



ALLAHABAD NEWS LETTER APRIL – JUNE 2025

Ashirvad Convent, Kanudih

On 2nd April, the school re-opened for the new academic session 2025–2026. The students were happy and eager to enter their new classrooms. The little ones who took admission in LKG came to the school brimming with joy, carrying colourful, attractive bags and water bottles.

We had the Easter vigil Mass in the Ashram, in the midst of thousands of Kristu Bhaktas who came from far and near. Their strong faith and belief always motivate and challenge us.

On 22nd April, the school remained closed, mourning the death of Pope Francis.

The UP Board exam result was declared on 25th April. We congratulate our class 10 students for the wonderful result. All the students passed with first-division. One of our students scored 99 marks in Maths. We appreciate our students, sisters and the teachers for their hard work and efforts behind this achievement.

1st May, being International Workers' Day, the school honoured and appreciated its co-workers for their dedication and contribution to the school. The students of class 10 conducted a short yet meaningful prayer assembly along with a few cultural items. The co-workers were given a small token of love each.

On 4th and 11th May, the community, along with Fr. Sadanand IMS, visited some of the mission stations of Varanasi and Buxar dioceses as part of our pilgrim journey. We felt enriched by these visits..

On 17th May, the school closed for summer vacation. Sr. Archana and Sr. Anjana took advantage of the holidays and went on a pilgrim journey to Vellankanni and other places. They went with some of the parishioners from Hattiya Parish, Varanasi,

and some of our CJ sisters from other places joined them. They had a meaningful pilgrimage and returned



spiritually energized.

The community had a three-day recollection on 23rd, 24th, and 25th June. Sisters from the Asha Niketan community joined us. Fr. Anudeep IMS enlightened us on the divine call and listening, the importance of leaving behind unwanted elements for the sake of the divine call, and the divine call for leadership. On the third day, the sisters renewed their vows and shared a fellowship meal together.

On 29th June, we were happy to be in Chunar to celebrate the birthday of Sr. Gretty. It was a gathering of three CJ communities — Chunar, Kanudih and Bhawanipur. We had a good time in the company of one another.



On 30th June, the school organized a day's orientation for teachers. Mr. Shubham Dhakad and Miss Tulika Singh from BHU were the resource

persons. Their sessions were very motivating for the teachers to be effective in their teaching and to give their best in this mission of moulding the young ones in the classrooms.

St. Mary's Convent, Sagar

After the hectic activities of March 2025, we once again resumed our work. The month of April began with the first staff meeting of the academic year. On 2nd April, the new academic year 2025–2026 began. The teachers conducted an impressive assembly, welcoming the students back to school and setting before them the ideals and goals they need to follow.

On 1st April, Sr. Savita left for Goa to attend a programme for animators of religious communities. We were privileged to have our Provincial, Sr. Shweta, and Srs. Sheela and Kiran with us from 7th to 11th April. Sr. Shweta, along with Sr. Teresina, went to Bhopal to meet our Srs. Scholastica and Eva, who are pursuing their bachelor's degrees at BSSS College. Srs. Sheela and Kiran were here to conduct the internal audit of the school and community accounts.

On the 15th, some of us visited Fr. Paul Chungath. He is an ascetic and a radical follower of Jesus. We also took this opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Holy Thursday and Good Friday services were conducted in our chapel, joined by a few Catholics in a meaningful celebration. The Easter Vigil began at 9 p.m. in the parish, with many Christbhakts (devotees of Christ) from neighbouring villages joining and making the liturgy vibrant.

On the 21st, we heard the sad news that Pope Francis, the faithful servant of God and the Church, had said goodbye to this world. R.I.P Pope Francis. On the 26th, the day of his burial, the school remained closed as a mark of respect to the late pontiff.

Divine Mercy Sunday was celebrated with great devotion and fervour at Daya Sagar Kajuriah, Sagar. A huge crowd gathered at the centre, including some non-Christian devotees of Christ. There was prayer and worship, preaching and singing. Srs. Benita, Teresina and Savita joined in the services at the shrine.

The last working day of the school before the summer holidays was 29th April. Workers' Day was also celebrated that day with a prayer service and tokens of love, as well as words of appreciation for the hard work put in by the workers to keep the school running.

The students who excelled in various fields were awarded mementos, certificates, medals, and gifts.

The well-deserved summer holidays began on 30th April. It was also a day of good tidings as we received the ICSE and ISC results. Fifty-seven students appeared for the ICSE, and Aryan Patel stood first, scoring 97.4%. Our first batch of ISC students — fourteen of them — achieved a 100% result, with the topper, Vedant Krrmi, scoring 76%.

Sr. Evelyn left for home leave on 30th April. The world eagerly awaited news of the successor to Pope Francis. By 11 p.m. on 8th May, the new Pope appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's: Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost — now known as Pope Leo XIV.

Sr. Sharon left for Jeolikote to attend the meeting of all COIN principals on 'Mary Ward Compass' on 12th and 13th May. She returned after the meeting on 17th May. On 20th May, Srs. Benita and Teresina left on their pilgrimage to Velankanni. They visited a number of sacred places: St. Thomas Mount in Chennai, the birthplace of Christianity in India and the site of St. Thomas's martyrdom; Velankanni, a shrine dedicated to our Blessed Mother; the shrine of St. Devasahayam Pillai and his place of martyrdom in Kanyakumari. The last lap of the journey was to the Swami Vivekananda Rock Memorial by ferry — considered a sacred place by Hindus. Next to it stands the famous 133-foot-tall statue of the immortal Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar. This was indeed a great spiritual experience for all of us, and we thank Sr. Shweta for giving us this precious opportunity.

31st May was the concluding day of the Month of Rosary. Every evening we prayed the rosary, walking through our campus for the various needs of the world, the Church, the congregation and the community. The concluding rosary was held in front of the grotto at Father's place. We served *kheer* (payasam) to everyone.

We had our Triduum from 6th to 8th June. Each day we heard the talk from a different speaker on youtube. The first day, Fr. Anil Dev spoke on consecrated life and evangelization, reminding us that our very lives are evangelization — people should see Jesus in us. The second day, Fr. Augustine Velloran spoke on the call we have received from Jesus. On 8th June, the feast of Pentecost, Fr. Michael Payapilly spoke on living a Spirit-filled life. These were days of grace and blessings spent in the company of the Lord.

The Summer Camp was held from 9th to 14th June, with about 50 students faithfully attending each day. Each day featured a different discipline: yoga on the 9th, sports on the 10th, handicraft on the 11th, dance on the 12th, fireless cooking on the 13th, and a pool party and grand finale on the closing day, the 14th. On the final day, the outdoor stage resembled a seaside beach. Some children danced in the artificial rain, others played games or relaxed in bathtubs. The camp concluded at 10 p.m., and the children were served snacks before going home.

Sr. Savita left on the morning of the 13th of June for Allahabad, from where she proceeded to Unnao, her new community.

School reopened after the summer vacation on 16th June. Attendance was very poor in some classes — some students had given themselves extended holidays and may turn up only in July. Sr. Evelyn returned from her home leave, renewed in body, mind, and spirit.

Farewell

Class 12 conducted a prayer assembly in honor of Sr. Evelyn, who is leaving Deori on transfer. Through touching reflections, songs, a literary tribute and a Shakespearian skit from *Macbeth* (the play Sister was teaching them), the students expressed their love and gratitude to Sr. Evelyn for her four years of service here. In the afternoon, the teachers bid farewell in a unique way: they were divided into four groups, and each group made a creative and attractive cake using fresh fruits. Sr. Evelyn left on the 21st for her new destination, Kanpur.

International Yoga Day

Grandparents were invited to join the celebration. It

was a feast for the eyes to see grandparents and their grandchildren exercising together. Sr. Jean Mary, our new Headmistress, joined the community on the 26th. Our auditors, Vineet and Santosh, were here for four days to conduct the audit of the accounts. Our new Animator, Sr. Rajani, arrived in Deori on 29th June, accompanied by Srs. Marina and Tara. Sr. Rajani was installed on the 30th in our chapel during an inspiring prayer service conducted by Sr. Marina. We thanked the outgoing Animator, Sr. Benita, for her service here and prayed for Sr. Rajani as she takes up her new role. Our community will soon be complete with the arrival of Sr. Anupa.

Asha Niketan, Bhawanipur

"Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith and Service"

We entered the Holy Week with reverence and love. On Maundy Thursday, our hearts were touched as we remembered Jesus' humble act of washing the feet of His disciples — a powerful reminder of servant leadership. We, in the Asha Niketan community, washed each other's feet as a sign of love and fellowship. On Good Friday, we spent the entire day at Mathridam Ashram, attending the prayer service and the Way of the Cross. The enacted Way of the Cross was deeply moving. We also attended the Easter Vigil service in our parish.

Our hearts were deeply saddened by the passing away of Pope Francis. In his humility, love for the poor and deep compassion, he inspired millions around the world. We held a meaningful prayer service in our community to thank God for his life and leadership. The next day, a special tribute was offered by our teachers and students in the school — honouring his memory through prayers, reflections and floral tribute.

Throughout the month of May, the community gathered daily in front of Our Lady to pray the Rosary. We prayed for the whole world and for our Institute.

Sr. Jaya went to Atma Darshana, Mumbai, on 3rd May for a month-long course on personal transformation and commitment, and she returned on 2nd June.

Just before the school closed for summer vacation, the staff organized a joyful and enriching summer camp for our special children. It was a time filled with

laughter, creativity, learning and love. Each day of the camp was carefully planned by our dedicated teachers, keeping in mind the needs, abilities and interests of every child.

Sr. Bhavana left for home leave on 11th May, but unfortunately, her M.Ed. exam timetable was announced and she had to rush back for the same.

On 18th June, the Asha Niketan community bid farewell to Sr. Jaya and we accompanied her to her new community at Meja. As a community, we are grateful to Sr. Jaya for her contribution to the community and the school. May God grant her a bright future in her new place.

One of our long-cherished dreams at Asha Niketan Special School has been to create a sensory room for our special children — a safe and stimulating space where they can explore and develop their senses in a calm and supportive environment. We are deeply grateful to Rt. Rev. Bishop Eugene Joseph, who kindly sanctioned the plan, making this dream a step closer to reality. With great commitment, Srs. Bhavana and Pushpa took the initiative to visit the shop, select the appropriate sensory materials and place the order. This upcoming sensory room will be a great blessing for our children, helping them grow, enhance their emotional well-being, and develop through therapeutic and sensory experiences.

We had our three-day recollection in Kanudih from 23rd to 25th June. On the theme 'Divine Call', Fr. Anudeep IMS gave us ample material to spend the days in reflection and prayer.

Mary Ward Convent, Unnao

Blessing Ceremony of the New Wing of St. Lawrence School: On 8th April, St. Lawrence family was indeed blessed to have among us our beloved Bishop, the Most Reverend Dr. Gerald John Mathias, who graciously accepted our invitation to lead the blessing ceremony of the new wing — the second floor. This occasion was all the more special as we stood in the glow of a remarkable milestone in the life of our beloved Bishop: twenty-five glorious years of shepherding the faithful with wisdom and compassion. After the blessing of the school, the Bishop paid us a short visit, and we shared a few warm and wonderful moments with him.

Easter Celebration

On Maundy Thursday, Rev. Fr. Paul Correa led us in prayer and stayed on till Easter Sunday. We had very meaningful services, and on 20th April our convent was blessed by Rev. Fr. Alwin, who enjoyed Easter lunch with the sisters.

Earth Day Celebration

On 22nd April, Earth Day was celebrated by the school. The students prepared beautiful banners and slogans, and a short rally was taken out by the students of Class 9, raising slogans to save Mother Earth. The people appreciated their hard work and enthusiasm to protect the planet.

Board Results of ICSE and ISC Students

On 30th April, the results of Classes X and XII brought great joy to all of us. The hard work of the students was rewarded as everyone passed with good grades. Jatin Singh of Class 10 with 99.2%, and Vaishnavi Gupta of Class 12 with 97.5% topped the school. Congratulations to all the teachers and students for their great achievements!

Felicitation of Helping Hands on Labour Day

We celebrated St. Joseph's Day / Labour Day on 1st May. Students of Classes 11 and 12 prepared a meaningful prayer assembly. Thereafter, the students entertained the co-workers with a short and meaningful programme. Rev. Fr. Alwin, the Principal of our school, thanked the co-workers for their contribution to the maintenance of our school and honoured them with flower garlands and gifts.

Mothers' Day Celebration

On Mothers' Day, children made handmade gift items and presented them to their mothers, sending photos to their class teachers for a competition. The class bulletin boards were decorated to Mothers with the theme "My Mother — My World."

On 17th May, we had the Parent-Teacher Meeting from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and the school closed for summer vacation. On the same day, the school bid a loving adieu to Sr. Alisha, who had served the school for the past three years.

Welcome and Farewell

Srs. Savita and Joselette, the new members of our community, were welcomed in a fitting manner on 14th June. On 21st June, we had a meaningful farewell Eucharist and prayer service for Sr. Alisha, who served the community and the Church for three years. On 22nd June, Srs. Lata and Savita accompanied Sr. Alisha to her new community in Lucknow.



The installation ceremony of Sr. Savita as the Animator of the Community took place on 25th June. On 28th June, we had a touching farewell Mass and prayer service for Sr. Rajni, and on 29th June, with grateful hearts, we bid farewell to Sr. Rajni, who served the community and the Navjeevan Social Work Centre for three years. We are truly grateful to her for her loving and dedicated service to this mission. May Jesus bless her and reward her abundantly.

St. Mary's Convent, Lucknow

We began the new academic year 2025–2026 with immense enthusiasm on 1st April. The theme of the new academic year, *"Pilgrims of Hope — Redefining Education for a Brighter Tomorrow,"* was unveiled before the sisters, teachers, students, parents and co-workers by Sr. Marina, our principal, reminding us to stay resilient and hopeful as we journey forward together with dedication and commitment.

With joy and gratitude, we celebrated Sr. Janet's birthday on 3rd April with a very meaningful and inspiring prayer in the morning, and a solemn Eucharistic celebration in the evening, followed by a

festive dinner for all present. The teachers, students and co-workers later felicitated and honoured Sr. Janet,



expressing their love and appreciation for all the loving services she renders to SMCIC, especially in her role as the manager.

The Holy Week celebrations, which began with Palm Sunday on 13th April and culminated in the solemnity of Easter Sunday on 20th April, were hope-filled days of prayer, fasting, and joyful celebration of the victory of light, life and truth. The liturgical services challenged us to walk the path shown to us by Jesus, our Saviour — in humility, compassion and sacrifice. The blessing of our vast campus by Rev. Fr. Anup, assisted by Rev. Fr. Jijo OFM, brought freshness and newness to the entire SMCIC family.

The news of the sudden passing away of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on 21st April shocked the whole world. To pay tribute to the revered soul of Pope Francis and honour his legacy, we conducted a heartfelt prayer service on 22nd April, which commenced with a floral tribute offered by the sisters, teachers, students and co-workers. Amid hymns and prayers that filled the atmosphere with grace and serenity, a video presentation highlighting the life, teachings and journey of leadership of Pope Francis helped everyone reflect on his message of compassion, humility and joyful service.

On 25th April, an orientation programme was conducted for the parents on the ever-relevant theme *"Parenting with Purpose."* Rev. Fr. Suresh Mathew OFM, an eminent motivational speaker, educator, and spiritual guide, was our resource person for the day.



Through his lively and inspiring sessions, Father emphasized the importance of purposeful parenting in today's world. The enthusiastic participation of the parents indicated that they were inspired to walk the journey of parenting with renewed hope and enthusiasm.

Under the theme *"Stewards of Our Common Home,"* a number of activities were initiated for the students of all age groups to foster environmental consciousness, creativity and a sense of responsibility.



Through music, art, innovation and collaboration, the students were empowered to think critically, act responsibly and connect deeply with nature — inspiring them to nurture eco-conscious values in their hearts.

A memorable felicitation ceremony was held on 10th May to honour our students for their outstanding performance in the ICSE and ISC board examinations 2024–2025. The programme opened with a challenging and inspiring prayer service on the theme “*The Flight of an Eagle*,” conducted by Class 10. The deserving students then received scholarships, certificates, medals, and mementoes. Indeed, it was a proud moment for the entire SMCIC family.



In the month of June, we were blessed with the visit of several of our sisters from various provinces and regions. It was a joyful time of meeting each other and creating precious memories.



We extended a hearty welcome to Sr. Alisha, who joined our community as a new member. We wish her God’s choicest blessings as she begins her mission here with joyful enthusiasm.

The much-awaited pilgrimage to Mother Mary’s shrine at Velankanni became a reality for Sr. Janet, Sr. Marina, Sr. Tara and Sr. Alisha, as they set out on their long journey to the south on 11th June. They experienced our Heavenly Mother’s help and protection throughout the journey. Having spent a grace-filled time praying and journeying together, they returned to the community on 18th June, refreshed at heart and renewed in mind, carrying Mother Mary’s blessings for all of us who supported them with our loving prayers.



Sr. Anupa returned after her challenging home visit on 26th June. May God’s holy will be fulfilled in the lives of her family members. Our prayerful support is with her.

“*Walking in God’s Will as One Family*” was the theme for our recollection days on 26th, 27th, and 28th June, creatively guided by Rev. Fr. Amal Raj SJ. During these three grace-filled days, we reflected on our relationship with God, self, others, and creation, considering our community life as a “*mission in mission*.” We focused on ways to improve the quality of our lives in community. Enlightened, strengthened, and renewed by the graces and blessings of these sacred days, we move forward — building God’s family of love, justice, peace and reconciliation in our own hearts, in the hearts of those we touch, and in the heart of our troubled world.

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Spiritual Renewal:

April brought newness and excitement. On the 6th, we had a day of Recollection in preparation for Holy Week — a time of grace and spiritual renewal for all. Easter was celebrated with deep reverence, followed by the blessing of our house, which filled our hearts and home with renewed grace. On 12th May, we spent a day in silence and reflection as Sr. Amala led us in recollection and prayer. On 14th April, some of us visited nearby churches as part of our Jubilee Year pilgrimage preparations — a spiritual journey and moment of grace for them and for the entire community. The community had the triduum, and Fr. Jerom led us into prayer; his reflections helped us to pray deeply.

Home Leave:

Srs. Delna, Cecilia, Shweta, Arpita, and Martha left for home leave to find some days of rest and relaxation. On the 28th, Srs. Shweta and Jyoti travelled to Chandigarh for a brief study on the Gospel of St. John. Ongoing efforts in vocation promotion continued through Srs. Maria Goretti and Delna in Bhubaneswar and Berhampur. We thank them for their faithfulness and courage.

Celebrations:

We joyfully celebrated the birthdays of Srs. Neeta, Jane, Kiran Tirkey, and Sebati with a meaningful Mass, where everyone gathered to shower them with warm wishes, blessings and prayers for good health. On the 6th, we observed Leadership Day — a time to honour and thank Sr. Shweta and the team.

Visits:

We were blessed with visits from many of our dear sisters from the Bangalore Region, Delhi Province, Patna Province and Nepal Region. We were happy to welcome them, and they felt overwhelmed with joy to be at the Mother House. Sr. Sunita returned from Buxar on May 23rd after completing her mission. We also welcomed candidates from Patna, Delhi, and Nepal to SMC 21, accompanied by Srs. Divya and Damian. They are attending English classes, and we wish them a happy and enriching stay with us.

Farewell:

The 21 community members bid farewell to Srs. Sunita, Arpita, and Priyanka, thanking them for their

loving service. Dear sisters, bloom where you are planted. The candidates bid farewell to Sr. Arpita and welcomed Sr. Delna. Thank you, dear sisters, and may God bless you. The juniors returned enriched, enlightened, and energized after their meeting in Kathmandu.

Education: Empowering Minds, Shaping Destinies

April ushered in a burst of excitement with the start of the new academic session! The campus came alive with the joyful laughter and eager chatter of little ones, setting a vibrant tone for the year ahead.

Parent's Orientation by Sr. Martha and the Teachers

"A parent is a teacher at home, and a teacher is a parent in school; the child is the centre of our universe."

To support the holistic growth of our children, an orientation programme was held in April for parents of Playschool, LKG, and UKG. The session began with a prayer, followed by a warm welcome from Sr. Martha, who introduced the school's vision and values.

Teachers shared important academic and co-curricular guidelines, while Sir Ashish Yadav



explained the features of the Franciscan E-Care App. A short video on parenting skills was also shown. The session ended with an open discussion, addressing parents' queries and gathering feedback. It was a meaningful step in strengthening the bond between parents and the school.

Celebrating the Hard Work: Labour Day Programme

"The hands that build our future deserve respect every day."

On 1st May 2025, our school celebrated Labour Day with gratitude and joy. The event began with a prayer song and lighting of the lamp, followed by a special prayer service thanking all labourers for their dedicated work.

Students of Class 2 and UKG added



charm with lively dances and a melodious song. Sr. Cecilia and Sr. Martha shared inspiring words on the dignity of labour and the need to value every worker's contribution. The celebration concluded with a heartfelt message of gratitude to all labourers within and beyond our school.

A Joyful Beginning for Play School, LKG and UKG

Our little stars from Playgroup, LKG, and UKG began their school journey with wide eyes and happy hearts. The day was filled with songs, stories, laughter, and a few tiny tears — quickly replaced by hugs and giggles. We're proud of their courage and curiosity and look forward to many more joyful days of learning and growing together!

Splash! Splash! Pool Party Fun for Our Little Stars

The sun was shining and laughter echoed as our tiny tots from Playgroup, LKG and UKG enjoyed a delightful pool party to beat the summer heat!

With wide smiles, the children splashed, played and had a



splashtastic time in the water. From floating toys to cheerful music and bubbly games, the

atmosphere was full of excitement and joy. It was a perfect day to relax, have fun and to create joyful memories with friends and teachers!

The pool party wasn't just about water play; it was a celebration of friendship, happiness and carefree childhood moments.

Homage to Pope Francis

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." – Matthew 5:9

On 23rd April 2025, our school held a special condolence assembly to honour the passing of Pope Francis. The gathering began with a silent prayer and a short prayer service led by the teaching staff.

A touching narration highlighted his life of faith, peace, and compassion. Sisters, teachers, students and staff offered floral tributes, and Sr. Martha concluded the service with a heartfelt message, urging all to live out his legacy of love and service.

Mothers' Day Activity

"The love between a mother and daughter is forever."

Our playschool was filled with warmth and joy as we celebrated Mothers' Day. The little ones began by reciting a heartfelt poem, melting the hearts of all present.

The

celebration continued with fun-filled activities — dancing with pom-poms and making cards

and wristbands using colourful paper, straws and stickers. It was a beautiful way for the children to show love and gratitude for their mothers' endless care. The event ended with tiny hands proudly presenting their handmade tokens, each a reflection of their affection.



Colour Your Dreams – By Bajaj Capital

Tiny hands, big dreams!

On 13th May 2025, Bajaj Capital hosted a joyful art competition for our Playgroup, LKG and UKG students on the theme "Colour My Dream." It was heartening to see the children express their imagination through vibrant colours. Every child participated with excitement, making it a celebration of creativity and self-expression. A big thank you to Bajaj Capital for this wonderful opportunity!



Summer Vacations

As per the Education Department's instructions, our school closed for the summer break on May 15th, 2025, with a Parent-Teacher Meeting, providing an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress.

FMW Activity – Visit to Shishu Bhawan on 1st April

The teachers of St. Mary's Nursery School, along with Sr. Martha, visited Shishu Bhawan Orphanage — a truly heartwarming experience. Carrying essential items donated by our Playgroup, LKG and UKG students, we were touched by the children's joyful smiles and warm welcome. Their spirit reminded us of the power of love and care. We thank our generous parents for making this act of kindness possible.

As we move forward, we remain united in prayer and joyful witness.

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The new academic year 2025–2026 began on the 2nd April with a staff meeting. Sr. Lissy and Sr. Namita took sessions on the vision of the school and the theme of the year: "Together for Peace, United in Trust." Various committees for the smooth functioning of the school were announced, and after apprising them of their duties, responsibilities were formally handed over. On 3rd April, the school reopened for all. All the best to the teachers and the taught!

"When we focus on being a blessing to others, God makes sure that we are always blessed in abundance." Sr. Shweta was with us for three days, leaving after sharing a short message, and we, in turn, organized a warm recreation for her. Sr. Delphine was admitted to Kamala Nehru Hospital for her first chemotherapy session and returned on the 10th. School timings were adjusted to 7:00–11:30 a.m. The Diocesan Catechism results for Classes X and XII were announced: St. Mary's '32' won the first and third prizes for Class XII, while the second prize went to St. Anthony's Inter College. Well done, girls!

Palm Sunday dawned with a heavy downpour, and so the procession was cancelled outside the Cathedral. During Holy Week, we watched The Passion of the Christ, uniting ourselves with the Lord in His Passion. Unlike other years, on Maundy Thursday we held morning prayers at 6:00 a.m. in the community room, including the washing of hands — the superior washed the hands of senior sisters, and others did it for each other. Similarly, the superior anointed the sisters' hands with holy oil and distributed bread to each one in commemoration of the Lord's Last Supper.

Holy Saturday was a day of prayer. The morning was spent with Our Sorrowing Mother in the chapel, and we attended the midnight Mass at the Cathedral. Fr. Jose from the Seminary, mindful of the ailing, offered Mass for us at 7:00 a.m. in our chapel — a very kind gesture. At 9:00 a.m., the Good Shepherd, Bishop Louis Mascarenhas, visited us to pray for and bless the weak and sickly. Thank you, Swamiji! The Easter

house blessing was done by the parish priest and his assistant at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch with us. On 21st April — Easter Monday — came the heartbreaking news of Pope Francis' passing. Though he had been unwell, no one expected the end to come so suddenly. It seemed God was eagerly waiting to welcome him home. R.I.P. As a mark of respect, all schools, colleges, and institutions remained closed for a day. On 23rd April, the SMC family paid tribute to the Holy Father with a solemn prayer service and floral homage.



On the 26th at 6:00 p.m., an inter-religious prayer meeting for Pope Francis was held, attended by a few sisters from our community. Thus, April ended in sorrow as we began praying for a new Pope who would live Christ's values faithfully, with special care for the poor.

April and May saw numerous competitions for students: handwriting, creative writing, poster-making, speech, drawing, solo dance, and inter-house declamation. Several long assemblies were also organized on various themes.



May — the Month of the Holy Rosary — cheered us as we began daily recitation of the Rosary, mindful of the world's need for peace. International Labour Day was celebrated meaningfully: the school honoured co-workers with a prayer assembly, token gifts, and

refreshments to recognize their invaluable service.



The Investiture Ceremony of the School Cabinet took place on 3rd May. A special assembly themed “Together for Peace, United in Trust” set the tone for the day, and the solemn oath-taking was attended by the captains’ parents.



The Friends of Mary Ward, Group 3, engaged in a commendable activity by visiting the Blind School in Prayagraj, distributing food grains and groceries, and interacting compassionately with the children. Srs. Josita and Rose accompanied them. Well done, members!

On 7th May, members of the Civil Defence, led by senior officials, conducted a mock drill on disaster

preparedness, instructing students and staff on how to respond to emergencies like earthquakes, fires, and other calamities.



To foster leadership, a team of 15 students from Classes IX and X was invested as Traffic Pilots, responsible for maintaining discipline on campus.

On 16th May, the members of USM organized an inspiring activity titled “Bird Feeders and Water Stations” as part of their campaign, “Guardians of Nature: Small Acts, Big Impacts.” Young USM members showcased their creativity and responsibility by designing handcrafted, eco-friendly bird feeders from recycled materials, each featuring the USM logo to symbolize compassion, care, and environmental stewardship. These feeders were placed across the campus — on trees, in gardens, and open spaces — to provide birds and small creatures with nourishment and shelter. To complement this kind gesture, fresh water stations and feeding bowls were installed to ensure birds had access to clean water, especially during the hot summer days.



In May, Sr. Isabel spent a few days with us. Sr. Celine underwent a successful TURBT procedure at Nazareth Hospital on the 15th, after which her family returned home relieved and grateful. Sr. Lissy attended the COIN Principals’ Meeting at Jeolikote and returned on the 14th. Srs. Mariette from Lucknow and Alma from Bangalore also visited; Sr. Mariette stayed to help at the hospital, while Sr. Alma left after two days. The school closed for summer on the 15th for Classes I–VIII, and the remaining classes went up to the 24th. Holiday birds began flying home from the 14th onwards.

Our sisters from other provinces visited the sick during the holidays. The ADLOP (Allahabad Diocese Life Orientation Programme) ran from 30th May to 4th June at Sadhana Sadan, where Sr. Grace substituted for Sr. Vinaya. The school’s summer camp (starting on 19th May) concluded on the 31st with stage and field performances.

Jovial June arrived — may it bring abundant joy to all! The feast of the Ascension reminded us that although Christ ascended into heaven, He remains with us tenderly in our hearts.

The first week of June saw many sisters from Delhi and Patna visiting the sick and enjoying a summer break. On 5th June, Srs. Teresa and Namita visited Rihandnagar and returned the next day. Sr. Mariette returned to Lucknow on the 7th after a month of great help here — thank you, Sr. Mariette!

The installation anniversary of Sr. Sumita on 14th June was celebrated with gratitude through the Holy Eucharist, a special hour of prayer, and a beautifully organized recreation by Sr. Namita. Sr. Dama's 92nd birthday was joyfully marked the same day. Farewell was also given to Srs. Grace and Alma, who completed five and two years respectively, before leaving for their tertianship programme.

Sr. Lissy returned from her holidays, and Sr. Delphine was admitted again for treatment. After the Juniors' meet in Nepal, Sr. Bharti came back, fit and cheerful, on the 18th. Srs. Rufina and Neena surprised us with a delightful visit from Nepal, returning on the 23rd. Sr. Vinaya attended the 120th Agra Regional Youth Council Meeting in Bareilly on the theme "Leaders of Today Shaping the Vision of Tomorrow." An orientation programme was held at our school on April 3–5 for parents of UG, PG, and Grade I students, guided by the belief that "a parent is a teacher at home, and a teacher is a parent in school, with the child at the center of our universe." During the sessions, parents were welcomed as partners in progress and introduced to the school's vision, curriculum, rules, teaching methods, and co-scholastic activities. Teachers also shared effective ways to support children's holistic development, emphasizing a balance between academics and life skills. on the 22nd.

International Yoga Day was observed on 21st June with a yoga camp that saw enthusiastic participation from students and teachers.



After the summer break, the school reopened for Classes IX–XII on 24th June, and the campus once again bubbled with activity.

Sr. Felicitas and Sr. Regina returned after their long break, completing the community. Srs. Gemma and Sarita from Patna visited us — Sarita for a health check-up and Gemma as her companion. They left the same night, with Sr. Josita joining them to attend the funeral of Fr. John Bosco SJ, who passed away at XTTI Patna on the 28th.

The Triduum — a three-day retreat preached by Fr. Jerome from the Seminary — concluded with the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, a meaningful culmination to our renewal of commitment.

Monday, 30th June — a fresh start! With this day, half of the Jubilee Year has passed, full of both pleasant and challenging moments. Let us intensify our prayers in the remaining half of the year, particularly as we move toward unity with the IBVMs. May the Holy Spirit pour out His grace so that all things end in joy and fulfilment.

St. Mary's Convent , Kanpur

Hello, April — a month that brings bright days, gentle warmth, and a fresh wave of positivity. Following a brief pause, the new academic year resumed on April 2, 2025. The school grounds once again came alive with the cheerful presence of our young learners. Filled with excitement and eagerness, both students and teachers returned to St. Mary's, ready to embark on another journey of growth and discovery through the teaching-learning process.

An orientation programme was held at our school on April 3–5 for parents of UG, PG, and Grade I students, guided by the belief that "a parent is a teacher at home, and a teacher is a parent in school, with the child at the center of our universe." During the sessions, parents were welcomed as partners in progress and introduced to the school's vision, curriculum, rules, teaching methods, and co-scholastic



activities. Teachers also shared effective ways to support children's holistic development, emphasizing

a balance between academics and life skills. The sad news of the demise of our beloved Pope Francis on April 21 came as a great shock to us all.



unwavering commitment to peace, compassion, and global unity. All the sisters and teachers offered floral tributes as a mark of respect.

Vidyarambh Ceremony

On Friday, April 25, 2025, our PG section students celebrated the Vidyarambh ceremony, marking the start of their educational journey. In a heartfelt ritual, each child, guided by their teachers and blessed by the



principal, wrote their very first letter in a tray of rice — tiny fingers tracing their first marks. The

principal and teachers offered blessings, filling the atmosphere with joyful smiles and bright hearts. It was a beautiful and auspicious beginning for our young learners.

Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 26, students from Classes I to V came together to celebrate Earth Day with a variety of sustainability-focused activities. Students showed creativity and environmental awareness through poster making, slogan writing, and collage projects centered around climate change. The day served as a powerful reminder that even small actions can make a significant difference. Together, they pledged to care for our planet — not just today, but every day.

The CRI Recollection and Renewal Day were held on 4th May 2025 at Mariampur Hospital Community. The event was graced by Sr. Marion CJ, who served as the Resource person. A total of 46 Religious Sisters participated in this spiritually enriching gathering, centered on the inspiring theme, “Surrender to Splendour: Carrying His Light Beyond with Grace in the Race,” The day offered an opportunity for deep

reflection, renewal of commitment, and spiritual nourishment for those in consecrated life.

The entire staff and students of SMC school rejoiced on receiving a cent percent result for the board examination.

Labour Day Celebration — May 1, 2025

The students of SMC honored our dedicated co-workers with a thoughtfully organized prayer service, followed by a vibrant cultural program, emphasizing the dignity of labor and expressing heartfelt appreciation for the selfless service of our D-staff. By organizing a Labour Day poster-making competition, the entire school honored workers by celebrating the



dignity of their labour and acknowledging their vital contributions to society. This

competition was not just an artistic exercise — it was a meaningful tribute recognizing workers’ importance and honoring their efforts. The celebration concluded with a deliciously prepared brunch, bringing the meaningful day to a joyful close.

Mothers’ Day Celebration

On May 7, our students from Classes VI to XII expressed their gratitude through a photo-frame-making activity dedicated to their mothers. Each student lovingly crafted a frame, adorned with personal messages and artistic flourishes, to hold a cherished photo of their mom — an emblem of the countless

sacrifices she has made. As they decorated with care, the room was filled with emotional warmth, an



atmosphere steeped in love and appreciation. It was a profoundly touching tribute, where every brushstroke and embellishment spoke volumes about the deep bond between a mother and her child.

Mothers’ Day Celebration — Playgroup to Class V

Our young learners from Playgroup to Class V celebrated Mothers’ Day with beautiful and creative

expressions of love. Playgroup children joyfully transformed plain T-shirts into wearable art, using bright fabric paints to craft heartfelt gifts for their mothers. Meanwhile, students in Classes III to V designed charming wall hangings, embellishing paper hearts, yarn flowers, and photos with loving messages to delight their moms. Beyond the gorgeous keepsakes, these hands-on activities nurtured creativity, fine motor skills, and emotional connection — demonstrating just how meaningful art can be in expressing gratitude and strengthening bonds.



World Environment Day Celebration

On June 5, to commemorate World Environment Day, the staff and coworkers of St. Mary's Convent High School, along with the sisters of the institution, came together for a meaningful green initiative. The group gathered on the school premises to plant saplings, reinforcing their commitment to environmental conservation.

The event began with a short prayer led by Sr. Marion, invoking God's blessings for the Earth and the newly planted saplings. This was followed by a few words of appreciation and encouragement, emphasizing the importance of protecting nature and the responsibility of every individual in nurturing the planet.



The tree-planting activity was a symbol of hope and collective action toward a sustainable future. It also

served as an inspiring message to the D-staff and the wider community to care for the environment. The initiative was met with enthusiasm and highlighted the spirit of unity and environmental stewardship.

Fun-Filled Saturday Activities Engaging Our Tiny Tots

On Saturdays, our LKG students become little scientists as they explore floating and sinking using water-filled glass containers and everyday objects like toys, spoons, pencils, and crayons. This hands-on activity sparks curiosity — they predict outcomes, observe results, and learn new vocabulary, fostering early scientific thinking and observational skills. Meanwhile, in UKG, children collaborate on a creative group task — tearing and pasting paper to decorate fruit outlines, which not only reinforce knowledge of fruit shapes and colours but also encourage healthy eating habits while strengthening fine motor coordination and artistic expression.



"Education is the foundation of all we do in life. It shapes who we are and what we aspire to be."

Julie Payette

**TOGETHER WE
CAN BUILD A
BETTER TOMORROW.**

