

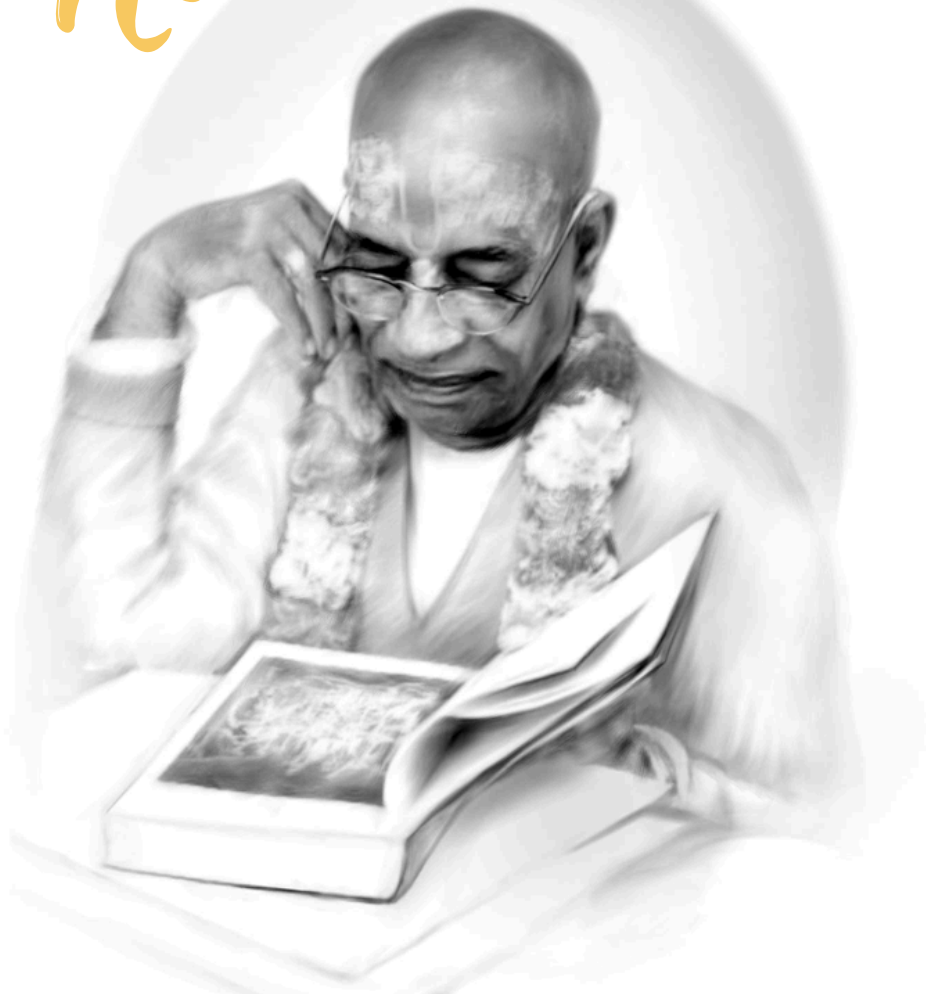


ISKCON[®]

DUBLIN

Newsletter

July Edition





Yash Pr, Mariana Mataji, HG Manu Pr, HG Abhay Giriraj Pr, Sunil Pr and Kaushal Pr (from left to right)



"Distribution of books and magazines is our most important activity. Without books, our preaching has no solid basis." - Srila Prabhupada.

ISKCON Dublin team does Harinam and book distribution on O'Connell street every Saturday from 2pm - 5 pm. To support Srila Prabhupada's preaching mission, several book distributors from all over Ireland distribute books in their cities.

1,519 Srila Prabhupada books were distributed in second quarter of 2024 and a total of **2,394** books were distributed till July month.

It could be a challenge at times to go out on the street approaching strangers to take our books but book distribution teaches us humility which is a very important element to progress in Bhakti. At times, we realize how important it is to surrender to Krishna and Srila Prabhupada when we start getting rejections from the people on the streets; after all, we are just His instruments trying to serve Him. We have also started door to door book distribution now every Thursday.

The goal for 2024 is to distribute over **11,000** Srila Prabhupada books and over **1,500** Bhagavad Gitas. Come join us every Thursday for door to door book distribution and Saturdays to chant the Holy Name on the streets of Dublin and support Srila Prabhupada's book distribution mission.



Friday Night Kirtan with HG Manu Prabhu



Join us for an enriching and spiritually uplifting evening at ISKCON Dublin! Our Friday Night Kirtan event is a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the transcendental vibrations of devotional chanting and gain deeper insights into the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita.



HG Manu Prabhu giving Bhagavad Gita Talks

The evening begins with enlightening Bhagavad Gita talks from **6:00 to 7:00 PM**. These discussions are designed to provide profound understanding and practical applications of the Gita's teachings in our daily lives. Whether you are new to the Bhagavad Gita or have been studying it for years, these talks will offer fresh perspectives and inspiration. HG Manu Prabhu shares the deep knowledge with enthusiasm and clarity, making the ancient scripture accessible and relevant to everyone. From **7:00 to 9:00 PM**, join us for blissful kirtan, a soul-stirring experience of singing and chanting the holy names of the Lord. Kirtan is a powerful form of devotional music that helps to connect the heart with the divine. Led by talented and passionate kirtanias, the chanting creates an atmosphere of joy, peace, and spiritual upliftment.



Attendees mesmerised and participating in Kirtan

Our Friday Night Kirtan is more than just an event; it's a community gathering that fosters a sense of belonging and spiritual camaraderie. It's an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals, share in devotional service.

Expanding the outreach of Sunday Love Feast



Organised Sunday Harinam and love feast in Bray

The Sunday Feast Program, affectionately known as the Sunday Love Feast, is a cornerstone event within the spiritual community, attended by approximately 100 individuals weekly. This program was first organised by HDG Srila Prabhupad at 26th Avenue store front, New York in 1966, when the movement was pretty new and eventually became a way for devotees to connect with new people. Managed by HG Sugati Achyut Prabhu, this program nurtures spiritual growth, fosters community connection, and deepens understanding of devotional service.

Recently, efforts has been made to connect other cities like Bray and Cork with our ISKCON Dublin through street Harinaam and feast programs. The programs provided a supportive influence for the community where new well-wishers learnt about spirituality and holy name. Embodying ISKCON's ethos by offering opportunities for devotional practices, spiritual discussions, and communal fellowship, inspiring a life of purpose and devotion.



Organised Sunday Harinam and love feast in Cork

Food For Life with Keith Eustace Prabhu



Keith Eustace Prabhu

Dear Devotees,
Please accept my humble obeisances.

Since the last newsletter, thanks to the grace of Lord Krishna and Prabhupada, we have prepared and distributed **1827** plates of prasad, **averaging 152** plates per week, with a total of **3,505 plates** distributed. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Since the last time I wrote to you, our two Ukrainian devotees and chefs, Gokulavasi Prabhu and Agninayani Manjari Devi Dasi, have returned home, and I have taken on the cooking responsibilities. Sometimes, I am ably assisted by Manoj Kumar, Irina, and Vlad. Several soup runs, similar to Prabhupada's Food For Life program, have been contacted by the charities regulator and told to stop. Thanks to Krishna's mercy and the tireless work of countless devotees, our program can avail of these resources. Therefore, I predict that Prabhupada's program will become increasingly important and necessary in the future.

I would like to express my gratitude to:

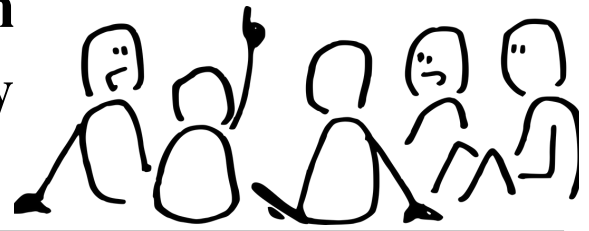
- All the devotees who have helped the program financially and those who have helped distribute the prasad;
- HG Goloka Mataji and HG Krishna Karuna Sindhu Prabhu for tolerating amateurs using the kitchen;
- HG Manu Prabhu, HG Jivana Prabhu and HG Jai Jagganath Prabhu for your guidance and support;
- Yash Gulve Prabhu for organizing the purchase of the containers, spoons, cups, and lids;
- Abhirai Prabhu for making a promotional video for instagram.
- Ishani Mataji, Irina Mataji, Vlad Mataji, Kshama Mataji, Laura Ortu Mataji and Manoj Kumar Prabhu for the help in the kitchen and distribution;
- All the staff in Govinda for your support and help with the heavy lifting;
- Srila Prabhupada, thank you for all that you did;
- Lord Krishna, please accept my humble obeisances. I hope you will approve of this service as a token of our love for you.

If I have omitted anyone from this list, please forgive. It's not that I don't appreciate what you do or what you did; it is merely an oversight on my part.

Haribol!



Tasting nectar with Bhagwad Gita Ashray Group



HG Abhay Giriraj Prabhu giving session on Sri Chaitanya Charitamrit

The Bhagavad Gita Ashray group recently initiated a discourse on a profound spiritual book Chaitanya Charitamrita translated by HDG Srila Prabhupad, under the guidance of HG Abhay Giriraj Prabhu. The inaugural session delved deeply into the science of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, offering an insightful and enlightening experience for all attendees. For many, it was their first exposure to the profound teachings of the Chaitanya Charitamrita, and the depth of the discussion left an everlasting impact.

Participants were visibly moved at the same time eager to understand more with their hearts and minds opened to new dimensions of spiritual philosophy. The discourse not only provided a deeper understanding of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's teachings but also fostered a sense of community and shared purpose. This initiative marks a significant step in nurturing spiritual growth and spreading the timeless wisdom of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. The evening concluded on a delightful note with a sumptuous prasadam feast, lovingly prepared and served.



Attendees honoring prasadam post session

Nurturing Spiritual Growth at Krishna Club

This year, under the guidance of HG Madhvi Manjushashi Mataji, the Krishna Club has made significant strides in fostering spiritual growth and community engagement. A notable highlight is the programs conducted at the ISKCON temple, where members participated in various enriching activities, captured beautifully in the below photograph.



Inframe: HG Manu Prabhu, HG Madhvi Manjushashi Mataji, and members of the Krishna Club

Innovative interventions have been introduced, including weekly online kirtan training and offline instrument sessions at the temple for Mridanga, Kartal, and Harmonium. These training programs have been instrumental for children in enhancing their musical devotion. The summer camp at Bray Beach was a delightful success, featuring Hare Krishna kirtan alongside art and craft activities like coloring, bookmark making, and flower crafting. These activities have provided children with an avenue to hone their creative skills.

Krishna club has also initiated monthly Bhagavatam sloka recitations online for children who have completed reading the Bhagavad Gita. Looking ahead, the club anticipate Ramayana sessions in September with an esteemed speaker from abroad and a comprehensive Bhagavad Gita workshop in December. Currently, children are diligently preparing to recite the Jaggannathashtakam and Dashavatara Stotram for

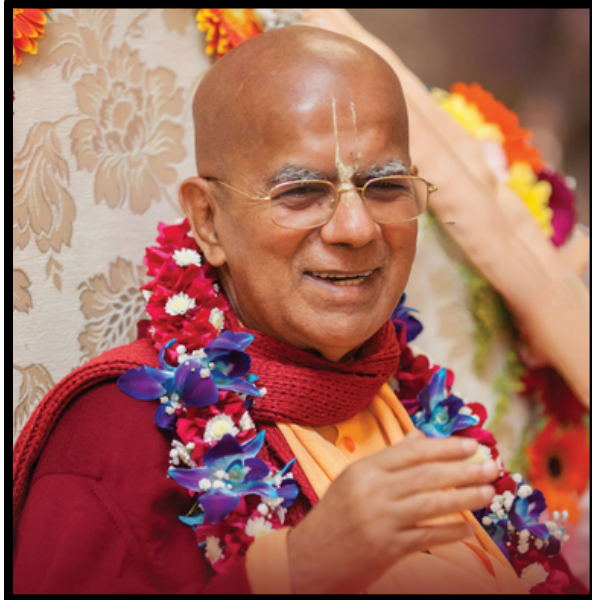


Glimpse of the online evening classes on bead chanting and holy name invocation

the upcoming Rathayatra. Daily Namajapa sessions and evening classes are organised at 7:30 PM on bead chanting and holy name invocation. These are among the most treasured services offered by the Krishna Club. Through these initiatives, the club continue to inspire and nurture the spiritual journey of young members in Dublin, Ireland.

The unwavering support of parent volunteers, along with the dedicated efforts of Tamana Thakker Mataji, Ghiridhar Iyer Prabhu, Manoj Prabhu, Shyam Prabhu and Kaushal Agarwal Prabhu, has been pivotal in making these initiatives successful. Together, they are creating a nurturing and spiritually enriching environment for our community.

The Foremost ISKCON Man - His Holiness Gopal Krishna Goswami



HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj

The contribution of HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj to the ISKCON movement has been impactful. Maharaj, concluded his pastimes on May 5, 2024, while being a pivotal figure within ISKCON, known for his humility, dedication, and profound spiritual guidance. Throughout his 58 years of service, he established over 50 temples and guided nearly 5000 disciples. His leadership extended globally, including significant work in countries like Russia, China, and Pakistan. His unwavering commitment to Srila Prabhupada's mission and his personal sacrifices have left a lasting legacy, inspiring countless devotees. Many senior ISKCON leaders and devotees, highlighted Maharaja's exceptional qualities and his influence in expanding and nurturing the ISKCON community.

Maharaj has been beloved spiritual guide to nearly 5000 disciples. He was known for his personal care and attention to each disciple's spiritual progress, offering guidance, encouragement, and support.

Maharaj's life was marked by personal sacrifices for the mission of Srila Prabhupada. He met Srila Prabhupada in Montreal in 1968, which became a turning point in his spiritual journey. He was captivated by Prabhupada's teachings and decided to dedicate his life to Krishna Consciousness. His efforts were instrumental in expanding ISKCON's presence in countries like Russia, China, and Pakistan, where he overcame numerous challenges to spread the teachings of Krishna.

Remembering his contributions and sacrifices, devotees at ISKCON Dublin celebrated his commemoration day with hours of evening kirtan followed by glorifications from his disciples and also those who were aspiring. The melodious chants of the Holy Names echoed through the temple, as devotees poured their hearts into the kirtan, remembering the tireless efforts and inspirational leadership of Maharaja. Each speaker shared personal anecdotes and reflections, highlighting Maharaja's immense impact on their spiritual lives.



Celebrating commemoration of Maharaj at ISKCON Dublin



Harinaam Ruci Group blessed Dublin with their presence



Seventeen years ago, HH MahaVishnu Swami Maharaj from UK inspired by his three-month stay with the international Harinam party in Mayapur, (the birthplace of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu in West Bengal), Maharaj founded the Harinaam Ruci group. Since its inception, Harinaam Ruci has visited over forty countries on five continents, including South Africa, Mexico, the USA, Peru, Brazil, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, India, Nepal, Japan, Thailand, and numerous European nations.

The Harinaam Ruci group is driven by an unquenchable thirst to spread the messages of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Srila Prabhupada to every corner of the planet, regardless of how remote or unconventional. Their mission is fueled by a deep love for kirtan and a desire to share the joy of chanting the Holy Names with everyone they meet.



His Holiness Mahavishnu Swami

Recently, the vibrant streets of Dublin City Centre were graced with the presence of Harinaam Ruci. Their arrival brought an infectious energy that captivated people of all ages, ethnicities, and origins. HH MahaVishnu Swami Maharaj, with his boundless enthusiasm, led the group in a dynamic Harinaam Sankirtan, twirling and engaging everyone in the joyous chanting and dancing.

The atmosphere in Dublin transformed as the melodious kirtans resonated through the streets. Passersby were drawn in by the harmonious sounds and the palpable joy emanating from the devotees.

It was a beautiful sight to see people from diverse backgrounds coming together, united by the uplifting power of the Holy Names. Harinaam Ruci's visit to Dublin was more than just a performance; it was a heartfelt expression of devotion and a testament to the universal appeal of Krishna Consciousness. The group's dedication to their mission was evident as they fearlessly spread love, joy, and spiritual awareness, one chant at a time. Their unstoppable spirit and unwavering commitment to their cause left a lasting impression on everyone who witnessed their kirtan. The event reminded us all of the transformative power of devotion and the importance of spreading positivity and love in the world.

Their journey is far from over, and their dedication to spreading the divine message remains unwavering. We look forward to witnessing more of their inspiring performances and the boundless joy they bring to communities worldwide.



Maharaj getting ready for Harinaam with his associates





HG Sharad Purnima Prabhu and HG Smita Krishna Prabhu with HG Manu Prabhu(left side). Their kirtan sandhya with devotees at ISKCON Dublin



The Dublin ISKCON community recently experienced a splendid spiritual celebration, graced by the presence of two esteemed devotees from Vrindavan, **HG Sharad Purnima Prabhu and HG Smita Krishna Prabhu** of the renowned 24x7 Vrindavan kirtan mandali. Their visit infused kirtan festival with an extraordinary Harinaam vibrancy, making it a cherished memory for all attendees at temple.

HG Sharad Purnima Prabhu and HG Smita Krishna Prabhu led the devotees in enchanting melodies, their devotion palpable in every note. The rhythmic beats of the mridanga and the harmonious tunes of the kartals echoed the timeless chants of the Holy Names, transporting everyone to the spiritual realm of Vrindavan. It was an evening where hearts connected, and souls soared in the collective devotion to the Lordships.

As the sun set, the celebration reached its zenith with the uplifting Gaur Arati. The sight of devotees offering lamps, flowers, and prayers to the deities was a mesmerizing spectacle of devotion and unity. The Gaur Arati, a beacon of divine light, illuminated the gathering with a sense of profound spiritual fulfillment. HG Sharad Purnima Prabhu and HG Smita Krishna Prabhu's presence made the Gaur Arati even more special, as their fervent devotion inspired everyone present.

The evening concluded on a high note with a sumptuous prasadam feast. The delicious offerings, prepared with love and devotion, were served to all attendees, filling their hearts and souls with joy. The community came together, sharing not just a meal but the essence of spiritual camaraderie. It was a delightful conclusion to the day's devotional offerings, leaving everyone with a sense of contentment and divine satisfaction.

A Tale of Resilience and Devotion: The Journey of Govindas' in Dublin

In the mid-80s, Dublin witnessed the humble beginnings of ISKCON's culinary journey with the Golden Avatar restaurant. Between 1986 and 1987, this restaurant, sustained under Praghosa Prabhu's management, setting the stage for future possibilities and ultimately a remarkable chapter in the promotion of Krishna conscious food in Ireland. At that time, he had not yet assumed the service of GBC but the seeds of a significant venture had already been sown.

Then, on April 1, 1998, the first Govinda's restaurant opened its doors on 4 Aungier Street, Dublin 2. The motivational push to reestablish this presence in Dublin came from Sivarama Swami, and with the support of a dedicated group in Wicklow, Praghosa Prabhu took the plunge with his wife HG Goloka Mataji to make it happen. After signing a long lease on a very wet December day in 1997 Praghosa left the solicitors office and went to the premises. Outside he stood still while gazing upon the wet, empty street and was very worried that the venture might fail.

However with the lease now signed what could he do other than have faith in Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna that somehow or another things would work out. Miraculously, by the time the restaurant opened its doors a few months later, Praghosa only had 400 Irish pounds (about 500 euro) left in the bank account. Thankfully though, once the doors opened, at least 150 customers were coming in daily, with a healthy mix of 40% repeat and 60% new patrons. Govinda's on Aungier Street soon became a thriving and beloved establishment, with media coverage from radio and newspapers amplifying the reach. Praghosa Prabhu and Goloka Mataji also catered to various dignitaries, including the entire Dublin City Council, musicians, and media personnel etc.

Over the next 21 years an estimated million plus meals had been served, touching countless lives and spreading awareness of Srila Prabhupada's mission in Dublin. So ISKCON had very much reestablished its presence again in the capital city. This heralded in a renewed optimism, not just because of that presence but also because there was a real sense that this initiative would be sustainable and long lasting, as it was based on one of ISKCON's core activities, prasadam distribution. Previously ISKCON had tended to rely on other less stable income streams that were also not directly connected to Krishna consciousness, in the way that prasadam distribution is. The next step in the overall masterplan was to secure a larger property than the one on Aungier Street, a property that could also facilitate a temple. Given property prices and rents in Dublin, this was a small feat. However, the success of the Govinda's



Govindas' Restaurant, Middle Abbey Street



Aungier Street was pivotal, as it enabled, via reputation and financial stability, the opening of a new Govinda's restaurant on Middle Abbey Street in 2004, which remains operational today. The Middle Abbey Govinda's had its own set of challenges. Securing the property via leasing and later by purchasing, obtaining health authority approvals, and ensuring profitability were significant hurdles. However the financial success of Aungier Street allowed Praghosa Prabhu and his team to secure a substantial loan to establish the Middle Abbey Street location.

Key supporters like HG Manu Prabhu, HG Goloka Mataji, and HG Ishani Mataji offered their homes as collateral. Underscoring the community's faith in the mission of Srila Prabhupada and indeed those devotee's detachment!

Meanwhile Govinda's Aungier Street was coming to the end of its lease and in order to renew that lease, the landlord wanted both a long lease to be signed, as well as more than doubling the annual rent from 32,000 euro to 75,000. So it was mutually agreed by Praghosa and the landlord to vacate the premises at the end of 2019 and solely focus on Govinda's of Middle Abbey Street. This very much turned out to what we refer to as 'Krishna's arrangement' because just a couple of months later the whole world was in a Covid lockdown and it would have been all but impossible for Govinda's Aungier Street to have remained viable in such circumstances.

However the impact of Govinda's Aungier Street has been profound. Even today, people fondly recall their experiences. Praghosa Prabhu explains; "Recently there was a poignant moment, I was walking on the beach with Goloka when a man recognised us. He had visited Govinda's' back in 2015 and spoke with us for around 15 minutes about how much he missed the food, the tradition, and also the chanting. He is retired now but was a professor, and his heartfelt appreciation was a testament to the deep connection we fostered with our patrons."

Looking ahead, the vision of Praghosa Prabhu and other senior devotees is to again expand Govinda's' presence across Ireland. Praghosa Prabhu pushes the idea of mobile restaurants, like a food trucks, which is feasible and reliable if implemented. He says, "This dream is not just about serving food; it's about spreading the joy and spiritual fulfilment that prasadam brings. My ultimate goal would be to have a Govinda's in every county in Ireland, softening hearts and expanding the reach of Krishna consciousness through the universal language of food." The journey of Govinda's in Dublin is a tale of unwavering dedication, community support, and the transformative power of prasadam. Together, we continue to dream big, aspiring to bring the essence of Govinda's to every corner of Ireland.





Arjuna's Moral and Spiritual Difficulties

-By Chetanaya Kandhari



With his eyes full of tears, and his mind depressed, Arjuna uttered the following words, asking the supreme personality of godhead, Krishna, to be his savior to help him understand the principles of religion to do what was right:

kārpaṇya-doṣopahata-svabhāvaḥ
pṛcchāmi tvāṁ dharma-sammūḍha-cetāḥ
yac chreyaḥ syān niścitaṁ brūhi tan me
śiṣyas te 'haṁ śādhi māṁ tvāṁ prapannam

“Now I am confused about my duty and have lost all composure because of miserly weakness. In this condition, I am asking You to tell me for certain what is best for me. Now I am Your disciple, and a soul surrendered unto You. Please instruct me.” (BG, 2.7)

Our mind is very good at coming up with excuses and finding loopholes in what we ought to do to escape hardship and to find things that are easy to do, like explaining to your friends why it is okay for you to not sleep on time, to not wake up early, to not exercise, or to eat a lot of junk food even when we know it ruins our health. Just like all of us, Arjuna did the very same thing on the eve of the great battle of Mahabharata, when he said, “Govinda, I shall not fight.” (BG, 2.9)

The sight of the venerable preceptors, sires, grandsires, sons, and grandsons, including his grand-uncle Bhishma and his guru Dronācharya on the opposing side had filled Arjuna with doubt and despair. The battle of Mahabharata was a civil war between the stepbrothers Pandavas and Kauravas of the Kuru royal family for the right to rule over the kingdom. Arjuna was on the side of Pandavas, who were righteous and although the first in line to ascend to the throne; had suffered greatly at the hands of Kauravas.

Not only did the Kauravas take away the throne and all their belongings, treacherously in a gambling match, but they also banished the Pandavas for thirteen years and even insulted their wife Draupadi in the royal assembly. Yet, even so, Arjuna, who was a renowned bowman and one of the greatest warriors of the era wanted to give up on fighting. At that time when the warlords on both sides were in their chariots, the conch shells had been sounded, and the fatal arrows were about to fly, Arjuna did not know whether to fight or flee from the battlefield. He shares his feelings with Krishna, whom he had invited to be his charioteer, giving him a myriad of reasons for his unwillingness to fight.

First, he felt compassion for the innocent soldiers and righteous family members who will die in the battle. Second, Arjuna reasoned that he would not get any enjoyment or pleasure after having killed his family members, with no one left to share his joy of victory. Third, Arjuna felt a fear of incurring sins from the karmic reaction of killing others, which will lead to suffering. Fourth, if the elders of his family were to die, there would be an absence of guidance for younger generations of the royal family, which will lead to chaos in the society.



For Arjuna, who knew he should be giving his all to the upcoming battle, but was instead wavering at this eleventh hour, each of these arguments seemed to be a clear and logical reason to not fight. Being compassionate and soft-hearted by nature, he felt sympathy for the opposing side and did not want to see huge bloodshed. But to Arjuna, the deed itself was not dreadful. As a Kshatriya warrior, he had done it over and over again. But it was made dreadful by the victims being his kinsmen. Had they been ‘others’ and not his kinsmen, Arjuna’s mind would not have wavered for even a single moment.

Just like in our lives, we give excuses to our friends to make ourselves feel better about the decisions we take, Arjuna did the very same thing with Krishna, in tears, looking for some sympathy. But, what did Krishna do? He humiliates Arjuna and speaks crudely, giving the latter a wake-up call, asking that in this hour of crisis, where are these impure thoughts and this lamentation coming from?

śrī-bhagavān uvāca
kutas tvā kaśmalam idaṁ viṣame samupasthitam
anārya-juṣṭam asvargyam akīrti-karam arjuna

klaibyaṁ mā sma gamaḥ pārtha naitat tvayy upapadyate
kṣudraṁ hṛdaya-daurbalyaṁ tyaktvottiṣṭha paran-tapa

“The Supreme Personality of Godhead said:

My dear Arjuna, how have these impurities come upon you? They are not at all befitting a man who knows the value of life. They lead not to higher planets but to infamy.

O son of Pṛthā, do not yield to this degrading impotence. It does not become you. Give up such petty weakness of heart and arise, O chastiser of the enemy.” (BG, 2.2-2.3)

Krishna reminds Arjuna of the duty of being a Kshatriya. A duty to which he was born, the fulfilling of, and not running away from, which led to heaven and glory. Further, Krishna characterizes Arjuna’s attitude as unworthy of the civilized class of men known as Aryans, or persons who know the value of life and have a civilization based on spiritual realization. Although Arjuna was a Kshatriya, he was deviating from his prescribed duties by declining to fight.

Krishna tells Arjuna to yield not to impotence or unmanliness; reminding the latter that his decision to not fight is irresponsible of a Kshatriya and that it is the cowardice in Arjuna that is making the plea for non-resistance. Further, reminds Arjuna of his great battle prowess and tells him to fight. In our own lives as well, this guidance is as applicable as it was to Arjuna. Just like the battle of Mahabharata, each one of us has to fight a battle every day of our lives. This battle is not a physical one, but rather spiritual in nature. It could be to get along with difficult people, work in a difficult job, deal with a bad financial situation, ill health or loneliness, or a combination of all these factors. And in front of this battle that faces us every day, we must not find reasons to justify ourselves to take the easy way out of such situations.

Finally, each one of us needs to study the Bhagwad Gita as it will be of great help, strength, peace, and wisdom to us. Realize that the teacher is no ordinary person; it is Sri Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead! The words in Bhagwat Gita are the very words uttered by the lord himself and the teachings have a practical use for each of us in our daily lives.

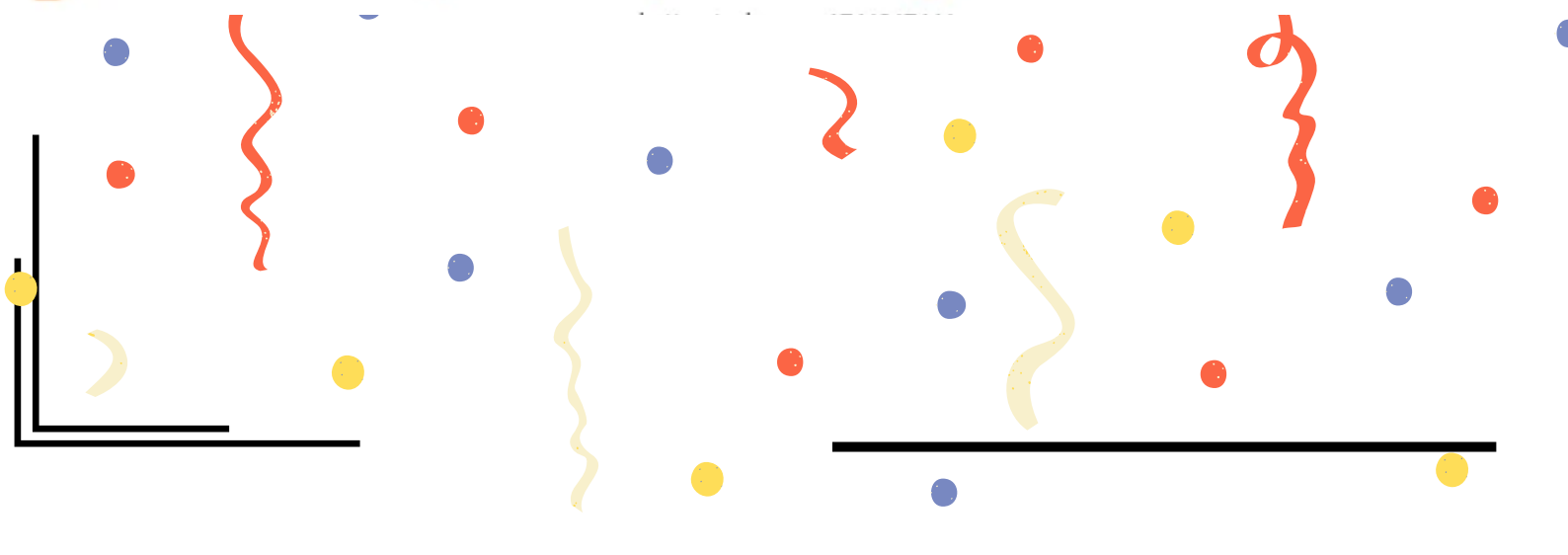


ISKCON[®]
DUBLIN



FESTIVALS

AT GLANCE





NARSHIMHA CHATURDASHI



JAGANNATH SNAN YATRA





About a Devotee → From a Devotee



**HG Sugati Achyut Prabhu -
ISKCON
Dublin Temple Manager**

My journey into Krishna Consciousness began in 2005, inspired by my elder brother who, after attending ISKCON Youth Forum classes, introduced our entire family to the path. Coming from a Hindu Brahmin family and being natives of Mathura, the transition was smooth and natural. Even before joining ISKCON, we were frequent visitors to Vrindavan, which made adopting Krishna Consciousness practices an even greater blessing. My journey officially started with weekly programs at ISKCON Punjabi Bagh in Delhi, where I began chanting. Reflecting on my childhood, I vividly remember the grace of Lord Jagannath during Rath Yatra processions near

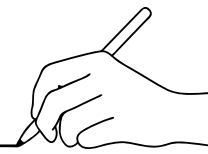
our home which I later became a part of, serving Lord Jagannath on the cart. This was a clear manifestation of divine blessings. As a child, I attended the Bhakta Prahalad School, a children's program at the temple, while my parents attended their classes. This early education in Krishna Consciousness laid a strong foundation. By age 16, I joined the ISKCON Youth Forum, where my understanding deepened through systematic classes and association. In 2010, my parents, brother, and sister received initiation from HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Guru Maharaj, which inspired me to seek shelter under him as well. Engaged in preaching activities and fundraising for festivals and Rath Yatra, I was blessed to receive initiation from HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Guru Maharaj on 19 September 2016 at ISKCON Rohini, Delhi. It was his mercy that propelled me to serve in the Deities and Pujari departments at ISKCON Rohini for many years. Additionally, I served as a Lifetime Membership Preacher, focusing on temple construction fundraising.

Relocating to Dublin in 2021 opened new avenues for service. By Guru Maharaj's mercy, I found numerous opportunities to serve the devotees and the temple. I initiated the Sunday Love Feast Program post-COVID-19, reviving community preaching activities. As the Temple Manager for the past 2.5 years, I have overseen various temple activities and festival arrangements, including Janmastami.

My love for cooking finds expression in preparing prasadam for weekly programs and festivals. Actively involved in the Dublin Rath Yatra, I relish the blessings of Lord Jagannath. In 2023, we celebrated the largest Janmastami festival in Dublin, with over 2000 guests, and eagerly anticipate Janmastami 2024.

A significant milestone in my spiritual journey was receiving second initiation from HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Guru Maharaj on 30 March 2024. This deepened my commitment and dedication to serving the Lord and the devotee community. Together, we aim to expand our reach by organizing engaging public events, creating enriching programs for the youth, and fostering a supportive environment for personal growth through workshops and counseling. Guided by the teachings of our esteemed Gurus and Srila Prabhupada, we are dedicated to serving Radha and Krishna with unwavering devotion, collectively nurturing a spiritually vibrant and inspiring community.

EDITOR'S COLUMNS



EDITOR in CHIEF
Kshama Pandey
ISKCON Dublin

Welcome to the second edition of our ISKCON Dublin newsletter. We are thrilled to share the latest updates and events within our vibrant community. Recently, we celebrated several joyous festivals, uniting devotees for devotional service, kirtans, and prasad. Heartfelt thanks to all who participated and made these events successful.

We are excited to announce our ambitious project to construct a new temple, which will serve as a spiritual oasis and include our beloved cow service program. Your generous donations and support are crucial in bringing this vision to life. Mark your calendars for the upcoming Rathayatra festivals in Cork, Belfast, and Dublin. These events are wonderful opportunities to spread the message of Lord Jagannath and share the joy of devotional service with the wider community.

We deeply appreciate the continued support and dedication of our community. Your participation—whether attending events, volunteering, or donating—keeps our community strong and thriving.

Thank you for being part of our spiritual family and special thanks to Abhishek Ashish for helping me in carrying the newsletter initiative. We look forward to sharing more updates and celebrating many more festivals with you in the future.

Connect with us:

 www.instagram.com/iskcondublin?igsh=d2JraGZpZXZkc3Rn

 m.facebook.com/dublindrishna



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We have now taken the second step towards this incredible initiative and launching second edition of our ISKCON Dublin newsletter. Your appreciation and support for our first edition have been truly heartwarming, and we are deeply grateful for your encouragement.

In this edition, we aim to continue spreading awareness about the grassroots efforts being undertaken within our community. These stories showcase the dedication and compassion of individuals striving to make a positive spiritual impact. By highlighting these initiatives, we hope to inspire our avid readers to actively participate and contribute to the well-being of society.

Through this newsletter, we seek to foster a sense of unity and shared purpose, encouraging everyone to engage in festivals or events that are being organised. Together, we can build a stronger, more compassionate community that upholds the values of devotion and selfless action.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us. We look forward to your continued support and involvement in our collective efforts to create a better world. Stay tune, we will get back very soon.

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