



Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Shanthinagar Mission Parish

SHANTHINAGAR, India - The Immaculate Conception Church at Shanthinagar tribal mission celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 17-01-2025, marking 25 years of devotion, faith, and community service. The oldest mission of Montfort Fathers of Indian vice-province over the period of 35-years contributed a substantial service in the formation of the faithful.

This occasion was a momentous one, with thousands of faithful gathered to rejoice and give thanks. The renovated church and the campus were beautifully decorated with vibrant flowers, leaves, and colourful streamers, creating a festive atmosphere. The altar was adorned with intricate designs and patterns, adding to the grandeur of the occasion.

The celebrations began with a traditional welcome by the local Savara tribal community, who adorned the entrance with vibrant flowers, leaves, and colourful decorations. The air was filled with the sweet scent of incense and the sound of tribal drums, setting the tone for a joyous and spirit-filled day. The energetic and rhythmic welcome dance was performed as a fitting tribute to the archbishop, who was the chief guest at the celebrations. The archbishop was warmly welcomed with a traditional tribal dance performed by 100 girl children showcasing their rich cultural heritage. An Introduction was given by one of the faithful remembering the missionaries who sowed the seed of faith in this region and nurtured the faith.

One of the highlights of the celebrations was the blessing of the newly constructed Mother Mary's Grotto as a Silver Jubilee Souvenir. The beautiful grotto was blessed by Emiritus Most. Rev. Mallavarapu PRAKASH, Archbishop of Vishakhapatnam; in the presence of a large

gathering of faithful, followed by all the clergy was led in procession towards the altar. The Holy Eucharist celebration was solemnized by the archbishop, concelebrated by the local priests and Montfortian priests. The Eucharistic celebration was a deeply spiritual and moving experience for the gathered faithful. The celebrations also featured a wondrous choir performance, with the parishioners' singing hymns and songs in their native language. The momentous occasion was attended by nearly 3000 faithful from various parts of the region. After the celebrations, the parishioners took the opportunity to thank and felicitate and honour all the missionaries for their selfless service and dedication to the parish and the mission. A fellowship meal was also organized, where the parishioners and guests shared a meal together, fostering a sense of belonging.

The Silver Jubilee celebration of the Immaculate Conception Church was a day to remember, filled with joy, laughter, and a deep sense of gratitude to God Alone. The occasion marked a significant milestone in the history of the parish, and the celebrations will be etched in the memories of the parishioners for years to come. I express my sincere gratitude to all the Montfort Fathers present for the Jubilee, Kurupam community, Shanthinagar community and Hospitaller Sisters of Mercy for their support in organizing this memorable moment of this tribal mission.

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