



# The Church of Bangladesh Newsletter

● Newsletter ● November–December 2024 ●

Volume 30

## *Christmas Message from the Moderator*



Dear Beloved Sisters & Brothers in Christ,  
*Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!*

As we approach the joyous celebration of Christmas, let us reflect on the great love and faithfulness of God, as the Psalmist declares: **“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”** (Lamentations 3:22-23). With hearts full of gratitude, we thank Almighty God for His abundant blessings and steadfast love that have sustained us throughout this year. Truly, we have witnessed significant changes in our nation—new challenges, opportunities, and moments that have called us to reflect deeply on our purpose and mission as followers of Christ.

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*

*(Isaiah 9:6)*

In the Church of Bangladesh, we have faced challenges that have tested our faith, yet these very trials have strengthened our unity in Christ. As we journey together, we remain firm in our calling, striving for transformation—both in our mindset and in our service to God and His people. The economic struggles in our country and church are real, but we are grateful to God for His provision, enabling us to sustain ourselves through His grace.

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank our donors and mission partners for their generous support and encouragement, which have made it possible to carry out our ministries and activities in 2024. Your commitment has been a source of inspiration and strength to us.

We are also profoundly grateful to our Bishops, clergy, colleagues, and friends for their moral support, wise counsel, and prayers. Your contributions have enriched the life of our Church and its mission in countless ways.

Even amidst the unrest and wars in the world, we hold fast to the hope and peace that Christmas brings. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ—the Prince of Peace—let us rededicate ourselves to fostering peace, harmony, and communal unity in our country and our church.

We give thanks to God for this Interim Government and pray for their continued wisdom and success in serving the people of our nation. May their leadership bring about justice, equity, and prosperity for all.

As we rejoice in the light of Christ this Christmas, may we be reminded of His promise:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

**With hearts full of gratitude and joy, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025. May the peace and blessings of Christ fill your homes and hearts in the days to come.**

**In Christ’s Love and Peace,**

**The Most Revd. Samuel Sunil Mankhin**



## Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ as we celebrate the joy and hope of this blessed Christmas season!

As we reflect on the miracle of Christ's incarnation, we are reminded of God's unending love for humanity. In Jesus, Emmanuel, we find hope, peace, and the promise of new beginnings. His presence among us calls us to live in unity and to serve with faithfulness, bringing light to a world often shrouded in darkness.

As the Bishop of the Diocese of Barishal, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support and partnership in our shared mission this year. To our esteemed partners—CWM, TEARFUND, USPG, OM UK, the Anglican Communion, Bread for the World (BfW), KIA, MCC, TFNL, WCRC, the Methodist Church UK, and the former

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**As we enter a new year, I am filled with hope and anticipation for what God will do among us. Let us move forward with a renewed sense of purpose, embracing the opportunities for mission, growth, and service that lie ahead. May we continue to embody the love of Christ, bringing healing and transformation to the world, as we plan to specific goals and plans for the upcoming year.**

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students of the Oxford Mission—your prayers, resources, and collaboration have been vital in enabling us to carry out the ministry of the Gospel and respond to the needs of our community.

Through your steadfast commitment, we have grown as a diocese and deepened our witness of Christ's love to those around us. Your contributions have made our achievements in education, social outreach, and pastoral care a source of strength and inspiration.

As we enter a new year, I am filled with hope and anticipation for what God will do among us. Let us move forward with a renewed sense of purpose, embracing the opportunities for mission, growth, and service that lie ahead. May we continue to embody the love of Christ, bringing healing and transformation to the world, as we plan to specific goals and plans for the upcoming year.

**May the joy of Christ's birth fill your hearts and homes this season. May the coming year be one of abundance, unity, and fruitful ministry for us all. Let us [specific call to action] as we continue to serve the mission of Christ.**

**With every blessing in Christ,**

**Rt. Rev. Shourabh Pholia**



Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ.

First of all, on behalf of Kushtia Diocese, I would like to wish you all a very Blessed Christmas. "For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Through many ups and downs, we have come to an end in 2024 AD and when December comes, we become so excited to celebrate Christmas. I was wondering what could be the significance of Christmas in our lives this year in the midst of various problems and wars. In Bethlehem, where Jesus was once born, in the place we know as the Holy Land, there is a flood of blood today.

Again and again we are reminded of the children who were brutally murdered on the orders of the notorious King Herod. That incident seems to be repeating itself. This is a living example of how greed for power and violence can bring people down.

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During this Christmas season, let us remember the spirit of generosity and kindness that Christ demonstrated. Just as He came to be a light in our lives, let us reflect that light by supporting and uplifting others, especially in their times of need. Let us be a source of hope and inspiration, offering a helping hand without fear that our own light will dim. Let us live with love and to be a beacon of hope for those around us.

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Yet in the meantime Christmas will come and we will celebrate it. The good news of Christmas is that even when the world or our circumstances change – the message of Christmas is timeless. Because Christmas is about the birth of God's Son – Jesus. It is about how He came to give us love, hope and joy. That message doesn't change from year to year.

During this Christmas season, let us remember the spirit of generosity and kindness that Christ demonstrated. Just as He came to be a light in our lives, let us reflect that light by supporting and uplifting others, especially in their times of need. Let us be a source of hope and inspiration, offering a helping hand without fear that our own light will dim. Let us live with love and to be a beacon of hope for those around us.

In the two deaneries of Kushtia Diocese, Pre-Christmas celebrations will be held with the families of all ministers and all church secretaries and dignitaries. As a special Christmas gift this year, 50 persons with disability of Ballovpur Deanery and 50 of Rajshahi Deanery will be given winter clothes.

I hope the magic of Christmas fills every corner of your heart and home with joy — now and always. Our family wishes you love, joy and peace ... today, tomorrow and always. May your family have a holiday season that is full of wonderful surprises, treats and non-stop laughter.

Rt. Rev. Hemen Halder



# 9th pilgrimage was held



On November 29–30, 2024, the 19th pilgrimage was held at the Panihata Mission of the Haluaghat Deanery of the Church of Bangladesh. The Honorable Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh, the Right Rev. Samuel S. Mankhin, along with priests and devotees, participated in the Prayer of the Cross.

On the evening of November 29, the Way of the Cross began with opening prayers and the lighting of candles. The significance of the Way of the Cross was meditated upon from the 1st station to the 14th station. During this time, special remembrance was given to those who contributed to the establishment of the preaching work and mission in the Haluaghat Deanery, many of whom have now passed into eternal rest. The bishops, priests, sisters, and early devotees who laid the foundation for this mission were honored in the prayers.





After the conclusion of the Way of the Cross, a forgiveness and purification ceremony was conducted under the direction of Mr. Suranjan Raksom. The Lord's Supper took place on November 30 at 9:00 AM, officiated by the Moderator, the Right Rev. Samuel S. Mankhin, with the assistance of priests. The Word of the Lord was preached by Rev. Jonarson Dio. Devotees from remote areas of the Haluaghat and Madhupur Deaneries actively participated in

this pilgrimage.

The number of participants in this pilgrimage has been increasing steadily each year. Many who attended this year's pilgrimage and prayed testified to receiving answers to their prayers, for which they expressed special gratitude

This annual pilgrimage has been observed on this date since its establishment on November 30, 2006, by the Right Rev. Michael S. Baroi at Shantidham.





### Children's Seminar and Camp Held in Ratanpur Parish

On October 27, 2024, a seminar and children's camp were organized for the children of the Bible School in Ratanpur Parish, part of the Bollovpur Deanery. The theme of the event was "Let the children come to me." Rev. Mrittonjoy Mondal, Dean of Bollovpur Deanery, delivered a talk on the theme.

Mrs. Namita Tudu, Manager of Ratanpur Compassion, spoke on the importance of increasing social awareness among children. Rev. Cornelius Mondal addressed the topic of the role of children in the church, while Mr. Tushar Biswas, a Senior Nurse at Meherpur Government Hospital, provided a session on child health.

To entertain and engage the children, games and a Bible quiz competition were organized. The Bible quiz competition was conducted by the local parish priest, Rev. Richard Mardy. The event concluded with the distribution of prizes to the children.

A total of 160 children from the parishes of Ratanpur, Bollovpur, Bhabarpara, and Nazirakona participated in the camp.

### Spiritual Training for Mothers' Conference in Bollovpur Deanery

On October 12, 2024, a Mothers' Conference Spiritual Workshop was held at Nittyandapur Parish in the Bollovpur Deanery. The workshop was conducted by Bishop Hemen Halder of the Kushtia Diocese, centered on the theme "Women's Position in the Church and Their Spiritual Self-reliance." Bishop Halder delivered an insightful

address on the theme.

Mrs. Jessica Suparna Halder presented a session on women's leadership and empowerment, while Rev. Mrityunjay Mondal, Dean of Bollovpur Deanery, discussed strategies for preventing human trafficking. Additionally, Mr. Milan Sharma, Senior Nurse at Meherpur Government Hospital, conducted a session on nutrition and hygiene. Mothers from the Mothers' Conferences of Nittyandapur, Juginda, and Meherpur Parishes actively participated in the workshop.



On October 20, 2024, another Mothers' Conference Spiritual Workshop was organized at Karpashdanga Parish within the same deanery. This workshop was also conducted by Bishop Hemen Halder and focused on the same theme: "Women's Position in the Church and Their Spiritual Self-reliance."

The local parish priest, Rev. Deepak Ujjwal Biswas, provided training on women's leadership and empowerment. Rev. Mrittonjoy Mondol, Dean of Bollovpur Deanery, led a session on the prevention of human trafficking. Mothers from the Mothers' Conferences of Karpashdanga, Khejura, and Darshana Parishes participated in this enriching workshop.



### Pre-Christmas Celebration & World Day of Persons with Disabilities



The Ministry of Golden Citizen, Diocese of Barishal, hosted a significant Pre-Christmas & “World Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024” celebration on 29th November and 7th December at Holycross Church, Chourkhuli and St. Peter’s Church, Barishal. The program’s theme was “Gift of God” (Psalm 127:3). Rev. Santi Mondol, Dean of Jobarpar Deanery, delivered an inspiring sermon. Our Golden Citizens (PWDs) actively participated in the cultural programs and Christmas card drawing, and their joy was infectious. Santa Claus added to the festive spirit by distributing gifts & chocolates among the Golden Citizens. Rev. David Mridha, Mr Paul Malaker, Chairman of the Ministry of Grace Trust, and Mr Luke K. B. Sarker, Coordinator of the Ministry of Golden Citizen, spoke on the topic “World Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024” and encouraged the church to involve Golden Citizens in church activities actively. The programs concluded with sharing Christmas Cakes and a spirit of fellowship. The Ministry of Golden Citizen, Diocese of Barishal, earnestly requests your prayers and contributions to sustain our ministry activities in the coming years. Your support is invaluable in our mission to create an inclusive and supportive church community.

### Women Leadership Training

On 14th – 15th November, a Women Leadership Training was held at Christ the King Church, Khalishpur, Khulna. The training theme was “Women’s Role to Build a Safe Church”. The event was graced by the honourable Bishop of the Diocese of Barishal, Shourabh Pholia, who spoke on the topic and encouraged women to actively participate in building a safe church. Revd. Suchitra Behera delivered a meaningful and timely talk on Women’s Leadership according to the Bible and the importance of Women’s Leadership in establishing peace



and equity. She also encouraged women to study theology and take an active role in leading the church. On 15th November, our two women priests, Revd. Suchitra Behera and Revd. Mridula Boidya led the communion service and shared words from the gospel. The event was a success, with 50 participants in attendance.

### New Church: St. Mark's Church



On 9th November, the Diocesan Bishop Rt. Revd. Shourabh Pholia inaugurated a new church named St. Mark's Church at Bajua, within the Khulna's deanery: Mr. Sujit Bala, brother of the late Revd. Sanjib Bala has donated five decimals of land for the church building. The diocese is grateful to all the faithful servants of the Lord who have worked tirelessly to sow the seed of the Gospel in this remote area. We especially thank the late Decon Manik Baroi, Rev. Asish Mondol, Rev. Cornelious Mondol, Rev. Stalín Pollob Sarkar, Rev. Monindro Boidya & Rev. Philip Biswas for their contributions. The church, which started with a humble beginning, is now ministering to nine families, and more people are waiting for acceptance, a sign of our growing community. Revd. Monindro Boidya, Revd. Mridula Boidya, Revd. Philip Biswas, Revd. Suchitra Behera and denary secretaries Mr Roton Jokley Halder & Mr Anoondo Kirtonia graced this occasion. Six new members were baptised on the same day. We pray for your support in buying another five decimals of land and constructing the new church building.

# St. Andrew's Theological College



There was a Final Exam of BTh First Year and Second Year Students under the Senate of Serampore College and University. BCS Second Year Students have completed their College Papers Exam. This year Rev Jonarson Dio has given MDiv to DMin Degree Qualifying Exam under Senate of Serampore College & University. Thank God that all students have completed the Exam successfully.

BTh and BCS admission is finished. There are 10 students who are enrolled and their classes will begin from January 2025.

Please continue to pray for the college for its ministry.



## *Christmas Message*

Christmas is a time of Blessings and God's Grace to send His Son Jesus Christ to transform the world. God has come into this sinful world to change and forgive people to bring back and restore the fallen world to establish the Kingdom of God where there will be Love, Joy, Justice and all will live in Peace and Coexistence as brothers and sisters.

In this present world, we need Jesus at this moment of the dearth world because Jesus is the Prince of Peace,

The Bible verse that describes Jesus as the "Wonderful Counselor" and the "Prince of Peace" is Isaiah 9:6

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace".*

**Wishing you all have a Peaceful and joyful  
Joyful Christmas.**

**Rev Dr John Probhudan Hira**  
Principal, St Andrews Theological College



# CoB Education Department



Despite the overall instability in the country towards the end of the year, the sincere efforts of the teaching staff successfully overcame the challenges, ensuring that the annual examinations in all schools were conducted smoothly. The year concluded on a joyful note, as students and teachers celebrated with a festive class party, bidding farewell to the year in a delightful manner.

Meanwhile, the admission process for the 2025 academic year has already commenced in several schools across the city. I am confident that we will be able to carry out the educational programs in all schools effectively in the coming year.

**I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Father God for guiding us through a successful year. On behalf of the Synod Education Department, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and send love and best wishes for the New Year ahead 2025.**

**Mrs. Monita Mankhin,  
Education Director, Synod**



# Shalom

... a development organisation of Church of Bangladesh

## CCT Impact Study Report Validation Workshop



A study was done by Tearfund and all the data were collected from group members of the Bible Study, community people as well as the Church leaders of the partner organizations of the working area. To validate the study report Tearfund organized a workshop on “CCT Impact Study Report Validation Workshop with Bangladesh Denominations” at the College of Christian Theology Bangladesh, Savar, Dhaka on the 1st November, 2024. Participants from Tearfund partner organizations participated in that workshop. Two staff from Shalom, one priest from the local church, one facilitator and Shalom’s Director were present in that workshop. On the other hand, a training on ‘Facilitator’s Training on CCT Process’ was organized at Caritas, Khulna from November 7th to 9th with the financial support of Tearfund. Vice Chairman of Shalom Rt. Revd. Shourabh Pholia was present in that trainings.

## Tearfund Netherlands visited Shalom-Mongla



On November 19th and 20th, 2024, Tearfund's delicate Ms. Anne Markx, Ms. Martha Zonneveld, Mr. Shuvro Suren Rego and Shalom’s Director visited the Shalom-Mongla project.



As well as a meeting took place in Ava Center, Khulna on 20th November regarding the project implementation strategy.

## Humanitarian Assistance Support for Netrokona



15th December, Shalom provided post-flood humanitarian assistance to Shalom-Netrokona with the support of Bread for the World, Germany. The humanitarian support included 10 KGs rice, 2 KGs pulses, 1 KG salt, 1 Litter edible oil, 2 soaps and winter vegetable seeds. The support was given among 1,000 families in that area.







# CoB-CMCY

Christian Ministry to Children & Youth



Education is one of the most important programs of CMCY, which equip children with socialisation, social placement, social and cultural innovation, creating a workforce, creating social solidarity, and producing ideologies. From November 24, CMCY children write their annual exams. and thus, for them your prayers are kindly urged for.

CMCY-personnel to see the work in progress and to identify any potential problems of the projects to ensure and achieve the holistic development of the children. In November and December, CMCY Director and staff visited CDSPs Shehalabunia, Ratonpur, Karpasdanga, Katolmari and Telekhali. The residential hostels of Bethany Girls Hostel Bollovepur, Khalishpur Girl's Hostel, Khulna, St. Andrew's

Boy's Hostel, Panihata, St. Mary's Girls Hostel, Haluaghat and St. Andrew's Boys Hostel, Haluaghat, Usha Children Village, Edilpur and Community Intervention Program- Thanarbaid are also visited.

In December Guardian Day and Pre-Christams are celebrated together with much enthusiasm and joy before closing the proejects for the Christams holidays.

CMCY family members are very much thankful to God, Rt.Revd. Samuel Sunil Mankhin, Moderator COB and Chairperson, CMCY, Board Members, Donors, Govt.- Officials who always have sincere cooperations and kind prayer supports towards CMCY prorgams.



*CMCY family members wish you all God's blessings and His joy, strength and peace in your hearts and a wonderful Christmas celebration and blessed New Year 2025.*

# CoB Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi

## Capacity Building of Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi: A New Milestone Achieved in 2024

Wishing you all an early Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025! May this festive season bring joy, peace, and prosperity to you and your loved ones.



South axis of the hospital, facilitating the safe and efficient transfer of surgical patients between floors and cabins.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by prominent figures, including the Chairman, Rt. Reverend Samuel Sunil Mankhin, Vice Chairman Rt. Reverend Hemen Halder, and Synod Secretary Reverend Dr. John Probhudan Hira. Chief Executive Officer Mr. Prodip Chand Mondal expressed heartfelt gratitude, emphasizing the divine blessings and grace that have guided CMHR's journey of growth and service since 2021.

With these advancements, CMHR's capacity has been significantly enhanced to accommodate 120 patients, including 30 modern cabins. The hospital is supported by a dedicated team of nearly 35 full-time doctors, over 50 consultant physicians with agreement, and 210 staff members who are committed to delivering high-quality, affordable healthcare to the community.

The opening event also highlighted CMHR's commitment to education and professional development, with staff representatives and nursing institute students in attendance. The leaders called upon the community to continue their prayers and moral support, as CMHR remains steadfast in upholding its core values of compassion, quality service, and affordability.

Christmas lighting decorates the CMHR, complemented by 12 newly added cabins atop the first floor.

Rajshahi's Christian Mission Hospital (CMHR) has achieved a significant milestone in its mission to expand facilities and enhance services to meet the growing needs of its patients.

On December 7, 2024, a special inauguration ceremony celebrated the completion of key projects that strengthen the hospital's infrastructure and capacity. The newly introduced developments include 12 modern patient cabins, a library-cum-archive for preserving treatment records and valuable medical literature, and a large water reservoir designed to meet the hospital's entire water supply needs. Additionally, ramps with protective sheds have been constructed along the North-





# CoB Nursing Institute Rajshahi



Season's  
Greetings  
2024

Merry Christmas  
and Happy New  
Year to all from  
the Nursing  
Institute!

We are thrilled to announce that the Nursing Institute has recently been upgraded with the addition of a new 3rd floor, built atop the 2nd floor of the academic and staff quarters building. This new floor includes two classrooms, five laboratories, and a library room to enhance our educational facilities.

On December 7, 2024, the new 3rd floor was officially inaugurated by the Honorable Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh, the Bishop of Kushtia Diocese, and the Synod Secretary.

We express our heartfelt thanks to the Lord for this wonderful blessing.

**Sulota Drong**

*Principal,  
Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi*



*Bishop Mankhin and Bishop Halder inaugurated the academic building new floor.*

# CoB-Bollobhpur Hospital Nursing Centre

Dear Friends Near & Far,

And the last two months of the year are rushing by as I bring news from Bollobhpur Hospital.

November rushed by in a flurry of activity, as the sudden change of season filled the hospital with small children and babies, all with cough and cold and pneumonia, and the students were busy day at night giving oxygen and nebulizing them, and helping the mother with breast feeding.

And at night nurses could be seen with a baby in their arms most of the night walking up and down soothing them to sleep and keeping them quiet, to allow their tired mother to get some sleep.

And the female ward brought more diabetic patients with horrible infected limbs that no other hospital is happy to take, and government hospital cannot effort to give beds to such long stay patients, needing weeks at care for care to make them whole again.

And 10 small babies, born with very low birth weight were discharged home with their grand patients now `big` ( i. e 2kg+) and fully breast feeding-a joy indeed.



Today December 1st Advent Sunday, and brightly Coloured star has risen high above every Christian home in the village, welcoming the Christmas season, and filling the air with anticipation, so old and yet so new, at Bollobhpur Hospital and the whole village prepare to celebrate Christmas together. But the class room will be busy, as there are year final examinations for most groups, and all are study hard, eager to get a good pass mark and move up a year in their training, and the senior group has final examination, with an outside examiner coming for the viva. Please keep us in your prayers.

*We say goodbye to 2024, and celebrate Christmas together.*

**Thanks to be God.**

G M Rose,  
*Director, Bollobhpur Hospital.*