

Don Bosco Ashalayam, Howrah

News Clippings – September 2021

DBA welcomes Fr. Dr. George Chempakathinal as Executive Director



My dear friends of Ashalayam,

As I begin this first letter, I would like to convey my greetings to you together with all children and caregivers in Ashalayam Family. It is about three months since I left Salesian College in Darjeeling. The 10 years that I was away from Ashalayam, I had lots of academic possibilities, completing my doctoral studies in child care, being a professor in the departments of sociology and social work and being the Vice Principal of the college, coming in contact with youngsters of varied cultures and faiths.

Now that I am back in Ashalayam in its new phase of life with Covid-19 world, keeping many individuals and families in undue stress. Most affected are the children, that too children who are in the remote villages, slums and living along the streets in the big cities. Numbers are frightening, but it is evident that millions of children are out of school and more are affected with lack of school-based education and health issues: mental and physical.

Most of the children in the homes of Ashalayam were sent back to their own places during the peak season of corona. A few stayed back as they did not have other options. Ashalayam has been in touch with many of them. Those who are in contact are supported with food and other essential items beside financial support.

As all of us are looking forward to the post-corona days; we hope and pray that all of us can experience a new lease of life very specially our children. Ashalayam has plans to care for children on a community-based system with its hostels/homes in place. Special care is offered to the ones who are not able to attend schools/training centres due to lack of family support. It has plans to revitalize the Child Care Institute with Research and Development possibilities. There is a plan to enhance the training institute for social workers from B. Voc to Post-graduate degree in social work (MSW).

I would like to thank each and every one of you for being part of the Ashalayam family. Your suggestions are welcome as we begin the new life after the pandemic period. May God continue to bless you all and all those who support Ashalayam in small and big ways.

With warm regards and prayerful wishes from all the children

Fr. Dr. George Chempakathinal SDB

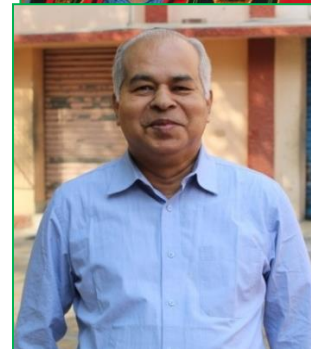
Executive Director

Fr. Mathew & Fr. Jose move on to different assignments

Incumbent Director **Fr. Mathew Parakonath** moved to Don Bosco Krishnanagar in June after helming DBA for 4 eventful years. Fr. Mathew has been closely associated with the institution since the beginning and this was his third stint in DBA. Loved by children and staff alike we will miss his presence.

Fr. Jose M.J. has been the Bursar since 2018 and this was his second innings in DBA. An efficient and competent administrator Fr. Jose was also in charge of Ashalayam Scouts. Fr. Jose has moved to Don Bosco Bandel as Administrator.

We wish both Fr. Mathew and Fr. Jose great success in their new missions.



Youth Hostel in Deulti

Surrounded by lush greenery the new Deulti Youth Hostel is an oasis of calm and peace. Located about 60 Kms from DBA Howrah Campus the hostel can accommodate 6 - 7 youth. Presently three boys; Javed, Kapil and Hasnayan are staying there. Javed and Hasnayan had to return from Mumbai as the hotel they were working in closed down due to the pandemic. Both shall join a company close to the hostel. Kapil completed his Graphic Printing course in 2019 and was job placed the same year, unfortunately he was diagnosed with TB and had to return back. After two years of medical care in Ashalayam, Kapil is now fit and eager to start his career anew.



Fr. Dr. George flanked by Javed to his right and Kapil and Hasnayan on the left.



74th Independence Day celebrated in all Homes on 15 August.

Left: Children and staff sing the national anthem in Kalyani

Congratulations to class X & XII students

The successful X & XII students were felicitated on 17 August 2021. The occasion was graced by the Provincial **Fr. Joseph Pauria**, Vice Provincial **Fr. Sunil Kerketta** and Economer **Fr. Jijo John**.

22 children passed Class X and 19 passed Class XII this year.

Students speak

Robi Sk.

Thanks to DBA family 15 years I've stayed in DBA, today I start a new phase in life; I'm travelling to Delhi this evening to take up a new job. Thanks to DBA I've never missed family life even for a day.

Rajani Kumar

I'm staying in Ashalayam since many years and completed my XII standard, planning to do graduation in Nursing. Ashalayam is a beautiful experience. I learnt so many things which would never have been possible had I stayed at home. I would have remained ignorant throughout my life. I'm getting more than education here; love, dignity and opportunity to be myself.

Papai Ghosh

Fr. George gave me an opportunity by admitting me in Ashalayam and today after class XII I've got a job and at the same time I shall pursue my graduation. I thank Uncle Christophe for placing me in this job.

Md. Azad

Ashalayam has provided a wonderful opportunity to develop myself and I advise all my younger brothers and sisters to please take this opportunity to develop your career and life.

RobiTigga

Thanks to Ashalayam I'm on my way to realize my dream of becoming a software engineer. I've enrolled in BSc Computer Science and intend to work hard to achieve my ambition.



Dipa Das and Dilip Nayak inaugurate the program with the lighting of the lamp



Rajani Kumar (Class XII) receives a token of appreciation from the Provincial Fr. Joseph Pauria



RobiTigga



Rajani Kumar



Papai Ghosh

Covid relief

Distribution of dry rations began in July; so far **480 vulnerable families**, living slums and along the railway tracks have been covered. Priority was given to those families who have lost their livelihood due to the pandemic induced lockdown. The dry rations consist of 10 kg rice, 1 kg dal, 2 packets (1 kg each) edible oil, 2 kg potatoes, 1 packet of salt, 1 masala packet and 1 packet soya bean.

Food rations were also given to our children who are presently with their families. Living under dire conditions many of them sent SOS for help. Food rations were rushed to them on priority basis. **52 children and their families** benefited under the Covid Aid program.

Cooked food consisting of Kichri (combination of rice, dal, soyabean and a vegetable) is being distributed to **250 persons** every day from 03 August onwards. The beneficiaries are mostly children from neighboring slums around Bhattanagar unit.



Above: Food distribution for slum families in DBA's main campus

Below: People queue up for food rations at our non-formal education centre in Bahir Gangarampur



NOKIA



**Appreciations to
all those who
have generously
supported the
cause of the
Pandemic
Victims.**



Cooked food distribution in DBA's Bhattanagar unit

Right: Food rations for our children gone home (South 24 Parganas)

Life Skills Education Workshops

Life Skills Education Workshops were held for different age groups in July and August

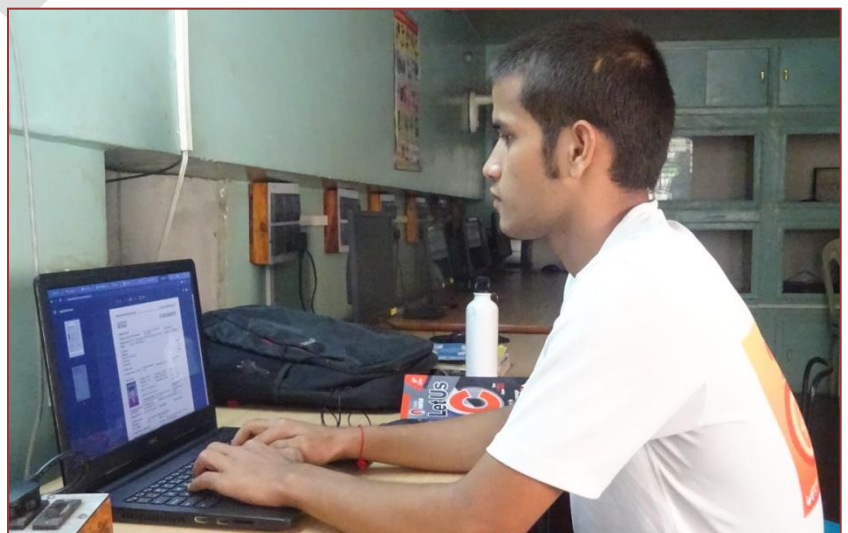


Conducted by our team of Counselors the Life Skills workshops were held on 07 & 22 July and 05 & 21 August 2021

Admissions

As soon as the Class X and XII results were declared in the month of July, our boys and girls are immersed in the admission process checking out institutions offering course of their choice. Prior to the actual admission process they've gone through counseling sessions to help them find course of their choice.

Md. Azad enrolls online for BCA graduate course



Fr. Dr. George interacts
with students in Asha
TICI Youth Hostel



Wedding Bells



Jyoti Malakar tied the knot with **Bhola Mondal** in June this year. Jyoti qualified as a nurse together with three others from Don Bosco Ashalayam in St. Augustine Nursing School in 2020. She's now working in a reputed hospital. Bhola with an ITI Diploma is working in a private company.

YOUR DONATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Local Contribution (India)	Foreign Contribution
Don Bosco Ashalayam	Don Bosco Ashalayam Trust
SB. Account No. 11960100068339	SB. Account No. 40098917071
Federal Bank Ltd.	State Bank of India.
Howrah Branch	IFSC: SBIN0000691
IFSC: FDRL0001196	MICR: 110002087

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