

KARAM FESTIVAL

Vibrancy, Tradition, and Togetherness

1 5 T H O C T O B E R 2 0 2 3



On the auspicious day of 15th October 2023, Good Shepherd Church and Convent bore witness to an enchanting and vibrant celebration of the Karam Festival. This joyous occasion brought together over a thousand migrants from diverse backgrounds, creating an atmosphere of grandeur and cultural richness that was nothing short of spectacular.

Before delving into the details of this memorable event, it's essential to understand the essence of the Karam Festival. This harvest festival is primarily celebrated by tribal communities hailing from regions such as Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Odisha, and even Bangladesh. It pays tribute to the revered Karam tree, symbolizing fertility, prosperity, and all things auspicious.

A Glimpse into the Karam Festival

The Karam Festival celebration on 15th October 2023 began with a solemn Holy Mass in Hindi, setting the spiritual tone for the day's festivities. The church was filled to capacity, and the air was charged with anticipation. To add a touch of tradition and splendor, ladies adorned in vibrant ethnic attire entered the church, performing a graceful dance that captured the essence of the festival.



KARAM FESTIVAL



Another captivating dance followed, paying homage to the rituals associated with the Karam tree. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Glasten Gonsalves, Fr. Joseph SVD, Fr. Ajit Kujur, and Fr. Sunil Tirkey delivering an inspiring and insightful homily. A third dance was performed during the offertory procession, symbolizing the offering of gratitude and prosperity.

After the Holy Mass, the congregation was invited to gather at the Sarita Lawns of the Good Shepherd Convent, where the excitement continued to build. What had started as a gathering of a thousand grew to nearly 2000 as more people joined in the festivities. Fr. Glasten (Director for Archdiocesan Migrant Commission), Fr. Anil Rego (GSC Parish Priest), Frs Sunil Tirkey and Fr. Ajit Kujur SJ, graced the event, and a traditional tribal welcome was extended to all the priests in attendance. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp added an extra touch of significance to the event.



Throughout the evening, children, women, and men delighted the audience with captivating dance performances that provided a glimpse into the life and traditions of their respective homes. A video presentation was also screened, giving attendees an insight into the diverse programmes hosted at the Good Shepherd Convent. As the day's celebrations drew to a close, everyone was treated to a delicious snack and a refreshing bottle of water, concluding the event with a sense of fulfilment and excitement.





The Karam Festival celebration at Good Shepherd Church and Convent on 15th October 2023 was more than just a cultural event; it was a testimony to the unifying power of traditions, the resilience of community, and the spirit of togetherness that defines the essence of festivals like Karam. It was a day when a diverse group of individuals came together to honour their roots and forge deeper connections in their shared cultural tapestry

