



BURNS MEMORIAL CLUB CONTINUES FATHER E.P. BURNS' LEGACY OF SERVICE

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**A club set up by a Jesuit
priest that works for poor and elderly in Hills**

DARJEELING: A tall man walking around the streets, greeting people passing by, especially the underprivileged with folded hands is how Darjeeling fondly remembers Late Father Edear Peter Burns – the messiah of the poor.

The Burns Memorial Club commemorated the International Day of Older Persons in Darjeeling by honouring the legacy of Late Father Edgar Peter Burns, founder of Hayden Hall and a dedicated champion of the poor and underprivileged. Remembered fondly for his compassion and commitment to social welfare, Father Burns established Hayden Hall Community Development and Social Welfare Centre in 1969, through which numerous initiatives in education, healthcare, livelihood support, nutrition, housing, and elderly care were undertaken across Darjeeling and surrounding villages.

Born in Montreal, Canada, on 26 April 1925, Father Burns joined the Society of Jesus in 1943 and arrived in Darjeeling in 1951. After serving in several Jesuit educational institutions in the hills, he devoted his life to community development and social upliftment.

Following his passing, the Burns Memorial Club was formed to continue his mission, particularly in supporting elderly, poor, and lonely individuals. According to club member Cassian Dukpa, the organisation regularly conducts outreach programmes in areas such as Lebung, Harsing, and Ghoom, enrolling elderly citizens and providing them with emotional, nutritional, medical, and financial support through weekly gatherings and assistance programmes.

To mark the occasion, the club organised a special feast and entertainment programme for around 150 elderly members at Hayden Hall, where the participants were also felicitated for their contribution and resilience.
