



T W I T T E R

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Looking back
Looking forward

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2023

*The Editorial Board of Tonian Tweets wishes each of you:
beautiful moments
treasured memories
and countless blessings
that a heart can hold in 2023....
HAPPY NEW YEAR*

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THEME FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

THE ESSENCE OF **HOPE** IN
THE TIME OF DARKNESS



Your type-written matter to reach
toniantweets@gmail.com
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From the desk of our Parish Priest

Fr. Nicholas Pereira



Dear Friends,

“Celebrate endings—for they precede new beginnings.”

Believing in the truth of this saying, I forge ahead in the New Year 2023, with hope and strong feelings that the year 2023, will be way better than 2022.

After going through almost half the year at St. Anthony’s, it has been a great learning experience. The numerous activities of the cells and associations in the parish have never ceased to amaze me with their vibrancy, so much so that there is never a dull moment in the Parish.

Being witness to the mammoth Pearl Jubilee celebrations of the Small Christian Communities of our Parish on November 13, 2022, with Bishop Barthol being a part of this celebration and the pomp and pageantry of the event, I am strongly motivated to forge ahead. I know there is so much talent in this parish, and growth in all spheres. St. Anthony’s is almost like ‘a parish that never sleeps’...always abuzz with new and fresh happenings.

The Christmas festivities with an evening of carol singing at parish level, set the mood for the season. Crib and star competitions at community level saw our bubbling youth coming together to raise the bar of creativity to new heights. The midnight masses at both the chapel and church saw huge turn-outs, as the aftermath of the pandemic seemed to have literally let loose parishioners, who were restrained for over two years and wanted to be a part of Midnight mass. Thanks to the Police and Traffic authorities, who came together to make the movement on Christmas Eve, seamless for the parishioners.

Now as we enter into the New Year, I am sure, there is a lot more in store for us all. February, will see the Novena to the Infant Jesus at the chapel. Well organized liturgy and services with guest preachers from around the Archdiocese will add to the flavour and piety of the feast of the Infant Jesus.

Come March, we look forward to the Lenten season, the season of the church year that follows the Epiphany Season: a season for change and reflection. It is a time we set aside each year to remember the love of God that is poured out through Christ Jesus on the cross in His death; and His defeat of death and sin culminating in His resurrection that we celebrate at Easter.

Hope and anticipation are the keywords that keep us going. May joy and happiness abound in our hearts and home!

Wishing you all a blissful New Year 2023. I pray that joy, happiness and peace follow you every step of the way.



Saint Devasahayam Pillai

He is my God. I have decided to follow Him and will do so my whole life

Feast day: January 14
Patron Saint of Indian Persecuted Christians

Born into an affluent Hindu Nair family in 1712, Neelakandan Pillai served as an official in the court of Travancore's Maharaja Marthanda Varma. Here he became acquainted with Captain Eustachius De Lannoy, the Dutch naval commander, whose Christian faith awakened Pillai's interest. At his baptism in 1745, Pillai chose the name Lazarus, or Devasahayam, which translates as 'God is my help' in Malayalam. While preaching, Pillai emphasized the equality of all people, despite caste differences. This aroused the hatred of the higher classes. Pillai was arrested in 1749. After enduring great persecution, he was shot and received the crown of martyrdom on 14 January 1752. In 2022, Devasahayam Pillai was declared the first canonized Indian layman.



Saint Gonzalo Garcia

*My good friend,
God be with you*

Feast Day: February 5
Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Bombay and the Diocese of Vasai

Born of a Portuguese father and a native mother in Bassein (now Vasai) in c 1556, Garcia was trained under the Jesuits in his early years. At fifteen he left for Japan to join the mission efforts of the Jesuit fathers. Garcia served as a catechist for eight years in this mission field. He then betook himself to Alacao to set up a trade. His business flourished but Garcia yearned to be a religious. Eventually, he joined the Franciscans. The Japanese shoguns suspected the missionaries of sedition and had them excised. On February 5, Garcia was crucified on Nagasaki Hills with twenty-six of his companions. On June 8, 1862, Pope Pius IX declared Garcia a saint.



Saint Joseph

Get to know Joseph and you will find Jesus – St. Josemaria Escriva

Feast Day: March 19
Patron Saint of the universal Church, fathers, unborn children, immigrants, workers, pilgrims, carpenters, happy death

We know very little about Saint Joseph except that he was the husband of Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Scripture calls him a just man and hints at his humble profession - 'Is he not the carpenter's son?' (Mt 13:55). We do not know of a single word he ever spoke yet his actions speak volumes. The New Testament Joseph seems a 'reprise' of the Old Testament Joseph for God spoke to both of them through their dreams and both saved their families by bringing them to Egypt. A hardworking servant of God, Joseph was faithful to his human and divine calling.

Community Collaboration



Emmanuel Community – Zone 8 **Advent Wreath Prayers**

4th December was the 2nd Sunday of advent bearing the theme *PEACE*. A prayer service was held in Jose's home with his family and a small gathering of people. 2 Purple candles were lit followed by a Bible reading.

On the third Sunday of Advent, which was the 11th of December, a prayer service was conducted in Anthony's home. His family, animators and some members from the community participated in the prayers. 2 purple and 1 pink candle signifying *JOY* were lit followed by a Bible reading.

Emmanuel Community conducted Advent prayers on 4 consecutive Sundays in 4 different homes.

A Prayer service for the First Sunday of Advent was held on 27th November in Zachary's home where the family and a few animators were present. A beautiful wreath was placed on the linen cloth table along with 3 candles: 1 purple, 1 pink and 1 white candle, mounted on the candle stand. 1 purple candle signifying *HOPE* was lit and short prayers were said followed by a reading from the Bible.

18th of December which marked the Fourth Sunday of Advent, saw a prayer service being held in Sangeeta's house with all her family members, animators and members from the community. 3 purple and 1 pink candle were lit focusing on *LOVE*, followed by a Bible reading.

In the end, a short prayer was said for the welfare of their family and community members.

This concluded with the singing of Happy Birthday and cutting of a cake for Mritunjoy, Sangeeta's husband. Snacks were served by the family.

The prayers being held in people's homes during these four weeks of Advent, added a special flavor to the season and made it meaningful and truly memorable.

- *Anthony Rodrigues*



Nativity of Our Lady Community – Zone 6 **ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS**

A cluster of the Nativity of Our Lady Community came together for the Advent Wreath prayers. A nice way to prepare for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

After the fourth week of Advent Wreath Prayers, we had a Christmas party with all the families of the cluster and members of other faith. It was a heartwarming experience to see everyone enjoy the carol singing session... their smiles and laughter were infectious! The celebration was a combination of foot-tapping



music coupled with yummy food and games. Exciting action-packed housie was followed by Musical Chairs which was thoroughly enjoyed.

We sincerely thank our Spiritual Director Sr. Sophie and the coordinator Anita D'souza for their support and participation.

*- Elvira Rebeiro
Animator*



Nativity of Our Lady Community - Zone 6 **Carol Singing for the House-Bound**



On the afternoon of Christmas, Sr. Manisha, a few members and children of the Nativity of Our Lady Community, visited the house bound in our community to sing Christmas carols and share the joy of Christmas with them. We used to do it every year but couldn't for the past two years because of COVID and restrictions.



So, this year was very important for us to do so. We visited ten housebound members of our community. The joy on their faces when they saw us was overwhelming. Some even became emotional as this was after a long time and one-of-a-kind experience, they get every Christmas. We sang the carols they wanted us to sing and even joined us while singing. This was an amazing way we spent our time on Christmas day, especially for the children who joined us.

- Jude Fernandes, Member



Nativity of Our Lady community, Zone 6 **CHRISTMAS DAY with a difference!**

Every year on Christmas, it's the same story. We go for midnight mass, we wake up early, listen to some Christmas carols and prepare for the day ahead. Inevitably, every year we also reminisce about the 'old days' when we as kids would be so excited going around the neighborhood singing Carols to bring good cheer. This year however our Christmas had a marked change of " flavor"! My aged grandmother, who now finds it tiresome to go down and around the building, fondly remembered the days when she herself was a

young child going around her neighborhood singing carols.

So, when on Christmas Day itself, a group of joyous children, knocked at our door to sing carols for the housebound, it filled my grandmother with joy. Immediately around 15 kids aged 5 - 15 chauffeured by Sr. Manisha, Anita D'Souza, our SCC coordinator and another kind neighbor filled our house and started wishing each member of the family a very happy

Christmas. Some shy with little smiles and quiet voices, others eager with big laughs and bright voices, all warmed our hearts regardless. We all formed a circle near the Christmas Tree and the children all quieted down before looking with wide eyes at Sister who confirmed they'll be singing 'Silent Night'. And when one of the kids started playing the guitar, and the rest joined him

beautifully harmonizing as one, it truly MADE our Christmas!

They then went on to sing a newer rendition of 'Jingle Bells' and ended up giggling and laughing when they were done. And although the house immediately felt emptier when they left to go to the next housebound neighbor, the joy they brought us stuck around the whole day and lit up our house.

- *Serena Parve*



St. Anne's Community – Zone 8 **CAROLLING INTO THE FESTIVE SEASON OF 2022**

A great turnout for the Christmas carols and Community Christmas Party magnified the true spirits of Christmas celebrations and get-togethers, it brought together families, of our community and the church.

Kids of all ages bonded together for the Christmas caroling and skillfully balanced their school, tuitions, and carol-practice with their golden voices whenever beckoned. Our animators and volunteers enhanced our kid's voices into cheerful dynamic singers with well-planned and structured practices

On the 17th December, our amazing kids donned in Christmas colors of red and green with Santa hats performed extremely well with their cheerful mood and Christmas glow at all the buildings of our cluster that included Marina Enclave, Sonata Towers, Silicon Park, Avirahi Heights and Dolphin Towers. Santa Claus along with Mrs. Claus from the North Pole dropped in to join our evening of fun. The children, families and societies joined in the caroling and made it a true magical evening.

We had our Christmas Community party on the 22nd December at Infant Jesus Chapel. The event started with lighting of the advent candles and a prayer led by Sister Manisha.



The children then enacted and narrated the traditional Nativity skit to our enthusiastic community dressed in attires of their roles. The evening transformed very well into family bonding, dancing, games and celebrating together the true spirit of Christmas, sharing and caring in love and togetherness. God Bless everyone.

- *Christina & Gilroy D'mello*

Emmanuel Community – Zone 8 **Children’s Day Celebration**



The home of the little angels. We visited Sneha Sagar Ashram on November 27 to celebrate children's day with the kids. The experience everyone had was filled with emotions and sentiments. Their faces which lit up after seeing us was magical. The individual interaction with the kids made us listen to them

even more, the purity and the sincerity was adorable. The children and the youth of our community were so involved and present at the moment with them that made the experience even more wholesome. The genuine smile and laughter all around throughout was unmatched. Playing games with them, eating, dancing and singing gives them so much confidence. Each kid is so special in their own way because of the talents they have, the way they talk which we absolutely adored and appreciated. It was so easy for us to mingle with them, and watch them talk. This not only made us feel good to listen to them but also be someone whom they could talk to without fear of judgment. Sister Martha appreciated us by saying "this is the first time a big group of people have come to visit the kids". There were all smiles and happiness around and how could there not be when being around such beautiful people at the same time. We appreciate Sister Martha for giving us her time. I am sure everyone had the realization of being grateful for the little things and appreciate the people around us. All in all it was a wholesome experience for everyone.

- Hazel Pillai, Youth



Our Lady of Fatima community - Zone 2 **Children’s Day Celebration**

An evening of fun and laughter was organized on 20th November 2022.

The evening began with an enthusiastic march past of youth dancing to the music of "Magic in the air."

What ensued was a moment of spirituality and prayer led by Ferdinand Buthello, to invite God's presence at the gathering. Then started the actual chirping of our sweet children - laughing and running all around. Games and spot prizes were the cherry on and cake.

After the tiring game session, the children were served



snacks. The host made sure that everybody was on the dance floor.

The event came to an end with the presentation of gifts followed by a jam

session. This childrens' day celebration, was indeed a joyous and memorable one.

- Renita Alva



Our Lady of Velankani Community – Zone 2 **Childrens' Day and Christmas Celebration**



Our community celebrated Childrens' Day and Christmas in a joyous manner on the 29th of December 2022. The event was a major success, the credit of which goes to our coordinator Succour Fernandes and her team of helpful animators. The event commenced with a brief and meaningful prayer followed by delicious snacks. Fun and entertaining games were organized for both children and adults.

The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks and a prayer, after which a delicious dinner was served. The community members made the celebration joyous by their lively participation.

- Rachel Miranda, Youth



Our Lady of Fatima community (Rathodi) **Hail Mary - promoting the recitation of the Rosary**

A community that prays together, stays together. Pope John XXIII has rightly said and I quote, "The rosary is a magnificent and universal prayer for the needs of the church, the nation and the entire world." We at Our Lady of Fatima community Rathodi have made it a routine every May and October to recite the rosary at the village cross. The 13th of October, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, was a witness to the rosary being recited and celebrated with a difference.

Ms. Yucca Gomes, our mentor greeted everyone present and then beautifully explained about the apparitions of Our Lady and the importance of reciting the rosary. The rosary began with a prayer to Our Lady of Fatima and Ms Yucca deeply reflected

on each of the Joyful mysteries. The rosary culminated with a prayer being read out for the seniors of our community which concluded with an Irish blessing. This prayer was thoughtfully written by Ms. Yucca. The seniors of our community were not forgotten, and to show them our love and appreciation, the animators visited them and presented a gift to each one. The evening ended with snacks being served and a few photographs being taken as a keep sake of fond memories of a happy community.

- Sylvia Gomes, Animator

Our Lady of the Rosary –Zone 6 **Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary**



On 19th October 2022, we celebrated the above event. All excited, just one week earlier, the core group came together and decided to make this possible. Individual responsibilities were shared and allocated..... Senorita was designated to be in charge of entertainment. Sameera and Snowy handled the serving of snacks and prayers. Anita, myself and the others decided to arrange for the catering. We had around 40+ members comprising of elders, youth and children, who enjoyed the event. Many thanks to Sr. Manisha for the encouragement. It is said: where there is a will, there is always success. And so it rightly happened!

- Rita Stalin Moolamkoden, Coordinator



St. Teresa of Avila Community - Zone 8 **Celebrating the feast of St. Teresa of Avila**

We celebrated our first community feast on 15th October 2022 at the Infant Jesus Chapel, Kharodi.

The programme commenced with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Osmand D'souza, our Spiritual Director. In his homily he spoke about the virtue of perseverance. The community choir led by Franklin Castelino was melodious. The lectors Vanessa and Anne confidently proclaimed the word of God.

Appreciation was showered on Coordinator, Mr. Francis D'silva and the animators for organizing the event. Sr. Manisha spoke inspiringly about our Patron, St. Teresa of Avila. The function was hosted by Franklin Castelino. The rapid-fire questions on hymns, books of the bible, etc made us introspect on Christian living. The musical chairs with a twist and the many spot prizes encouraged members to participate. The performance of our budding artiste Nora, was thoroughly enjoyed. Peter Kinny served us mouth-watering snacks and delicious dinner. DJ Ryan ensured everyone tapped their feet throughout the function.



We thank our Parish Priest Fr. Nicholas, Fr. Osmand D'souza, Sr. Manisha, Vice President of Parish Council, Ms. Yucca Gomes, Parish Coordinator - Ms. Abbe Fernandes, zonal head Ms. Shaila Fernandez and all the coordinators for their rock-solid support.

- Anne Dias

Our Lady of Fatima Community, Rathodi
THE NECESSITY OF MAKING A WILL

On 15th October, 2022, we undertook an important initiative with the help of the Family cell. We organized a talk for the members of our community on ‘The welfare and maintenance of parents/grandparents, preparing a will, nomination and gift deed’.

All the above topics were dealt with lucidly by Adv. Melwyn Pereira. This is a common problem faced by families on the demise of

a loved one, and hence, the importance of being prepared to face this eventuality. It was lauded by all and served as an eye opener to overcome family pitfalls and disagreements.

All those who attended this session felt it was a worth while session. We appreciate the effort taken by the family cell to make this a reality.

- *Mary-Ann D'souza, Coordinator*



Holy Family Community - Zone 7
Celebration with Sr. Citizens

Zone VII comprising of 5 Communities, viz. Holy Spirit, Holy Family, Holy Trinity, St. Teresa and Divine Mercy, celebrated Senior Citizens' Day on Sunday, 9th October, at the Infant Jesus Chapel, after the 9 am Mass.

After a light breakfast, a short prayer was recited thanking God for the opportunity to meet and mingle. What followed was pure dhamaka. Fun games, foot tapping music, delicious snacks, served in between games and spot prizes.

Few seniors sportingly entertained with solo numbers in English and Konkani. After shaking our feet to peppy music, we settled down for a game of Housie.

The mouth watering aroma that filled the air drew us to the lunch table. The meal was so painstakingly prepared to suit every palate from 60 to 80 years.

Each of us was then presented a special gift.



We once again thanked God for keeping us going, despite the age related ailments. Sincere thanks and loud applause went out to Abbe and her efficient team of coordinators for the excellent arrangements.

- *Bibiana Fernandes*



It is not enough to say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions.
 — Pope Francis —
 AZ QUOTES



The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.
 — Pope Benedict XVI —
 AZ QUOTES



Our Lady of Fatima Community - Zone 2 **Celebrating with our Senior Citizens**

We celebrated SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY by inviting them for a Special Rosary dedicated to them. The animators visited the homebound and sick who couldn't be present for the Rosary. We prayed for them at their homes. All were given a gift as a token of love to make them feel special. The smiles on their faces was sheer encouragement to work harder in our Community and spread God's fragrance.

- Ferdinand Buthello, Coordinator



Our Lady of Vailankani - Zone 2 **SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY**

The day is dedicated to Senior Citizens to raise awareness about issues like health deterioration and elder abuse. On this day we acknowledge and appreciate them for their dedication, accomplishments and the services they have given to Society. They are highly experienced and are an inspiration to young people. This is ample reason to reserve a special day in honour of the senior citizens who mean so much to us.

With this in mind, we celebrated Senior Citizens Day on Saturday, 22nd October 2022. A hall was decorated with colourful ribbons, balloons and posters of Senior Citizens. 25 senior persons were invited of which 17 participated. As they entered the room and saw the decorations the joy on their faces made us feel happy and proud. We prayed for them and their families, served snacks and played music, and they all started dancing.



A sumptuous lunch was served. Each was gifted a rosary as a token of love and appreciation. One of the Senior Citizens proposed the vote of thanks.

- Succour Fernandes, Coordinator



St. Francis Xavier Community – Zone 5 **Seniors' Day celebration**



We visited the old, sick and homebound senior citizens' of our community on 22nd October 2022 between 10 30 - 11.00 am. It was a day that was long awaited. We prayed with them and their families and gifted them a token of our love.

There was a gleam of joy on their faces while we spent time talking to them. It also gave us a warm feeling sharing those precious minutes. One Sr. Citizen didn't want to leave one of our Animators, which showed the bond she shared with this Animator. May God bless them and their families who care so well for them.

- Ophelia Patel, Coordinator

St. Anne's Community **SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY**



The evening of October 8th, 2022 began with a warm welcome by Sr. Manisha followed by games and entertainment by our lively compere, Larissa D'mello. The games necessitated participants being divided into groups in order to compete against each other.

Feedback from Senior Citizens of the Community has been heart-warming. Many expressed how much they enjoyed the evening by making new friends, and how they enjoyed joining in the games, as well as the spot prizes, singing and dancing. Mrs Loretta Fernandes commented, "It was wonderful! What an excellent function. I was very warmed by the speech from one of the boys, Ronan Smith. Special thanks Ronan for your words of encouragement to each of us." While another added, "It has given us something to look forward to and to talk about!"

Another highlight was the celebration of the 76th birthday of Mrs Bridget, one of our seniors!

Happiness was writ largely on the faces of all the 36 senior citizens in ages ranging from 60 to 97 years of age. A gift was given as a token of love and appreciation to each one!

Special thanks to the co-ordinator and the animators for the fun-filled evening.

- Larissa Dmello, Animator



Emmanuel Community – Zone 8 **Senior Citizens' Day made memorable**

Age is vintage gold. To commemorate the occasion of 'Senior Citizens Day', on 1st October 2022, we visited every senior citizen in the community with gifts to make their day special and memorable.

The members and youth gathered in the morning to plan and sort out gifts for them. Before we began the visit, we recited a short prayer for our loving seniors, that they may be blessed and keep good health. We then commenced our visitation. We gave gifts as a token of our love and appreciation to them and wished them a bright and healthy future.

Seeing the beautiful smiles on their faces, filled our hearts with joy and happiness. The experience was



delightful and memorable. Our seniors deserve all the love as they live out their last years.

- Zayn Fernandes, Youth



Vacation Bible Joy

The Bible Cell of our Parish conducted the “Vacation Bible Joy” on 27th, 28th and 29th October, 2022. It was held at the chapel from 9.30 am to 12.00 noon. The children from Stds. 1st to 7th took part. 32 children showed up for on-the-spot registration, The topics for the three days were:

Day - 1 Noah and the Flood

Day - 2 Parables of Jesus

Day - 3 Miracles of Jesus

During all the three days, the children were very enthusiastic and took part in the Praise and Worship conducted by our team.

The action songs kept them on their feet. Some of them who were shy and loners earlier, became active and vibrant.

The children also took interest in doing the class activities given to them and sincerely brought it the next day to show their teachers. They also memorized the ‘Memory Verses’ for all the three days and said it by-heart on the last day.



Snacks were served for all the three days. The parents and children showed great interest in coming and listening to the Word of God. The interesting fact was that, Students of Std. IV also took part in the VBJ although they had extensive training in the same week, for their First Holy Communion. This programme has motivated us to hold such events in future.

The Bible Cell thanks the Fathers, Catechists and parishioners for their cooperation.

- Malrina Ferreira
Coordinator – Bible Cell



Children's Day Celebration

Children are a gift from the Lord

Psalm 127:3

'Little Children Are A Treasure.

Their Worth You Cannot Measure'

On Sunday, 20th November 2022,

Fr. Osmand and the youth along with the Parish Childrens' Council organized a Childrens' Day celebration for students of classes 1st to 10th.

Children of other faith were also welcomed to be a part of this celebration. Around 350 children joined this celebration.

The programme began at 5:30 pm, at the Infant

Jesus Chapel. All the children dressed in colourful outfits were cheerfully welcomed by Fr. Osmand. The evening commenced with full gusto, as they enjoyed exciting games and fun filled activities. Some children also displayed their talent by singing, dancing and mimicry.

Mouthwatering snacks were served. After that, we all danced to the foot tapping beats of peppy music. It was, indeed, a fun-filled evening.

*- Sherwin Rebello (Std. IX)
Member of the Parish Children's Council,
Bible Cell*

CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING

It was a privilege for MALWANI - Zone 2, to make arrangements for the procession on the feast of Christ the King, by leading it from the church through Malwani village and back to the church.

As this was happening for the first time in our parish, we were proud to welcome the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Sr. Rita and I met up with the coordinators and animators of the zone to decorate the whole village with buntings and flowers.

A night before, Good Samaritans of different religions came forward to help us with the decoration. On the feast day the coordinators, animators and members of Our Lady of Fatima, Forsaken & Velankani communities collectively came to sweep the road, sprinkle water and shower flower petals to welcome Jesus, the Universal King.

The procession was led by the cross bearer, followed by kids from the catechism classes, confirmation youth, zones of the parish and the Velankanni band in attendance, playing spiritual songs. After them were the children, dressed as angels, followed by the priest holding the Blessed Sacrament. We also had a Benediction at Sridevi building after which the procession went back to church.



It was an overwhelming experience to have the Blessed Sacrament moving through the village and we could literally feel the outpouring of blessings. Special thanks to our Antonian youth and all who helped to manage the traffic. It was an impressive event as people of other faith were awestruck to see such a huge and orderly parish gathering.

*- Ferdinand Francis Buthello
Zonal head – Zone 2
Malwani*



THE PRICELESS PEARL

The Pearl Jubilee celebration of the SCCs at St. Anthony's, Malwani

To say: 'It seems like it was only yesterday that we were preparing feverishly for the Silver Jubilee celebration of the SCCs in our Parish' may sound clichéd, but in reality, the 5 years in-between have literally flown by...and not just like that only.... Indeed, eventually!

There has never been a dull moment in the Parish of St. Anthony's...abuzz with the various cells and associations: the manifold activities are a virtual gondola ride!

That apart, we celebrated another milestone: the PEARL JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF THE SCCs.... which was held on Sunday, Nov 13, 2022 on the spacious Parish grounds.

The grounds wore a festive look with parishioners dressed in blazing colour codes, ranging from fuchsia pink to scarlet red, buttercup yellow, forest green, royal purple and majestic navy blue, to designate each zone - 45 communities, 8 zones, 300 Animators and a huge parishioner turnout -with hearts beating in one rhythm:

Let the SCC banner of love fly high!

The dramatic entry, zone-wise, with flags fluttering proudly and community banners aloft, breezed in to the tunes of foot tapping

praise and worship songs with well-rehearsed steps. Enough to set the spirits soaring for the evening! A riot of colours that harmonised with the crimson rays of the sun dipping into the horizons on the nearby Marve beach.

On-stage was a panel of dignitaries: His Lordship, the warm and ever-smiling Bishop Barthol Baretto, PP Rev. Fr. Nicholas Pereira, Fr. Osmand D'Souza, Fr. Victor Dalmet and Fr. Hanson [officiating for Fr. Francis Xavier, who has been unwell], flanked by the stalwarts of the Executive Team of the Parish Council: Ms. Yucca Gomes, Vice-President of the Parish Council, Abbe Fernandes, Parish Co-ordinator of the SCCs and Sr. Manisha, Resource Person - cheering the energetic communities.

Once settled in, everyone participated in the Eucharistic celebration led by Bp Barthol. In his homily, Bp Barthol spoke in glowing terms as he traced the early beginnings of the SCCs - only 4 in number then, under the baton of the late Fr. Vincent Gonsalves, to its present stature. It was a proud moment when Bp Barthol referred to St. Anthony's, as one of the model parishes



in the Archdiocese of Bombay. Committed to the 3 PRECIOUS PILLARS of the SCCs – Community Building, Faith Formation and Reaching out, the SCCs have grown from strength to strength!

The variety entertainment that followed, took off with a traditional Prayer Dance - Varuka Varuka, performed gracefully, followed by the lighting of the Lamp by the dignitaries.

The welcome address by Parish Priest Fr. Nicholas, with a touch of humour assured the crowd that it wouldn't be a long talk, as he thanked the Bishop for his gracious presence and those responsible for making the Pearl Jubilee, as priceless as the proverbial pearl.

The theme song saw an eclectic mix of 30 singers from the parish wearing the Jubilee sash, who sang harmoniously the composition for the event led by Ms. Candida Lobo.

Lift the banner of love and let it unfurl, Give your message of love to the world:

Let your light shine!

What followed was an EI Marathi paean to the SCCs, composed by our very own Fr. Victor Dalmet. The troupe rendered the song with gusto, while their East Indian lugras and heavily bedecked jewellery kept in synch with the beat.

The skit aptly titled: The Precious Pearl, won acclaim with stellar performances by the cast interspersed with a few 'comic-relief'



moments. It traced the majestic journey of the SCCs over 30 years transitioning from 'me' to 'we'. **The story-telling through the interaction of a frustrated Parish Priest, struggling to make his inactive flock a vibrant one, and his encounter with a journalist who is preparing a documentary on the SCC's of St. Anthony's, Malwani, made the entire exercise, a priceless one!** Message brilliantly conveyed. Kudos to the team!

The Gospel Musical band led by Candida Lobo and her team, was 'energetic', to say the least! Everyone in the crowd, including Bishop Barthol and the priests, rose from their seats and swayed in true gospel-song style to the popular songs: *Mercy is falling, Overcome, Nachoonga Gaoonga paglon ke samaan and I am trading my sorrow.*

The Story of a Family - through Ramp walk, traced the entire gamut of activities – starting with Baptism to the various sacraments that a Catholic encounters. **The flashy ramp walks woven in the narration, added zing to the story-line!**

The Dance items were extremely lively and well-choreographed. **Fusion Dance, was a crowd thriller as was the foot-tapping Line dance. Bullet Fusion Dance, received loud applause while the Folk Dance with Koli-costumed dancers were in the aisles encouraging audience participation, especially to the tune of the hot favourite Paskin!**

Fr. Osmand D'souza, in his Vote of Thanks, was deeply appreciative of the hard work put in by the Executive Team, Coordinators and Animators for the success of the event.

Royston and Larissa, our Anchors for the evening, set the stage ablaze with their high-powered energy. It was obvious that the audience loved their multi-lingual style!

Long after the music and entertainment faded, the mood was reflective. After

the journey of searching and discovering the 'Priceless Pearl' through struggle and endeavour of the past 30 years, we forge ahead with confidence, embracing Robert Frost's famous words: 'The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep'

May the years ahead be as fulfilling as the 30 gone by!

- Rudyard Gomes

SENIOR CITIZEN CHRISTMAS FUNDAY

It was a lovely evening, as I eagerly waited to attend for the first time, the 'Senior Citizens Christmas Fun Day' on Monday, 19th December 2022, at St. Anthony's school Annexe.

We were welcomed by our warm and friendly organisers each wearing their Santa caps while facilitating the proceedings of the evening that included games, music, dance and a whole lot of laughter. My fellow senior members were dressed in festive clothes, while each was presented with a Santa cap on arrival with a lucky number inside it, in anticipation of the lucky draw.

The celebrations began with Fr. Hanson sharing words of encouragement. Our Senior Citizens - JMJ' Spiritual Director, Fr. Francis Xavier, entertained us with his melodious singing. Starting with a grand march past, everyone took to the floor to participate in the opening event, waving and smiling at each other. It was delightful to see everyone participating in the various games and dance.

Thanks to DJ Ryan who played some fantastic tunes many participants were enthused to sing along. There were prizes galore. My personal favourite of the night was of course listening to the call of the lucky raffle that saw me winning the yummy Christmas cake. Something that I am still relishing, as I write this.



A big thanks and acknowledgement to Mark Hickey, committee member of Senior Citizens' JMJ and Compère for the night, who kept things lively with his fine sense of humour.

After a fantastic evening of activity, we came together for dinner where Sister Manisha led us in the grace before a sumptuous meal.

The evening ended with Margareth Fernandes - Senior Citizens' JMJ Committee member presenting the 'Vote of Thanks' while acknowledging the efforts of the organisers.

With reflection on this special community gathering, I am tempted to

quote Helen Keller who said “*Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much*”. My wish for the New Year is that we are able to come together and be there for each other, growing with the community and bringing smiles to many more faces in 2023.

- Azariah Magda

Society of St. Vincent De Paul

Psalms 112: 5 Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice

The Vincentians of our Parish, organised a stall to sell Goan Sweets at the church and chapel on the 26th and 27th November 2022, after all masses at both venues. The profit gained will be used for the adopted families of the SSVP.

We had a sale once again on the 17th and 18th December 2022, on a no-profit basis.

During Christmas we arrange for hampers for the adopted families in addition to the regular monthly ration. The hampers consist of chicken as per the number of members in the family, a cake, and cash for expenses.

This year we will be increasing the ration amount given by increasing in cash or in kind.



We thank our benefactors and donors with whose help and generosity we give monthly ration to our needy families.

AN APPEAL: Please help us, to help the needy of our Parish.

- Malcy D'souza
Society of St. Vincent De Paul

The Anthonian Youth Group - Activities Over The Last Quarter



In the month of October, the Anthonian Youth Group started working towards hosting the Deanery Youth Day for the South Borivali Deanery. The theme for this year was ‘*Inside-Out-Feelings are something you have, not something you are.*’ The event started

with fellowship followed by an ice breaker, an interactive talk by Fr. Ashwin, various performances, games, dinner and ended with a jam session. The youth of our parish contributed to the event by working on the backdrop, compering the event, putting up a dance performance and being an enthusiastic audience. The event attracted a crowd of over 400 youth, of which 150 participants were from our parish itself. Later that month the Archdiocese of Bombay celebrated 50 years of the



Diocesan Youth Center on 23rd October 2022. Around 30 youth of our parish partook in the celebrations held at St. John the Evangelist Church ground, Marol. The focal point of this event was the coming together and interacting with youth from different parishes in Bombay. Our youth enjoyed being a part of both events conducted at the Deanery and Diocesan level.

In the month of November, we worked on a short film based on the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis to pay tribute to the ‘blessed’, as we welcomed his relic in the Archdiocese of Bombay. Our youth led the procession to welcome the relic in our parish as well as other parishes in our deanery. We also enacted a skit on the life of Carlo Acutis and organized a Taize prayer in the parish. Being in the presence of blessed Carlo Acutis filled each one of us with deep devotion and an unforgettable divine experience. We urge all our parishioners to watch the short film which is available on YouTube.

As the spirit of Christmas was setting in we started with the making of the crib and star both at the church and chapel. Our theme



for this year was ‘Unity- Jesus is our ultimate goal’ and we chose FIFA to depict the same. We also organized a fun-filled Zonal Carol Singing event which saw participation from various groups: children, youth and adults. As the final get together of the year, we had the Youth Christmas party ‘*Starlight and Sleigh*’ to thank our youth for their participation and support throughout 2022. It was a fabulous night filled with spot prizes, dancing, games and snacks. The presence of Fr. Nicholas Pereira, Fr. Victor Dalmet, Fr. Osmand D’souza and Fr. Hanson D’souza was very much appreciated by the 130 youth present at the event. As we bid adieu to 2022 we look forward to an eventful and fun-filled 2023 where we continue working towards faith formation and service. Gratitude to the Priests of our parish, the PPC and all you wonderful parishioners for the constant love and support!

- *Aiehsa D'Lima AYG*





THE SAME OLD NEW YEAR? *Looking Back to Look Forward*

It's that time of year again. As the calendar turns from one year to the next, millions of people resolve to renew themselves. Exercising more, less social media, rising earlier, reading books, eating healthier, quitting addictions, getting organized, and managing finances are some of the common goals that decorate spare diaries, crumpled papers, or in fancy journals. And yet, we have an embarrassing confession to make: our New Year's resolutions for 2023 are quite similar to the resolutions made in 2022, which were identical to those made in 2021 and the years before. Studies show that as many as 80% of people fail to keep up with their goals by February and only 8 - 10%

follow them the entire year. Given this not-so-stellar track record, the question worth asking is what can be done to persevere in our walk, jog or run toward positive change?

For us Christians, the deeper purpose in seeking change is indelibly connected to the birth of our Saviour. Christ was born in a broken world to renew and restore it. Therefore, our resolution for the new year should begin at the manger, discerning God's will and beginning with His Grace. Our faith calls us to constant conversion and growth and empowers us to rise back up every time we fail. The process is ongoing and God is with us on the journey.

As we kickstart another year we are blessed with, here are some doable resolutions to consider:



1. Start your day with a life-giving Scripture verse.
2. Be more generous with your smiles. You look good!
3. Visit the elderly especially the sick once a month.
4. Bless your home with Holy Water and some extra care.
5. Let your phone rest for the first and last 60 mins of the day. You will function better.
6. Pray for the dead - we are created by God to live eternally.
7. Pack your lunch instead of purchasing fast food. Great for your waistline and your wallet!
8. Delete one hurtful word from your vocabulary, and then replace it with a kinder one.
9. Pick a Saint buddy and pray to your Guardian angel.
10. Shop at the local market whenever you can. One of the best ways to support your neighborhood.
11. Write more thank-you notes - to God, others, and yourself.
12. Pray a decade of the Rosary, perhaps while traveling.
13. Take a break and a nap, especially when your worry is beyond your control.
14. Stretch, exercise, and drink more water.
15. Five minutes with Jesus, before the Blessed Sacrament.
16. One daily act to be social beyond social media.
17. Refrain from gossip, listen to a podcast instead!
18. Daily Mass at least once a week outside of Sunday Mass
19. Set an alarm on your phone to take a moment to pray for someone in need.

- Bonus points if you can drop them a text too.
20. Pick something to fast from each month.
 21. Complain less and compliment more, especially our family members.
 22. Try not to miss that call from your loved one.
 23. Schedule a walk to the beach. Admire and pray with nature
 24. Journal when you feel like yelling.
 25. Pray a Novena with a friend.
 26. Cook or bake some extra food and share the aroma and the food with your neighbor.
 27. Test your comfort zone! Even baby steps are good.

28. As you leave for school, college or work, ask God and your loved ones to bless you. That's your heritage!
29. Put down people's birthdays in your calendar and if possible, call them instead of texting.
30. Do an Examination of Conscience and/ or a Gratitude Prayer before sleeping. Guaranteed sweeter dreams.

These are just a few ways to grow in your love for God, others, and yourself this year. Pick a few and make it personal to thrive through 2023. Wishing you a blessed and beautiful year.

*- Joynel Fernandes
St. Joseph Community – Zone 1*

EXPLAINED

The Holy Trinity, One God

THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY WITH THE ANALOGY OF THE HUMAN BODY.

This is a topic which forms the core of our Faith, nevertheless, it is often remains unexplored, as it seems challenging to comprehend.

Here, I attempt to unravel the mystery of the Holy Trinity, in away I have taught myself....

The Human- Brain, Nerves, and Hands, are three entirely different parts, with dissimilar functions. Yet, they co-exist and work harmoniously to perform a singular task (be it eating, writing, etc).

Similarly, let us consider God our Father to be the Brain, the all-knowing, the one who is incharge. And God the Son to be the Hand, the one who is obedient to the Brain



and performs the tasks as commanded by the Brain (God). God the Holy Spirit to be the Nerves, the one who connects the Father and the Son, who throughout the ages has been the source of wisdom - like the nerves,a messenger. Thus, God (Brain) speaks to the Son (Hand) through the Holy Spirit (Nerves).

We can now understand the Mystery of the Holy Trinity better and put together the fact that God, the Holy Spirit and the Son, are three persons and one God at the same time. Although each has a specific role, God, the Holy Spirit and the Son function not independently but as a whole. Have I been able to simplify this divine concept, in my own, way as I perceive this divine mystery?

*- Joshua A. D'souza, Age 16 years
Community of Our Lady of Fatima, Rathodi*

Message of Pope Francis
for the XXXI World Day of the Sick

“Take care of him”

Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing

“Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane.

When we go on a journey with others, it is not unusual for someone to feel sick, to have to stop because of fatigue or of some mishap along the way.

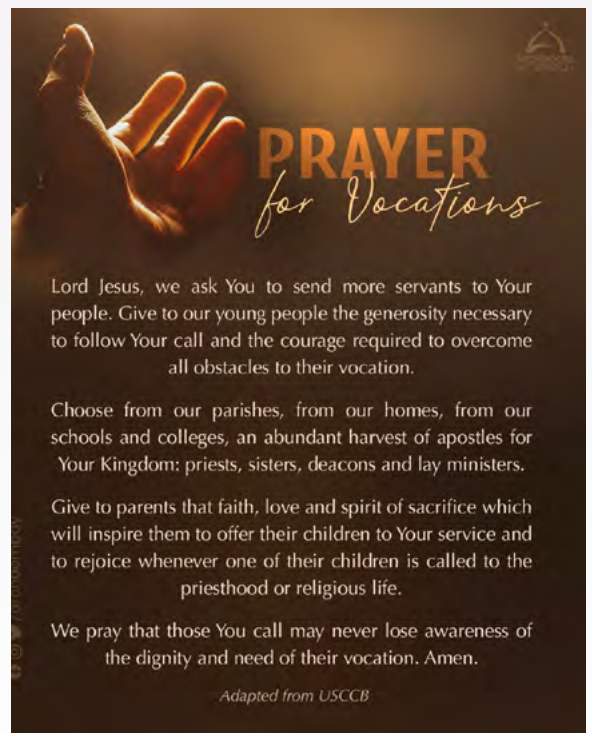
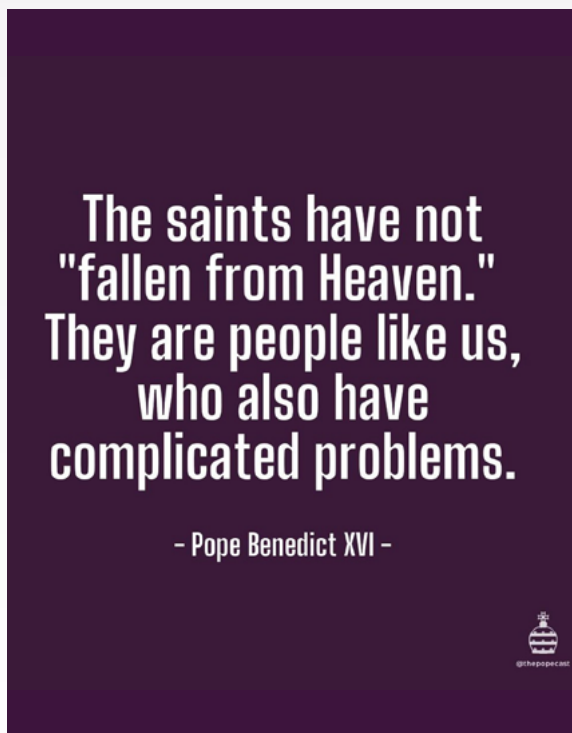
It is precisely in such moments that we see how we are walking together: whether we are truly companions on the journey, or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to “make do”.

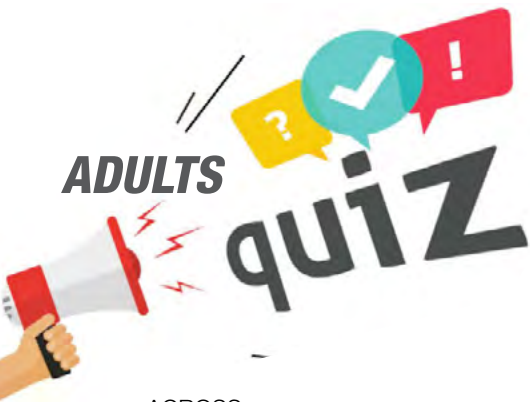
For this reason, on the thirty-first World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through



the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together.”

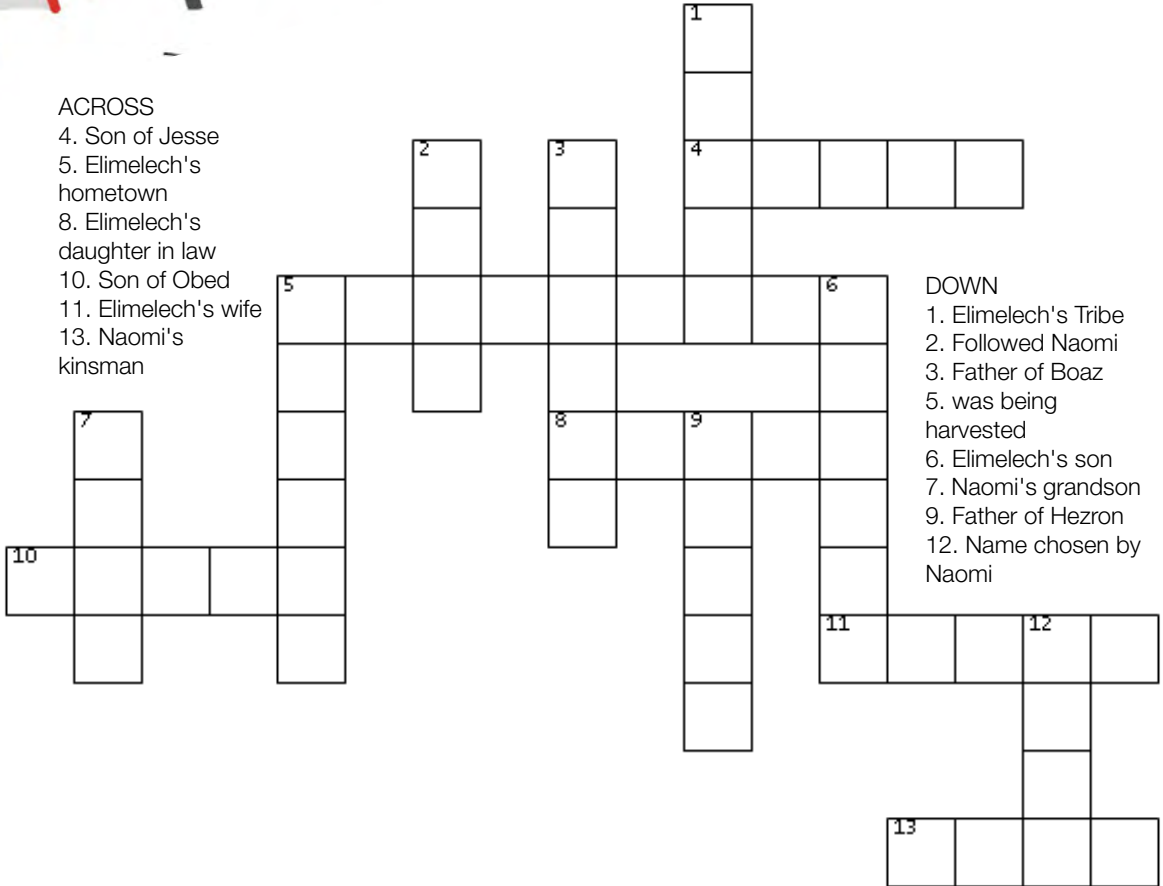
Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 January 2023





ACROSS

- 4. Son of Jesse
- 5. Elimelech's hometown
- 8. Elimelech's daughter in law
- 10. Son of Obed
- 11. Elimelech's wife
- 13. Naomi's kinsman



DOWN

- 1. Elimelech's Tribe
- 2. Followed Naomi
- 3. Father of Boaz
- 5. was being harvested
- 6. Elimelech's son
- 7. Naomi's grandson
- 9. Father of Hezron
- 12. Name chosen by Naomi

Rush your answers by 28th February 2023. You can send in your entries either via picture to 9820748229 or drop your xerox answer sheet in the church / chapel collection box mentioning your full name, community and zone. Names of those with correct entries will be published in the next issue.

October Quiz 22 Answers Adult

The following titles were in the Word Search:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------|
| Lourdes | Mother of health | Salvation |
| Fatima | Nazareth | Assumption |
| Rosary | Bethlehem | Forsaken |
| Good Counsel | Egypt | Sea |
| Perpetual Succor | Mercy | Visitation |
| Velankanni | Mount Carmel | Victories |
| Sorrows | Remedy | |



KIDDIES QUIZ



Read the book of Judges to find out the names of 10 Judges in the puzzle below

A E L O N N C A L N E H U D G
S L D B A G K E B E Z E Q I J
G K O Z I S I A E D O T D S F
Z X B T S N Y T N G O E B K O
E I C J H A H Q N E O N B S X
W F C T D H M P E N D A E J N
V R O X Y A N S J P E B I D D
Y K B M N H L T O Z B N H B M
P K X X Q T A N U N O Z Q V J
E X U Q P P W S C I R A G N P

Note: We received no entries for the quiz for the previous volume.

Rush your answers by 28th February 2023

You can send in your entries either via picture to 9820748229 or drop your xerox answer sheet in the church / chapel collection box mentioning your full name, standard, community and zone.

Called to **Eternal Life**

	Name	Date	Age	Relation	Area
01.	Annie Mendes	15-10-2022	73yrs	W/o Joseph Mendes	Kharodi
02.	Cecilia Lobo	19-10-2022	69yrs	W/o Leo Lobo	Kharodi
03.	Shalet Mathew Gracias	20-10-2022	86yrs	W/o Mathew John Gracias	Malwani
04.	Richard Patel	24-10-2022	70yrs	S/o Peter Patel	Kharodi
05.	Karmal Anthony	28-10-2022	73yrs	W/o Robert Anthony	Malwani
06.	Thomas Gonsalves	04-11-2022	78yrs	S/o Paul Gonsalves	Kharodi
07.	Sebastin Devasi	18-11-2022	82yrs	S/o Varghese Devasi	Malwani
08.	Murel E. Gomes	24-11-2022	68yrs	W/o Ernest Gomes	Malwani
09.	Ruby Pitar Pereira	05-12-2022	64yrs	H/o Pitar Pereira	Marve
10.	Connal Joseph Rozario	05-12-2022	66yrs	Not Stated	Kharodi
11.	Stella Lucas Pereira	11-12-2022	50yrs	W/o Lucas Pereira	Malwani
12.	Rafael Fernandes	23-12-2022	88yrs	H/o Piedade Fernandes	Rathodi

Forthcoming Events



18th to 25th January	Christian Unity week
22nd January	Sunday of the Word of God (Bible Sunday)
26th January	Republic Day
27th January	Infant Jesus Novena begins.
2nd February	Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple The day of Consecrated Life
5th February	Infant Jesus Feast
7th February	PPC Meeting
11th February	Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of the sick
19th February	Confirmation – Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes will administer the sacrament. World Marriage Day
22nd February	Ash Wednesday
7th March	PPC Meeting
8th March	International Women's Day
20th March	Feast of St. Joseph
25th March	Annunciation of the Lord
2nd April	Palm Sunday
4th April	PPC Meeting
6th April	Maundy Thursday
7th April	Good Friday
8th April	Holy Saturday – An Hour with Our Lady
8th April	Easter Vigil
9th April	Easter Sunday
16th April	Divine Mercy Sunday



Priceless Pearl....
celebrating 30 years of the SCC's



The procession on feast of Christ the King
from the Church through Malwani village
and back



Zonal Carol Singing



When Carlos Acuti visited
St. Anthony's Malwani

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