



Pastoral letter from the Moderator



September – October 2025

Pastoral Message from the Moderator

No one desires death; yet, from the moment we are born, we journey toward it, for one day we must all depart from this earthly life. When we witness death, its sorrowful and painful reality strikes deeply at our minds and souls. However, for Christians, **life does not end in death**—it is the **beginning of a new and glorious chapter**. Death is the **doorway to eternal life**. That is why Jesus said in John 8:51, *“Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever obeys my teaching will never see death.”* Again, in John 11:25–26 Jesus declared, *“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and those who live and believe in me will never die.”*

The months of September and October 2025 have brought sorrow to the Church of Bangladesh, as we mourn the loss of several **dedicated clergy and faithful lay members**: the Revd Mark Robin Mondal, the Revd Sudatta Boidya, Mr Philip Mondal, and young Mr Jagoran Mollick (20), the only son of the Revd Amit Mollick. Both of these priests faithfully served the Church with **devotion and humility**. Mr Philip Mondal, formerly a Youth Secretary and health worker of our Church, passed away from cancer at the age of 45. Young Jagoran’s death, caused by acute pancreatitis, brought **shock and anguish** to the family, who were already suffering greatly as the Revd Amit Mollick continues to recover from a brain stroke. There have been many other losses during these two months. May God, according to His promise, grant all the departed **eternal rest**, and **consolation** to every **bereaved family**.

Such recent experiences of grief have deeply moved us and invite quiet reflection upon the Scriptures above, which remain **true and trustworthy** because we believe in the **resurrected Christ**.

As Christians everywhere prepare to commemorate the **Faithful Departed** on 2nd November, I would like to draw your attention not only to those who have left us, but also to our own lives. For we too shall die, and none of us can escape that truth. Therefore, we must strive to lead **meaningful lives** on earth, shaped by **Christ’s teachings**. When our final moment comes, we need not fear, for



through Christ’s resurrection we shall receive **eternal life**.

William Shakespeare understood death as an **unavoidable and necessary** end that can be faced with **courage**. He wrote, *“Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once.”* Elsewhere he viewed death as **rest and release**: *“Fear no more the heat o’ the sun... All follow this, and come to dust.”* He also reflected upon **legacy**: *“The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones.”*

John Milton, from a Christian perspective, saw death as a **transition to eternity**. He described

it as *“the golden key that opens the palace of eternity,”* and a *“gentle wafting to immortal life.”* His poetry, including *Lycidas*, contrasts **earthly loss** with **heavenly reward and eternal joy**.

Our own beloved Christian hymn-writer, Francis Bala, in his song *Nibedinu Momo Pran*, reminds us: *“Before the sun sets, you must be in the boat of Jesus. Whatever you buy or sell, you must take up the oar of the boat. Whatever you have gained on this earth, did you share even a little with the poor? Before counting gain and loss, lead a life of loving others. You may cross to the other side of the river only when you learn to let go, to use what you have wisely, and to share with the poor and the needy. Time will not wait for you; it is slipping away. Therefore, before it is too late, you must follow the command of Jesus Christ.”*

Dear brothers and sisters, as we remember the faithful departed and consider our own mortality, let us recommit ourselves to **service, compassion, and faithful obedience**—so that when our time comes, we may joyfully enter Christ’s eternal kingdom.

With sincere prayers and blessings to you all,

Sincerely in Christ,

The Most Revd Samuel Sunil Mankhin