



# THE FRONTIER NEWS

August: 2023

Diocese of Peshawar – Church of Pakistan



A Church in Jaranwala, desecrated and destroyed

## Again Churches and Christian Houses Torched 'The Jaranwala Tragic Incident'

Jaranwala, August 16, 2023, Two Christian men, one of them son of a Pastor were accused of desecration of the Holy Quran Verses. An old and tested accusation used to take out personal vendetta against Christians in Pakistan, using the legal cover of Article 295-C and 295-B which is used as a tool by the extremist against religious minorities in Pakistan.

The news of alleged blasphemy by two Christian men was spread like a fire of jungle through loud speakers of the Mosques by Molanas (Muslim Priest) As a result the furious mobs attacked the Churches and homes of the Christian inhabitants. They burnt and desecrated the Holy Books, destroyed Churches, looted and plundered the homes of vulnerable Christian community, while all this was happening the Police and other law enforcing agencies did not prevent or intervene.

Bishop Humphrey S. Peters, Diocese of Peshawar, Church of Pakistan in various press conferences throughout Pakistan highly condemned the tragic incident, and informed that 27 Churches have been burnt and desecrated, whereas around 100 houses have also been burnt and plundered. Bishop Humphrey S. Peters accused and held responsible the Ministry of Religious Affairs for not promoting Interfaith

harmony and not taking initiatives to promote a culture of the religious harmony and tolerance. He also accused Ministry of Education for not educating the masses that religious minorities also have equal rights as any other Pakistani. The Interior Ministry was accused for not protecting the religious minorities against such incidents.

He further said these incidents started in 1997 and since then instead of promoting and introducing Legislation of Harmony, Tolerance and Peace, the Pakistani policy makers promoted gulf, differences and intolerance in country.

The Covenant of St. Catharine made in 625 AD by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) with Christian is a beautiful example of the acceptance of other religions., and any breach of the Covenant was regarded as an act of treachery.

Similarly, another example of tolerance shown by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to other religions was the Treaty of Madina.. Thus, clear laws were laid down to ensure the peaceful co-existence of Muslims, and other religions. . Therefore, all parties were to obey what was mentioned in the Charter.



### Individual Highlights

- Jaranwal Incident 1
- Women Council.... 2
- Youth Council 2
- Diocesan Council ... . 3
- Diocesan School..... 3

### Jaranwala incident in images



## Women Council



Group photo of the Women Council participants with honorable Bishop



The Diocesan Women Council, 2023 was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar

After the Holy Communion Service and the Roll Call, Bishop Humphrey Peter warmly welcomed participants of the Women Council, and shed light on importance of Women in the Diocese. At this occasion the report was jointly presented by Mrs. Neelam Akmal and Mrs. Noreen.

The new office bearers of Women Council are as follows;

- 1- Mrs. Shakeela Salamat  
President
- 2- Mrs. Margret- Vice Present
- 3- Miss. Naheed Naz – General Secretary
- 4- Mrs. Ambreen Ghazi – Treasurer

At this occasion women committees were also formed and the new

convainers are;

- 1- Ms. Nurgis – Central Deanery
- 2- Ms. Asia - Southern Deanery
- 3- Mrs. Salomi-Northern Deanery

Later, the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters, in his address to the women appreciated their efforts and hard work for the uplift of their respective Deaneries and of the Diocese. He further said that it is expected of them that they will work with utmost honesty for the overall development of the Christian Community in the years to come.

The program ended with prayer and blessings by the Bishop. Later, during the refreshment the Bishop mingled with the participants, exchange greetings and pleasantries, and appreciated everybody for making the event a success.



## Youth Council



Group photo of Youth Council participants

The Diocesan Youth was held under the chairmanship of the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters on August, 23, 2023, at the Diocesan Centre, Peshawar. The Youth members and leaders from all over the province were among the participants.

The Revd. Joseph John led the prayer, and Holy Communion Service. Whereas, the Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters in his welcome address appreciated the hard work and efforts of the Youth in their tenure .

The Revd. Yousaf. TM Azam, Secretary (Acting) Mission & Ministry Sector gave a briefing regarding Youth Council. The Revd. Alexander Mehboob, Youth Desk Coordinator's presented Youth Desk report which was much appreciated by the Chair and the Council participants.

Later, Election of the Youth Council held and before the Oath taking Ceremony of the new members gratitude was expressed for the previous office bearers of the Youth Desk. The new Officer . of the Youth Desk are Dr Raheel Khokar. President , Miss. Samantha Vice. President, Mr. Youas Shaleem General Secretary, Miss. Zoia Wilson , Treasurer After the oath ceremony, the Council ended with prayers .





**Diocesan New Office bearers with honorable Bishop**



**Ishbeel Tariq**

Ishbeel Tariq , a student of Edwards College School (Main Campus) cleared his O-Level exams with distinction, and also won an overseas Students Exchange Program Scholarship, between Pakistan and the USA.



declining. He further said that the other religious minorities are getting ahead of us. Therefore, it is a wakeup call for us all. The Bishop also mentioned that as a Diocese it is our duty to uplift Ecumenical relationship as well.

Later, the Revd. Shahid Younas, Acting Diocesan Secretary presented progress report of the Diocesan Sectors which was much appreciated by the audience.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Triennial Diocesan Council, 2023 was held on 25<sup>th</sup> August at Diocesan Centre, Peshawar.

First of all, participants in the morning congregated at the St. John's Cathedral for worship and Holy Communion Service led by the Revd. Joseph John.

Later, in formal opening of the Bishop Humphrey Peters welcomed the participants, and after the roll call agenda was approved along with nomination of the minutes secretaries and of the nomination committee.

The Rt. Revd. Humphrey S. Peters in his Bishop's Charge mentioned the present socio-economical and political status of the Christian community which he said was

The following were selected as Diocesan officers for the year 2023-2026

- 1- The Revd.Rafiq Javed , Vice President Clergy
- 2- Dr. Nadeem Hadayat, Vice President Laity
- 3- The Revd. Shahid Younas, Diocesan Secretary
- 4- Mrs. Sarophina P. Asghar, Treasurer.

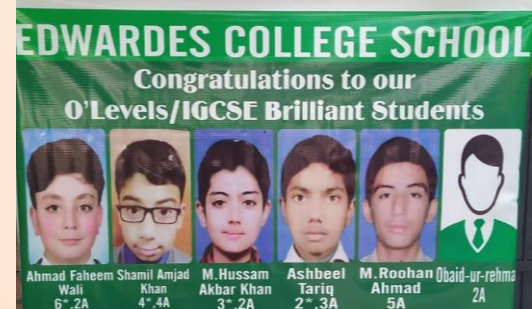
All the participants unanimously agreed and approved of the new nominations.

The program ended with prayers and blessings by the Bishop.

It's a one year program and students are accommodated with a family of the host country. Thus, they get an opportunity not only to gain excellence in Education but they also get the knowledge of the host County's culture, language and of the society as a whole. Exposure of this level boosts their confidence and further helps in their Character building in the years to come.

However, it is pertinent to mention that the Teachers and Administration of the Edwards College School, (Main Campus) have their major contribution in making their students achieve success at local , national and international levels.

***It is needles to mention that most of the Diocesan Schools have shown 100% result in the recent S.S.C (Secondary School Certificate) Examination in the Province.***



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