



THE FRONTIER NEWS

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Diocese of Peshawar – Church of Pakistan



The procession marching through the old city of Peshawar

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Easter Processions

Easter is a time when one can witness religious zeal of the Christian community throughout the Province that starts with the Holy Week. The Churches are full beyond the capacity especially on Palm Sunday, Ash-Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and all the services on the Easter Day.

The biggest Easter Procession of the Province marched from All Saints' Church Peshawar. This is a century old traditional religious procession. Hundreds of believers of Resurrection; men, women and children march through the streets of the old walled city of Peshawar. They sing religious songs, hymns and read aloud verses from the Holy Bible. Thus they openly spread the good news that Jesus has risen from the dead.

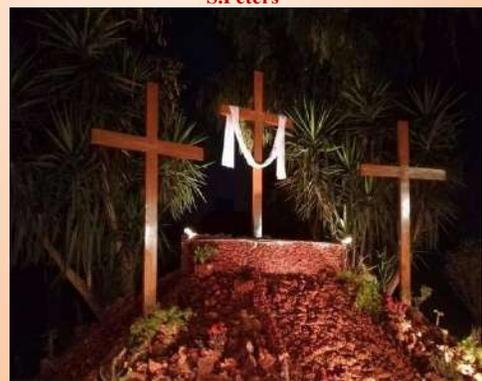
This year procession was lead by the Revd. Shahzad Murad, Priest Incharge and the Revd. Patrick Naeem, Secretary Mission & Ministry Board.

The participants exhibited religious enthusiasm and the Christian spirit was high. After marching through the bazaars and streets of the old city the procession returned back to the All Saints' Church where they participated in the Sun Rise Service, followed by a breakfast arranged by the Parish Committee.

Likewise, an Easter procession was also organized by the Parish committee of the St. John's Cathedral, led by the Bishop. Procession in other parts of the Province, like Bannu, D.I.Khan, Parachinar, Kohat, etc and were led by their Priests and clergy. The Christian community marched through their prescribed routes with traditional religious pomp & show. A great witness of the living Church in the region.



Procession led by honorable Bishop Humphrey S.Peters



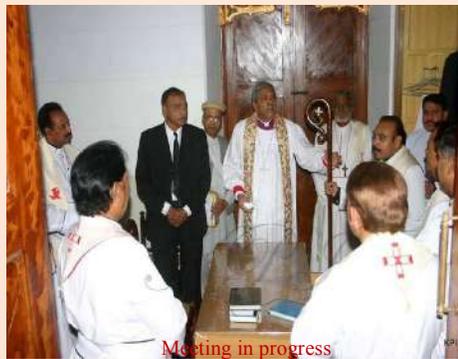
Ordination Service



Group Photo of Priests and Newly ordained with honorable Bishop



Meeting in progress



Meeting in progress

The Revd. Patrick Naeem, Secretary Mission & Ministry Board presented the Deacons and Presbyters to the Bishop for induction and the ordination. The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, President Bishop, Church of Pakistan took oath from them and after blessing them presented them the Holy Bibles.



The Palm Sunday Services



The Palm Sunday Services were held at almost all the Churches of the Diocese of Peshawar in the Province.

In a way this was the beginning of the Easter Celebrations. Men, Women and Children of all ages and from all walks of life brought Palm Tree Branches with them, and many came with handmade Palm leaf's crosses. They were singing religious songs and Hymns with tremendous Joy which is a witness of the blessing by the Holy Spirit.

After the procession the people congregated at the church for the special Palm Sunday Service and the Holy Communion. It is pertinent to mention that congregation exchanged the gifts of the Palm crosses after the church service.



A graceful Ordination Service was held at St. John's Cathedral, Peshawar. At this occasion, the Adnan Jamil, Qaiser Shahbaz, Amir William and the Khushbakht were ordained as Deacons in the Diocese of Peshawar. Whereas, the Revd. Amir Khan was unified from ARP Mission to the Church of Pakistan, Diocese of Peshawar as Presbyter, and the Revd. Alexander Mehboob was inducted as Presbyter in the Diocese of Peshawar, he comes from the Faisalabad Diocese, Church of Pakistan.

Before the proper Ordination service all the candidates signed the legal document of their oath in the presence of the Diocesan Attorney Mr. Sadique James.

Practical Engagement With The Neighbors



Vice Chancellor Agriculture University welcomed by Children



Cake Cutting Ceremony

The Agriculture University of Peshawar is situated almost out of Peshawar which can be described as a suburban area. There lives a good number of Christian families who are the poorest among the poor's and carry on the menial jobs for a living. They find it very difficult to travel all the way from a suburb to Peshawar every Sunday for the church services. Therefore, with the help of Peshawar Diocese a small hall is arranged for them to offer their prayers.

Recently, the Vice Chancellor of the Agriculture University paid a visit to the area and celebrated Easter with the local Christian Community.

This gesture by him is a symbol of solidarity with their next door neighbors.



The Prof: Dr. Pir Payo Khan, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture University congratulated the community and joined in their happiness by a cake cutting ceremony.

The Revd. Altaf Gohar, Priest Incharge, informed the Frontier News Correspondent that the Vice Chancellor was warmly welcomed by the congregation and in his short speech he promised to erect a spacious community hall for the Christian community in the near future for the purpose to offer prayers and to use it for social events as well .

Needless, to mention that the Diocese of Peshawar, Church of Pakistan believes and promotes the practical "Engagements Theology" with the other religions of the areas.

'Jalozai ' In the Eyes of the Diocese



The Revd. Amir and his family welcomed by Parish

Although Jalozai is a small town situated between Peshawar and Nowshera but holds big importance in the eyes of the Diocese of Peshawar. The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, President Bishop, Church of Pakistan spent a whole day during the Christmas season with them. As those 30-35 families are a great witness of the Lord's presence in that hard and conservative Muslim majority area. They are strong in their faith and are Christians in the real sense of the word. That's why, all the Priest also keep them dear.

On this Easter, the Revd. Amir Khan, Priest Incharge Jalozai Parish went especially along with his family to celebrate Easter in the small town of Jalozai, rather than enjoying the Easter's traditional pomp & show at in a big town like Peshawar. He informed the Frontier News that the prayer service and the Easter lunch both were highly tremendous. Something, to cherish for a long time.



The Revd. Amir Khan with his family

Annual Day Celebrations



Principal Pannell High School Bannu presenting Certificate and trophy to the students



An image of the Annual day

The Diocese of Peshawar, is renowned for providing quality education to the masses without discrimination of religion, caste or creed.

This year the educational institutions of the Diocese of Peshawar have once again, as per their tradition and society's expectations have shown 100% results in Annual Examinations. A few weeks before the start of the new sessions most of the schools organized their Annual Day Celebrations.

At this occasion, various schools Principals and the Administration acknowledged the top students by presenting them awards and certificates of achievement.

The students also participated in fun activities, and parents present at the occasion expressed their satisfaction over the services and quality education provided by the Diocesan Schools throughout the Province.

A fresh wave of Violence



A fresh wave of religious terrorism and discrimination has hit Baluchistan and the Punjab Province.

In Baluchistan five Christians in two separate incidents were killed by the religious extremist elements. Whereas, a church in Shahdara, Lahore was burnt by the extremist mob.

A couple of days ago, a Christian girl in Sialkot was attacked by a local Muslim man. He threw acid on her face only because she refused to convert. She was in critical condition at the Mue Hospital, Lahore and after going through lots of pain and misery, she died. May her soul Rest in Peace!

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, President Bishop, Church of Pakistan took strict notice of all these incidents and with a heavy heart strongly condemned these heinous crimes against the vulnerable Christian community in Pakistan. He demanded the Government to protect the religious minorities and to beef-up security at their worship places.

It is pertinent to mention that this kind news hardly ever appear in printed or electronic media. However, the social media is more active in spreading news of the violence against Christians and the other religious minorities.



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