



THE DISTRICT OF INDIA

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THE DISTRICT UPDATES

## Hope of Easter



Bro. Julius Tete offers essential food items a woman.

The ongoing pandemic has led to an unprecedented situation for people around the globe. In India, everyone has been asked to stay at home for forty days, and to practice social distancing measures to stop the spread of the virus. This pandemic has changed so much of our daily lives and it abruptly pulled us out of our ministry commitments. The District has postponed the financial annual auditing, the silver jubilee celebration, and the first profession celebration till unspecified dates.

Even though the pandemic has kept us at a social distance from the children, women, and men whom we regularly service, it has failed to keep us at a distance from them in our prayers and thoughts. Every day, communities in the District came around their altars to pray for the people who are affected by the virus, for those who have lost their lives during the pandemic, for the health care workers on the frontlines, and for those who are unable to travel home to be with their loved ones.



The STC students share their Easter meal with a security guard.

The season of Easter bring us big hope through our Risen Lord, and with the same hope, we assume that there will be a positive change after the forty days of the lockdown. The District's social wings did their best to bring hope to the vulnerable segments of our society during this lockdown by distributing food provisions, vegetables, safety kits, and hygiene kits. All of these distributions were carried out after getting proper permissions form local authorities. In some places the distributions were even done with the assistance of the local authorities.

### **Maria Nilaya Community, Patna**

On April 19, Maria Nilaya Community offered its front yard to the local authorities to distribute relief materials to fifteen families near the community. Bro. Antony Nesam, the director of Maria Nilaya Community, helped the local authorities identify these poor families.



## REDS Ranchi



Bro. Paulus Lakra distributes food items and vegetables to women.

The REDS Ranchi staff made house-to-house visits and supplied hygiene kits to the parents and the centre children. The REDS staff helped them to understand the seriousness of Covid-19. The parents and children were asked to practice frequent hygienic practices suggested by the WHO and the local government authorities to fight the virus. On April 7, 8, and 9, Bros. Paulus Lakra (the director of REDS Ranchi), Marianus Bilung, and Jerin Pananthanam distributed food provisions, vegetables, and hygiene kits to one thousand and twenty-two families in Argora, Balmichi Awas, Bargaunwa, Bhuinya toil, Chutia, Dom Cochha, Hatia, Hindpiri, Irgu Toli, Khadgarah, Lowadih, Malar Cochha, Pahari, Samlong areas, and Talab.



Marianus Bilung offers food provisions and the other essential items to the people.

These Brothers are extremely grateful to the local police personnel for their assistance during the distribution. Apart from these distributions, the Gyan Deep Brothers have

been very busy throughout the month in assisting other NGO and religious communities distribute food and other essential supplies to the poor people in the REDS working areas.

## STC Deepahalli



Fr. Mariandu Belevendiran and Bro. John Paul aid the immigrant workers.

On April 7, the St. Joseph Community Brothers assisted by providing shelter, food provisions, vegetables, facemasks, and hygiene kits to twenty-five immigrant workers who are constructing a school building for St. Joseph Chaminade Academy. During second week and the third week of April, the Brothers assisted more families in Heelalige, Sampangie Nagar, Chandapura, Fruit Market, Ashok Nagara, Electronic City Phase II, Huskur Village, and the surroundings with food provisions and hygiene kits based upon a request from local authorities. The St. Joseph Community Brothers shared their Easter meal with the immigrant workers and offered them additional food provisions and cleaning supplies.

## REDS Bengaluru

REDS Bengaluru devoted all its efforts to educate the slum dwellers about the pandemic and its effects on human health. Altogether, twenty-four staff in twelve groups went house-to-house in the slums for eleven days to create awareness about Covid-19 that was provided by the local government. Due to the lockdown, many people were left without food because many of them are dependent upon their daily wages. On April 7, 8, and 23, Bro. Showraiah Ravulapalli, the director of REDS Bengaluru,

along with all the Infant Nilaya Community Brothers distributed food provisions, vegetables, and hygiene kits to four hundred and seven families.



Fr. Josephraj and Bro. Showraiah Ravulapalli distribute food provisions, and vegetables to the slum dwellers.

The beneficiaries were grateful to the Brothers for their valuable assistance during the lockdown. On April 14, the REDS Bengaluru staff and Brothers assisted the Franciscan Brothers, Madiwala, to distribute food packets to two hundred and fifty additional people in the slums.

#### CRDP Budakata



Fr. Joseph Barla explains about the pandemic to the immigrant workers in Budakata.

Fr. Joseph Barla, the director of CRDP, Budakata, along with his community members provided food, hygiene kits, and shelter for ten migrants during the lockdown. On April 8, Chaminade Rural Development Program (CDRP), Budakata, provided food relief package to thirty poor families in Budakta. These relief packs contained items like rice, flour, dal, oil, spices, potatoes, and pickles. Each of these food packages will help them prepare meals for three weeks. On April 9 and 10, CRDP provided safety kits consist of face masks, soaps, and

sanitizers for Three hundred families. It is necessary for them to have these safety kits because most of them are day laborers for whom it might be difficult to purchase the kits.

#### Chaminade School, Bengaluru



The Infant Nilaya Community Brothers with the BBMP workers.

On April 24, the Infant Nilaya Community Brothers organized the distribution of essential food items to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) workers and their neighbours, using funds from Chaminade School. They distributed them to forty-seven BBMP workers and thirteen families, who were grateful to the Brothers for their kindness and assistance during the lockdown.

#### Chaminade Nilaya, Bengaluru



Fr. Jinu Muthukattil with the vegetable vendors.

Chaminade Nilaya offered its front yard to a vegetable vender to set up as a vegetable distribution station for the neighbourhood. The vegetable distribution station was a great help for the local people to get fresh vegetables from a nearby place during the lockdown.

## Holy Week



Palm Sunday procession at Deepahalli.

The Holy Week and the Easter celebrations were not accessible to the people due to the nationwide lockdown. However, the communities in the District carried out these liturgical celebrations in a profound but simple way, praying for all the people who missed these significant liturgical celebrations of the Church.



The Easter Vigil at Nirmal Deep.

## Prayer Requests

Let's pray for the world that is affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. May God heal those who are infected. May God bless those who are working to heal the sick. May God give us the strength to overcome this pandemic. May God help us to remain steadfast in His love. May He grant eternal peace to those who have lost their lives to this virus.

Kindly pray for Sr. Laura Leming, FMI, as she suffers from a severe upper respiratory infection.

Please pray for the Brothers who celebrate their birthdays during the month of May:

- 01 Manooparampil, Varghese  
A., Balaswamy
- 03 Murmu, Britto
- 06 Majhi, George Stifen
- 10 Guria, Pratap
- 12 Dungdung, Ashok Kumar  
K., Kumara Swamy
- 20 Lucas, Dulare Lal
- 25 Tirkey, Dillp Kumar
- 28 Dungdung, James
- 30 Bara, Sebastian

