



T O N I A N tw ts



UNITED IN PRAYER, WE BUILD THE BODY OF CHRIST; BY ACTIVELY SPREADING LOVE AND PEACE THROUGH EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

• FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY •

Spread Kindness



Create a caring & sharing community

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On behalf of Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, the
Parish Fathers and the Sisters,
"Tonian Tweets" wishes all parishioners
and readers

A prayerful Holy Week and
a joy-filled Easter

May the Risen Jesus bless
each one of us with His post-
Resurrection greeting

Peace be with you...

It is I ... Fear Not !

Dear Frs. Agnelo, Francis Xavier, Michael,
Vinay, and Br. Christopher,
We, your parishioners deeply appreciate
your generosity in gifting us with
prayerful services over Holy Week and
especially during the Sacred Triduum.
We thank you for being always available,
your carefully prepared homilies, and for
visiting our homes.
We keep each one of you in our prayer.



FROM THE DESK of our Parish Priest

Fr. Agnelo Fernandes

Dear Friends,

The first quarter of 2019 has been a “happening” time for our parish on many fronts, making this issue of our parish bulletin alive and interesting. Thank you to those who sent in reports so that all of us can be enriched and learn from one another.

On March 17th and 24th the Election committee organised the commissioning of SCC Co-ordinators and Animators. There was “Anointing with Holy Oil” for the new, and returning, Co-ordinators, and a “Laying-On of Hands” for Animators, while the whole congregation fervently prayed for gift of the Spirit; A deeply moving experience, which will surely flow over into all family clusters, and renew our whole parish from within.

At this special time, when we need to strengthen intercessory prayer for our country, it is heartening to read that our communities have indeed been praying. Besides pilgrimage “Stations of the Cross”, there were Lenten Missions in Marathi, Konkani, Tamil and English, (three days each), the JERICHO CROSS mini night-vigil, and anniversary celebrations for our prayer groups - ZION: twenty-one years, DAYA SAGAR PRARTHNA SANGH: seven years, SHALOM YOUTH: eleven years, and one year for the fledgling CORNERSTONE.

We remember how **GOD’S HAND WAS STAYED WHEN MOSES PRAYED**; and that Jericho’s high, thick, strong, double-walls crumbled when the people shouted with one loud voice to Yahweh. And we are encouraged to persevere in prayer in our day too.

Finally, CONGRATULATIONS! First, to the thirty RCIA candidates and those who prepared them for Baptism; may they always continue to be graced as when they shared their first testimonies. We also commend the Marathi choir and

conductor, Tony Nigrel, for winning a prize for the second year in succession at the Archdiocesan competition.

Two of our parishioners speak of life-changing experiences after attending special courses organised by the Archdiocese - Stanley Fernandez, the **Institute for Ministry of Faith Enrichment (IMFE)** and Percy Kinny, the **Training of Trainers (TOT)**; while Hema Gonsalves, Veronica and Helen Kinny have completed the **Ministry of the Word (MOW)** in Marathi, and Mr. Joseph D'Silva graduated in the **Basics of Inter-Religious Dialogue (BIRD)**.

They encourage all parishioners to avail themselves of these opportunities too.

I am reminded of a little girl whose heart was set on a cream cake for her grandfather on his birthday, but her mother could not afford it. Seeing the child’s disappointment, a passer-by buys the cake for her. When the mother objects, the man tells his own story of how when he was seven, a totally unknown gentleman whom he never met again, came to his rescue, just as he is doing for the little girl now. Asked for his address, he hands a note to the little one.

When they get home, the child explains: “someone paid for it ... he gave me this note ... The grandfather opens it and reads ... **A simple act of caring creates an endless ripple.** ... and his mind goes back to a little boy aged 7 for whom he had bought a cake and written a similar note many years earlier.

Friends, this issue of our parish bulletin reverberates with activities which are bound to spill over, since caring and sharing have a ripple effect. Small beginnings create waves.

..... CELEBRATING *Saints*



St. Anselm.

Bishop and Doctor (1033 - 1109)

Indifferent toward religion as a young man, Anselm became one of the Church's greatest theologians and leaders. He received the title "Father of Scholasticism" for his attempt to analyze and illumine the truths of faith through the aid of reason.

A monk of the monastery of Bec in Normandy, Anselm was considered an original and independent thinker. His best known work is the book: "Why God Became Man".

He became Archbishop of Canterbury, England, in 1093, and started reforms in the Church. Oppositions from the Kings of England forced him into exile.

His care and concern extended to the very poorest of the poor and he was the first in the Church to oppose the slave trade. Anselm obtained from the National Council at Westminster, the passing of a resolution prohibiting the sale of human beings. Though personally a mild and gentle man and a lover of peace, he would not back off from conflict and persecution when principles were at stake.



St. Philip Neri.

Priest (1515 - 1595)

Philip Neri was born in Florence in 1515 and educated by the Dominicans. He experienced conversion at the age of 18 and left for Rome where he began to work with young men among whom he fostered Christian life and formed an association for the poor and the sick.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1551, he founded the Oratory where spiritual reading, singing, and works of charity were practiced. He excelled in love of neighbour and in evangelical simplicity along with a joyous service to God. He died at the age of 80; much loved and respected, he is still known as the "Apostle of Rome".



St. Anthony Of Padua

Priest & Doctor (1195 - 1231)

The gospel call to leave everything and follow Christ was the rule of Anthony's life. Over and over again, God called him to something new in his plan. Every time Anthony responded with renewed zeal and self-sacrifice to serve his Lord Jesus more perfectly.

He was born in Lisbon, Portugal, and initially joined the Canons Regular of St. Augustine, but, shortly after ordination to the priesthood, transferred to the Friars Minor to devote himself to spreading the faith among the African peoples.

He had his greatest success, however, preaching in France and Italy and converting heretics. He was the first member of his Order to teach theology to his brethren. His sermons are notable for their learning and gentleness.

He died in Padua in 1231, was canonized within a year and named Doctor of the Church in 1946.

Tweets in APPRECIATION

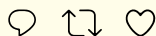


Daya Sagar Prathana Sangh & St. Anthony Church Appreciation by All-India National Service Team

At the quarterly meeting, held on 10th March, for All-Mumbai prayer groups at St. Francis Xavier Church, Vile Parle, Mr Rajan, President, thanked the DSPS and our parish for generating the highest collection for the Marathi Convention 2018.

It was selfless service by the team led by Savio - going from door to door which resulted in financial abundance for this event.

We thank Fr. Agnelo and all our parishioners for their generosity



Lorna Hanso
Team Member (DSPS)

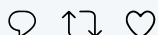


ACTIVITIES IN HOLY SPIRIT COMMUNITY Appreciation

We are the new occupants at *Deepmala Housing* Society which comes under the Holy Spirit Community. We are very happy and pleased to see the initiatives taken by the coordinator and animators.

Every Monday the "Way of the Cross" is conducted very prayerfully with melodious and appropriate hymns in between the Stations. It is wonderful to see the number of people that attend. Having the "Stations" late at 8:30 p.m. gives an opportunity for many working people to come and prayer along.

The animators also visited our home before our daughter appeared for her std. X Board exams. They prayed and gave her a token gift which was very much appreciated by us.



Russel Arathoon & family

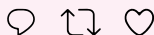


Felicitation of Sisters

On Feb.15th, the celebration of "Consecrated Life" the Daya Sagar Prarthana Sangh felicitated the sisters of our parish from the communities of:

- * Sacred Heart of Jesus,
- * Sisters of St Joseph of Tarbes and
- * Helpers of Jesus.

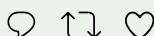
"Congratulations on your vocation as a Sister. Your abiding devotion and faithful service to the Lord has touched countless hearts & inspired many souls. What a blessing you are to all of us"



We Sisters, in our turn:

Thank Fr. Agnelo and Parish Team, the PPC, DSPS, and every parishioner for your warm greetings and tokens of appreciation at all times, but especially on the Day of **"Religious Consecration"**

We pray for you and your families, as we continue to serve St. Anthony's with love and true joy in our ministry.



COMMUNITY *Collaboration*

Celebrating *Republic Day* & 26 years of vibrancy as a community

OUR LADY OF FORSAKEN AND OUR LADY OF FATIMA COMMUNITIES



On January 26, 2019, as the nation celebrated 69 years of democracy, the communities of **Our Lady of Fatima** and **Our Lady of the Forsaken** joined in jubilation by hoisting the National Flag. As in previous years, this honour was given to a senior member of the community.

Around 80 members participated in the event, after which sweets were distributed.

The members of Our Lady of the Forsaken Community also celebrated their annual feast on the same day. The statue of Our Lady was carried in procession from the community premises to the mini hall accompanied by the Vailankani band. An evening of fun-filled activities and cultural programmes followed.

This amazing twin-event was organised by the youth of the community. Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, our parish priest, and Fr. Michael Penn shared their valuable insights on building a vibrant community.

The evening ended with delicious dinner prepared by a community member. Truly, the memories of this delightful day will always be cherished by all our members.

- **Gregory Veigas**, *Coordinator*

..... *Annual Feast Mass*

EMMANUEL COMMUNITY



We celebrated our annual feast Mass on 5th January 2019 at Bhoomi Park phase 2 premises. The celebrant, Fr. Vinay Kamath, preached about the need for humility and belongingness in the community of believers. He encouraged everyone to live exemplary lives as fellow Christians in the Body of Christ, always ready to support one another.

After Mass, the children of our community performed brilliantly displaying their hidden talents. Our Coordinator, Mr. William Menezes, gave the vote of thanks and Sr. Manisha

Gonsalves praised and acknowledged the efforts of our community.

We thank our coordinator and animators for organizing the Eucharist so well with a reliable sound system, lighting, and of course the very talented in-house choir. All in all, it was a beautiful evening of community togetherness and belonging.

- **Freddy Mendonca**.

Feast Day Celebration

OUR LADY OF LOURDES COMMUNITY, RATHODI



The portico of the Infant Jesus Chapel reverberated with the sounds of song, dance and joyous banter as our community celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 17, 2019, from 12 noon onwards. The celebration commenced appropriately with a prayer and hymn before the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Chapel grounds.

The priests of our Parish, Fathers Vinay, Francis Xavier, Michael, Brother Kamlesh,

and our mentor, Ms Yucca Gomes, were conspicuous by their presence. Ms. Yucca welcomed the guests and specially recognised the efforts of the Animators, the youth and myself for being dedicated and committed members, ever willing to reach out at all times. Comperes Jason and Beverly regaled the guests with their witty repartee, and motivated each one present to participate in the interactive games and merriment, coupled with entertaining spot prizes.

As I proposed the vote of thanks, I expressed gratitude to the entire community for being so united, exemplifying through their lives the motto of a caring and sharing community. The wonderful afternoon ended with a well-prepared, delicious lunch.

- Lorna Hanso, Co-ordinator

Feast Day Celebration

HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY

The Annual Feast of the Holy Family Community, Jankalyan Nagar, was celebrated in the evening of 17th February 2019, at the Infant Jesus Chapel. The function started with Holy Eucharist followed by a fun-filled time together.

The compere for the day, Vincent Colaco, along with coordinator, Sylvie Rodrigues, and the animators, worked hard to make the function a grand success.

Our spiritual director, Fr. Vinay Kamat, graced the occasion and gave his blessings, together

with our ever-present guide, support, and mentor, Abbe Fernandes.

The various games filled the air with joy and togetherness. To tickle our taste buds we had "Peter Kinny" caterers with some delicious snacks and dinner.

The function concluded with good memories to take home and an envelope as a token of love.

- Maria Antao, Animator

..... Create a *Caring and Sharing* Community

ZONE 4



The Community of Our Lady of Fatima, Rathodi, threw open the invitation for their Lenten pilgrimage programme to the entire Zone 4, much in synch with the TT theme: *Create a Caring and Sharing Community*.

We were going to relive Christ's passion and death amidst the picturesque and rustic surroundings of Versova at the Church of Our Lady of Health.

An early start on the hired wheels helped us quickly sail through the otherwise busy roads of Mumbai. A simple breakfast and we were

adequately fortified to trace the road to Calvary stopping along the iconic Stations of the Cross. Prayerfully orchestrated and interspersed with appropriate Lenten hymns, the journey amidst mango, coconut and drumstick trees lasted an hour. The cruel sun did not dampen the enthusiasm of the devotees who were equipped to face the heat with sunhats, umbrellas and the odhni... some even the saree pallav.

A few games and lively spot prizes organized by Amorette and Luiza, diluted the seriousness of the morning. The vegetarian lunch was relished without murmurs of 'Aww...why no meat?'

The group left a while later to get home in time to catch a brief rest before attending the last day of the recollection in English at the Church.

Sylvia, Yucca, Luiza and some of the dynamos of the group made the experience prayerful and enjoyable.

- Rudyard Gomes

Our Lady of Fatima Community, Rathodi

..... Stations of the Cross Pilgrimage

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER COMMUNITY, KHARODI.

Every year we conduct the "Stations of the Cross" in different clusters. However this year we decided to have a pilgrimage out of Mumbai.

Our coordinator, animators, and community members visited the Convent of Jesus and Mary, House of Prayer, in Khandala. The walk up-hill from the first station to the fourteenth was the best part of our penance. The serenity of the place enhanced our meditation on each station even as we devotionally surrendered our burdens, sorrows and most importantly our sins to Jesus.

After the Stations of the Cross, we prayed the rosary at the beautiful grotto built by the sisters, and then gathered in the convent



grounds, surrounded by flowers, especially roses, to partake of a buffet of delicious dishes affectionately contributed by our members.

The sisters were presented with a token of love by the oldest among us - an 80-year old senior citizen who braved the walk despite her age.

We returned with special blessings from the nuns and fond memories of the prayerful and meaningful Stations of the Cross.

- Ruth Patel, APC Representative

..... *A Calvary* Journey On Wheels

GIFT OF LOVE COMMUNITY



“Through the little sacrifices we make, the closer to holiness, us he takes.”

On 21st March, 2019, the “Gift of Love” community undertook a pilgrimage to eight churches. We began our journey at the Church of St. Jerome, Kashmirira, and went on to the Church of Our Lady of Velankanni, Dongri. Our spiritual director, Fr. Michael Pen, supported and helped us to organize and execute this pilgrimage successfully.

We started by asking the powerful intercession of our Mother Mary through the Holy Rosary. At every church, we prayed one station of the cross led by different community members.

We enjoyed a nourishing breakfast at our first stop, and a mouth-watering lunch at the end of the pilgrimage. After relaxing for some time we walked up to the statue of Mother Mary at the Bhate Bunder church and placed our personal prayers and petitions before her.

We left by 4pm returning home with radiant and refreshed spirits.

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

- Cleopas Lobo

..... *“Cluster”* Stations Of The Cross

INFANT JESUS COMMUNITY

The season of Lent invites us to reflect upon the passion and death of our Lord Jesus that leads to salvation. In keeping with this spirit, our Animators organized “cluster-wise” Stations of the Cross for the “Inaswadi and Upper” clusters every Monday and for the “Inner and Outer” clusters every Thursday.

The stations were at the various crosses and also at the homes of the sick and elderly.

On March 20, 2019 we gathered together in one place and meditated upon the Stations with the Word of God.

The feedback received from the clusters was positive. Pondering on the Passion of Christ



helped us to face daily difficulties, encouraged repentance and brought all of us closer to the Lord.

- Meena Patel, Animator

Lenten Outreach

GIFT OF FAITH COMMUNITY, ZONE 3

The animators of our community and myself decided to visit the Shanti Niwas Ashram currently located in the premises of St. Pius X College, Goregaon, on Friday, 22nd March 2019.

Eight of us reached the place at around 9:30 a.m. and were greeted by Fr. David and Br Paolo, religious from Italy who have been serving the unfortunate and the homeless men in our Archdiocese for over 20 years. After briefly introducing us to the eleven inmates (men of different age groups and faiths), we got down to helping in various household chores viz. preparing the afternoon and evening meals, cleaning the premises and washing clothes.

The experience was indeed exciting and soul-stirring since most of us do not mop the floors or wash our clothes manually at our homes. At around noon-time we gathered in the Refectory to pray the rosary. This was followed by the afternoon meal. One of our animators very affectionately fed an inmate suffering from a spinal problem.

We left the premises around 2:30 pm – happy indeed to have had this opportunity to serve. The Brothers appreciated our enthusiasm. On our part, we have decided to visit them once again in the not too distant future.

- Blanche D'souza, Coordinator

A Collage of our Activities during this Quarter

ST. MICHAEL COMMUNITY (FORMERLY EMMANUEL COMMUNITY II)



January 19, 2019, was indeed a memorable day for our community. We came together to celebrate our Annual Thanksgiving Mass, as “Emmanuel Community II”, and emerged, rechristened, as 'St. Michael Community'.

The Eucharist was celebrated by our spiritual director **Rev. Fr. Vinay Kamat**. Blessed with wisdom, Father preached an inspiring homily and was actively involved in the subsequent fellowship, graced by varied performances and games. We cannot forget our melodious choir of singers and the appropriate action song on “Community” performed by our tiny tots.

Our Lenten activities began with the Stations of the Cross held every Friday with members of different age groups coming together to prayerfully follow Jesus to Calvary.

In keeping with our



mission to share and serve, a 'Food Distribution Lenten Outreach' was conducted at the Asmita Jyoti Cross and also outside the Mosque on Friday, 15th March, 2019. The expenses were subsidised by generous donations from our members.



Another outreach was the visit to the 'Love, Joy and Hope Foundation'. Spending quality time with the little ones enhanced the beautiful smiles on their faces. We are also planning another outreach to the 'House of Charity', Versova.



All the events are made possible due to our excellent animators, ably led by our coordinator, Mrs. Shaila Fernandez. We truly appreciate their time and effort.

As Lent reaches its peak, we wish everyone a prayerful Holy Week, and a joyous, grace-filled Easter.

- Joyce Dantis

A Night to Remember

Traditions refer to the wisdom and memories, which we pass on from generation to generation. This year the four communities of Zone IV decided to celebrate together a favourite East Indian tradition - **Intruz**.

Derived from the Portuguese 'Entrudo' meaning 'entrance', Intruz dates back to that era. Essentially, it is a celebratory dinner marking entry into the grace-filled season of Lent.

On Tuesday, March 4th, the "Infant Jesus" patio and grounds were well lit and decorated, with the beautiful backdrop designed by Mr. Stanford D'souza. After an introductory prayer by our mentor Ms Yucca Gomes, there followed games for children and adults, loads of spot prizes and mouth-watering snacks. The animators of the four communities personally served and cleared up at the end.

The joint comperes for the evening, Gerard Casmero and Zenaida Gracias, kept us on

our feet, adding a dash of glitter to an already shining evening. For Fr Michael Pen it was a first-time experience; astounded by the turnout of more than 150 people, he wished that such get-togethers could happen in other communities too.

Sr Daphne was invited to say the grace before meals, after which dinner was served, pancakes being the dessert of choice in lieu of Pancake Tuesday, the next day.

Our four co-ordinators, Mrs Lorna Hanso (Zonal Head), Mr Rajiv Pereira, Mrs Veronica Kinny and Ms Chrislyn Baptista, ensured a thoroughly enjoyable Intruz experience. They were ably assisted in this herculean endeavour by Mrs Agatha Baptista and Mrs Glenda Rebello.

We felicitated some special people who make our communities flow smoothly. They rise to the occasion whenever they are called upon, and we are truly grateful.

Celebrating our Youngsters and our Seniors

OUR LADY OF FATIMA COMMUNITY - RATHODI

January 6th, 2019, was a day enlivened with the laughter of children and the joyful chatter of our seniors. "Our Lady of Fatima" community, Rathodi, celebrated Senior Citizen's Day and Children's Day jointly. The programme began with beautiful prayers for our elders and children. Our mentor, Ms Yucca Gomes, gave a brief introduction, followed by self-introductions by all present. Mrs Angela, one of our seniors, sang a beautiful song in Konkani. The children,

following in her footsteps, sang songs in English and Marathi.

We were blessed with the presence of Sr. Manisha, our Spiritual Director, and Fr. Vinay Kamat, who, in spite of having a sore throat, addressed all present. The highlight of the day was the singing of Christmas carols for the games. The programme ended on a high note with every child and senior member receiving little gifts as a token of our love.

MATTERS *That Matter*

Are you 'Scripture -Literate?'



The Archdiocese designates various Sundays during the liturgical year to remind the Faithful about key issues. We are familiar with Justice Sunday, Vocation Sunday, etc., but the Sunday before Ash Wednesday is chosen as Bible Sunday to remind us that “everything in Christianity is founded on

God’s word, as contained in the Bible!”

To help us benefit more from the annual celebration of Bible Sunday, Cardinal Oswald Gracias asked that the Bible Novena to be prayed at every Mass from Feb 22 to March 3, 2019.

This year’s theme “GOD’S WORD IS OUR DAILY FOOD,” reminds us that receiving “spirit and life” from the Eucharistic Jesus in communion is not enough...a Catholic must seek “spirit and life” from the Bible.

The Second Vatican Council assures us about the efficacy of regular devotional reading of scripture: “Just as from constant attendance at the Eucharistic mystery, a new impulse of spiritual life may be expected from increased veneration of the word of God” (Dei Verbum, nn.21, 26).

God’s ways of inspiring us to respect the word of God are limitless.

Read this inspiring testimony of Fireman Sam....

When I was a member of the Fire Department, we were summoned to a house fire, located in the bedroom, which had ravaged most of the woodwork and bed linen before we could extinguish it.

After putting out the fire, we perform a clean-up of all burned materials, known in fireman’s lingo as ‘salvage’. As I looked around the room, I noticed that the piano, lying in one corner, was

so intensely hot that the keys on the piano had melted into one big lump.

As I probed the ravaged stuff, I chanced upon a book only to discover that it was a family Bible. As I dusted it off, I noticed that the pages had not a trace of burn or soot. This was the only article to survive the fire, undamaged. When I handed it over to the lady of the house, she saw the consternation in my eyes and asked me: “Do you read the word of God?” Shamefully, I said: “No...I once was a practising Catholic but my life has been on a ride downhill.”

The lady with a tender smile said: “Can I gift this Bible to you as a ‘Thank You’ gesture for your efforts to douse the fires? But promise me that you will read a short passage every day.” And she flagged John 14:27 in the Bible which said: “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

And the rest is history. “My life has taken on a new meaning since then”! So much for the power of God’s word!

Pope Francis constantly reminds us to read the Gospel daily.

He says: “The Scriptures are nutrients of the soul, and the source of grace, just like the sacraments!” Indeed, “God’s word is our daily food,” with an inbuilt power to nourish and transform us into better disciples of Jesus Christ.

In keeping with the Archdiocesan call to organize entertaining bible skits and quizzes, the Bible Cell of our Parish organized a Bible Quiz based on the ‘Acts of the Apostles’ to foster a personal biblical spirituality. It was inspirational as reported the following account by Anjali Crasto, Leader of the winning team, Zone 7

***Rudyard Gomes,
Our Lady of Fatima Community, Rathodi***

The annual Bible Quiz, organised by the Bible Cell of our parish, was held on March 3, 2019, to coincide with Bible Sunday. This year we concentrated on the 'Acts of the Apostles'.

All eight zones participated, each team having 2 adults, 2 youth and 2 school-going children.

The event commenced with the enthroning of the Bible.

The compere, Mrs. Ludovica Quadros, then introduced the Quiz Hostess, Ms. Yucca Gomes, as well as the teams and participants, and spelt out the rules. The audience round was slotted to encourage audience participation. A total of 8 rounds were played with much excitement and the team spirit was note-worthy.

It was a tough competition. Zone 7 won the 1st prize with 90 points, Zone 1 stood second at 65 points and Zone 3 was placed 3rd, scoring 60 points. All participants were presented with token prizes.

The experience of reading the Bible, reflecting on it, meeting regularly to discuss different online quiz programs, making notes for revision



and the general interaction was a good learning experience. It helped us realise how Jesus' early followers, led by the Holy Spirit, spread the good news to the ends of the earth. An enriching experience, indeed!

At the end, Mr. Matthew Thattil, Minister of the Word and Coordinator of the Bible Cell, thanked his team, and invited the winners and those present to join the Bible Cell.

God Bless the Bible Cell Team!

– Anjali Crasto, Leader Zone 7 (winning team)



THE PASTOR STOLE OUR SPOON!

A pastor had dinner at the home of a couple in his church. After he left, the wife said to the husband, "I think he stole our spoon!" This bothered her for a whole year.

A year later the couple had the pastor for dinner again. Unable to resist, the wife asked, "Did you steal our spoon last year?" The pastor replied, "No, I put it inside your Bible."

..... *The Homeless Jesus*



On a warm spring day as people march up and down a busy street, their wandering footsteps are arrested by the striking sound of sirens. An ambulance pulls up, a group of medics jumps out and surrounds the metal-crafted bench, upon which lies a thin figure, draped in a blanket, huddling to keep warm. His face is completely shrouded, his hands obscured. A closer glance reveals the deep wounds afflicting his feet.

This is no ordinary person. It is the “Homeless Jesus”.

The “Homeless Jesus” is a bronze statue masterfully designed by a Canadian artist and devout Catholic named Timothy Schmalz. Stationed in cities across the world, it evokes several ‘911’ calls wherever it goes. Blessed by the Pope, it’s most prominent placement is in Rome outside the Papal Office of Charities.

The depiction of Christ as a nameless, powerless and homeless stranger is indeed provoking and challenging. It visually translates one of the most essential and powerful ideas of the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25 – ‘Truly I say to you, whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do it unto Me.’

In this fast-paced, ever-changing, forever-busy world, identifying the poor and needy is quite a challenge. How then can we reach out in love and service? Perhaps the answer lies in unplugging our head-phones, turning down

the volume of our self-centred thoughts and embracing the real world that surrounds us. Initially, we may find it ugly, boring and poor but poverty and grossness was not made by God. You and I created it when we ignored and refused to share our blessings with others, as also when we selfishly hoarded and consumed the best, caring not about the rest whose basic needs, whether physical or mental, are rarely met.

Nay, one cannot sit back in an armchair watching, procrastinating and awaiting a better tomorrow. Like St. Vincent de Paul and his Society we need to get up and help with enthusiasm and simplicity. But is ‘reaching out’ restricted to ‘feeding the hungry, quenching the thirsty and clothing the naked?’

Mother Teresa, the saint of India, alleges, ‘We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unloved, unwanted and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.’

Let’s answer these propelling questions for ourselves:

Addicted to my gadgets and my ‘social’ media life, am I isolating the ones nearest and dearest to me? Have I forgotten the joy of sharing a family meal and chatting away about the events of the day? Have I shut the door of my heart, if not that of my room on others, especially those around me seeking a word of encouragement, a smile of strength or an embrace of hope?

During this Holy Week, and the season of Easter which follows, let’s turn around and notice the “Homeless Jesus” standing at the door of our hearts eagerly waiting to come in!

– **Joynel Fernandes,**
St. Joseph’s Community, Marve

..... Separated By Differences; Made One In Christ



The Small Christian Community (SCC) is the most basic and precious entity of the Church. When we live in a community, it does not imply

mere cohabitation, but cooperation, coordination and collaboration. In Christ's body, we are different parts with different strengths and shortcomings. In order to create a community that cares and shares, we need to be aware of our gifts, and then use them effectively to help others. As we use our strengths to help others' weaknesses, we in turn, are helped in our weaknesses through their strength.

Some of the most widespread issues we are confronted with, in our communities today, are poverty, complacency and loneliness. Poverty is not to be misunderstood as financial poverty alone, but spiritual and emotional as well. Complacency exists when people feel that there is always someone else to do what they could do themselves – whether it's in church or in society. Many may not want to lift a finger or dirty their hands, lest they get involved. And of course, even with the latest communication gadgets, people are becoming more and more lonely, especially the senior citizens. And these issues are just the tip of the iceberg.

So here is where we can capitalise on the fact that all of us need each other. It is important for us to create avenues and initiatives of outreach.

The small Christian community gathers around those who are struggling with poverty, whether financial or emotional. Replicating Acts 2:42 onwards, the SCCs are vantage points for people to share and care, not from a sympathetic but an empathetic angle. Remember St. Mother Teresa who said that not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.

The small Christian community is a wonderful place for talent to be scouted and for people to express themselves, so that complacency may give way to involvement. And where there are elderly and lonely people, members of the SCCs can always make themselves available with their time and resources to give the alienated a sense of belonging.

Living in a community is like being a part of a never-ending circle of life, where everyone draws their strength from each other, and where we, as a whole, draw our strength from Christ and the Church. This is well summed up in the following extract from the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

'In Christian usage, the word "church" designates the liturgical assembly, but also the local community or the whole universal community of believers. These three meanings are inseparable. "The Church" is the People that God gathers in the whole world. She exists in local communities and is made real as a liturgical, above all a Eucharistic, assembly. She draws her life from the word and the Body of Christ and so, herself, becomes Christ's body.' (Catechism of the Catholic Church 752)

– **Candida Maria Lobo,**
Gift of Love Community, Malwani

..... *The Jericho Cross* visits our parish



No, the Jericho Cross did not come from Jericho as most of us surmised. Its history and significance were explained by Brother Saby at the mini Night vigil held on March 26th.

In May 2018, their prayer group was inspired to follow the instructions in Ch. 6 of the Book of Joshua, when God promised that the battle of Jericho would be won.

These instructions were simple and direct:

See;
Be Silent;
Sleep (don't worry);
Surround (once a day for six days, and seven times on the seventh day);
Shout, when commanded to do so.

Joshua directed the people to believe and follow strictly in faith, and, on the seventh day, the 20' high, 8' thick, double walls of Jericho completely crumbled.

Struck by the parallels with the present situation in our country, they constructed as many crosses as there are dioceses in India and obtained permission to organise "Jericho Cross" pilgrimages from one Church to another in every diocese. The aim was to pray for a peaceful conduct of the forthcoming elections and for good governance in the country.

I attended the semi Night vigil organised by the Cornerstone Prayer group in our parish. During the Praise and Worship conducted by Brother Saby we raised our voices and prayed ardently for India, her people and all in authority. A reminder of the walls we have to break down... and what better time than the period of Lent? I was deeply touched by his personal testimony.

We then commenced the Jericho March - a prayer walk by the congregation encircling the Church 7 times, especially asking God to protect our country, and also for many other intentions.

I deeply appreciate the team who took care of the beautiful décor. Thanks to the Cornerstone for enabling us to be a part of this novel, soul-stirring experience.

– *Senita Hendricks,*
'Nativity of Our Lady' Community

PARISH *Peeps*

World Marriage Day CELEBRATION

FAMILY CELL



The Family Cell of our parish joined the Archdiocesan celebraton

of WORLD MARRIAGE DAY (WMD) on Sunday, 10th February 2019, organising a Eucharistic celebration for married couples at 10.30 a.m. in the Infant Jesus Chapel. Our Spiritual Director, Fr. Vinay Kamath, as chief celebrant, delivered an inspiring homily on how to enrich relationships in a family. This was followed by renewal of marriage vows and a special blessing of the congregation.

After Mass, Family Cell member Warren, along with DJ Brendan, led the 160 participants into fun-time with games, dancing and some lip-

smacking snacks. Couples who had celebrated their Silver and Golden wedding anniversaries during the year were invited to cut a special wedding cake. The programme ended with lunch and a vote of thanks by Family Cell coordinator, Vincent Colaco.

The participants thanked the Family Cell for the excellent organization which some regular folks declared was one of the best WMD functions ever.

We thank our beloved Parish Priest, Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, and our Spiritual Director, Fr. Vinay Kamath, for their wholehearted support and for guiding our event towards a grand success!

– **Vincent Colaco, Coordinator**

21st Anniversary

ZION CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

To commemorate the 21st anniversary of the Zion Charismatic Prayer Group in our parish, His Lordship Bishop Bosco Penha

celebrated Mass on Friday, 1st March 2019, at 7.00 pm in the Church. Frs. Peter D'Mello, Agnelo Fernandes, Francis Xavier, Michael Pen and Vinay Kamat were concelebrants. In his homily, Bp. Bosco stressed the need for daily prayer as well as reading the Word of God.

A get-together followed in the School Annexe, with Bishop Bosco as Chief Guest. Our parish fathers, core team and prayer group members, participants of the Catholic Bible Academy, several priests, sisters and others involved with our group over the years were also present.

Mrs. Joyce D'Cunha, compere for the evening, began the programme with the lighting of the



Lamp followed by Praise and Worship.

Br. Hawkinson then welcomed the guests with floral bouquets. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes congratulated Br. Hawkinson and his Team for their contribution to the growth of the prayer group.

Fr. Peter D'Mello spoke at length about the founders of the Prayer Group namely Br. Hawkinson Fernandez and the late Mrs. Cimbrose Fernandez during his tenure as parish priest, 21 years ago. .

Bishop Bosco Penha appreciated the selfless service of Br. Hawkinson and the team and released 'Foot Prints'- a Souvenir in commemoration of 21 years of 'Togetherness with the Lord'.

Dinner followed, after which Mrs. Vasantha Fernandez proposed a vote of thanks.

– **Annie Lemos, Core Team Member**

My IMFE Journey

INSTITUTE FOR MINISTRY OF FAITH ENRICHMENT



IMFE is a self-challenging and fulfilling eight week-end journey, conducted over a year, by the Archdiocese of Bombay for deepening whichever Ministry one is involved with. My experience began in July 2018 & ended on graduating in March 2019 for the Inter-Religious Dialogue Ministry.

The course enhanced our understanding through group discussions, personal assignments and various other methods of sharing. It helped us plan & practice our ministry in collaboration with the parish priest, the local parish ministry team, as well as the various Commission Heads thus ensuring a commonality of purpose across the Local Churches, the Archdiocese & the Universal Church.

The curriculum was systematic & progressive with various topics taught by experts. The session on Theology & Ministry focused on the history, mystery and purpose of the Church. What attracted my attention was that the Church has always worked in collegiality and not in isolation.

The session on Sociology & Ministry encouraged us to analyse, research and study

the proofs. The importance and acceptance of 'reasoning' was indeed fascinating.

The session on Anthropology & Ministry helped me realize the value of culture to human beings in the Christian Worldview.

The Psycho-Spiritual Dimension of Ministry helped us express from the depths of our hearts & minds, enhancing team-spirit.

The openness of the Church to modern management methods through the inclusion of corporate management techniques in Managing the Ministry by asking the right questions, finding the right answers, then revisiting those answers on a regular basis.

The mission of the Church to reach out to people of other religious beliefs was brought out very beautifully through the Pluri-Religious Ministry which emphasized that every human being is made in God's likeness & therefore it is our duty to dialogue with others to reach a common understanding of the truth.

However, we learned much more than was taught directly in the curriculum - about life, spirituality and the web of relationships; these need to be experienced rather than conveyed in a short article.

I now belong to a new family "IMFEians" who realise that "God doesn't CALL the QUALIFIED, He QUALIFIES the CALLED!" Just allow Him to use you....Thanks & Praise be to God.

*– Stanley Fernandez,
Marian Community, Jankalyan Nagar*

..... *Training of Trainers* (TOT) course

Adults generally question the need for training. I too shared a similar opinion until someone coaxed me to undertake the TOT course for which I am sincerely grateful. It has enhanced my knowledge and skills, unleashing hitherto-unexplored potential.

The “**Training of Trainers**” certificate programme organised by the Laity Training Centre affiliated to the Archdiocese of Bombay includes 7 intensive sessions conducted on one Sunday a month by a highly experienced and efficient team including Fr. Patrick D’mello, Thomas Lobo and Michael Rodrigues.

When I took up the TOT training course, my objective was to understand how a good workshop should be conducted. The TOT course went far beyond that, however, making me realise that there is more to training the trainer than can be at first perceived.

The course is well-designed focussing primarily on developing capacity and skills to handle a training workshop with confidence and poise

both at the Pastoral and Corporate level. Each session dealt with the finer details of training and helped me emerge as a better trainer.

The main highlight of this training programme is the mentor-supervised practical training and presentation sessions. Through the presentations, trainees demonstrate the learnings absorbed from the input sessions by presenting a topic they have researched. The mentors then provide constructive feedback including tips on improving inadequacies.

I highly recommend this course to any parishioner seeking to hone their skills and leadership roles, especially the Animators and Coordinators of our SCCs. It is more than 100% worth the nominal fee and the time you would spend.

So, watch out for the next batch commencing in July/August 2019 and feel free to contact me for any further details you may need.



– **Percy Kinny, Shalom Community (Zone – 8), Mobile: - 9892031518**

..... *The Legion Of Mary* (SENIORS)

MYSTICAL ROSE



The senior legionaries held their study-cum-outing on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church,

Manori, thanks to Fr. Ajit Bandekar who granted us permission to use their Church premises.

We reached Manori at around 9 am and began the day with an opening prayer and rosary. We then conducted our weekly meeting which was followed by a generous breakfast provided by a parishioner.

Srs. Rachel D’souza & Margaret Fernandes conducted the study in accordance with the general training they had received by The Senatus. The topics for discussion included: purpose of being Legionaries, commitment, responsibility, possible obstacles faced during

weekly activity and overcoming these with courage and fortitude.

The college-going, Junior legionaries then joined us. Srs. Mary Pereira and Janet D’souza shared what they had learnt at the general training conducted by the Junior Curia. Some of our seniors also shared inspiring testimonies.

We concluded our study at around 1:30 pm; then followed lunch, and games / skits relating to the “Fruits of the Holy Spirit”, conducted by Sr. Margaret Fernandes.

Later, we walked along the beach and smiled happily for the photo session, thanking God for the beautiful and fruitful day.

– **Joswita D’souza**

Ave Maria

Legion Of Mary (Junior Curia)

TELEGAMES

The Officers of the Junior Curia lovingly organized “Telegames” for the juniors on February 17, 2019 at St.Thomas Academy School, Goregaon West. Eleven of the thirteen praesidia participated with 17 seniors and 60 juniors in attendance.

We began at 4 pm with the Opening Prayer and Welcome Speech by Sr. Crenna D’Costa. The compere for the event, Sr. Suchita, introduced us to several novel fun games. While some, like “Fill the Cup with Water” were exciting, others like “Straw and Grams” were difficult and tricky, though not impossible.

Mid-way, the Catena was recited by all and snacks were distributed, refreshing us for the games

that followed. Noteworthy was the “Caterpillar Race” which we thoroughly enjoyed as all teams like real caterpillars struggled to make it to the winning post.

After the Vote of thanks by Bro. Nicholas and an inspirational speech from the Spiritual Director of the Goregaon (West) praesidium, the function ended at 6.00 pm with the declaration of winners, gifts to the deserving teams and the concluding prayers.

On behalf of all the juniors I would like to thank our Curia President, Sr. Crenna D’Costa, and her Team of Officers for organising this enjoyable and memorable event which we look forward to each year.

– **Sr. Deepika Tirkey**

“THE ACIES”

“The Acies” - Latin for ‘an army in battle array’ - refers to the consecration, both personal and collective, through which legionaries annually renew their fealty to Mary, Queen of the Legion, receiving from her strength and blessings for yet another battle against the forces of evil.

This year “The Acies” was held on March 3, 2019, at Christ the King Church, Borivali East. It began with an Opening Prayer and Rosary, followed by an inspiring recollection on the virtues of Mother Mary by Rev. Fr. Terrence Murray.

The individual consecration and renewal of our vows to Mama Mary: “I am all yours my

Queen my Mother and all that I have is yours”. Then a collective consecration and Adoration was held. The ceremony ended with the Catena and Closing Prayer.

We presented Fr. Terence with a beautiful ‘thank-you’ card, made by Sr. Deepika Tirkey, in gratitude for his spiritual help and also the delicious lunch.

We take this opportunity to thank Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, our parish priest, Fr. Vinay Kamat, and our Spiritual Directresses, Srs. Jacinta and Jayasheela, for their support and love for The Legion.

– **Sr. Melita Nazareth**

Ave Maria

A Breath Of Fresh Air

NEIGHBOUR CHILDREN'S COUNCIL (NCC)



February 19th 2019 was indeed a memorable day...how we wished it would never end!

Early that morning a bunch of ten children assembled at Kharodi bus stop along with their animators - Sr. Manisha, Aunties Anita and Carol. Armed with "BBCNG"[!!] i.e. Breakfast, Bottle of water, Cap, Notebook/pen, and Games we set out for Danapani eagerly anticipating a 'DAY WITH NATURE'.

The BEST bus journey gave us silent moments to watch the beautiful sunrise through clusters of trees and to feel the cool air on our faces.

We were thrilled when we reached the beach. However, we were dismayed by plastic bags on

bushes and litter everywhere - rude "invaders" of Nature's glory. We tried hard to find relatively cleaner spaces.

But soon the "child" in us came alive as we began castle-making, carving our names in the sand, gathering shells, running all over the beach!

When the temperature rose we huddled together to face the sea and used our sense organs - to watch the gentle waves lashing at the rocks, listen to the twitter of the birds, smell new aromas, breathe in deeply, and thoroughly enjoy the "good feel" of walking barefoot on the sand in awareness.

On returning to our cottage we pooled our breakfast packs and tasted different dishes prepared by our mummies with love. Then followed a period of reflection when we shared our experiences from the time we left home, helping us to bond with each other.

We feel privileged to belong to our NCC. We thank Sr. Manisha for organising this lovely day and our two aunties for their company and care. Undoubtedly, it was a day well spent! May we have many more!

– Tia Prajapati & Assumption Pereira (Std. VIII)

Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults



"I am the wine you are the branches those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."
(John 15:5)

A get-together was organized by the Daya Sagar Prarthna Sangh (DSPS) at the Infant Jesus Chapel for the 30 RCIA candidates of our parish on February 14, 2019.

The programme commenced with a Welcome Prayer followed by Praise and Worship, reading

the Word of God and an input by our special guest for the day – Sr. Manisha.

Testimonies were shared by the candidates on how they were inspired, and how their life changed after embracing Jesus.

Games were organized and refreshments served.

Every candidate was given a scapular as a token of love. We would like to thank the RCIA team and all thirty candidates who attended the programme.

– Meena B Patel, Core Team Member (DSPS)

Hope and Life Association

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE



*"O Come ye
to Calvary@
Versova &
Walk the Via
Dolorosa"*

Responding to this invitation in the 'Examiner', a group of 31 members of the 'HOPE AND LIFE' Association of our parish, led by our spiritual director, Sr. Manisha, set out on 28th March for 'Our Lady of Health Church', Versova.

Our goal was three-fold: Pilgrimage Way of the Cross, Outreach to the neighbouring "House of Charity", and Bonding among ourselves.

We spent an hour on the Stations which we had prepared in Marathi, English and Konkani, interspersed with appropriate Lenten antiphons, walking meditatively on the grounds led by our members in turn holding a 4- foot wooden Cross. The 12th Station made 'Calvary' come alive

with the large image of Jesus in the midst of the picturesque surroundings.

After a break, we visited the neighbouring "House of Charity" where we met some of the inmates, and a novice presented their Eucharist-based charism and mission. We were impressed by the selfless dedication of this vibrant band of sisters.

Finally, we relaxed in the quiet space provided by the Church, having a fun-time and bonding over lunch, games, housie and spot prizes.

We also met the parish priest, Fr. Abel, former Principal of our St. Anthony School who ensured that we were well looked after. Indeed, we were touched by the excellent organisation of this visit.

After a steaming cup of chai and biscuits we returned home, hearts full of gratitude and warmed by the mutual love experienced.

– Ms. Luiza Hendricks, Member

Daya Sagar Prathana Sangh (DSPS)

7TH ANNIVERSARY

"O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD"

We commemorated this precious event by a three-day retreat. Fr. Donald Rodrigues reflected on "Prayer and Holiness" on the first day; Fr. Marshall Lopes encouraged us to thank for blessings received in every situation of our lives on the second day, and the final session was based on the theme 'I am God, Your Healer' led by Fr. Santosh Salve.

The Rosary, Praise & Worship, Input session and Eucharistic Celebration were accompanied by "Inner Healing" & "Infilling of the Holy Spirit". Fr. Michael Pen joined in the celebration.

On the last day a PowerPoint highlighting the year's activities was presented, team members were feliciated and a fellowship meal organised in thanksgiving.



We thank our Parish Priest, Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, and the Parish team for continuous support. Special thanks to our Spiritual Director, Fr. Francis Xavier, for his presence and guidance through the year.

Please Note: All are welcome to join us in Prayer every Friday at 6:30 pm in the Infant Jesus Chapel.

– Meena B Patel, Core Team Member (DSPS)

हाथ आणि साथ देणारा समाज

मूलगामी ख्रिस्ती समाजाने मुंबई सरधर्मप्रांतात मागील २५-३० वर्षांपासून सर्व ख्रिस्तीजनांमध्ये ऐक्यभावना निर्माण करून सामान्य लोकांना सामाजिक कार्यात उतरविण्यास भाग पाडले.

एस सी सी म्हणजे शेजोळ परिवारातर्फे होणारी बरीचशी कार्ये मागील बऱ्याच वर्षांपासून करत असल्यामुळे त्याला एक प्रकारची साचेबद्धता आली आहे. यामध्ये उत्स्फूर्तता, संवेदनशीलता व काही वेळेस चौकटीच्या बाहेर पडून कार्य करण्याचा जिवंतपणा कमी होत आहे.

एखाद्या कुटुंबाची, व्यक्तीची आर्त हाक ऐकून त्यास प्रतिसाद देण्यासाठी काहीतरी वेगळं करण्याची आवश्यकता आहे. मागील काही महिन्यांमध्ये असे काही प्रयोग खारोडी परिसरात झाले

आपल्या आजूबाजूला असे प्रयोग अशी मदतकार्ये होत असतील. परंतु त्यांची चर्चा होत नाही व इतरांपर्यंत पोहचत नाहीत.

जाहिरात म्हणून नाही तर इतरांपासून प्रेरणा मिळण्यासाठी अशा कामांची दखल घेणे क्रमप्राप्त होते. अशामुळे तयार होतो तो 'हाथ आणि साथ देणारा समाज' जो या अंकाचा मुख्य विषय आहे. टोनीयन ख्रि टिवट्सने आपल्यासाठी हा विषय सुचविला आहे. त्याला अनुसरूनच **सिरील ग्रेगोस** या संवेदनशील इस्ट्रिंडियन गीत रचनाकाराने आपल्याच परिसरातील एका सत्य घटनेचा वेध व **शोभा बरेटो** यांनी अशा समाजाबद्दलचा अनुभव साक्षीरूपामध्ये या अंकात घेतला आहे.

— शेखर

माणुसकीचा हाथ

जॉन आणि विजय दोघे खास मित्र. (नावे बदलली आहेत) एक ख्रिस्ती धर्मीय तर दुसरा हिंदू. शाळेपासूनची मैत्री. पुढे कामधंद्याला लागल्यावर सुद्धा टिकून होती मैत्रीचे धागे हे संपर्क नसला तरी सहसा तुटत नाहीत.

जॉन हा कूझवर नोकरीला लागला तर विजय एका ऑफीसमध्ये साधा शिपाई म्हणून लागला. अर्थात कूझ आणि ऑफीसच्या मिळकतीमध्ये जमीन-अस्मानाचे अंतर. जॉन प्रगतीच्या पायरीवरून झटपट वरती सरकू लागला. विजय मात्र आस्ते कदम, बेतास बात आला दिवस पुढे ढकलणं हेच विजयच्या जीवनाचं ध्येय, तरी मैत्री मात्र अबाधित होती. अजूनपर्यंत तरी दोघेही लग्नाच्या बोहल्यावर चढले नव्हते.

काळ पुढे सरकत होता आणि अचानक विजयच्या आईला एका मोठ्या आजाराने गाठलं. सर्व तपासण्या झाल्या आणि डॉक्टरांनी कॅन्सरचं निदान केलं. झालं, विजयची अग्नीपरीक्षा सुरु झाली होती. आईवर उपचार करण्यासाठी त्याची धावपळ सुरु झाली. गाडीला असलेली थोडी फार पूंजी लगेच संपली. आता काय करावं? विजयला आपल्या मित्राची, जॉनची आठवण झाली. त्याने जॉनकडे पैश्याची विचारणा केली. जॉनने मैत्रीचा मान ठेवला व रक्कम मोठी असून सुद्धा मागेपुढे पाहिले नाही. पन्नास हजार रु.ची तातडीची मदत जॉनने केली. संकटाच्या वेळी जो आर्थिक मदत करतो तो खऱ्या मैत्रीला जागतो. अन्यथा संकटाच्यावेळी सल्ला देणाऱ्यांची संख्या कमी नसते.

दिवस, महिने, वर्षे उलटून गेली तरी विजयने एका पैश्याची परतफेड केली नव्हती. जॉनने सुद्धा संकोचामुळे कधी विचारले नाही. तरी जॉनला मनोमनी संशय येऊ लागला की विजय आपली

रक्कम परत करेल की नाही. जॉनची नोकरी सुद्धा अशी की एकदा का कुझवर गेला की ६-८ महिने येत नसे. विजय त्यावेळेस निर्धास्त असे.

बघता बघता चार वर्षे गेली. जॉनने झाला प्रकार आपल्या आईला सांगितला. आईला सुद्धा धक्का बसला. जॉनच्या आईने विजयच्या घरी जाऊन पैशाची मागणी करण्याचे ठरविले, जॉनला वाटले की आईला बघून विजय कदाचित रक्कम परत करण्यास सुरुवात करेल.

जॉन आणि आई या दोघांनी एके दिवशी विजयच्या घराचा उंबरठा पार केला. त्या दोघांना एकत्र पाहून विजय एकदम दचकलाच. आणि त्याच्या आईची प्रकृती बघून जॉन व त्याची आई सुद्धा विव्हाळली. विजयची आई शेवटच्या घटका मोजीत होती. घरातील अवस्था पाहून जॉनच्या आर्थिक स्तराची जाणीव होत होती. अशा परिस्थितीत विजयकडे पैश्याची मागणी करणे माणुसकीला धरून नाही हे जॉनच्या आईने ओळखले व ती स्वतःहून जॉनला म्हणाली, “जॉन आपण ही रक्कम विजयला माफ करू या” जॉनने सुद्धा होकार भरला. जॉनच्या आईने आणखी पाच हजार रुपयांची मदत करण्यास जॉनला सांगितले व एका चांगल्या मूल्यांचे संस्कार जॉनला दिले. विजयने ही गोष्ट त्याच्या परिचयातील सर्वांना सांगितली व जॉन व त्याच्या आईचे आपणावर किती उपकार आहेत याचा बोलबाला तो सर्वांना करत होता.

ऐकणाऱ्यांचे डोळे मात्र पाणावत होते. हाथ आणि साथ देणारे कुटुंब व समाज सर्व ठिकाणी निर्माण व्हावा ही भावना मनोमनी जाणवत होती. मित्र वारल्याच्या दुःखापेक्षा मैत्री वारल्याचं दुःख अधिक असतं. या ठिकाणी मात्र ती जिवंत राहिली.

— सिरील ग्रेगोस, खारोडी

एका श्रद्धा जीवनाचा प्रवास

“चौतीस वर्षे झाली सिस्टर”

“काय! चौतीस वर्षे!”

“होय, चौतीस वर्षे.”

मला वाटलं तु मूळची ख्रिस्ती आहेस म्हणून तुझ्या चेहऱ्यावरून आणि देहबोलीवरून बिल्कुल समजत नाही की तु बासिस्मा (कन्हवर्टेड) स्वीकारलेली आहेस.

होय, मी लग्नानंतर बासिस्मा स्वीकारला.

ओह ! ग्रेट! किती मिसळलीस ग या समाजात. अभिनंदन ! अभिनंदन!

दयासागर प्रार्थना संघातर्फे प्रौढ बासिस्मा स्वीकारलेल्या श्रद्धावंतांचा मेळावा १४ फेब्रुवारीला चॅपलच्या आवारात साजरा झाला. जवळ जवळ ३० बासिस्मा स्वीकारलेल्या उमेदवारांनी यामध्ये सहभाग घेतला होता. माझी साक्ष व अनुभव देताना सि. डॅफनी यांच्या बरोबर झालेला वरील संवाद. मी मूळची हिंदू धर्मीय, मराठी भाषिक कुटुंबात वाढलेली. घरातले वातारण पूर्णपणे पारंपारिक व रुढीप्रिय अशा धार्मिक चालीरीतींचे.

आंतरधर्मीय विवाह असल्यामुळे घरच्यांचा सुरुवातीला टोकाचा विरोध झाला. लग्नानंतर मी खारोडी गावात आले भिन्न प्रकृतीच्या, संस्कृतीच्या समाजाबरोबर राहायचं म्हणजे त्यांच्या पद्धती, धर्म, भाषा यांना समजून घेऊन आत्मसात करायचं ठरवलं. आपण उचलेलं पाऊल यशस्वीपणे व आनंदाने पुढे न्यायचं म्हटलं

तर ‘मी’ पणाचा त्याग करावाच लागतो. कौटुंबिक आनंदापुढे संस्कृती, धर्म, रुढी ह्यांचा दुराभिमान सोडला तरच तुम्ही वैवाहिक जीवनात टिकून राहू शकता.

सुरुवातीच्या काळात मी केवळ कुटुंबाच्या गरजेला प्राधान्य दिलं. तोपर्यंत येथील समाजाच्या लग्न, बासिस्मा, दृढीकरण, अंत्यसंस्कार आदि प्रसंगांच्या चालीरीती कळून आल्या. शेजारी व गावपरिवारातील लोकांनी सहजपणे मला आपलंसं केलं, यामुळे मनात कधीही शंका, संशय, भीती वा लाज या भावना आल्याच नाहीत.

कालांतराने मूलगामी समाजात प्रेरक म्हणून सहभाग घेतला. महिला सोडॅलिटी, कुटुंब समिती या मध्ये सक्रीयरित्या कार्य करण्याचा अनुभव काही वेगळाच होता. समन्वयक (को-ऑर्डिनेटर) म्हणून गळ्यात माळ पडल्यावर धर्मग्राम पाळकीय मंडळावर रुजू झाले. (पॅरीश कौन्सिल) दयासागर प्रार्थनासभा, प्रभूशब्दांचे वाचन यामुळे आत्मविश्वास वाढायला मदत झाली.

आज बऱ्याचशा कौटुंबिक जबाबदाऱ्या पार पडल्या असून सामाजिक कार्यात सहभागाची संधी मिळाल्याबद्दल एका वेगळ्याच आत्मिक आनंदाची तृप्ती वाटत आहे. याचं सारं श्रेय मी माझ्या कुटुंबाला हाथ आणि साथ देणाऱ्या येथील गावपरिवाराला व चर्चमधील मोकळ्या वातावरणाला देत आहे. अर्थात परमेश्वराप्रति मी कायम कृतज्ञ राहून त्याची स्तुती करेन.

– शोभा बरेटो, खारोडी



..... प्राथमिक बायबल वर्ग २ रे अधिवेशन

मुक्तीसागर प्रबोधन केंद्र, उत्तन यांच्या समन्वयाने अलिबाग येथे भरविण्यात आलेल्या प्राथमिक बायबल वर्गाच्या शिबीरातील दुसऱ्या अधिवेशनाचा वृत्तांत. **फा. अजित तेलीस** यांनी 'बायबल व सेवाकार्य' या विषयावर या अधिवेशनामध्ये मार्गदर्शन केले.

“मी सेवा करून घेण्यासाठी आलो नाही तर सेवा करण्यासाठी आलेलो आहे.”

ख्रिस्ताने उच्चारलेले हे उद्गार मत्तय २०:२८ यामधील आहेत.

ख्रिस्तसभेच्या मिशन कार्याचा पाया ह्या वचनावर आधारित आहे. ह्या वाक्याला केंद्रस्थानी ठेवून कॅथलिक चर्चने आपल्या कार्याचा विस्तार केला आहे. सेवा म्हणजे काय? ह्याविषयी बोलताना फा. तेलीस यांनी निस्वार्थीपणे दुसऱ्या व्यक्तीच्या विकासासाठी केलेले कार्य म्हणजे सेवा अशी सरळसोपी मांडणी केली.

बायबलमध्ये सेवेसाठी अनेक समानार्थी शब्द वापरल्याचे उदाहरणासहित स्पष्टीकरण केले.

बायबलमधील सेवा ही एकाच स्तरावरील आहे. मग ती सेवा शेतातील असो अथवा मंदिरातील. चर्च मध्ये तीन प्रकारच्या सेवा प्राधान्याने राबविल्या जातात त्या म्हणजे, धार्मिक, सामाजिक व शैक्षणिक.

बायबलमधील सेवेसाठी वापरलेले शब्द :

- १) अबोधा (ABODHA) या शब्दाचा अर्थ काम करणे, कष्ट करणे, गुलाम होऊन काम करणे - निर्गम १:१४; २७:१९ गणना ७:९; ८:२६ व १ इतिहास २६:३०

- २) अभात (ABHATH) हा शब्द धार्मिक सेवेसाठी वापरण्यात आला आहे. गणना ८:१५; ८:२३ यिर्मया २२:१३
 - ३) शराथ (SHARTH) म्हणजे हजर असणे. निर्गम ३५:१९
 - ४) त्साभा (TSABHA) म्हणजे कठीण परिस्थितीला सामोरे जाणे (उदा. युद्ध) ह्या शब्दाचा अर्थ सुद्धा सेवा या शब्दाशी मिळता जुळता आहे. जुन्या करारात हा शब्द सात वेळा उल्लेखिलेला आहे. गणना ४:३०; ३५, ३९, ४३ व ८:२४
 - ५) डीयाकोलीया (DIAKONIA) म्हणजे भौतिक सेवा २ करिंथकरास ११:८, रोमकरास पत्र १५:३१ व प्रकटीकरण २:१९
 - ६) ड्यूलेवो (DOULEVO) म्हणजे गुलाम होणे. गलतीकरास ४:१८, शफिसिकरास ६:७, १ तिमिथी ६:२
 - ७) लेट्रीया (LATERIA) म्हणजे देवाची स्तुती आराधना करणे. योहान १६:३, रोमकरास पत्र १:४; १२:१, इब्रीलोकास पत्र ९:१; ६
 - ८) लिटराझिया (LEITOURGIA) म्हणजे उपासना करणे, आज्ञा पाळणे. २ करिंथकरास ९:१२, फिलिपकरास २:१७, ३०
- देवाने सर्वप्रथम सेवेला सुरुवात करून आपल्यासमोर आदर्श निर्माण केला. उदा. सृष्टीची निर्मिती, तांबडा समुद्र पार करण्यासाठी सहकार्य करणे.
- नवा करार हा सेवेचा जणू ग्रंथच आहे. येशूने केलेले चमत्कार, शिकवण हे सर्व सेवेमध्ये मोडत आहे. तीच परंपरा आपण आजतागायत चालू ठेवली आहे.

— हेलेन किणी (संकलन)

..... उपवासकालीन मिशन

उपवासकाळ म्हणजे आध्यात्मिक मेजवानीचा काळ. या काळात सर्वसाधारणपणे बाकीच्या मेजवानीचा बंद असतात. अंतःकरणाच्या पोषणाच्या निमित्ताने तीन दिवसीय मिशनचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते. पुण्याच्या पेपल सेमिनरीतील कॅप्युचिन धर्मगुरू **फा. विल्सन डिसोजा** यांनी ऑनिमेशनद्वारा लोकांना तीन दिवसांत तीन विविध विषयांवर मार्गदर्शन केले. पहिल्या दिवशी 'देव हा आपला आदर्श' दुसऱ्या दिवशी 'ख्रिस्ताची ओळख' व तिसऱ्या दिवशी 'आपलं कुटुंब जीवंत की मृतप्राय' या विषयांवर प्रबोधन केले.

पहिल्या दिवशीच्या प्रवचनामध्ये फादरांनी देवाविषयीच्या काही अनैसर्गिक प्रतिमांची ओळख करून दिली व आपल्या देवाविषयीच्या संकल्पना कशा चुकीच्या आहेत यावर बोट ठेवले.

दुसऱ्या दिवशी ख्रिस्ताविषयीची ओळख करून देताना ख्रिस्ताला आपण कशा प्रकारे समजून घेतलेलं आहे हे उदाहरणासहित स्पष्ट करून सांगितलं.

तिसऱ्या दिवशी कुटुंबाविषयी सांगताना पोप फ्रान्सिस यांच्या कुटुंबासाठी आवश्यक अशा चतुःसुत्रीचा वापर म्हणजे 'क्षमा करणे', 'विसरून जा', 'आभार माना' व 'मला तुझी गरज आहे' या गोष्टी प्रत्येक सदस्याने वापरव्यात जेणेकरून आपलं कुटुंब हे सदैव खेळकर वृत्तीचे दिसून येईल.

— कारमीन सराव, जनकल्याण नगर

वनस् मोअर!



प्रभू येशू की जय ह्या गीतावर वनस् मोअरचा आवाज संपूर्ण सभागृहात घुमत होता हावभावासहित सादरीकरण केल्यानंतर उपस्थित रसिक प्रेक्षकांनी सुद्धा ह्या गाण्यावर हावभाव करून गाण्यांचे बोल उचलून धरले. निमित्त होते खारोडी येथील बाळ येशू परिवाराच्या सणाचे.

१२ फेब्रुवारीला बाळ येशू कम्युनिटीची बाळ येशूच्या सणानिमित्ताने पार पडलेली सणाची मिस्सा. फा. मायकल पेन यांनी पौरोहित केलेल्या या मिस्सामध्ये प्रभू शब्दांवरून प्रवचन करून सर्वांना मंत्रमुग्ध केले. सिस्टर मनिषा यांनी सुद्धा सर्व परिवाराबरोबर आपल्या खास शैलीमध्ये संवाद साधला.

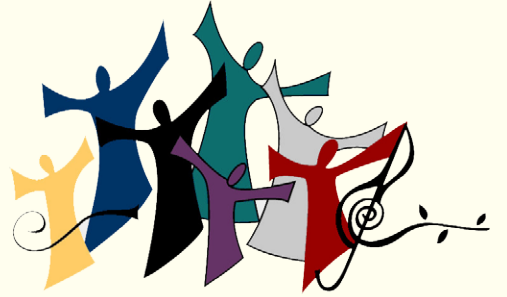
– अलोमा गोम्स (कम्युनिटी व विभागीय प्रमुख)

बायबल वर्ग

मुक्तीसागर प्रबोधन केंद्र, उत्तन तर्फे आयोजित करण्यात आलेल्या प्राथमिक बायबल वर्गाच्या दुसऱ्या वर्षाचा प्रमाणपत्र प्रदान करण्याचा कार्यक्रम २४ मार्च १९ रोजी आयोजित करण्यात आला होता. आपल्या धर्मग्रामातून हेमा गोन्साल्वीस, वेरोनिका किणी व हेलेन किणी यांना प्रमाणपत्र प्रदान करण्यात आले. तिघांही उमेदवारांचे धर्मग्रामातर्फे अभिनंदन! वर्षभराचा हा अभ्यासक्रम असून महिन्यातून दोन रविवारी विविध असे बायबल तज्ञ व धर्मगुरु हे विद्यार्थ्यांना अध्ययन करीत असतात.

जून पासून नवीन शैक्षणिक वर्गाला सुरुवात होणार असून इच्छुकांनी केंद्र अथवा माजी विद्यार्थ्यांशी संपर्क साधायचा आहे.

– प्रतिनिधी



मालवणीला २ रे बक्षिस



मुक्तीसागर प्रबोधन केंद्र व मराठी गायन विकास संघटना यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने आयोजित मुंबईतील मराठी भाषिक गायकवृंदाचा

(कॉय) २३ वा स्नेहमेळावा व स्पर्धात्मक कार्यक्रमात आपल्या धर्मग्रामाच्या स्वरांजली गायकवृंदाला दुसरे बक्षिस मिळाले.

३१ मार्च रोजी हा कार्यक्रम संतअॅन्थनी शाळेच्या अॅनेक्स भागांमध्ये आयोजिलेला होता. एकूण धारावी चौक पासून ते मुंबईच्या वरळी धर्मग्रामापर्यंतचे १७ संघ यामध्ये सहभागी झाले होते. एकूण सहा उत्कृष्ट संघांची निवड करण्यात आली.

परीक्षक म्हणून श्री.डेनिस बरबोज, सि. निशा वेगस व फा. रॉबीन लोपीस हे होते. आयोजनाच्या बाबतीतील संपूर्ण जबाबदारी स्वरांजली गायकवृंदाने उत्कृष्टरित्या पार पडल्यामुळे दुहेरी अभिनंदनास पात्र आहे.

– प्रतिनिधी

Called to Eternal Life

Name	Date	Age	Relation	Area
Melita Pereira	27/12/2018	80	H/o Marcus L. Pereira	Malwani
Peter Ignatius Gomes	01/01/2019	85	H/o Natalia Gomes	Malwani
Wensoon Pingyoung kwan	01/01/2019	58	H/o Pramila Kwan	Jankalyan
Rita Joseph Paul	01/01/2019	60	W/o Joseph Paul D'sa	Jankalyan
Charnel Rego	03/01/2019	43	H/o Carol Rego	Kharodi
Michael Louis Creado	04/01/2019	65	W/o Cicilia L. Creado	Malwani
Caridade Jerome Fernandes	04/01/2019	65	S/o Jerome Peter Fernandes	Kharodi
Salwin Claudi Patel	04/01/2019	67	S/o Claudi Patel	Kharodi
Philomena Peter Rozario	05/01/2019	77	W/o Peter Rozario	Kharodi
Gilbert Charlie Gracias	09/01/2019	62	S/o Charlie Gracias	Kharodi
Anuradha Anthony Alphonso	11/01/2019	56	D/o Anthony Alphonso	Evershine Nagar
Ashly Kinny	16/01/2019	61	H/o Hazel Kinny	Malwani
Rita Michael Lewis	18/01/2019	71	W/o Michael Lewis	Asmita Jyoti
Candolina Menezes	24/01/2019	79	W/o Menino Menezes	Marve Queen
Josphine Nigrel	24/01/2019	76	W/o Ignatius Nigrel	Kharodi
Maria Lourdes Pereira	28/01/2019	96	W/o Alex G. Pereira	Alitalao
Polly Francis Gonsalves	30/01/2019	79	S/o Francis Gonsalves	Malwani
John Teixeira	09/02/2019	55	S/o Mathew Teixeira	Malwani
Lily Rocky Fernandes	19/02/2019	67	W/o Rocky Fernandes	Malwani
Sheldon Reggi Alvares	28/02/2019	48	H/o Faustina	Marve
Eliza Raymond Lewis	01/03/2019	81	H/o Raymond Lewis	

Adult Quiz



Using the Clues Guess the name of the Books of the Bible

Kindly place your xerox answer sheet in the church collection box mentioning your name and community by 10th June 2019. Names of those with correct entries will be published in the next issue.

Across

1. Jews
3. a brave queen
7. The empire that controlled Jerusalem'
8. Moses's death is mentioned here
11. mentions the Angel Raphael
13. First Pope
16. This book is written to Theophilus
17. Samson and Delilah
18. Balaam and his donkey feature here
19. deals with unfaithfulness
21. Instructions for members and office bearers in the church
23. 'In the beginning was God and the Word was with God'
28. Teachings
31. Sorrow
32. the wall of Jerusalem is rebuilt
33. one of Paul's Letters
34. Poem about fall of Nineveh
36. Life of early Church
38. Hymn book
39. Jesus based His Second Commandment on a verse from this book
40. Gifts of the Holy Spirit
41. 10 commandments are found here
42. This Gospel has 16 chapters
43. Mentions the Ancestors of Jesus
44. In this book a King prayed for wisdom

Down

1. This Prophet complained to God about injustice
2. Accept a slave
4. A heroine, in the modern sense.
5. Tried to Disobey God but was changed in a unique way
6. Explained the dream of a king
9. Apocalypse
10. One of the youngest Prophets
12. Two letters are written to them
14. Means 'origin'
15. Fall of Jericho
20. Love poems
22. lists out generations
24. a good man suffers
25. a mother watches her Seven sons die
26. Prophesied about the coming Messiah
27. Good Daughter- in - law
29. the temple is rebuilt
30. "Speak Lord your servant is listening"
35. Life is vanity
37. Dry bones came to life

– Yulricka Fonseca

Kiddies Quiz

Use the clues and Unscramble the words to get the answers

1. AGAIMEEL - St Paul's teacher _____
2. SHJEOP - Earthly father of our Lord _____
3. LIBEB - Word of God _____
4. EPRTE – First Pope _____
5. ESISEGN – First Book of the Bible _____
6. OMESS- Brought down the 10 Commandments _____
7. NLOOSMO - Known for His wisdom _____
8. OEESPTTCN – Infilling of the Holy Spirit _____
9. RASEET- Celebration of the Resurrection _____
10. DEEN - Garden _____
11. NACANA- Promised Land _____
12. LGARENOF – Parish Priest _____

Rush your answers by 10th June 2019 Place your xerox answer sheet in the church collection box.

WINNERS OF THE PREVIOUS QUIZ

Name	Std.	Zone
Renita Alva	VIII	II
Rickson Alva	VI	II

– Yulricka Fonseca

..... *Forthcoming* EVENTS

21st April	Easter Sunday
28th April	Divine Mercy Sunday
1st May	Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
13th May	Feast of Our Lady of Fatima
24th May	Feast of Mary Help of Christians
31st May	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2nd June	Ascension of the Lord - World Communication Day
4th June	1st PPC Meeting
7th June	Novena for the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, begins
9th June	Pentecost
16th June	St. Anthony of Padua - Parish Feast - Feast of the Most Holy Trinity
23rd June	The Body and Blood of Christ
24th June	Nativity of John the Baptist
28th June	Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
29th June	Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
30th June	Laity Sunday
2nd July	PPC Meeting
7th July	Faith Formation Sunday
16th July	Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
25th July	Feast of St. James, Apostle
26th July	Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
31st July	Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Save trees....🙌🌳

The value of a single tree



June 5th is
**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**

Cardinal Oswald Gracias reminds us that responding to the “Ecological Crisis” is part of the Church’s Mission today.

In keeping with the **GREEN DIOCESE INITIATIVE** which has already begun in our Archdiocese the theme of the next issue of Tonian Tweets will be

'Care for Creation - EGO v/s ECO'

Further topics to inspire enthusiastic writers in our midst

- Our Ecological Citizenship - Let's Care for our Common home
- Our Environmental Ministry - Let's get 'down to Earth'
- Environmental Stewardship - Our evergreen Faith
- The 'Tree of Life' - Celebrating Creation
- Eco-Spirituality - Let's serve God by saving our Planet



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Published by: St. Anthony Church, Marve Road, Malwani, Malad (W), Mumbai - 400 095. INDIA

Tel: 2888 5516 | **Email:** toniantweets@gmail.com | **Printed by:** Mumbradevi Art Printers, Malad