



TONIAN tw ts

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Life Can Never Be
The Same Again



Tweet of Appreciation

(for Clergy Day)

Despite the lockdown, we, the Parish Fathers, enjoyed fabulous **Vianney Day celebrations**, thanks to the Parish Council, the SCCs and others.

First, it was a very meaningful Eucharistic Celebration, where you prayed fervently for us and all priests; followed by a warm felicitation ceremony where there was a shower of appreciation, bouquets and generous gifts.

Then came sumptuous breakfast and lunch (hope St John Vianney is not lookingHis food was only boiled potatoes). When it rains it POURS, it is said.

The menu with its variety and richness, was fit for the King's table.

On behalf of the Parish Team I thank you all for your kindness and generosity, prayers and good wishes. And above all for your active collaboration in building up this Parish Community.

May God bless you all



Fr. Agnelo and the Parish Fathers

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THEME FOR THE NEXT ISSUE:

Nothing lasts forever!

Face life's ups and downs courageously.



Your type-written matter to reach
toniantweets@gmail.com by December 26, 2020

From the desk of our Parish Priest

Fr. Agnelo Fernandes

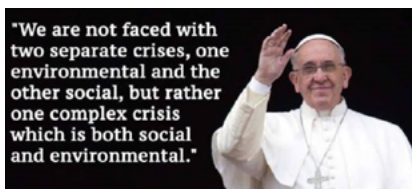
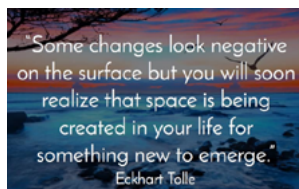
Dear Friends,

Welcome to the third digital issue of our parish bulletin for the year 2020! The theme, *Life can never be the same again*, has inspired many excellent contributions, helping us to realise that living under the *Covid-19* cloud and the pandemic has been instructive.

Every community has deftly shifted to *online* celebrations with creative *YouTube* links, *collage* presentations, and newer modes of *in-person* gatherings, while following all Covid regulations, wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and hand hygiene. It has been a trying time, but I want to thank you for keeping the communities and clusters alive, during all the special Days of this quarter – *Parents/Grandparents, Independence, Teachers, Elders, Clergy* – and the many *Community Feasts*, so vibrantly reported in this issue.

As a parish, we took the *Season of Creation*, (September 1st–October 4th) very seriously this year, since 2020 coincided with the golden jubilee of *World Environment Day* (June 5th, 1970) and the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* (2015). One paragraph from the encyclical was posted each day on our *WhatsApp* groups, the parish website, and Facebook page, to increase awareness of the Holy Father's urgent call to *Care for our Common Home*.

Later, guided by the PPC Executive Committee and Zonal Heads, each zone concentrated on a sub-theme connected with *Care for our Common Home*, researching it carefully, and, presenting it on Parish Family Day, as part of a virtual 'grand finale'. Our *Green Bishop*, Allwyn D'Silva, appreciated our enthusiasm and encouraged us to start a *Green Cell* in our parish. This is something we need to work at as we come back from the long LOCKDOWN period and plan for a *new normal*, which will surely include lessons learnt from the pandemic.



"Some changes look negative in your life," says Eckhart Tolle, German-born spiritual teacher and best-selling author of the *Power of Now*, "but you will soon realise that space is being created in your life for something new to emerge". And Pope Francis reminds us that what needs to be renewed is our attitude to each other, to future generations, and to all forms of life.

David Suzuki, former professor of Genetics, University British Columbia, science broadcaster, and environmental activist, is more specific about the new normal. ***"Our personal consumer choices have ecological, social and spiritual consequences; he warns. It is time to re-examine some of the deeply held notions that underlie our lifestyles."***

As one goes through this issue of *Tonian Tweets*, one cannot help being struck by the courage of many of our parishioners who have had to face challenging times - inability to cope with the daily stress of life, online education, loss of health, livelihood, and even death of loved ones. We are grateful to our coordinators, animators, communities, clusters and cells, for creating strong inter-personal bonds which have ensured that *no one has been in need*.

May God bless each one as we move forward in hope.

Celebrating Saints



St. Therese of the Child Jesus

If every tiny flower wanted to be a rose, spring would lose its loveliness

Feast day: October 1

Patron Saint of missionaries, HIV/AIDS sufferers, florists, and gardeners

Therese Martin was the last of nine children born on January 2, 1873, in France. Young Therese desired everything until her conversion at the age of 14 on Christmas eve. At 15 she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux. She took the name Sister Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. Through sickness and tribulations, she lived an intimate life with God. The world was inspired by her great spirituality through her autobiography, 'Story of a Soul'. Therese saw herself as the 'little flower of Jesus' who gave glory to God by being herself. On September 30, 1897, after a long struggle with tuberculosis, she passed away at the age of 24. Twenty-eight years later she was canonized Saint by Pope Pius IX and in 1997 Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church.



St. Leo the Great

Virtue is nothing without the trial of temptation

Feast Day: November 10

Patron Saint of Confessors, Popes, Moral Theology, and Vocations

The origins of this great Saint are obscure. He is said to have been a native of Tuscany and born around c. 400 AD. In 440 when Pope Sixtus III died, Leo was unanimously elected Pope. This was a critical time in the Church's history as the Western Church was disintegrating and the Eastern Church was profoundly disturbed by dogmatic controversies and speculations. Pope Leo condemned Manichaeism and Pelagianism and set forth the doctrine that Christ is One Person but possesses two distinct natures - divine and the human. Due to his dynamic faith, theological wisdom, and farsightedness, Pope Leo I became one of the three saintly Popes whom we honor with the title of 'the Great'.



St. John of the Cross

In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone

Feast Day: December 14

Patron Saint of contemplatives, mystics, and poets

Founder (with St. Teresa of Avila) of the Discalced Carmelites and doctor of mystic theology, John de Yepes was born near Avila in 1542. His father died at the prime of his youth. John was raised by his poor yet pious mother. In his early years, he took to service at the hospital of Medina while frequenting a school run by the Jesuits. At twenty-one, he took the religious habit among the Carmelite friars at Medina and was ordained a priest in 1567. He considered joining the Carthusian Order but inspired by St. Theresa, John founded the friars of the Discalced Carmelites. His life was marked by great obedience, humility, fervor, and love of the cross. John died at forty-nine, a life short but full.

Community Collaboration

'Feast of the Nativity of our Mother Mary' & 'International day of the Girl Child' 8th September

Emmanuel Community

The dual celebration on 8th September, 2020, was preceded by online praying of the Rosary by the entire community during the nine days of Novena.

The core team had organised competitions in the following categories exclusively for our girl children of different age groups: rosary / crown making and essays on 'My Lockdown experience'. The response was very encouraging and the submissions, in all the categories, fabulous.

A video was uploaded on YouTube at 8.00pm on the feast day, which was watched by the whole community. There was a deep reflection by our Twynta Fernando on the *International Day of the Girl Child*, as well as songs, instrumental music, poetry. The prize winners were also announced.

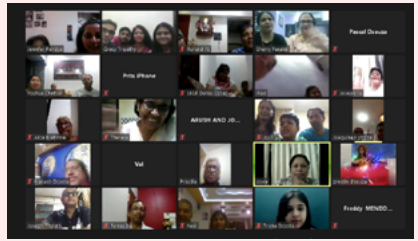
In the morning, community members visited Sneha Sagar Home at Marve with sweets and other goodies to greet the residents on *Mother Mary's birthday* and the *Day of the Girl Child*.

The overwhelming response, enthusiastic participation and cooperation of the Emmanuel community members ensured that the entire novena and feast day were blessed and joyful with warm fellowship. It proved how technology could be used during challenging times to maintain and foster a sense of community and for *Faith Formation* in a Small Christian Community.

- Joyce Fernandes,
Emmanuel Community, Bhoomi Park.

Coordinator, Joseph Tholath, confirms:

The Zoom Rosary helped to foster and retain the sense of community which was lost during the lockdown. Members looked forward to the Rosary each evening so that they could see one another and chat online after the rosary. I would recommend this for all communities.



The Holy Cross Community (Enaswadi, Zone 6)

Shares its Crosses and Blessings

As our community name suggests, we receive blessings and crosses, and we thank God for both. On 14th September 2020, our annual Feast day, we recalled some of these BLESSINGS. Since we could not have a big celebration as in other years, our animators came together in the small prayer room we have erected in Enaswadi to thank God, to pray for the needs of our families and to plead for an end to the pandemic. Our spiritual directress, Sr. Manisha, sent a video message in Hindi to encourage our members and call us to hope. That day gave us new life.

During these days we experienced some CROSSES as well. *Social Distancing* was almost impossible in our rather cramped quarters, some daily-wage earners lost their jobs, and



online learning was difficult for our children because of inadequate internet and other facilities. We are grateful for the generous help with rations and medical aid which we received from the parish, as well as with gadgets and internet fees from other kind people.

During the LOCKDOWN, our coordinator, Mr. Sebastian, with some animators, visited families to find out their needs; as a result, at least 30+ new members have joined our community. Small prayer sessions were conducted in clusters; some youth were contacted to join the Confirmation classes and some children were helped to go to school again. It is these tireless efforts of our coordinator, together with a few animators, which have kept the bonds of our community strong throughout this difficult period, and we are grateful.

- Animator

Holy Trinity Community

Cluster Formation helps in Covid times

We, the Holy Trinity Community, Baf-Hira Nagar, began working on *Cluster Formation* in early February 2020, with the help of our *Animator-cum-Cluster Coordinator*, Sandra Dias, At our first meeting, which began with a short prayer, Sandra and the cluster members were introduced to each other. The main points on the PPC agenda were then conveyed to the members who were happy to receive these from their new *Cluster Coordinator*.

The Cluster decided to have the Stations of the Cross every Sunday during the season of Lent. Our mentor, Ms Abbe Fernandes, organised the hymn sheets and helped in allotting the prayers to different members of the cluster to ensure active participation. During the lockdown, we started three more clusters in our community, with animators - Leena Anthony, Melba Fernandes and Rachel D'souza. The four clusters of our community are doing well. Even though we cannot meet physically, the cluster coordinators are in touch with the members and convey messages received from the PPC from time to time.

- Jill D'souza, Coordinator

Events this quarter

Holding activities during this quarter was challenging for us because of the pandemic. We could not meet physically; hence we had to adopt new ways. Animators kept in touch with their clusters giving them messages from time to time.

Parents' Day was our first event celebrated virtually at zonal level. The children showed their love and appreciation by preparing videos of their messages, songs, and beautifully crafted cards.

On **Independence Day**, since we could not go out physically and hoist the flag, our coordinator, Ms. Jill D'souza, and animators, along with Abbe Fernandes, our mentor, connected on whatsapp at a particular time and conducted the prayer service.

Feast of **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**: The Cross prayer was texted to all and the coordinator and animators connected through WhatsApp and prayed the rosary, offering every decade for various intentions.

- Rachel D'souza, Animator

(Unique V & V) Visit and Virtual “Parents Day”

Infant Jesus Community, Kharodi

In the past, *Parents’ Day* was always celebrated together by our community. This year due to the pandemic we were not together physically; but virtually we were together! We could not see each other, meet each other, greet each other, have snacks/soft drinks or play games together! But we were all together at the same time, tuned-in and watching the entertainment in our homes surrounded by all our dear ones.



Our Animators visited the parents, cluster-wise, on Sunday, 26th July '20, presenting each one with a gift-packet containing a hand sanitiser, mask, and packet of biscuits, as sign of *love and concern*, and reminding them to *stay indoors, protect themselves and practise social distancing*.

All the parents were happy, welcoming us into their homes. We shared their joy, spent some time with them, while maintaining social distance, and invited them to tune in to watch our children and grandchildren performing on a special YOUTUBE site titled: *Infant Jesus Community Kharodi St Anthony's Parish* created for “Parents’ Day” – Saturday, 1st August, 2020.

The virtual programme started with an introduction of the YOUTUBE site and a warm welcome to parents and all viewers, followed by an opening prayer, messages of love to the parents by our Youth, dances and songs by our talented children, and spot prizes announced at intervals! Messages by our spiritual director, Sr. Manisha, coordinator, Bosco Patel, followed, and a special song, *Saint Anna*, dedicated to parents, was sung by our team of Animators. **Only the snacks were missing!**

We received appreciative feedback from the community and viewers.

A big *Thank You* to our Animators and the children who participated.

Let us continue to:
STAY HOME. STAY SAFE

- Meena Patel, Animator

..... Celebrating our Community Feast – “Online”

Nativity of Our Lady Community

This year we had to settle for a virtual celebration. Our core team of coordinator, animators, decided to collect pictures and less-known details about special persons whom we wished to felicitate virtually on our annual feast day.

We started with our two *Covid Warriors*, then *Students* who had excelled in the 10th, 12th, or who had graduated, as well as *Teachers* (including the *Retired*), and finally, our Senior Citizens. Each animator was assigned a task, collected the matter and made a short video, which required new learning and help from our youth.

As animator, Alwyn Fernandes, says: “Making a *PowerPoint with Audio* was a completely new

experience for me. Initially, I wasted a lot of time messing around, until my son Adrian came to my rescue, helped me with recording the audio and compiled it into the final presentation. But, ultimately, I enjoyed the new learning!"

Helen initiated the online programme with the *prayer video*, felicitation of *students* was done by Alwyn, helped by Adrian. Senita and her niece, managed the felicitation of *senior citizens*, while *Covid Warriors* was done single-handedly by Anita D'Silva. A brief community report (2019-2020), together with the felicitation of *teachers* was completed by Anita D'Souza helped by son, Meldon. Our spiritual director, Sr. Daphne, beautifully summed up the whole programme, with a *prayer of thanksgiving*, remembering those members who had passed over, especially our animator, Philip D'Costa.

There were *filler* videos, too, featuring songs, dances, birthday cards by children, youth and others - a gift to our blessed Mother. And a presentation, on *Care for Our Common Home* by Celeste and Carissa Swami (Children's Council). The final compilation by our coordinator, Anita D'Souza, was a mammoth task, appreciated by the whole community.

Of course, we miss the physical gatherings and spending of good times together, but until our country is Covid-free, the best way to stay in touch is via such virtual programmes.

Link of the Video (YouTube link):

<https://youtu.be/2DjdM6bWUec>

- Anita D'souza, Coordinator & Anita D'silva, Animator

Independence Day... "In-Person"

Our community celebrated our **74th Independence Day**, August 15th, 2020, with members of the Nazarene Society, in the Society compound, keeping in mind the social norms of the pandemic. The event began with a bhajan by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, followed by an inter-faith prayer service, hoisting of the flag and inspirational address in Hindi by senior Society member, Richard Fernandes, and the national anthem, led by Shekhar Pavre.

The children and committee members gathered around the flag pole singing the national anthem, while the rest joined in from their respective places, while saluting the flag. Our coordinator, Anita D'souza, compered the event smoothly, with two minutes' silence in memory of Philip D'Costa, former Society Chairman and Community Animator who had passed over in early July.

We also enjoyed some respite from strict social norms as we greeted each other over lunch and dessert. It was a day to remember, as it marked a lull in the otherwise strict observance of the LOCKDOWN in Nazarene Apartments.

On Independence Day, we ask God to free our country and the entire world from Covid-19.

- Alwyn Fernandes, Animator



Community Feast and Parents' Day Celebration

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Community



The live virtual celebration of our Feast and Parents' Day, 2020, of *Our Lady of Mount Carmel Community* will be one to remember. In the midst of the pandemic we were unable to celebrate in person; so, we decided to do so virtually.

The Youth of our community, guided by our coordinator, Chrislyn, and animators, hosted the digital display at 6.00 pm on the 26th of July ... (YouTube link ... *Our Lady of Mount Carmel Community, Rathodi*) and the members of the

community tuned in from their homes.

The evening started with an opening prayer by our former coordinator, Anna D'Souza, followed by an address by Sr. Daphne, our Spiritual Director. There were beautiful dances, singing and instrumental performances by our children. Parents and grandparents said a few words, both wise and encouraging, about their experiences of parenting over the generations, and a lovely couple even sang about their journey through Parenthood. The entertainment ended with a stunning performance by the *Band of Boys*, after which there was a touching *Thank You and Farewell* by one of our animators.

Even though the community was not able to celebrate together in-person, there was still a feeling of togetherness. Parents and members of the community were as excited to watch the performances, as the participants were to perform in them. The community spirit was alive!

- June Barnes, Animator

..... AN ONLINE TWIST to "PARENTS' DAY" CELEBRATION

Shalom Community – Zone 8

Sunday, 2nd August. Parents Day! A special day of prayerful togetherness and a whole lot of fun and food for our Shalom community

But, this is 2020; the year of the Corona pandemic! We could not ignore the day. It was after all a day for parents and children to come together and thank God.

So, the Shalom Core Group and Youth Group put their heads together to make it a memorable day. Of course, everything had to be online and technology had to be embraced.



The day started with a community Mass, graciously celebrated online on Zoom by Fr. Vinay Kamath with an inspiring, thought-provoking sermon, accompanied by a soulful choir of well-coordinated youth. The members of the congregation prayerfully attended from their homes.

A beautiful, spellbinding video compilation by our Shalom children and youth was then premiered on YouTube. Dedicated to our wonderful parents, it was a fantastic showcasing of talent and creativity of our children and youth in singing, dancing, art and craft.

The entire community watched this together after the Mass giving a warm feeling of community togetherness. The celebration was well appreciated by all, and the parents collectively expressed their thanks and happiness online after the video. This gesture made the little ones very happy.

A heartfelt *Thank You* to all involved in this new online twist in celebration. God bless!

"We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community" - Dorothy Day

- Rashma Biju, Animator

..... "Little Minds Speak Big"

Children of St. Anne's Community



The LOCKDOWN has had a unique way of bringing out the best in families, communities, and each one of us. The little ones of St. Annes community sprouted new ideas, talents and skills as never before, with their ever-encouraging parents and supportive animators making the impossible possible. It was heart-warming to see them sing and play musical instruments for their parents and grandparents on **"Parent's Day"**, while singing **"Bella Ciao for the Climate"** as a message of the environment.

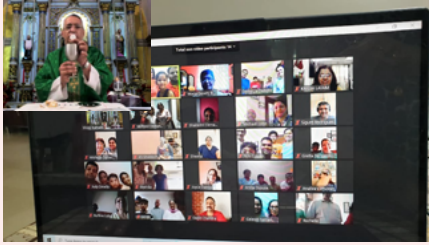
It did not stop there! On **Independence Day**, children of different faiths united as one in a *Prayer Service* honoring our great country and its leaders. They especially remembered the doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers, police, essential service workers and unsung Covid warriors, ending with a heart-winning **"We Are the World, We Are the Children"**. It reminded us that our children are the future.

On **28th September** they launched another new idea - **"planting plants in plastic bottles"**, as a sign of their care for creation and reuse of plastic. Our children truly made this world a better place for the coming generation with their little creative fingers, voices and untold messages, **God bless them.**

- Maria Hickey, Coordinator

Community Feast and Seniors' Day in Lockdown

St. Michael Community



The celebration of the feast of St. Michael, the Archangel, on September 29th, has always been the highlight of our community year, with each family and age group contributing its very best at every level. This year, faced with the lockdown, our coordinator, Shaila Fernandez, with our group of super animators, decided not to be defeated by *Pandemic Blues*, but, rather, to double the

cheer on the following Sunday, by linking our *Feast with Senior Citizens' Day*.

And indeed! Sunday, October 04, 2020, was a memorable occasion, starting with the Eucharist and an inspirational homily on Zoom, by Fr. Vinay Kamath, our ever-supportive, spiritual Director; the carefully-prepared liturgy by animators, Mary Pereira and Joyce Dantis; and a musical treat of hymns specially chosen by Rupert D'Souza and his son Naythen who led the choir. Our young confirmandi recited the *Prayers of the Faithful*, some of our seniors did the *Readings*, and it was a full-house, online participation by all our excited members.

After the Mass, Fr. Vinay personally visited our premises and distributed Holy Communion, bringing visible joy to our senior citizens who had not received the Eucharist for six months. Each one was also presented with a gift, token of our love and respect.

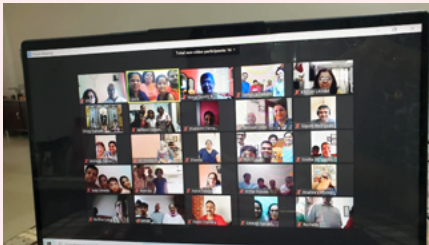
To complete the celebration a video compilation of the dual event was shared on Facebook, WhatsApp, and YouTube: <https://youtu.be/h-D9PS8w1VQ>

Truly, a community as vibrant as ours, led by super animators like ours is an untold blessing!

- Walburg Fernandez, Member

..... 'Building Community' under Lockdown

St. Teresa Community



It was late that Sunday evening and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them, "Peace be with you", He said. (John 20:19)

We can relate to this verse as we continue to live under lockdown for the fear of Covid 19, and, so, just like Jesus came amongst the disciples and said "Peace be with you",

He is alongside us saying just the same. We are all in this together and that's where creativity and innovation come in. We learnt to focus our energy on finding new ways of keeping in touch.

On 15th August, feast of the **Assumption of Our Lady and Independence Day**, our virtual prayer service was attended by the whole community, followed by a very special activity....!

After supper, families switched off as many appliances as possible, lit a candle, sat down together, and shared with each other "how we can experience Jesus through prayer and

preserving nature". We spoke of the importance of prayer, on how to not-waste-water, how to use materials which can be recycled, and much more.

Parents' Day witnessed extremely creative and entertaining activities conducted by the children of our community. Likewise, on the feast of **St. Teresa, our Community Feast Day**, as well as on **Teachers' Day**, they hosted a splendid celebration, with many innovative ideas. Some made beautiful cards; others sang with cheerful voices while still others recited poems and prayers. It was so refreshing to watch our children putting their effort and ideas together.

Finally, for the feast of the **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, some of us gathered to pray around the cross, while those who couldn't join due to pandemic restrictions had a virtual prayer service.

A very heartfelt '**Thank You**' to all our children, parents and clusters for the consistent effort and support which helped us to connect and renew relationships, while building a stronger sense of community even in this difficult time.

- **Molly Dsouza, Animator**

..... **We Are Family!!!!!!** **COMMUNITY**
Marian Community 

The *Marian Community* celebrated their *Feast-and-Seniors* virtually on 27th September 2020.

We began with a soul-satisfying Eucharist celebrated by our parish priest, Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, after which we maintained a minute's silence in memory of Fedrick Noronha and John D'Costa, two of our members, who recently left us for their heavenly home.

Our talented compere, Pearl Menezes, then got us into the party mood. A crisp, apt message from Fr. Vinay Kamath, our spiritual director, was followed by a Bible reading by Cressilda, a prayer by Diana, and, since we could not gather in-person, messages were relayed from Hazel Pereira, and the D'souza, Lobo, Crasto, Mendes and Fernandes families.

Marissa and Jadon conveyed special greetings to our 32 senior citizens who had sent us their photographs for the celebration video. May each one be blessed with a long and happy life in continued good health of mind and body. We are privileged to have you in our community!

The variety of talent was showcased next - songs by Shenelle and Raizel, dances by Anneth and Krysann, *bharatnatyam* by Pearl, and an animal dance by the Lobo Family. A real joy to watch our little ones perform!

Appreciation brings out the best in people. As we do every year, the spotlight next turned on the stars of our community - to appreciate and applaud students who successfully completed milestone exams. **Dr. Anna Jacob, MBBS**; Jadon, Stally and Jonathan, *Std XII*; and Nicole, Pearl and Elaine D'Cruz, *Std X*; all of whom have come through with flying colours. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

The event ended with Cynthia Ferrao thanking the Core Team for hidden service through the year, and Assistant coordinator, Rovita Gaikwad, thanking everyone for making the *virtual* celebration a **reality**.

- **Renita Menezes, Coordinator**

Life can never be the same again

The old life is gone; a new life has begun, wrote St. Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 5:17). This text came to mind when I heard of the above theme for this issue of *Tonian Tweets*. Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.

I also remembered the days when we could call someone umpteen times and hang up ... and they never knew it was you. Technology has so developed, as to make this impossible today!

In a special report on the **Covid 19 Outbreak**, titled *What You Need To Know*, we are asked to imagine the scenario of perhaps a year or two into the future. Long-term impacts on gatherings, gyms, travel, food habits, medicine, home-life and relationships are predicted. In the aftermath of the pandemic, experts warn that nearly everything will change!

Ken Dychtwald, researcher, and author of "Age Wave", writes, "The entire world has had a near-death experience; we have been forced to stop and think: *I could die, or someone I love could die*. When these events happen, we begin to reflect seriously about what really matters and what we will do differently". We, older adults, are more vulnerable because of deteriorating immune systems which make life tougher, even were a vaccine to be made available.

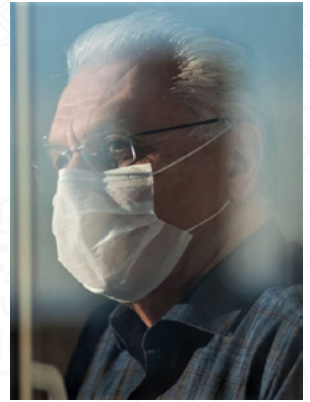
So, as we enter the second half of 2020, with our plans for reunions, shopping sprees and eating at favourite restaurants once again when life returns to normalcy, we must realise that there is no guarantee that things will go back to pre-lockdown normalcy, at least not in the near future. Our experience proves that India has already lifted several restrictions in Phase-4 of the lockdown, but the number of positive coronavirus cases keeps fluctuating.

While society may gradually warm up to the idea of *social distancing* and frequently *washing hands*, the truth is that these practices could very well become part of our everyday lives.

Surely, we will be living with coronavirus, long after the urgency is over. The hope is that "the lessons we have learnt about life, within the parameters defined by the lockdown, without dependence on what was once unimaginable, will stay with us".

Who would have thought that *virtual meetings* could be as meaningful as they have turned out to be? That *social distancing*, as a term, would find a place in our day-to-day lives, that we could demonstrate such discipline collectively, or that 'WFH' - *working from home* would become a working reality?

We will now have a new definition of what is normal, a *new normal* has taken shape in 2020.
Truly, Life will never be the same again!



**- Richard Fernandes,
Nativity of Our Lady Community**



Coping with the Pandemic

Tomorrow's World

In this pandemic, social distancing has been the norm; hence virtual meetings are the 'in thing'.

Everyone's talking of Zoom, Google Meet and other Chat rooms. At first, it was difficult as most of us were not tech-savvy but each passing day was a learning experience.

As we got familiar with the technology, there was more scope for various programmes, like daily online Mass, Bible classes, School teaching, webinars on issues facing

the country, and virtual programmes for our Community, like Parents' Day, our Feast day, and other celebrations.

We also had a new platform from which to advertise and sell tasty wares from home thus giving opportunities to unemployed people/youth.

I may not yet be well-versed with all the technological features, but happy to be exposed to what may be 'Tomorrow's World'.

It may also have its advantages.....less pollution, time gained from not travelling, hence making multitasking a possibility, spending quality time with the family as well as spiritual togetherness.

Through it all, the buzz word has been:
STAY HOME; BE SAFE.

*- Senita Hendricks
Nativity of Our Lady Cty*

..... LIFE CAN NEVER BE THE SAME... ..

Life can never be the same
Every second, every minute,
the earth is revolving,
the clock ticking,
We are evolving.
Is life the same?



The Breath you inhale and exhale
Causes your body to function,
Your blood to flow,
Your organs to operate
Are we the same?
Life is changing every second as we speak.
The current pandemic has been an eye
opener

An insight gained into the way we are living
Our relationships with ourselves, family,
friends, and nature,
Our needs versus wants,

The choices we have made,
Have now come to **consciousness**.



It is said

**The Earth has been Reset, Cleansed,
Renewed...
This is a calling for us to do the same.**

Life is a matter of making
choices and choices have
consequences.



Are we lost in our past or
ahead in our future?
Wake up! Make a choice to live in the
present.

It is time for **renewal, re-creation, restoration.**

We have had more than six months of choosing how we live our lives. Have we made it count?

Have we let time pass us by? This pandemic has given us an opportunity to increase our **Vitamin 'F'.**

FAITH

During this Lenten season, I participated in the Eucharist, prayed with people, from different nations, and listened to a plethora of speakers, who have enhanced my life. Our homes became little churches, our very own Oswald Cardinal Gracias and priests from the Archdiocese of Mumbai fortified our life by the Eucharist, Q&A, and the rich sharing and expertise on topics of faith and life. The Word of God came alive as we claimed and lived by the promises. Our faith grew more than a mustard seed. The power of the Holy Spirit working in and through our priests, laity, and our lives has been evident. Our faith has been renewed; we no longer are the same.

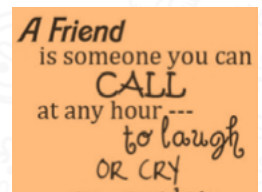
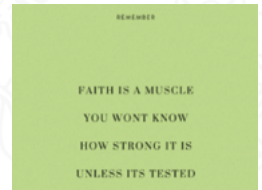
FAMILY

Time spent together as a family was always a big challenge in the city of Mumbai. The lockdown has given us the opportunity to blend, enjoy and spend quality time with each other. With no domestic help, teamwork, and delegation for household chores became important. Many have honed their culinary skills thanks to YouTube and other resources. Home-cooked food became the new norm. "Home Kitchens" sprang up owing to the economic situation. The New Normal of 'Work from Home' meant respect for each other's time, and maintaining discipline – new values that set in. Our families became small schools and offices too. Our long standing desire of '**A family that eats, prays and stays together makes a happy family**' was fulfilled. Our lives have changed... Will we continue to re-create this life forever? This is the choice we consciously need to make.

FRIENDS

Thanks to the internet and telecom industry, we were connected with our friends. Our youth today have plenty of virtual friends but how many true friends do they have? True friends keep in touch ...for no reason at all... This lockdown helped me connect with my schoolmates, who enriched my life with old memories. We are there and always will be there for each other – building, encouraging, sharing recipes, adding smiles, which keep us in good spirit, across the miles.

**It is true -Life can never be the same
We have learnt that true service brings us fame
Our outlook to life has hopefully changed
So let's evolve, connect, build and widen our range
For life is never the same. For life can never be the same.**



**- Caroline Pinto,
Holy Spirit Community**



Day of the Girl Child

Mother Mary's Birthday - September 8th

Every year, on September 8th, the Church reminds us that we are all created with equal dignity, in the image and likeness of God. Girls and boys are equal in the eyes of God and we must aim to establish the same in the eyes of men! So, this poem celebrates all girls, especially the uncelebrated girls out there!

"THE UNSUNG MASTERPIECE"

She is the sunshine:

A shining star,
A radiating beam of happiness,
A ray of renewed hope!

She is the moon:

A light in darkness,
A solace to the heart-broken,
A friend to the lonely!

She is the river:

A free-flowing spirit,
A cause of joy,
A never-ending grace!

She is the mountain:

A monument of strength,
An exemplar of resilience,
An absolute honour!
Admiration to her kin!

She is -

A delicate flower
A strong wind
A dynamic wave
An unbreakable force!

She is not a grain of sand,
but a **priceless pearl**.
She is not a piece of coal,
but a **precious diamond**.

Treat her like dirt,
Burn her down to ashes,
She will still gather herself, renew herself,
spread her wings, and
rise like a Phoenix.

Remember,
She is as capable as he is
She deserves as much as he does
She is as human as he is!

Treat her as you would treat him,
Provide opportunities to her as you would him
Take pride in her as you would in him,
Love her as you would love him!

Gender inequality is prevalent even today,
Even in this modern era.
And the only solution, I am convinced of, to
stop the bias in society is to:

Raise your boys to be better men, who
respect their opposite gender and accept their
capabilities instead of being threatened by
them...

AND ...

Raise your girls to be strong women to be able
to raise better men!

Thank you & Happy 'Girl Child' day!

- Twynta Fernando, Emmanuel Community

What Covid 19 taught me

During the Season of Creation, 2020

"Here on earth to live is to change, and to change often is to become more perfect."

St John Henry Newman (quoted by Pope Francis)

In using the above quote, Pope Francis emphasised that, for Newman, change meant conversion – an interior transformation – and he added, "The Christian life is a journey ... not purely geographical, but symbolic. It's an invitation to discover the movement of the heart that, paradoxically, *needs to start in order to remain, to change so as to be able to be faithful.*"

This rings a bell for all of us in this *Season of Creation 2020* to become aware of what has caused our Mother Earth to age, with parts of her being torn and destroyed. We have been heartless in the way we treat our lustrous, life-giving, nurturing environment. Yet she keeps giving us fresh air, grain, fish, fruit and vegetables, while enduring the torture. This is why Pope Francis is calling all people to **ecological conversion**, to save the environment and restore Mother Earth to her pristine beauty.

On 4th October, we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi *Patron of Ecology* and also Earth Advocate. Along with motivating people, he also preached to the birds and animals - a humble gesture of care and love for God's creation. In Assisi, this feast is celebrated by lighting oil lamps, blessing of pets, and remembering St. Francis' favourite diet of honey almond cake.

This year, *Covid 19* has been an eye-opener about **ecological change**. Several organisations have started to educate about poaching, unsustainable agriculture, and deforestation. We have to stop these unemotional actions which cause floods, loss of biodiversity and wild life, as well as a rise in temperatures and sea levels, which create havoc in the balance of *Mother Earth*.

In our own city, we notice littering, indiscriminate use of plastic, traffic congestion, and other signs of indiscipline. To educate our children in caring for nature and the environment, our educational institutions and families must explain to little ones at their tender age the importance of loving and caring for *Mother Earth*.

In our parish, we have made a start by taking *Care for our Common Home* as the theme for our Parish Family Day. Plastics can be recycled for use in construction of roads, lining of roofs to prevent leakage and for other purposes. LED lights help in conserving energy. We can be careful in our use of water, prevent food wastage, and work collectively at garbage disposal.

We are challenged to think of these issues deeply, to **spring out** our emotions and love *Mother Earth* once more, to change unhealthy habits, be responsible, and save our planet together.

May we have the wisdom to listen, and implement the lessons Covid 19 is trying to teach us!

- Joyce Fernandes, Emmanuel Community

Life may never be the same again

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans writes that all things work together unto good for those who love God. We may not understand the reason behind why God allowed this Corona virus to affect humanity but let us trust our good Lord.

Covid-19 has turned the world upside down. Things may never be the same again. However, we will have to adjust to the changing times. This pandemic has affected the financial situation very badly. It has also affected human relations. A gesture as simple as a hand shake has been abandoned by us for our own safety. Social distancing has become the norm.

We can't participate in community worship in person. Everything has now become virtual but one good thing has emerged out of this situation: Every home has become a church. People have become more understanding and empathetic.

We, the sisters of Helpers of Jesus run an NGO namely 'Sneha Sagar Society', and our aim is to take care of the Last, the Least and the Lost. Even though it is risky to travel out of our communities during this Lockdown, we cannot be at peace knowing that our poor brothers and sisters are suffering due to hunger.

Poor families come to our community and we give them food grains; we also distributed food grains to nearly 500 families. Every Saturday, regardless of our other commitments, we offer cooked food to around 200 poor people on the streets, while following the safety guidelines of the government. We are glad that we have an opportunity to serve our Lord during this pandemic. If you would like to join this noble work of mercy, you are all most welcome.

The sisters of Helpers of Jesus are raising funds for the orphanage by selling homemade pickles. We prepare mixed vegetable, lime, chilly and tendli pickle priced at Rs.150/- per bottle of 500 g. If you would like to purchase these pickles you are welcome to visit us at the following address: Zidaan Villa, Parerawadi, Marve Beach Road, Malad West, Mumbai 95.

- Sr. Martha Mondal

Founder President , Helpers of Jesus & Sneha Sagar Society



You may also contact us at:

Website: snehasagarsociety1999.blogspot.com

Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/snehasagarsocietymumbai

Phone number: +91 9867846323

Recently we inaugurated a FRIDGE at Ziddan Villa, so we have storage room for food ...

It is FOOD FOR THE POOR.

SNEHA SAGAR SOCIETY, MARVE

FRIDGE FOR THE POOR

With your help we feed the poor

You are welcome to come to Sneha Sagar Ashram, Zidaan villa, Perinra wall, Marve Beach road, Malad west, Mumbai 400095 at any time between 10 am to 2 pm and 4:30 pm to 7 pm during the day and keep the food you wish to donate in the fridge.

What can be kept in this fridge

Freshly cooked food, fresh leftovers, Cooked chicken, fish and mutton dishes, cooked vegetable dishes, Unsweetened milk and other dairy products, Fruits juices in tetra packs, boiled eggs, fresh fruits, bread, butter, jam and cheese

What can't be kept in this fridge

No beef, pork, stale food, expired food, sweetened drinks, raw eating veg items

Contact: 9867846323/9867846323 Email: snehasagarsociety@gmail.com
 Website: www.snehasagarsociety.org

AGERA / the “Harvest” Festival celebrations *Then and Now*

The word Agera is derived from the latin word Ager meaning field or farm and, traditionally, is a festival of thanksgiving for the “**Harvest**”. This year, 2020, Agera was celebrated on 4th October, but with differences because of the pandemic. This made me remember the traditions.

Recalling

When I was a child I used to go to our fields ... Nature in full green around me! During the rains, when the soil was mucky, I used to walk on the boundary of the fields with a stick. My father would cut a handful of paddy, bring it home, clean it and decorate it with flowers.

The next day, all dressed up, we would go to Church with the decorated paddy (Agera), line up in front for the procession with other children, who brought their Agera, and the elders dressed in ‘surkhas’ (men) and ‘lugras’ (women). Our parish priest himself used to cut the paddy, bless it and bring it in solemn procession to the Church, in a palki.

The procession used to be from the field opposite the “Akashvani” police station right to the Church. During the Mass, special prayers were recited over the paddy, fruits and vegetables, thanking God for the gifts of Creation, the Earth and the Harvest.

After Mass, the paddy was distributed among the parishioners, who then placed it on the entrance to their homes or on their altars. We celebrated with special dishes (Moi, Estuic, Foogias, Sweet dish etc.), shared with neighbours, and a cultural programme in the evening.

In Recent Years ... Some changes occurred

The blessed paddy is carried on a bullock cart, in which the priest is also seated, and the procession is accompanied by the village brass band playing religious hymns. At the end of the Thanksgiving Mass, there is fellowship in the form of *Lapsi*, and prizes are awarded for the best-dressed *surkha* and *lugra*. All then return, still dancing in procession, carrying the paddy to their homes

This Year, 2020 ... Agera was completely different

Due to the LOCKDOWN, we could not have the procession and fellowship; only special prayers and thanksgiving at the Mass, followed later, by blessing of the paddy in the Church compound, while maintaining social distance and keeping our masks on. The blessed paddy was then handed over to the *Area Heads* of our parish, for distribution to families.

However, there was Thanksgiving in our hearts, as we prayed for an end to the pandemic.

A big *Thank You* to Frs. Agnelo Fernandes & Vinay Kamat for blessing the paddy and to our Agera sponsors - Noella Dias (*Rathodi*), Parrel Dmello (*Gorai*) and Morris Kenny (*Manori*)

- Bosco Patel, Infant Jesus Community, Zone - 5



Online Learning Students' Viewpoint

According to me, as a college student, one of the biggest casualties of the pandemic has been institutionalised education. Since schools and colleges were closed classes have gone online.

Students & teachers all across the country are using every tech tool available to pursue learning, mostly through Zoom, Google Meet, Google Classroom and other platforms. At first, virtual learning wasn't easy. With everyone learning to adapt, we slowly emerged into this new world.

Like most colleges, my virtual learning began in May.

We received recorded lectures and pdfs, so that annotating them was relatively easy. Our college also scheduled two-day query-solving sessions for clarification of doubts and consultation with teachers and professors.

Online Learning really got me excited and it was an enjoyable experience until a few months later ... when it became tiring and mentally frustrating.

Plenty of assignments and short deadlines interfered with regular learning and leisure time. We became anxious about completing assignments and concentrated on memorising information based on the questions asked, rather than actually trying to grasp the information.

When efficient internet access was not always available, 'Attendance' became a problem.

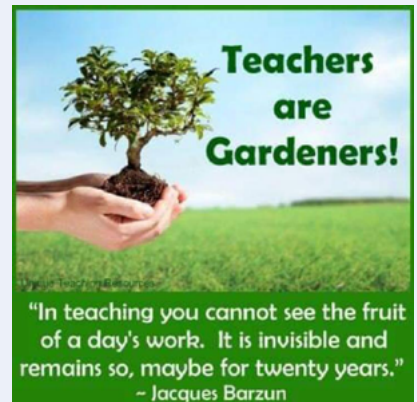
With continuous scheduled online lectures, sitting before a white screen for extended periods of time led to physical and mental strain.

Because of such difficulties, I slowly realised that "in-class" learning is preferable.

It's been almost 6 months into online classes, and, so far, considering the current situation, it is an agreeable way of learning. At the same time there an absence of the energy of a classroom, in-person communication, and the sense of being together among friends, classmates and colleagues.

This is something *Online Learning* can never replace.

- Michelle Dsouza
(Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cty)



My experience of online classes is good. We get to see how much trouble our teachers put into each lesson to make us understand it, even when they cannot see us face to face. These online classes has given me a chance to chat with my friends since I cannot go to school. We also have "online tests", which is new to me, and I am faring well.

Jude Fernandes, (Nativity of O. Lady. Cty)

My experience with online classes is amazing as we get a chance to see our teachers and friends in video meetings. However, I still miss the feeling of being fully present with all of them in school, enjoying time out, and sharing jokes together. However, I have been helped to be a bit more creative as we made a collage for Teachers' Day.

Mark Fernandes (Nativity of O. Lady. Cty)



My Lockdown Experience

by Gracy Tripathy, Age: 14

Best Essay ...
Emmanuel Community
(Prize-winner Essay)

Frustration! That's what I felt when one evening my father told me to stop going out for a while. All my friends were meeting up, hanging out, and having fun, while here I was being locked up at home. It felt so unfair! I was really annoyed.

At first, I felt that everyone was overreacting. I knew many of my friends were still going out and they weren't sick, so I assumed that this disease wasn't so dangerous

after all.

But I'd never been so wrong. Two days after I'd been forbidden to go out, a complete lockdown was declared by our Prime Minister. All my past notions about the Coronavirus being just a viral fever vanished when I saw the death toll.

Now I was actually scared.

For the first few days, being at home all day was quite unnatural. Every morning my parents would turn on the news and we'd watch it till noon. My final exams had recently ended, so I had no assignments. For the first time in forever, I had nothing to do! I realized I could do whatever I wanted in this free period!

At the beginning of the lockdown, I had the time of my life. I phoned my friends and spoke to them for hours, read plenty of books, watched movies, and even tried my hand at cooking. I am really into Korean music, drama, and movies, so I taught myself to read and write 'Hangul', the Korean alphabet system with the help of YouTube and other language apps.

After a while, my online classes started for the 10th grade. It was REALLY confusing at first. None of us knew what was going on, but with the constant effort of our teachers, it's pretty much been a success. I really admire our teachers because even in the middle of such a difficult situation, they handled everything really well and are doing their very best.

In July, a very frightening thing happened. My father was detected positive for COVID 19. By the grace of God he had no symptoms and did not have to go to the Quarantine Centre. He was home-quarantined while my mother, brother, and I shifted to a new flat for the quarantine period. We were all very scared but together we got through the situation. After the isolation was complete, my father came to the house we had shifted to and now we are staying here together.

My lockdown experience has been the most unique experience of my life. There were times where I absolutely hated it but there were also times when I enjoyed it a lot. There were times where I squabbled with my brother but there were times we got along perfectly. I miss my friends a lot so we make sure to stay connected every day. It doesn't matter if we have a video call or someone leaves just a little text, it always brightens my day.

The Lockdown has all in all been a bittersweet experience for me, and I'm trying to make the most out of it before going back out into the real world. All I hope for now is that we can together defeat this dreadful disease and come back stronger and happier.

- Emmanuel Community

Give thanks to the Lord!

Shalom Youth Prayer Group

2020! What a unique year! We've spent most of it in our homes afraid to set out and yet we are not hopeless for God, through His Word and the Holy Eucharist, continues to be light in our darkness! To add hope in the midst of despair, the *Shalom Youth Prayer Group* invited young adults from all walks of life to share experiences of their encounters with Jesus Christ in various day-to-day challenges, through video testimonies.

The testimonies, which were uploaded on our Facebook page '*Shalom Youth Prayer Group*' and Instagram page '*shalomypg2008*', were most edifying, and elicited positive comments from viewers, praising and thanking God for His goodness and mercy to all of us.

Lockdown times made way for novel ways. Through Facebook and Instagram, the prayer group keeps updating its members about the news of the Universal Church. Additionally, a series of quizzes were organised on social media to encourage Youth to read the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Lives of Saints, Church history and other documents.

To help members keep in touch with the Word of God, an online Bible Cell is also conducted every Friday evening through *Google-Meet*. It is open to all, so, if you would like to attend please contact **Brinelle** at 9819582255.

Another initiative of our prayer group is **24X7 Intercession**. If you would like us to pray for any intention, please contact us on 9820748229 or 9004635057... or drop a message on our Facebook page. To journey with us in faith, we invite you to visit our social media handles.

We pray that we may continue to be drawn to the Father and lose ourselves in His Love to find ourselves again and discover all things good!

Stay Blessed+

- Joynel Fernandes and Yulricka Fonseca
(For Shalom Youth Prayer Group)

आशा आणि जीवन संघासाठी अंकुर

२७ ऑगस्ट रोजी आपल्या धर्मग्रामातील 'आशा आणि जीवन' संघाने संत माँ निकाचा सण ऑनलाइन द्वारे प्रथमच साजरा केला.

सण साजरा करण्याच्या एक दिवस आधी व्हॉट्सअप गट बनवून आम्ही जवळ जवळ २० सभासद या कार्यक्रमांमध्ये सहभागी झालो.

प्रमुख धर्मगुरू फादर अग्रेलो यांनी जीवनाला उत्तेजित करणारा संदेश देऊन मानसिक आनंद दिला. संघाच्या ध्येयाला अनुसरून गीत रचना करण्यासाठी व गाण्यासाठी मला सांगण्यात आले होते. आध्यात्मिक सल्लागार सि. मनीषा यांनी धर्मप्रांताकडून आलेल्या संदेशाचे वाचन केले व त्याचबरोबर मनोरंजनात्मक व्हिडिओ दाखवून सर्वांचे प्रबोधन केले.

फिलोमिना डायस यांनी प्रार्थना केली. आमच्या या ऑनलाईन कार्यक्रमाचे धर्मप्रांताच्या अध्यक्षांनी कौतुक करून मुंबई स्तरावर सर्वांपर्यंत पोहोचविला.

टाळेबंदीच्या काळात आमचा व्हॉट्सअप ग्रुप एकमेकांना संपर्कात राहून सर्वांची आस्थेने चौकशी करीत असतो. दर शुक्रवारी दुपारी १२ वाजता मुंबईतील सर्व विधवा एकत्र येऊन प्रार्थना करतात. यामध्ये कुटुंबीयांसाठी, राष्ट्रासाठी व ख्रिस्तसभेसाठी प्रार्थना करतो.

हेलेन किणी

Regarding the Marathi section of Tonian Tweets

Dear Friends,

The Editorial Team has been finding that, over time, fewer and fewer articles are being submitted for the Marathi section of our parish bulletin.

This time **ONLY ONE** report was received ... **Hope and Life cell**

There seems to be less enthusiasm in writing Marathi, so, it may not be possible to continue with the Marathi section, if we receive no reports or articles. Which will be very sad!

Calling all Marathi Readers and Writers

Please do send in reports, contributions, for the next issue.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

Testimonies

FAITHFUL TO THE END

That's a description in a nutshell, of my wife Cecilia whom I lost on 11th June of this year. My whole world changed on that day. I am still unable to control my feelings; my children miss their mother, her tender love and care, her presence and blessings. Her sudden death shocked us all leaving us numb as we had to say goodbye to her, her dreams unfulfilled! As Head-Mistress of the primary section of a school, she was loved by all her colleagues, the Principal, students and parents as well.

We realize the closeness that marriage brings when one has to go it alone. It is tough to enter social life again. Each occasion that we would attend together, be it to Church, shopping, or a family event, now can be upsetting; it's like eating food without salt! We cannot comprehend the mystery of life and death as life seems to lose meaning and purpose. Besides one has to cope with intense feelings of grief that keep coming up. We need help at this moment. Family, friends and a trusted confidant may help up to a point but ultimately, one has to bear the loss alone. What has helped me is my faith in God, moments of prayer, reading the Bible ...

This loss has been even more painful as it came during the lockdown. I could not call my friends or relatives. My wife was admitted to a hospital for acute pneumonia. By the next day she was gone! Due to restrictions we could not come together for a Church burial. Through my tears as I sobbed like a child, all I was able to say was, "Goodbye, my love"! I pray for Cecilia and for all those who died recently due to sudden illness or the Corona virus. May they all find eternal rest and joy in Heaven with God!

- Lawrence Gomes,
Gift of Goodness community, Zone 3

Jesus the healer is here in our midst

"I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now" (Phil 1/3-5)

I, Roysyl D'Costa, aged 23, staying at Siddhivinayak Co-op. Hsg. Soc. Ltd., Opp. St. Anthony's Church, Malwani Church, Marve Road, Malad (West), Mumbai 400 095, with my mother and sister wish to share this testimony with you, my dear friends.

On 15th December 2019 at 4.30 pm, I suffered a brain stroke, which left me unconscious, with my left side completely paralysed. By God's grace my sister, Valencia, was in the house while my mother had gone to work. Immediately, my aunt, grandmother and cousins arranged for me to be taken by an ambulance to Atlantis Hospital at Rathodi. After an MRI and CT scan, the doctors advised immediate surgery, because of blood clots in the brain.

The first surgery (craniotomy) began on 16th December at 1.30 a.m. All my family members were present in the hospital, praying hard. The surgery lasted for almost four hours, followed by 48 hours *under observation*; the doctors advised everyone to pray. After 24 hours, I opened

my eyes, but I was very drowsy and not aware of anything. After 48 hours, I could just feel somebody around me ... that **I was alive. "Praise God"**.

"I trust in my Lord always, for He has healed my wounds".

I was in the hospital for 15 days and everyone was praying for my speedy recovery. Physiotherapy was arranged at home and I had many visitors who rendered assistance and assured me that I would recover soon. My family could not afford the medical expenses, so my relatives, friends and well-wishers rallied round to help financially. Priests, nuns, parishioners and various prayer groups from different places prayed without ceasing for my healing.

Then the second head surgery (cranioplasty) was done in 17th March 2020. Due to Covid-19, no visitors were allowed, except the physiotherapist. I admire the persistent efforts of my uncle, aunt, cousins, friends and relatives, who worked tirelessly visiting me, bringing medicines, medical reports and food, while paying the hospital bills regularly. By their sacrifice and prayers, I am now able to stand, walk slowly and, even, move my hand.

Truly, I have experienced wonders, and I am indebted for this gift of new life, made possible by God's intervention and the continuous prayer of everyone around me.

I request you to continue praying for God's grace and full recovery.

Thank you so much.

- Roysyl D'Costa

(Our Lady of Nazareth Community), Malwani

This report was
published in
The Examiner

Parish Family Day at St. Anthony, Malwani

A Call and a Challenge: Beginning with ME



years earlier, "the world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."

And amidst all these warnings, Pope Francis' clarion call via his *Laudato Si*, presented to the world in 2015, is now slowly taking root with the involvement of the Church and the Small Christian Communities to *Care for our Common Home*.

Our Holy Father's invite us to celebrate the Season of Creation that began on 1st Sept this year and ended on 4th October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Initiated by the Parish Executive Team, the parishioners of St. Anthony, Malwani, Malad, celebrated Parish Family Day on Sunday, Nov 8, 2020, with the theme: CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME, through Virtual presentations by the 8 Zones of the Parish.

The Canticle of the Sun set the tone for the presentation with a paean to 'Sing to the glory of the Lord'.

Our Parish Priest, Fr. Agnelo's warm welcome to the parishioners was inspirational; while enumerating the numerous parish activities during the lockdown, he remarked that Covid 19 has been the best teacher, forcing us to take the environment seriously. He urged the parishioners to take off from the theme of Parish Family Day (2019): *Take your candle, go light your world.*

The environmental champion, our Green Bishop, Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, commended the parish efforts, and urged the community to take this further with the building up of a *Green Team* in the parish to implement projects that can make a difference.

Ms. Yucca, PPC Vice-President, explained how this theme was conceived, about the dream to promote a *Green Parish*. Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* which gave it wings, but it took the vivacity of Sister Manisha rscj, the Resource person in the Parish Executive Team, to promote this theme which she articulated eloquently. Her introduction of the theme, ended on a positive challenge to each of us: *'You and I can make a difference. Are we ready?'*

The well-researched virtual items were thought-provoking.

Home Gardening, presented a multitude of ideas to go organic in limited space with a little effort, spiced with the ingredients of love and care. *Water* painted a grim future about the looming water crisis. It has become clear that greater investment in safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene, and essential pandemic protection is vital to protecting the planet, not only from the current pandemic, but also from pandemics to come. *The Dance of Creation*, depicted the 'Descent of Creation' from Beauty to Monstrosity through a biblical sequence on the 7 days of God's creation.

Scary stats on *Deforestation* and the hazards of Global Warming, which come in its wake, were followed by a thought provoking presentation titled *Earth for Sale*. The impact of *Global Warming* - strong summer waves, extreme winters, unprecedented rainfall, frequent cyclones and droughts that cripple Nature bring human life to a standstill. *Best out of Waste* shared tips on how to recycle and turn the pile of garbage into something eco-friendly. They urged to adopt the 5 Rs to get the best of waste: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle!

The finale by Ms. Yucca Gomes, PPC Vice President and Abbe Fernandes, Parish SCC Coordinator expressed gratitude to a host of heads and hands that got together to make the enactment of the virtual presentation memorable. The list covered the united efforts of the Zonal Heads, SCC Coordinators and Animators, the Communication Cell as well as the combination of talent that came together to make this virtual celebration a show stopper of the evening!

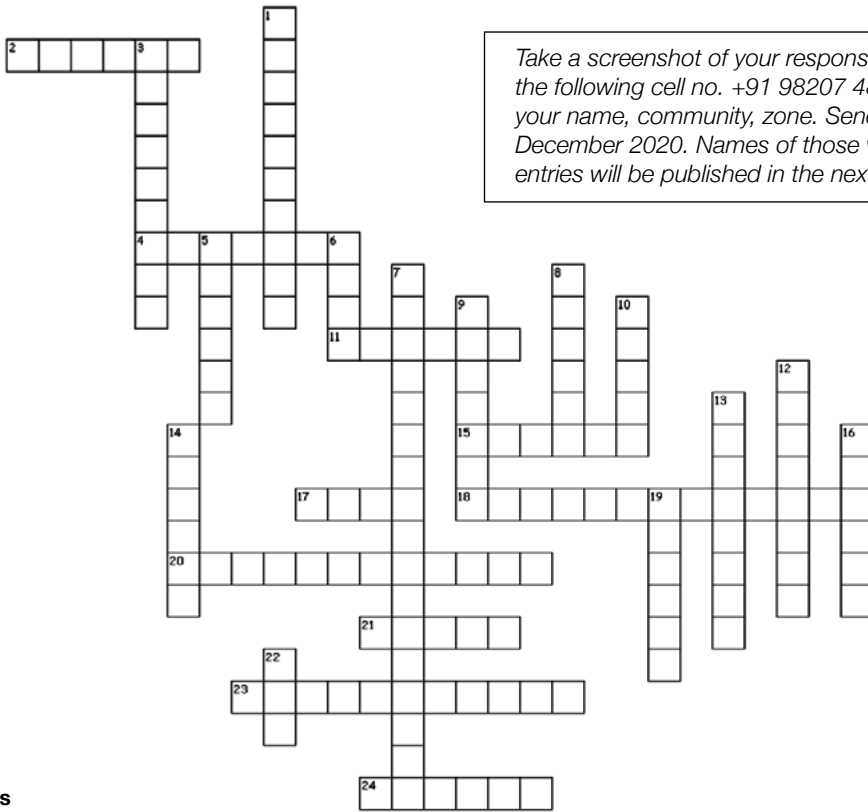
The zingers of the evening, Zeenaida and Royston Gracias, with their well-researched facts, enhanced each presentation with introductory clips that awakened interest to view the production and think about change!

In the final analysis, the message was loud and clear: ***What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make!***

- Rudyard Gomes

Adult Quiz

Guess the name of the Biblical Books



Take a screenshot of your responses. Whatsapp to the following cell no. +91 98207 48229. Mention your name, community, zone. Send by 15th December 2020. Names of those with correct entries will be published in the next issue.

Across

2. Songs of praise
4. Dry bones
11. A wise queen
15. Wise sayings
17. Love of a daughter in law
18. Dialogue between lovers
20. All is vanity
21. Blind man, an angel and a wedding
23. Famous poem on love
24. Prophecy about the Messiah

Down

1. A glimpse into the future
3. 7 brothers killed in front of their mother
5. Flight from Egypt
6. Written by a Doctor
7. Early Church
8. New leader after wandering for 40 years
9. Story of creation
10. A man thrown overboard a ship
12. Wore a yoke and bought a field
13. Runaway slave
14. Wet fleece dry ground. Wet ground dry fleece.
16. Lions and dragons
19. Woman cries in the temple for a child
22. One man lost everything and gained it many times over

WINNERS OF THE KIDDIES QUIZ TT-3 (JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020)

Sr No	Name	Std	Zone
1	Jayden Mendes	7	3
2	Anthony Rodrigues	8	2
3	Renita Alva	10	2
4	Naomi Pereira	10	4
5	Katelyn Almeida	8	2
6	Joel	7	7

WINNERS: ADULT QUIZ (TT-3 JULY – SEPTEMBER 2020)

Sr No	Name	Zone
1	Cassandra Rodrigues	2
2	Sunita Fernandes	2
3	Mary Ann D'souza	4
4	Delcy Periera	2
5	Ruth Fernandes	7
6	Solomen	2

Who am I?

A simple Action sometimes changes our life. Guess the Biblical person based on the life changing experience they had.

Ate a fruit _/_/_/_ Spoke to a serpent _/_/_

Jealous of his brother _/_/_/_ Curious about fire _/_/_/_/_

Fell off a horse _/_/_/_ Said, "Yes" _/_/_/_

Build a boat _/_/_/_ Shifted homes _/_/_/_/_/_

Saw dreams _/_/_/_/_/_ Marched around a city _/_/_/_/_/_

Heard angelic GPS _/_/_/_/_/_ Kissed his teacher _/_/_/_/_

Washed his hands _/_/_/_/_/_

Upset that she had to do all the housework _/_/_/_/_/_

Heard a voice call his name _/_/_/_/_/_

Participated in a wrestling match _/_/_/_/_/_

Asked to take a bath in a river _/_/_/_/_/_

Lost his sight because he didn't cover his face _/_/_/_/_/_

Was Sitting under a fig tree _/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_/_

Take a screenshot of your responses. Whatsapp to the following cell no.
+91 98207 48229. Mention your full name, standard, community, zone.
Send by 15th December 2020.

Answers to Adult Quiz July-September 2020

Fill in the Blanks

- The number of books in the Bible are 73. The Old Testament has 46 and the New Testament has 27. There are 4 Gospels.
- God created us to know Him, love Him and serve Him
- There are 7 petitions in the prayer Our Father. Jesus taught us this prayer.
- There are seven Sacraments and ten Commandments.
- Before Vatican II mass was celebrated in Latin (language).
- CCC stands for Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- The first pope was St Peter.
- There are 6 seasons in the Liturgical calendar. They are Advent, Christmas, Ordinary time, Lent, Easter Season and Ordinary time
- The father of faith is Abraham.
- The church celebrates the birth and death of Jesus, Mary and John the Baptist.

- The two creeds used in the catholic church are Nicene Creed and Apostles Creed.
- Amen means So be it
- Holy water before entering the church reminds us of Baptism.
- The Eucharist is divided into 2 parts. They are Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- The Archbishop of Bombay is Oswald Cardinal Gracias

State whether True or False:

- Deacons can listen to confession. False
- The Eucharist is the body, blood soul and divinity of Christ. True
- Apart from Sundays there are 10 days of obligation in the church. False
- Imprimatur can be signed only by a Bishop. True
- The Chalice is a compartment used to keep any remaining consecrated host. False

Called to Eternal Life



	Name	Date	Age	Relation	Area
1	Llewellyn Cowan	01/07/2020	78 years	H/o Josephine Cowan	Bhoomi Park
2	Joanna Ferreira	06/07/2020	81 years	W/o Ozie Ferreira	Malwani
3	Philip D'costa	06/07/2020	55 years	H/o Maria D'costa	Kharodi
4	Dezi Gonsalves	08/07/2020	68 years	D/o Paul Gonsalves	Kharodi
5	Suhasini Chakranarayan	16/07/2020	68 years	W/o Vilas Chakranarayan	Malwani
6	Frank Henriques	19/07/2020	73 years	S/o Xavier Henriques	Rathodi
7	Annie Rodrigues	22/07/2020	78 years	S/o Vincent Rodrigues	Kharodi
8	William Patel	29/07/2020	52 years	S/o John Patel	Kharodi
9	Nazreth Coutinho	30/07/2020	56 years	S/o Joseph Coutinho	Malwani
10	Juliet M. Fernandes	02/08/2020	73 years	W/o M. Mukundan	Jankalyan
11	Tassy Gonsalves	12/08/2020	54 years	W/o Robert Gonsalves	Malwani
12	Vasudev Devadiga	18/08/2020	52 years	H/o Late Sundra Devadiga	Malwani
13	Fedrick Noronha	20/08/2020	86 years	S/o Rosiro Noronha	Jankalyan
14	Estella D'souza	24/08/2020	86 years	W/o Francis D'souza	Kharodi
15	Mary D'souza	25/08/2020	91 years	W/o Gregory D'souza	Malwani
16	Kishor Rathod	01/09/2020	48 years	S/o Babu Nadhu Rathod	Marve
17	Walter D'souza	02/09/2020	68 years	S/o John D'souza	Malwani
18	John Pereira	04/09/2020	74 years	S/o Of Anthony	Patelwadi
19	Allwyn D'souza	10/09/2020	40 years	S/o Anthony D'souza	INS Hamla
20	Peter Marshal	10/09/2020	96 years	S/o Ignatius D'souza	Dadar
21	Polly Mendes	10/09/2020	75 years	S/o Joseph Mendes	Kharodi
22	Magdeline Gracious	12/09/2020	64 years	W/o Austiin Gracious	Kharodi
23	Ashley Gracias	14/09/2020	61 years	S/o Ladru Mathew Gracias	Kharodi
24	Martin F. Rodrigues	16/09/2020	60 years	S/o Joseph Rodrigues	Malwani
25	Raphel Gomes	18/09/2020	50 years	S/o Edward Gomes	Kharodi
26	John Fernandes	19/09/2020	68 years	S/o Simao Fernandes	Pereirawadi
27	Filip Nigrel	20/09/2020	62 years	S/o Ignes Nigrel	Kharodi
28	John Anthony D'costa	21/09/2020	79 years	S/o Danial Francis D'costa	Jankalyan
29	Ruby Mendes	26/09/2020	78 years	W/o Patrick Mendes	Kharodi
30	Rosy Fernandes	26/09/2020	58 years	W/o Joseph Fernandes	Malwani
31	Ronald Daigo D'lima	30/09/2020	65 years	H/o Late Milagren Ronald D'Lima	Marve

Forthcoming Events

DECEMBER	
1	PPC Meeting
3	Feast of St. Francis Xavier, Apostle of India
6	First Holy Communion at the Church
8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
24	Christmas – Carol Singing and Mass
25	Christmas Day
27	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
28	Feast of Holy Innocents
31	New Year's Vigil

JANUARY	
1	New Year's Day – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
5	PPC Meeting
6	Epiphany of the Lord
17	First Holy Communion at the Chapel
26	Republic Day
29	Infant Jesus Novena begins. Feast on Sunday, 7th February 2021

Notice

St. Anthony's Medico-Socio Centre

will remain open during the week,

9.00 am to 12.00 noon | 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm

except on Thursday mornings, Saturday evenings and Sundays

Dr. Savio Fernandes,
Physiotherapist,
will be available on
Monday and Thursday evening
from 5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Dr. Tiwari,
General Physician,
will be available on
every Tuesday between
5.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Blood tests will be carried out every Friday morning.

Tailoring classes next to the Medico Centre will function as usual
on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm

In Covid / Lockdown times '2020'



As we enter **ADVENT**
(the Season of **WAITING & HOPE**)

And look forward to the season of **CHRISTMAS**
(when *He Comes, Comes, Ever Comes...*)

May our hearts be open to recognise **JESUS** in the
various ways He may come to us

In the **NEW NORMAL** of 2021

On behalf of our parish priest, Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, and the parish team,
TONIAN TWEETS wishes all parishioners A season blessed with Peace & Hope





Celebration of Clergy Day
in the Parish House



Blessing of the Fridge
inaugurated at Ziddan Villa -
It is FOOD FOR THE POOR



Hoisting of the Flag
in the Church premises
(Aug. 15th)



AGERA - Harvest festival
-Thanksgiving Day

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Rudyard Gomes, Abbe Fernandes, Joynel Fernandes

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