables **to schools** but also provided them with Sanskrit education which was forbidden to the lower castes, thereby challenging social bans based on caste, as early as the former part of the 19th century. He is the first canonised Catholic male saint of Indian origin and belongs to the Syro-Malabar Church, an Eastern Catholic Church based in the state of Kerala. He was the co-founder and first Prior General of the first congregation for men in the Syro-Malabar Church, now known as the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (C.M.I.), and of a similar one for women, the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel (C.M.C.). He is a pioneer in many fields of social reformation like universal education, Mass media, spiritual renewal, charitable works etc.

Early life

Kuriakose Elias Chavara was born on 10 February 1805 at Kainakary, Kerala in a Nasrani Christian family as the son of Iko (Kuriakose) Chavara and Mariam Thoppil. Nasranis are Saint Thomas Christians (also known as Syriac Christians) who are the ancient Christians of Kerala baptised by Thomas the Apostle in the first century. The name *Kuriakose* is derived from the Syriac Aramaic name . He was baptised on 17 February 1805 at St. Joseph's Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Chennamkary. On 8 September 1805, Chavara was dedicated to Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Mary's Church, Vechoor.

In his childhood, Kuriakose attended the village school. There he studied language and elementary sciences. He entered the seminary in 1818 in Pallipuram where Palackal Thoma Malpan was the Rector. He was ordained a priest on 29 November 1829 and celebrated first Holy Qurbana at St. Andrew's Catholic Forane Church Arthunkal Alappuzha. His special intention during the first Holy Qurbana was the realization of the religious institute which was being contemplated by Palackal Thomas Malpan, Porukara Thomas Kathanar, Brother Jacob Kaniyanthara and himself.

Later life

Kuriakose Elias Chavara joined with two other priests, Palackal Thoma Malpan and Porukara Thoma Kathanar to lead a monastic life. The name of the community they founded was *Servants of Mary Immaculate*. The foundation for the first monastery at Mannanam was laid on 11 May 1831 by Porukara Thomas Kathanar. Palackal Malpan and Porukara Kathanar died in 1841 and 1846 respectively. On 8 December 1855, Kuriakose Elias Chavara and ten other priests took vows in the Carmelite tradition. He was nominated as the Prior General of Mannanam monastery. The congregation became affiliated as a Third Order institute of the Order of Discalced Carmelites. From that point on they used the postnominal initials of T.O.C.D.

CMI Congregation Founded

In co-operation with Palackal Thoma Malpan and Thoma Porukara, Kuriakose Elias Chavara founded an Indian religious congregation for men, now known as the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate. Chavara took religious vows on 8 December 1855 and took the name of Kuriakose Elias of the Holy Family.

Kuriakose Elias Chavara was the Prior General of all the monasteries of the congregation from 1856 till his death in 1871. He was commonly called under the name 'Common Prior'. The activities of the members of CMI congregation under the leadership of Chavara created huge transformation in the society. This made priests and people to request Chavara to open religious houses in their area. He established seven new monasteries besides Mannanam. They are Koonammavu-1857, Elthuruth 1858, Plasnal-1858, Vazhakulam-1859, Pulincunnu-1861, Ambazhakad-1868, and Mutholy-1870. In 1864, The Vicar Apostolic transferred St. Chavara to Koonammavu Monastery.

After an eventful life of religious piety and social commitment in every field of human life, St. Chavara died at the age of 66. He was canonized as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church in 2014. Christ College, Bhopal and many other reputed educational institutions are run by CMI Fathers following the great legacy of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara.

Important Sayings of St. Chavara Kuriakose

1. Children, you are God's gifts in the hands of your parents .
2. The children who have a love of god and fear of god will love and respect their parents.
3. Trust your mother; God will hear the prayers of the mother as yours.
4. Food is for the body, so is wisdom for the intellect .
5. Go to school regularly and recall to mind what is taught during the week.
6. Laziness fosters evil habits .
7. Let your friends be those who love God .
8. The day in which you have not done any good to your fellowmen will not be recorded in your book of life .
9. Keeping bad books is like hiding fire in hay.
10. Regular reading of good books and meditating on them will illuminate the mind.
11. Attain punctuality by means of regular timetables.
12. Your angels will be turned to devils , if you fall into evil situation.
13. You ought to reach home before evening and take part in the evening prayers.
14. Desire that others love you, and not that they fear you.
15. Take special care to keep modesty while you sit, walk or lie down.
16. You are to forgive and forgot the wrong doings of others.
17. Tell me who your are, and I will tell you who you are.
18. What you earn by deceit and theft will melt like snow.
19. Idleness is mother of all vices and would induce one to the habit of drinking.
20. Both stinginess and extravagance are equally sinful.
21. Had you not lighted the lamp during the day time, you could have lit it during night.
22. Do not insult or trouble poor.
23. God decides your vocation and it is you to choose it.
24. If our parents have left any obligation to restitution, fulfill it with diligence and devotion.
25. Even if you are grown in age and maturity, you have to respect your parents and submit to tem.
26. Do not hate your own brethren.
27. It is the duty of children to look after their parents.
28. Do not be the cause for your parents to shed tears on account of you.
29. The humble man is greatest among men.
30. Since you belong to God, you have to give yourself back to God





Probing the mysteries of History at Sanchi

“I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.” —Thomas Jefferson

*“Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.”
—Helen Keller*

स्वस्थ रहो , मस्त रहो और व्यस्त रहो ।

*Medicine is not always found in bottles or tablets;
Exercise is medicine.
Fasting is medicine.
Nature is medicine.
Laughter is medicine.
Vegetables are medicine.
Sleep is medicine.
Sunlight is medicine.
Gratitude and love are medicine.
Meditation is medicine.
Most importantly, friends are medicine.*

January 2022

Date	Important Days
1	Global Family Day
12	National Youth Day
14	Makar Sankranti
15	Indian Army Day
23	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti
24	National Girl Child Day
25	National Tourism Day
26	Republic Day of India
30	Shaheed Diwas
	Important Festivals
13	Lohri
14-17	Pongal
14	Makar Sankranti / International Kite Festival