



# T W I T T E R

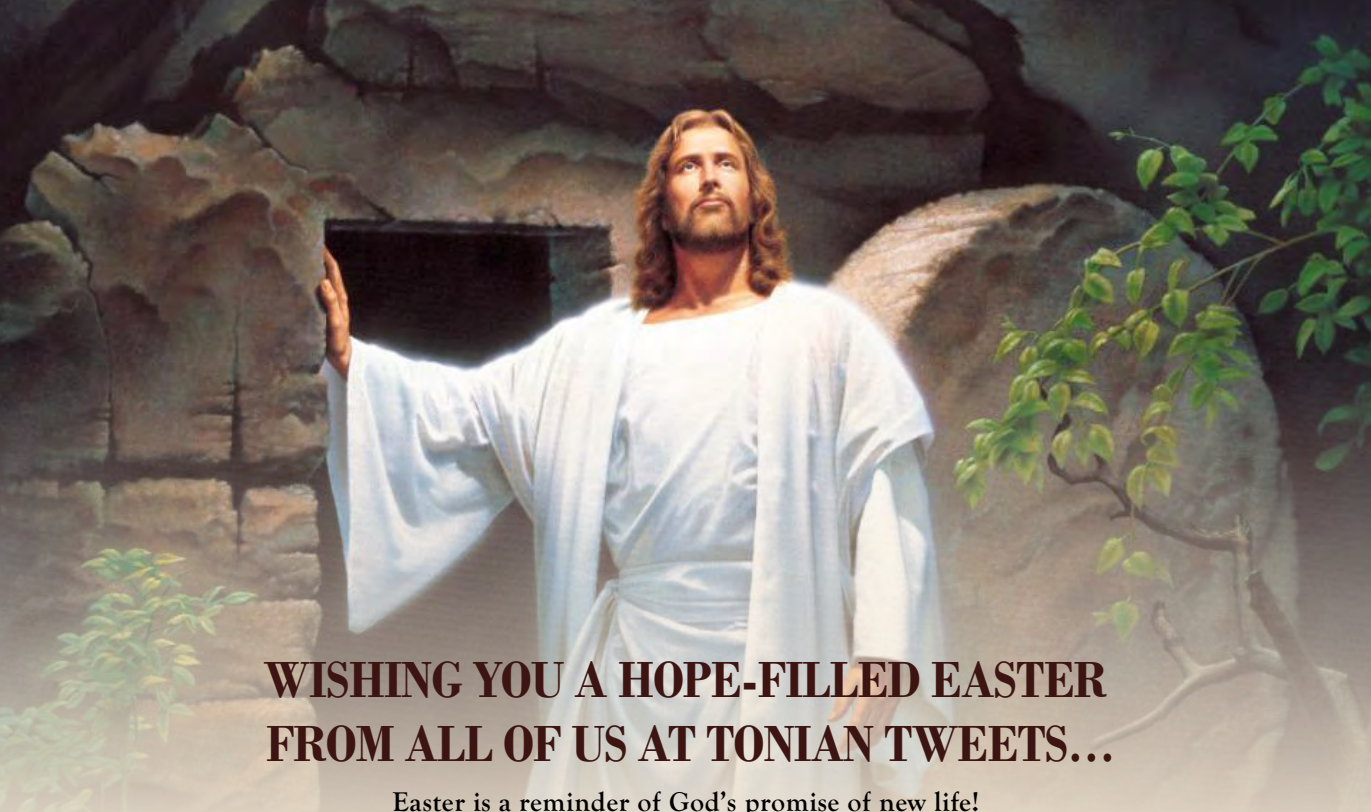
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UNITED IN PRAYER, WE BUILD THE BODY OF CHRIST; BY ACTIVELY SPREADING LOVE AND PEACE THROUGH EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

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



## WISHING YOU A HOPE-FILLED EASTER FROM ALL OF US AT TONIAN TWEETS...

Easter is a reminder of God’s promise of new life!  
May this Easter season inspire you to new hope, peace,  
happiness, and prosperity in abundance, through God’s divine grace!

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THEME FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

### NURTURING PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY



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Your type-written matter  
to reach [toniantweets@gmail.com](mailto:toniantweets@gmail.com)  
by 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## From the desk of our Parish Priest

Fr. Nicholas Pereira



It seems like it was only yesterday that we entered into 2023! Reality is, the year has already advanced to the 4th month...and I can hear the poet Ralph Hodgson say: 'TIME you old gypsy man, will you not stay? Put up your caravan, just for one day!'

Yes, time and tide wait for none...

The past three months have gone by in a blur... the Christmas festivities, had a lot packed in ...what with the carol singing, crib and star competitions and the thrill of entering into yet another year! The Care-free 2023, after the ravages of the Covid feared years gone by!

And before long, it was time for the Infant Jesus Novena at the Chapel...the themes were well researched and the liturgy and guest preachers from around the Archdiocese enhanced the piety of the feast of the Infant Jesus. The icing on the cake was the evening celebration post Mass...the food festivals were a potpourri of all the communities of the parish getting an opportunity to showcase their cuisine, and well, it was lip-smacking, to say the least! With Fr. Osmand and the youth spear-heading this daily event, it was 9 days of fun, food and frolic. A daily competition for every category and class, box cricket, housie and the food stalls were running dry of food - so heavily patronized! A great venture!

And in the interim period, there were celebrations hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council and the Clergy team for the Sisters of the parish, on their day of consecrated life. A thank you for their selfless service to the community! The Bible Quiz at Zonal level, also sparked off enthusiasm among the participants and helped nurture a greater love for the word of God!

Come March/ April, and it's the Lenten season: a time for change and reflection.'Metanoia', the Greek word for 'reflection'. A time to get in touch with our spiritual side and reflect on conversion, through retreats preached in the common languages and Confession...heartening to see, serpentine queues at the Church and Chapel in preparation for the Easter rising.

Also the election fever...not political, but communitarian! A change of guard from the old councillors, whose term ends, to make way for the new! A tedious task, but well accomplished!

The Gospel Band, THE OPEN SECRET, was a mammoth event. It helped to reflect and personalise the seven last words of Jesus! It was a life-changing experience for many, especially as it was held on the threshold of the Holy week - an appropriate time to take stock of our lives, and feel the presence of Jesus during his pain and suffering.

The months ahead will once again take us through the devotion to Mary in the Marian month of May and closely followed by the Novena to our patron, St. Anthony. Another massive preparation for all the devotees of St. Anthony. The activities at St. Anthony's never cease to keep us all on our toes.

With every good wish and God's blessings for the months that roll ahead!



## Saint Mark

*For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.*

**Feast day: April 25**

**Patron Saint of Venice, lawyers, artists, prisoners, opticians, and pharmacists**

The Evangelist Mark was the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12), whose home served as a meeting place for the apostles. He accompanied St Paul on his first missionary journey with his cousin St Barnabas. In the Acts of the Apostles, he is referred to as John Mark. The oldest and the shortest of the four Gospels was written by St Mark, for the gentile converts in Rome after the death of saints Peter and Paul (between A.D. 60 – 70). Mark is said to have been the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt, where he died a martyr while being dragged through the streets. In 828, his relics were stolen from Alexandria and taken to the Cathedral of Venice, Italy. St Mark's symbol is the winged lion.



## Saint Philip Neri

*The Lord grants in a moment what we may have been unable to obtain in dozen years.*

**Feast Day: May 26**

**Patron Saint of religious, laughter, humor, and joy**

Philip Neri was born in Florence in 1515 and was educated by the Dominicans. He experienced conversion at 18 and left for Rome. He began to work with the poor and the young, among whom he fostered Christian life. Ordained to the priesthood in 1551, he founded the Congregation of the Oratory, where spiritual reading, singing, and works of charity were practiced. He excelled in the love of neighbor and evangelical simplicity with a joyous service to God. His life was centered on his complete surrender to God, praying, 'Lord, don't trust Philip!' He died at the age of 80; much loved and respected, he is still known as the 'Apostle of Rome'.



## Saint Mariam Theresia Chiramel

*Let the Cross of the Lord be with me*

**Feast Day: June 8**

**Patron Saint of the universal Church, fathers, unborn children, immigrants, workers, pilgrims, carpenters, happy death**

A mystic and religious, Mariam Theresia was born in Puthenchira, Kerala, on April 26, 1876. Since childhood, Theresia consecrated her life to God and the Holy Family. After her mother's death at twelve, Theresia began to discern her vocation. In imitation of Jesus, she helped the poor, nursed the sick, and visited and comforted the lonely people of her parish. She was subjected to dreadful diabolic attacks and various physical illnesses. She was also blessed with the stigmata and other mystical gifts. In 1914, Theresia established a prayer house of solitude, later called the Congregation of the Holy Family. Even after she died in 1926, the Congregation continued to grow. St. Mariam Theresia was canonized by Pope Francis on October 13, 2019.



## **O. L. Of Velankani Community - Zone 2 Republic Day celebration**

This year, while India celebrated its 74th Republic Day, Indians irrespective of caste, creed or culture, celebrated this day with great jubilation.

Likewise, our community also organized a get-together. We decorated the place with tricolour balloons. Our chief Guest was the senior-most citizen of the community. The National flag was unfurled by her and we all sang the National Anthem. One of the animators presented her with a bouquet, as a token of our love.

In keeping with the focus on inter-faith participation, children did prayerful readings from different Holy Scriptures. We all recited the National Pledge together. One of our seniors also spoke eloquently.

A celebration is never complete without a snack and cold drinks. This was sponsored by a member of our community. The whole idea behind



celebrating Republic Day is community bonding and encouraging the spirit of unity in diversity.

The celebration ended with the vote of thanks proposed by me and a thank you to all who helped in making the event possible.

*- Succour Fernandes, Coordinator*

## **Holy Family Community – Zone 7 Come on and Celebrate.....**

The Holy Family Community, Jankalyan Nagar, celebrated their Annual Feast on 26th January 2023, at the Infant Jesus Chapel at 7.00 pm. About 50 people participated in the celebration.

The get-together commenced with a welcome speech by our animators, Margaret Fernandes and Vincent Colacco. Thereafter, we had a grand march followed by a game and spot prizes.

Next on the Agenda, was the elections for the new coordinator, which was systematically conducted by the members of the Executive Team. Jane Pereira, our present Coordinator, shared her experiences and thanked the animators for their support during the last four years.

Our festivities continued with other fun-filled games and at the end of each game the participants were gifted with attractive prizes. Some of our senior



citizens also entertained us with their melodious voices.

Finally we had a game of housie, music, singing and dancing followed by the vote of thanks by Maria Antao. A special mention was made to our outgoing coordinator Jane

Pereira, for her hard work during her tenure, to Abbe Fernandes, our Mentor and Fr. Osmand, our Spiritual Director, for their constant support and guidance. The evening ended on a pleasant note with a sumptuous dinner.

- Maria Antao, Animator

### **Infant Jesus community - Kharodi – Zone 5 Community Feast**

Our annual community feast, was celebrated with much gusto on Wednesday, 15th February, 2023. We began with a special mass at the chapel. Our Spiritual Director, Fr. Victor Dalmet, was the celebrant. His homily was focused especially on the youth and children. During Offertory, special offerings were made for the needy of the community.

After mass, we had elections for the new coordinator. Fr. Osmand along with the Executive team conducted the elections. Mrs. Sarika Gracias was elected as the new coordinator.

Snacks were served after the elections. Our new coordinator was felicitated by the animators. Thereafter, it was fun time! Games were organized for every category of those present - kids, adults and the seniors.

Mrs. Meena Patel, mentor of the community, thanked the outgoing coordinator Mrs. Melvina Gracious, the animators and the community members. She encouraged them to continue supporting the community. Sr. Sophie addressed the crowd and led



us in the grace before meals. She complimented the animators, as the food prepared for the feast, was the handiwork of the animators themselves. The programme ended with a game of housie.

- Simran Gracious

### **Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Lourdes Dual Community Flag Hoisting Ceremony**

January 26th, 2023, marked India's 74th Republic Day - a day of joy and pride for us Indians. The Animators and Coordinators geared up to make the venue presentable for the Flag hoisting ceremony. The place was impeccably clean and well decorated. It was heartwarming to see a good response from families in the Communities, including people of other faith.

Ms. Sylvia Gomes, our Animator, hosted the program,



while members of both the communities, participated in the solemn Inter-Faith Prayer Service.

The flag was unfurled by a member from each community - Margaret Gonsalves, from Our Lady of Fatima and Renita Gonsalves, from Our Lady of Lourdes. Both have been dedicated animators in their respective communities.

Margaret testified about her encounter with the dreaded cancer, and how she was declared cancer-free. She attributed it to the united prayer of the community at the Hour of Divine Mercy, each from our homes during Covid times. Ms. Yucca, our mentor, also testified to this and proclaimed the greatness of our God.

MaryAnn, our Coordinator, proposed the vote of thanks.

The morning ended on a sweet note with distribution of toffees to all present.

- *Maryann D'souza, Coordinator*

## **Emmanuel Community – Zone 8 Celebrating the Emmanuel Community Feast**

On 7th January, we the 'Emmanuel Community' celebrated our community feast. It was also the feast of The Three Kings. Our programme began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by **Fr. Osmand D'Souza, Spiritual Director of our community**. Soon after mass, we had the elections for the coordinator for the next term conducted by Abbe Fernandes and Maria Hickey from the Parish Executive Committee, alongside Fr. Osmand. Our nominees were very enthusiastic and so were all the other members of our community. Our nominees were Zyan Fernandes, Sangeeta Gomes Tripathy and Hazel Pillai. After the count of votes, Sangeeta was elected as Coordinator of Emmanuel community for the next term.



Soon after the elections, the dance floor was set afire with energetic moves by one and all. Later, sumptuous dinner was served.

- *Anoushka and Emily Rebello*

## **Our Lady of Lourdes Community – Zone 4 Combined Community Celebration**



The communities of Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Lourdes, Rathodi, Zone 4, came together on March 4, 2023, at the Infant Jesus Chapel grounds, to celebrate our annual feast combined with the election process.

The evening of fun and entertainment began at 6:40 pm with an opening prayers with special intentions. Since the parish had called for elections of new coordinators, the parish executive team – Rev. Fr. Osmand D’souza, Ms Yucca Gomes and Mrs Abbe Fernandes were present. The communities elected new coordinators

to be representatives at the Parish Pastoral Council and Steering Committee. Maryann D’souza and Claudy D’souza from Our Lady of Fatima, and Marian Yarde and Fatima D’Cunha were elected from Our Lady of Lourdes communities. The outgoing as well as the incoming animators of both the communities were introduced. Maryann shared her experiences of the challenges faced in the community, and also the wonderful work done, especially during the pandemic, with the help of all the animators, especially, when Louisa Hendricks, previous coordinator had to rest, having undergone a surgery. I too, shared my experiences and acknowledged the support and help received from my animators and community members. Snacks and refreshments were served after the election process.

Gail Hendricks, the Anchor for the evening, kept everyone entertained with humour, laughter, games and lots of spot prizes for all age groups. Both the communities energetically stepped in time to the lively beats of the march past. DJ Sunny spun some lively music. Sr. Manisha presented the vote of thanks. The dinner comprised of mouth-watering dishes, especially the delicious dessert of gajjar halwa, enjoyed by everybody. The programme ended by 10:30 pm with everyone talking of the wonderful fellowship they shared!

*- Lorna Hanso, Coordinator*

## **Gift of Hope Community Community Feast Day Celebration**

On 21st January 2023, Gift of Joy and Gift of Hope communities came together to celebrate their community feast in honour of their patron ‘Saint Paul’. Mass was celebrated,

followed by a gathering of 153 members in the Church Mini Hall.

Flavia and Luke, our youth were the Comperes for the evening. They left everyone impressed with their commendable hosting. We were pleased to have in our



midst Sr. Rita Francis and Sr. Jesintha Rani, Spiritual Directors of both the communities. The programme started with Sr. Rita leading us in prayer. The celebration was graced by the presence of Fr. Osmand D'souza, Ms. Yucca Gomes and Ms. Abbe Fernandes who conducted an impromptu election for the new coordinators.

After voting, Mr. Richard Lasrado and Mrs. Connie Mendes were elected as the coordinators of Gift of Joy and Gift of Hope communities respectively. The zonal head, Flora Crist, gave a heart-warming speech as she completed her tenure of being the coordinator of the Gift of Joy community. We all joined Mrs. Marita Borges as she prayed for all the students appearing for their board exams.

The spot prizes and games kept everyone entertained. There were action songs performed by the kids and a spectacular



dance performance by the youth. Delicious snacks and mouth-watering dinner was served. All in all, it was a memorable night full of entertainment, bonding and a lot of fun.

- *Bennett Chettiar, Youth*



### **St. Anne's Community – Zone 8 Reaching Out In Service**

Just as Mary fulfilled the call of discipleship through her 'Visitation', bringing Christ along, we too are called to carry on her Visitation and give Christ to others through our deeds.

The Animators, led by our Coordinator, visited all the families, thereby further deepening their relations with their Clusters, welcoming new families, providing necessary help and guidance. This experience truly brought out the spirit of Mary's visitation. May it continue to be our spirit of mission as well. Lent is a season to engage the Community around us, to build meaningful relationships through prayer and service. Praying the Stations of the Cross together as a Community is a wonderful way to prepare for Easter. This year, the Stations of the Cross were carried out in the homes of our Community members which were held every Friday. The very enthusiastic and talented children

of our Community conducted the Stations, praying and singing, creating a prayerful atmosphere.

Along with the PPC Elections, the members of our Community also bid farewell to our Spiritual Director, Sr. Manisha Gonslaves. We thank the Lord for her dedicated service

and for being a perfect Shepherd, guiding us for 4 long years. She taught us how to seek God's presence through her spirituality, encouragement and gentleness. We wish her love and good health as she takes on a new path in her spiritual journey in serving the Lord.

- Joyce Dantis, Animator

### **Gift of Love Community - Zone 3 Lenten Pilgrimage**

The Gift of Love community, Chikuwadi, organized the Way of the Cross, to different churches in Vasai, on 7th March, 2023.

We started our Journey with the Holy Rosary and devotional hymns.

The Stations of the Cross commenced from St. Roque's Church, Gokhivare, which was led by the children and then took a short break for tea and sandwiches. We then proceeded to St. Gonsalo Garcia Church, Barampur. From there, we travelled to Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, Papdy.

The next part of our journey was an opportunity to see the architecture and beauty of Vasai fort which consists of the remains of 7 churches.

Fr. Allwyn Tuscano, from St. Peter's Church, Vasai, explained about the history of the churches, and accompanied us for most of our visit.

Throughout the journey, everyone took time to say a personal prayer in every church. I was struck by how humble and devoted everyone was.



From there we proceeded to the Holy Family Church, Bhuigaon. It is a beautiful church, newly built and very modern. We took a break for lunch. From there on, we visited St. Francis Church, Girij, Our Lady of Remedies, and St. Michael Church, Manikpur.

It was certain that this journey brought us all together in a shared sense of enthusiasm and faith. We will always cherish the memories and the sense of community and spirituality that it fostered.

- Josvita D'Souza

## Good Shepherd Community Activities



Every Friday, the Stations of the Cross are held at the Jaynagar Cross. A special theme was included on one of the Friday's, reflecting Humanity and the atrocities faced by people from all walks of life.

On 8th March, three communities from Zone 8 – Our Lady of Assumption, Shalom and Good Shepherd – came together to celebrate Women's Day, at the Jaynagar Cross. The daily rosary at 8.00 p.m., was followed by a small entertainment programme. Every lady and girl was presented with a rose and a chocolate. A special gift was presented to Aunty Carmen, who in spite of her age and other physical difficulties, made it a point to come for the programme. Her positive spirit is incredible! Of course, snacks and houseie made the event a fun-evening! Every lady was made to feel special, thanks to the boys of the three communities.

Good Shepherd Community held its annual Eucharistic celebration on 24th March at the Jaynagar Cross, celebrated by Fr. Osmand. Post the mass, elections for the new coordinator were held and Dean Almeida would be taking on the reins from Savio D'souza from June 2023 onwards, for the next 3 years. Thank you Savio and many congratulations, Dean. The presence of the Executive Committee member - Abbe and Good Shepherd Community mentor – Ludovica, is appreciated. Thank you Fr. Osmand for your presence at the Eucharistic celebration and the election process.

- *Viviet Dsouza, Animator*

## Our Lady of Grace – Zone 2 Deepening Faith and Strengthening Community: Lenten Prayer Service at Our Lady of Grace

*"The purpose of Lent is to purify our hearts and minds, to remove the obstacles that prevent us from loving God and others more fully"*

Lenten Prayer Services, provide a way to deepen our connection with God and faith during this season. Our Lady of Grace organized such services, which included the Stations of the Cross with

prayers, hymns, and readings from the Bible. This allowed us to personalize our experience and connect with our spiritual journey, reminding us of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins and encouraging us to follow his example in our daily lives.

On the second Sunday of Lent, Community Election was held in the presence of Fr. Osmand D'souza, Ms. Yucca Gomes, Vice President of the PPC, and Mrs. Abbe Fernandes, the SCC Parish Coordinator, and 40 members. After the voting process, Ms. Cassandra Rodrigues was elected as the Coordinator and Mrs. Jennifer Coutinho, was elected as the Animator representing the community for the Steering Committee meetings. Fr. Osmand D'souza addressed the gathering and expressed his appreciation for the peaceful and fair conduct of the elections and emphasized the importance of their roles in strengthening the community.



The Lenten services offer us a powerful way to prepare for Easter and to grow in our understanding of Christ's love for us. We are blessed to have this opportunity to come together in prayer and reflection.

- *Cassandra Rodrigues, Coordinator*

## *Our Lady of the Rosary Community - Zone 6* **Stations of the Cross**



The Stations of the Cross are a Lenten devotion that offer witness to Jesus' Passion and Death. This is the time we reflect on all that Jesus went through to save mankind!

Stations of the Cross offer us:-

- Strength in times of suffering.
- Instills in us a compassion for those who suffer
- Reminds us of the vast love of God
- Gives us a sign of great hope
- Enables us to feel Jesus' suffering

To make the Stations of the Cross more meaningful, we decided to go door-to-door among our member's families. Each member of the family read out, one station of the cross and reflected.

We were happy to see our children taking

interest in joining and helping us during this time. It's an excellent way to introduce them to the story of Jesus' passion, his suffering and death, breaking it down into pieces that kids can more easily memorize.

But the Stations are much more than the re-telling of a story: it is a prayerful

participation in the event that lies at the heart of Christianity. At its best, the Stations engage kids at a spiritual level.

We also informed and guided our members and children on the importance of confessions.

- *Rita Stalin, Coordinator*

### **St. Joseph Community – Zone 1 Community Feast celebration**

Our community celebrated the St. Joseph feast on 19th March, 2023. It was our privilege to have Fr Osmand, Ms. Yucca and Mrs. Abbe to grace the occasion. Elections for both the Communities - St. Francis Xavier and St. Joseph were held and the council members were successfully elected.

Together we recited the Holy rosary along with the litany of St Joseph.

The excitement built up with DJ Hansel playing music that set our feet a-tapping.

Ayesha joined me in comparing the event, making sure each Josephite was on the floor for gaming and dancing. With yummy snacks and mouth watering delicacies for dinner, our yearly meet came to an end. Not to forget the unexpected showers of blessings from above that drenched us, as a closure to the evening.



We look forward to more masti and outreach programs in the coming year with the newly elected animators on board.

- *Thecla D'Souza, Animator*

Don't let anyone  
rob you of hope.

Pope Francis

## **St. Francis Xavier Community – Zone 5** **Re-living the season of Lent:** **Stations of the Cross**



Beginning with Lent, we organized the Stations of the Cross for our community at 7.00 pm every week.

On 12th March 2023, few members, and Animators, set off for Stations of the Cross to Don

Bosco Yuvak Sanstha, Karjat. We heard the 12.00 noon English Mass at the Sanstha, followed by a free lunch. Many willingly gave love offerings, donations and offered Masses. After relaxing for a while, we started with the Stations of the Cross up the Mount by 1.30 noon.

Truly it was an amazing experience walking the Way of the cross, despite the challenging climb, reciting prayers meaningfully with three young boys - Sairus, Alvin and Jazzle carrying the wooden cross and wearing the crown of thorns on their head in turns. The way was tiring and exhausting due to the heat. Every Station had a huge platform with Statues relating to Jesus' agony.

It was a tender reminder, whereby we literally felt the pain, humiliation, torture and suffering Jesus must have gone through on His way to Mount Calvary.

Later, we visited the Church of our Lady of Fatima, which was close by, after which, we returned home. The best way of the Cross ever experienced!

*- Ophelia Patel, Coordinator*

## **Emmanuel Community – Zone 8** **Tracing The Road To Calvary**

The COVID pandemic had imprinted a deep scar on the minds of people. But we are back to normal. This year when our very energetic coordinator, Ms. Sangeeta, gave a call on the community group that we would be having the STATIONS OF THE CROSS, it was a great community experience!

The Stations of the Cross were very well divided between the children and elders with a print out of the prayers given to each one so that every person could participate. It was encouraging to see the children take a lead in the prayer service. This way of the cross has helped and guided us and given meaning to our lives, remembering that Jesus Christ is The EVER Forgiving LORD and GOD.



*- Anthony D'souza, Member*

## *Nativity of Our Lady – Zone 6* **'Will' - It's Importance**

An interesting and important topic, as a receptive audience imbibed the highlights presented by our own Advocate Melwyn Pereira, from our Parish. He spoke about important topics like 'Firstly Will - How important this document is'.... How do we go about making it and the benefits of making one!

Secondly Nomination - It's a simple and inexpensive document where it helps your near and dear ones to claim/transfer shares/property after ones death, rather than running from pillar to post.

Thirdly Gift Deed - This minimizes chances of disputes, here one voluntarily gifts movable/immovable property to another.

Lastly Welfare and Maintenance of Parents/Grandparents - Here Parents / Grandparents, if not given proper care by family, are eligible

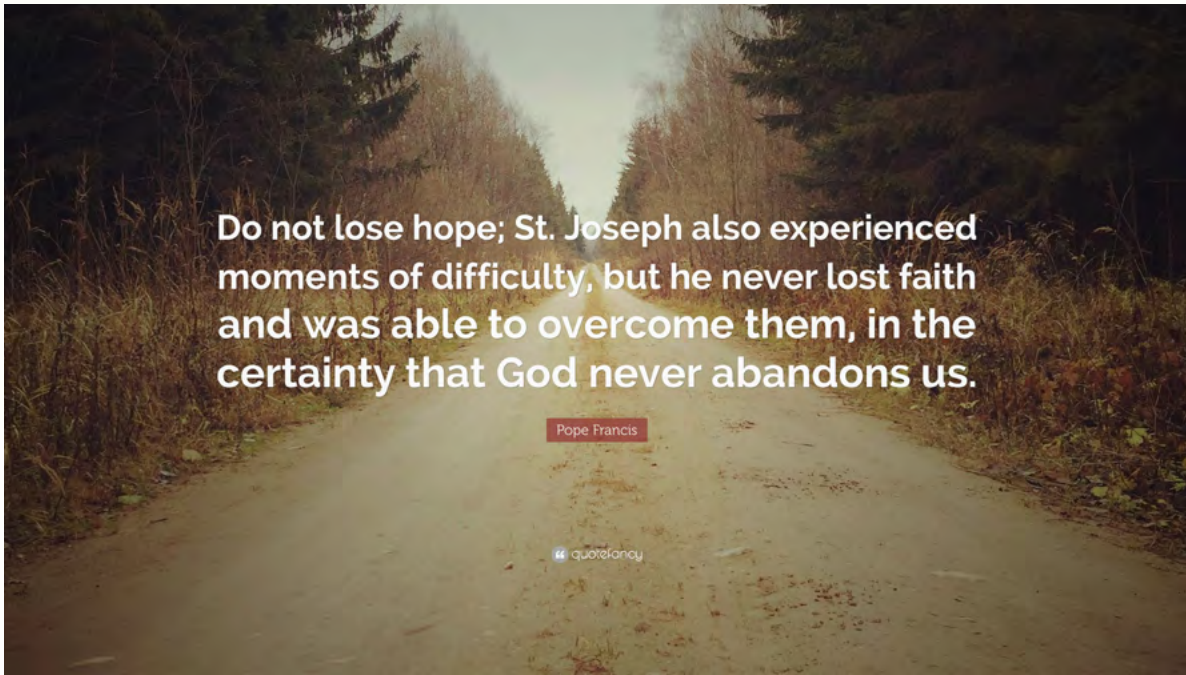
to revoke the will and take back whatever they had willed to their children/legal heirs.

Great knowledge gained. To conclude, the Q & A session where ones doubts were cleared, was educative and informative. The speaker was felicitated by the Family Cell.

Next on the Agenda, was the elections held for a change of coordinators from each community. Welcoming in our midst, were Fr. Osmand, Ms. Yucca and Ms. Abbe to conduct the election process. Fr Osmand briefed us about the elections, and why electing 2 coordinators from each community, was the new dictum. The elections were held for 3 communities of Zone 6. We then felicitated our outgoing Zonal Head and coordinators and welcomed the newly elected members.

A memorable evening!

*- Allwyn Fernandes, Member*



**Do not lose hope; St. Joseph also experienced moments of difficulty, but he never lost faith and was able to overcome them, in the certainty that God never abandons us.**

Pope Francis

quorefancy



## INTERFAITH COUPLES COME TOGETHER UNDER ONE ROOF

An excellent gesture by the Family Cell, in bringing the interfaith couples under one roof for an evening of bonding, followed by a Fellowship dinner at the Annex. Fr. Hanson greeted the couples by a heart touching prayer. The compere and the music kept everyone on their feet. The purpose of the event was in helping couples realize their love for each other and to grow in spiritual strength with each other, especially when life and faith challenges them and their resources threatens to tear them apart. For a family to be united in its faith, means sharing in joy and sorrow. Like our Holy Father says “No One in Want”. Family Cell will strive to care for our neighbour’s and bringing everyone as One Family of God.



**- Maria Hickey**  
*Member of the Family Cell*

The church was able to reach out to the interfaith couples in an environment they were more comfortable with.

There are a number of interfaith couples who struggle in their marriage and face various challenges, as some may not have the backing, background and faith to pursue a life where God is at the center of their marriage.

The Fellowship opened the door for us to come closer to God, let us know that we

can always reach out to the church and its members within the cell for the purpose of spiritual growth and advice.

We shared testimonies about our spiritual journey as Interfaith couples. The evening was exciting for the attendees as well as the organizers.

We were happy that the church reached out to us and stirred a strong sense of belonging.

**- Nisha Drego**  
*Interfaith couple*





## Family Cell Picnic - Fun Time

The Manori jetty was a bustle,  
As the FC Members assembled - without a hustle.

D'Souza Farm House, Manori, welcomed us all,

We could hear the ebb and flow of Mantanpada over the wall.

The Manori Jetty bus commuted us there,

And that too with an economical fare,

A sumptuous breakfast was relished by all,  
'Musical chairs' played under the targola trees so tall.

Shouts of laughter filled the air,

As throw ball in the pool was quite a dare.

Antaksharis sung got us to think,

Lovely appetizers went down with a drink.

At noon lunch - a yumilicious meal,

And Bingo played thereafter got out lots of squeals.

Desserts were enjoyed by those with a sweet tooth,

As some relaxed on the sofas or near the plant booth.

A sip of tea, refreshed us at five,

While kids took the opportunity to go for a dive,

The sun's rays were dimming; we all had a great time,

We boarded the ferry as we heard the Angelus chime.

*-Senita Hendricks  
Family Cell Member*

## Family Cell Picnic - a trip overdue

A picnic of the family cell was long overdue. Alvito and the team patiently held on for some time after the pandemic settled down, finally making the cut for a trip to D'Souza farms at Manori Island on Sunday, 29th January 2023. With around 25 members getting on to the jetty, our excitement was well anticipated, as this trip was a much-needed break to let loose from our daily chores, work schedules and just chill out. An excellent opportunity for new members like me to get familiarized and know our team more intimately.

Our day started with some lip-smacking breakfast, our very own Mumbai local food of bhurji and Misalpav. The morning bite set in the mood for a lovely sing-song session of Antakshari, crooning away to our good old Bollywood numbers and the masala mix, followed by fun loving games, some cooling their heels in the pool and others on the floor dancing to some lovely music. We mingled in groups and between groups and got into some nostalgic moments, discussing a variety of topics, not realizing it was time for a sumptuous meal. Post lunch we beat the snooze with a couple of Housie games. Moments later, time for evening tea and leave, with lovely memories of our outing. A trip to Manori always starts on a Jetty and ends on one.

*-Walburg Fernandez  
Family Cell Member*



## World Marriage Day at the Infant Jesus Chapel on 19th February 2023.

At the Holy Eucharist, Solemnity of the renewal of marriage vows, marked the commencement of the evening with Percy Kinny along with his wife Valencia renewing their marriage vows. Following them, the couples present in the congregation also renewed their vows.

The event had many elements which came together like a perfect symphony. The anchor

Royston Gracias provided the absolute kick-starter to the evening with his humour and engagement along with the music by DJ Ryan.

The couples celebrating their anniversary, the oldest married couple and the most recently married couple participated in the cake cutting ceremony.

There were live performances in singing and a very creative array of spot prizes which got the crowd swaying to the vivacious Grand March entry into the chapel square. The

sumptuous dinner rounded off a memorable evening!

I will always remember this evening as one that created a special moment, a memory and a gift to us from the Lord. It's the beautiful and simple things in life that we tend to take for granted that keep us happy, grounded and joyous in life.

A big shout out to all the Family Cell Members for organising such a beautiful event and we look forward to the same in the coming year.

*- Benvin D'Souza  
Shalom community, Zone 8.*

## Women's Day Celebration

On the occasion of "International Women's Day", we had a special Mass at 6:30pm on 12th March 2023, at the Infant Jesus Chapel, Kharodi. After Mass it was an evening full of entertainment, music, games, best dressed and dance performances. The Chapel ground was full of beautiful ladies. It started with a prayer song cum dance by the 'Daya Sagar Prayer Group' and the next dance was by the 'Hope and Life' group. This was followed by a prayer - Creed and the Anthem by the Women's Cell. Veera, the Deanery Coordinator, under the Archdiocese of Bombay, was kind enough to join us in our prayers and singing the Women Cell Anthem.

Our youth Shirley and Mary put up a performance. Parinidhi a child also performed. Our host, Rosy started with a funny action game and kept us laughing and amused throughout the event.

We had a game of housie with lots of useful prizes like kitchenware items and garam masalas. We had many participants dressed so well, which made it difficult for Veera to judge the winners. But she judged well! One winning participant sang 'Hum Honge



Kamyab'. Snacks and cold drinks were served by the youth. This was followed by a skit in Konkani directed by Martina which depicted the role of women.

We are very grateful to Fr. Osmand D'souza, who was there from the start and organized this event, making the day truly special. We also would like to thank the youth, the DJ, the Host Rosy, the photographers; Avril and Celeste and all those who helped. Thank you to all the ladies who came. We enjoyed the last dances of the day as the DJ played a mix of music which catered to all of our cultures.

*- Joyce Fernandes, Women's Cell*

## A Visit To The St Jude's Home For The Destitute

The Family cell members set out on March 22nd to St Jude's home for the destitute, the weather was pleasant.

The inmates were busy assembling clips at the table, one was on the floor as he wasn't very stable.

They welcomed us with a warm smile and hello,

We were blessed to interact as they were polite, humble and caring you know.

They are all cared for by Fr Hubert In-charge,

And they had no complaints so far.

The Blessed Sacrament so beautiful at the Chapel,

Beckoned us to pray for the inmates and all they could handle.

They were so cheerful to receive in cash and in kind,

After Father's blessings in Church, we won't forget them, they are in our mind.

A day well spent in their company,

We cherished the moment and left happily.



*- Senita Hendricks  
Family Cell Member*

## Lenten Pilgrimage To Don Bosco Yuva Sanstha, Karjat On 19th March 2023

We kick-started our journey with morning prayers and the Holy Rosary in the bus. On reaching the venue at 9.30 am, we were greeted with a nice cup of hot tea and biscuits before we began The Way of the Cross amidst the scenic beauty of nature.

As we proceeded to the first station, I was in awe to see life-size statues depicting the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. These statues are installed by Church Art of Kolkata. Church Art creates aesthetically-appealing works of art as per the canonical concepts and guidelines.

The Family Cell Members carefully prepared prayers, reflections & hymns for each Station. The climb to every station was an enriching experience. In spite of



the scorching heat and the difficult steep climb, none of us felt the need to give up and retreat. No one complained. Just like Jesus on the way to Calvary, we kept moving forward. All our pains vanished once we reached the 15th Station. Seeing the six feet tall statue of the risen Lord gave each of us the strength to carry on. Even though we were physically dehydrated, we were spiritually hydrated.

Upon completing this journey with the Lord, we made our way down the hill to the

dormitory for the Holy Mass. The homily, based on Psalm 23, was thought-provoking. The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.....Everyone knows this Psalm. I know the Psalm.....but, DO I KNOW THE SHEPHERD????

Many thanks to the Family Cell Members of the Parish who organised this Lenten pilgrimage and looked after each one of us from the start to finish.

- *Christabelle D'Souza*

## Animators' Training Programme & Felicitation of Consecrated Life.



5th March 2023, was once again, a day set aside for the Animators' Training Programme. It was also clubbed with the Felicitation of the three Congregations of Religious Sisters of our parish.

The training started with an opening prayer conducted by the Zonal heads. Sr.Manisha along with Yucca Ma'am spoke about the importance or positive and negative strokes, simplified through examples in everyday life!

Thereafter an exercise was conducted, where we were asked to sit with our respective zones and each person had to voice their opinion about each other in terms of appreciation of positive feedback. We were advised to practice this exercise in our Core Group Community Meetings. This exercise was very interesting and set our minds thinking on the importance of implementing this in our everyday lives!

The Felicitation for the three congregation of sisters dedicated to our Parish, was lively. The cutting of the cake made the sisters feel extra special. A warm welcome was accorded to the sisters by Ms. Yucca Gomes, Vice President of the PPC, appreciating their dedicated services.

All the 8 zones of our parish along with their Coordinators and their teams presented the Sisters with a beautiful bunch of paper roses, crafted by Jill D'souza, Ex Coordinator, a card and a speech as a token of appreciation for their dedication in service to the church and communities. The game that ensued, was thoroughly enjoyed. The sisters were

deeply touched with the tributes and efforts to make this day memorable for them. In her vote of thanks, Sr. Rita Francis thanked the Fathers of our Parish and every member for their continual love and support!

Finally, the training ended with a sumptuous lunch. The executive team really deserved a round of applause for their effort to organise the training programme.

The overall experience was an eye opener as to how we should appreciate our community members for every little effort they put in to make our community grow. Time is of essence to all, and the time and effort they dedicate to the communities is praiseworthy!

**- Chrislyn Baptista,**  
Coordinator, Our Lady of Mount  
Carmel Community, Zone 4

## TAIZE PRAYER

*“Be Still and Know I am your God” Ps 46:10*

During the season of Lent, our team conducted a Taize Prayer Service on Friday, 10th March 2023. A candlelit prayer service was held to encounter Christ in song and Meditation through silence, singing and reflection, followed by the veneration of the Cross.

The Theme: Experience God’s Divinity, was conducted Fr. Rajesh Dabre, a Guest Priest.

The program started with Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Eucharist and ended with a Prayer.

It was an evening with an atmosphere of silent meditational form of worship in candle light, invoking Christ’s presence interspersed with Mantra chants: “Jesus remember me”. It continued with soft music and Bible readings, and periods of silence. It ended with veneration of the Cross by each and every participant.

**- Bosco Patel**  
Core Team Member  
Daya Sagar Prarthana Sangh



## Daya Sagar Prarthana Sangh: 11th Anniversary Celebration

“Be merciful, as your Father is merciful” Luke 6:36

Our prayer ministry under the leadership of Fr. Victor Dalmet, our Spiritual Director, organized a three-day healing and deliverance service at the Infant Jesus Chapel, from Thursday, 23rd to Saturday, 25th February, 2023.

The Theme was: **DISCOVER JESUS** with three different topics for each day.

Day -1 Discipleship - by Fr Marshal Lopes;

Day -2 Charism;

Day -3 Life in Spirit - by Fr. Mathew Rodrigues MSFS.

The Program for the three days was:

- Rosary followed by Angelus with Ps - 91 and Praise and Worship with Action song by Team members.
- Teaching, Adoration and Healing Service and Holy Eucharist by the invited Priests.

On Day 03, to mark our celebration and thank God, we had a special program. A short felicitation of our Spiritual Director, Fr. Victor Dalmet, along with the Parish team, our team members and faithful supporters.

The guests were welcomed by a spiritual dance performed by the team members. Our prayer Leader, Mr. Savio Nigrel, spoke and welcomed our guests and introduced the faithful with much appreciation and love.

The Secretary, Mrs. Helen Kinny, presented the Vote of Thanks while acknowledging the team members and donors and sponsors for the fellowship.

Fr. Victor and Fr. Osmand addressed the gathering and congratulated our team for the spirit-filled work done for the last 11 years in this parish and requested the faithful to keep our team and their work in their prayers.



Activities carried out by our team at the Chapel and outreach for the year was presented through a Power Point presentation with the balance sheet, by Bosco, our team member.

The day ended with Thanksgiving and Holy Eucharist, by Rev. Fr. Mathew Rodrigues, our Guest Priest, followed by fellowship dinner for all the faithful gathered.

- Meena B Patel  
Core Team Member, Daya Sagar Prarthana Sangh

For prayer request Whatsapp – 9820469198 / 9833906632 / 9664096317; Follow us on  
Facebook: Daya Sagar Marathi Prarthna Sangh  
YouTube: daya sagar prarthana sangh malvani parish  
Instagram: dsps2012

## BIBLE QUIZ 2023

The Bible Quiz on the "Gospel of Luke" was conducted by the Bible Cell of our Parish on Saturday, 18th March, 2023. The program began with a Hymn and Enthronement of the Bible.

Four participants from each Zone formed a team. There were 8 teams from 8 zones.

The Compere, Ms Yucca Gomes, warmly welcomed the audience and participants, while emphasizing the role of God's Word in our lives. Thereafter, the Compere introduced the teams. She also set the audience a-guessing, as to who the Quiz Master for the evening was by highlighting her attributes ... all pointers led towards the familiar face, Ms. Ludovica Quadros, the Quiz Master for the evening.

There was a draw for the Zone to do the opening credits. Zone 7 was privileged to lead the quiz. It was heartwarming to have the participation of Zonal Heads also in the quiz.

The quiz format was different from the usual. Innovative rounds were introduced such as "Who am I?" which focused on different characters from the "Gospel of Luke", Word Search and subsequently "Guess the scene" too! This, made the Quiz interesting and the competition was tough. The scores kept fluctuating as each Zone was vying to outdo the other.

With the completion of 8 Rounds, the winners were as follows:-

Zone 3 - 1st place; Zone 7 - 2nd place; Zone 2 - 3rd place.

### HEAR SOME OF THE BUZZ: -----

**This comes from a participant, Rainel Lobo...**

I would like to thank each and every member of the Bible Cell for planning and executing this quiz so well. Our acting skills were put to the test in the Bible Charades round where we had to imitate the parable, miracle or incident from the Gospel of Luke. Another interesting round was the Crosswords, which left us scratching our heads, but we still got through it.

Overall, it was a fantastic experience!

**This comes from Shaila Fernandez, Zonal Head, Zone 8**

Our Parish Bible cell has been organizing the Bible quiz for quite a few years, and over the years, the format of quizzing has evolved. As usual this year too, we saw several creative improvisations in the quiz format...

It was also incredible to see our children and youth having such sound knowledge on the Bible... As the quiz progressed from one round to the other, the rapid fire round brought in a lot of excitement as the team had to answer quickly and correctly. The anticipation was obvious during the charades round, which was also much appreciated, as many teams were able to secure big scores!



Sr. Rita, Medico Centre in Charge, presented the winners with their gifts. Snacks were distributed and key chains were gifted to all the participants as a token of their love for the \*Word of God\*.

Thanks to our Spiritual Director, Fr. Nicholas Pereira and the Clergy Team, the quiz ended with a Vote of thanks by Malrina Ferreira, Coordinator of the Bible Cell and a spot prize question! The Bible cell thanks Sr. Rita for her presence and all the Zonal heads for promoting God's Word.

*- Malrina Ferreira  
Coordinator - Bible Cell*

## THE LAST WORDS: RE-LIVED!



St. Anthony's Parish grounds, Malwani, Malad, looked solemn in staid black enclosures, flanked with giant screens on either side, a stark stage - allset to welcome the highly acclaimed GOSPEL BAND - the OPEN SECRET, for their concert on THE LAST WORDS! A meaningful precursor on the threshold of the Holy Week.

The slow trickle of coupons that promised a dismal gathering, a few days earlier, suddenly escalated to huge numbers to ensure a mammoth gathering - including parishioners from the neighbouring parishes!

Ms. Yucca Gomes, Vice President of the Parish Council, while welcoming the Band, thanked the Clergy Team - Fr. Nicholas Pereira - Parish Priest, Fr. Francis Xavier, Fr. Victor Dalmat and Fr. Osmand, who has been instrumental in bringing to the Parish this event: not forgetting the Organizing Committee and their teams, who worked effortlessly to make the evening flawless!

The Gospel Band, has been rendering this show over a span of 14 years, having staged more than a 100 performances! Little wonder, then, that their soul-stirring music intertwined with real life experiences of the artistes, helped open up emotions of even the hardest hearts. The apt selection of songs from the play list of some of our favourite singers touched a sweet-spot in our hearts, while re-living the last seven

words of Jesus during his crucifixion! Especially striking among the songs were: Everybody hurts; The voice of Jesus and I surrender!

This Concert could well have been a life changing experience for the listeners and active participators, who joined in the prayer and worship songs. It stirred us to take stock of our lives, and be touched with the presence of Jesus and his never failing promises of Love.

The Gospel Band, helped realize the love of God, amidst the reality of present day life. As Bishop Barthol, aptly nails this aspect in his reviews: "IT IS NO LONGER I, THAT LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME,"!

Macklin, the founder and lead vocalist and the band of boys, helped us achieve, the impossible: walk the spiritual journey, through this prayer filled evening, breathing in God's presence!

The exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by Fr. Osmand, and his calling out aloud the intercessions placed by the audience, was a fitting culmination to the evening!

*- Yucca Gomes  
Vice-President - Parish Pastoral Council*







## THE ESSENCE OF HOPE IN TIME OF DARKNESS

The virtue of a Christian is 'hope' for we have our Saviour Jesus Christ who came into the world to take us away from darkness and bring us to light. Our destiny is joy and glory in God's new creation. "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" **Ps 73:26**

Holy Eucharist is a relation between a Christian hope and the Holy Spirit. **Gal 6:8** "Sow to the Spirit, reap from the Spirit". The Spirit is the wind that drives us on, and makes us a pilgrim in the love of Jesus to journey well through life. St. Paul's letter to the **Romans 15:13** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" **v/s 12:12** "He makes us rejoice in hope" **v/s 5:5** "Hope does not disappoint us".

**Rom 8:16** "It is that very spirit, bearing witness with our spirit, that we are children of God". There is a popular saying "while there is

life, there is hope" but to a Christian it is clear "We have need of the Holy Spirit to hope in Christ and live for Him".

In the time of darkness, the invincible hope comes assuring in **2Cor 3:12** "Since we have such a hope, we act with great boldness".

There is a positive expectation and moral quality to the open ended future when we read "He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? **Rom 8:32**

As a child of God in Jesus Christ let us not squander away the ingredient of hope; rather, let us infuse this virtue in those who are most in need, most rejected and all those lost, to revive and renew as in **Is 40:31** we read "but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint".

*- Carmine Serrao, Word Minister,  
Our Lady of Assumption Community, Jankalyan Nagar*

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## HOPE IN A NATURALISTIC WORLD

When Life knocks you down,  
Hope lifts you up.

During the lockdown, I took up gardening as a hobby, growing a few plants on my window grills, and today it has become my passion. There was no turning back, as from then on, I embarked on a GREEN journey.

I have collected and invested in a variety of plants which now brighten up my home and my life as well. I have even collected fallen dying plants from the roadside, brought them home, carefully cleaned and re-potted them, giving them hope of a new life. I have used various waste articles in the hope that they

would be good planters; kitchen waste and dry leaves in the compound are composted into fertile, rich manure, as my return gift to nature.

Vegetable and fruit peels have been converted into home-made liquid fertilizers which boost my plants. Even when I am distressed, when some boys wreck my plants while playing football, there is hope in my heart that someday they will revive and come back to life. Each flower that blooms in my garden whispers to me that there is hope, giving me immense joy and satisfaction in life.

"Where Flowers Bloom, So Does Hope", said

Lady Bird Johnson, reflecting the power a flower can promulgate, as she urged Americans to beautify their country.

Every leaf that grows in my garden, reminds me that in every adversity, you can stay strong. You can hold out against the fierce wind and wait for sunny days to come along. When I look at my plants shining in all their glory, I know that, if God is taking care of them, He is definitely going to take care of me, too. That is why I find it important to spread hope around and I do this by making use of my gardening skills to gift my loved ones with small decorative potted plants. As they grow bigger and brighter they add colour to the lives of those who are down.

Recently, I was encouraged when my plants were presented as birthday gifts, communion and anniversary *take-away* tokens and even *get-well-soon* gifts. They have surely added smiles to many faces.



*Eco-friendly takeaways*

I am also a doctor to my plants. When they fall ill, I do not lose hope but carefully prune and nurture them so that they get better and healthy again. This teaches me that everything in life should be given a chance.



Dying Ajwain and Lemon Grass plants ... receive a new life

*A blooming flower means Nature is Beaming!!.*

*A beautiful plant is like having a good friend in/around the house. Like my pet dog, Jingles, my plants give me hope to move on, adding smiles and years to my life.*

We need to remember that hope is the light at the end of the tunnel.

Let me end with Fred Dale's words, which also reflect my experience: *"My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view"*.

*- Rajiv Pereira*

*Our Lady of Fatima Community, Zone 4*

## “A cup of cold water” (Matt. 10.42)

What am I to do? I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good work, therefore, any kindness or any service I can render to any soul of man or animal, let me do it now. Let me not neglect or defer it, for I shall not pass this way again....

*It isn't the thing you do, dear,  
It's the thing you leave undone,  
Which gives you the bitter heartache  
At the setting of the sun;  
The tender word unspoken,  
The letter you did not write,  
The flower you might have sent, dear,  
Are your haunting ghosts at night.*

*These little acts of kindness,  
So easily out of mind,  
These chances to be angels,  
Which even mortals find-  
They come in night and silence,  
Each chill reproachful wraith,  
When hope is faint and flagging,  
And a blight has dropped on faith.*

*The stone you might have lifted  
Out of your brother's way,  
The bit of heartsome counsel  
You were hurried too much to say;  
The loving touch of the hand, dear,  
The gentle and winsome tone,  
That you had no time or thought for,  
With troubles enough of your own.*

*For life is all too short, dear,  
And sorrow is all too great,  
To suffer our slow compassion  
That tarries until too late.  
And it's not the thing you do, dear,  
It's the thing you leave undone,  
Which gives you the bitter heartache,  
At the setting of the sun.*

Give what you have; to someone, it may be better than you dare to think

*- Compiled by: Margaret Fernandes  
Emmanuel Community, Zone 8*

## ‘LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD’

A journey into the unknown, a journey both mysterious and marvellous, a journey of Faith and Hope in darkness... Malad? Malwani? St. Anthony's? A date pre-planned by God for me- **14th June 1992**- My first entry into this sacred 'land' which was soon to become God's fertile field... and my home for 17 memorable years!

### Down Memory lane

-Eve of the Feast of St. Anthony when having been invited to give the homily on 'Prayer' at the novena Mass, I stood before a sea of unfamiliar faces, but surrounded by an ambience of deep devotion, rapt attention and obvious commitment as it was a rainy day that did not deter their presence. It was then that I sensed from within- a quiet clarion call to me- 'God wants you to work here!'

- I had shelved this thought when the second milestone event occurred on **5th July 1992**- the inaugural Mass



of the Basic Christian Communities [BCC] concelebrated by Bishop Bosco Penha [ who had already prepared the initial ground for this] and Fr. Vincent Gonsalves, the then Parish Priest. Five of us, FILMC Team members [Bp. Bosco's team for the Formation and Involvement of the Laity in the Mission of the Church] were there to present to the parishioners, the need and importance of starting the BCCs in this parish, following the directive of the Archdiocese of Bombay. However, Bishop graciously asked those present if they were ready for this. There were doubts, mixed opinions and feelings but ultimately the Holy Spirit prevailed. The parishioners asked for a team member to assist them in this task. It was at that crucial moment I timidly dared my 'Yes'- yet encouraged by my inner Spirit- I am ready, send me Bishop! This began a great saga of events for me. Hand in hand with Jesus, my lifelong partner, I began my Mission of working in this parish to build God's Family through the BCCs.



I didn't plan, I didn't need to foresee the 'What? How? Where? I knew for sure It was His initiative, His plan. I never doubted the Spirit's Guidance once I had 'set my hand to the plough'. As there were no religious sisters here I stayed overnight with different families each time I came to Malwani [from Sophia College] in order to visit every family by day with the help of a local person, and call for a meeting at 8.00 pm to conduct 'Awareness

programmes' for the parishioners. In this way, by November 1992 we had 5 communities formed, 2 in Marve and 3 in Malwani village [called communities A, B, C,] each with a set of Animators. This method was followed in the years that followed, with help from my sisters of the Sacred Heart, later joined by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes who took up their residence at St. Anthony's. The welcome we received from the parishioners was truly heart-warming and encouraging for the journey forward...

**FAST FORWARD TO THE NOW!** During the 30-year period that has followed, much has happened at St. Anthony's. Blessings have abounded as the BCCs now called SCCs grew in number to 45 in 2022-23. The regular involvement and participation in a variety of activities have empowered our lay faithful, both individually and collectively to develop latent talent, leadership qualities and spiritual gifts through the 3 Pillars of the SCC- Community building and Team work, Faith formation especially through Gospel sharing, Reaching out to the marginalized in new, creative ways. I have been overwhelmed time and again, to witness God's Work through our parishioners while supporting them at the grassroots. Visits to families, especially to the sick, the aged, the bereaved have challenged us to reach out to others with the Heart and Mind of Christ.

Simultaneously, the Cells and Associations have multiplied to cater to the different needs of our people. I had the special joy and grace to witness the rebirth of the Bible cell, the formation of the Family cell, the Hope and Life movement as a separate entity affiliated to the all- Bombay level, the start of a Neighbourhood Children's Council [NCC], later a JOY group [Jesus, Others, You] while assisting these as a spiritual guide. The lay coordinators and animators have received much support of the clergy and religious as spiritual directors, and from our

lay mentors who have assisted the growth of the communities. As a Resource person for training programmes I have always found these a challenge and joy to prepare and conduct. As member of the PPC and executive team of the parish I have always felt happy to share my God-given gifts, leadership skills, and creativity in team work with the clergy and laity. There have been ups and downs as well but through the struggle has come new life. As counsellor and as a woman religious I have been privileged to enter the inner 'sanctuary' of people's hearts and homes, to be one with them in their joys, successes and pain. Youth animation through interactive sessions with them have kept me youthful and a life-long learner! The climax has been for me the completion of 30 years of the SCCs and of our tenure as religious of the Sacred Heart at St. Anthony's with the celebration of our PEARL JUBILEE on 13th November 2022.



As I look back on the 17 years spent fruitfully in this 'Parish Family' I feel bowled over by a deep sense of mystery and gratitude firstly to my God who through a close partnership



with Jesus as my Good Shepherd led me here into hitherto unknown terrain; to all our parishioners for making this for me a 'HOME' away from home by their cooperation, care and concern, their sincere appreciation and respect for us. Prayer will always be the inseparable bond between us. Limited by the space of this Magazine, I summarize my million memories, words and feelings in the succinct words of Dag Hammarskjöld: **'For all that has been, THANKS; For all that will be, YES!'** He who led me here will lead me onward I know, for **'He who has called you /us is FAITHFUL AND HE WILL DO IT'**. [1 Thess. 5:24] **May St. Anthony's grow from splendour to splendour with God's Grace!**



- -Sr. Manisha Gonsalves, rscj



## EDUCATING CHILDREN ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE / SUSTAINABILITY


*“Look after the land and the land will look after you, destroy the land and it will destroy you.” Words that resonate loud and clear in the present scenario!*

At long last, there is an iota of awareness being raised to believe that “we don’t live on earth, we are only passing through.” The celebration of Earth Day in 2008, was a great beginning and has paved the way for a series of wake-up calls to **Save the Planet**.

Joining the bandwagon of scientists, researchers and the ‘who-is-who’ in the mainstream, the emphasis is on educating our children today, as they are the ones who will be facing the vagaries of nature tomorrow: a future that is already raising issues from pollution to endangered species to global warming.

Global warming has reached unprecedented heights. Each year, new records are being broken. Planet earth is heating up at an alarming pace and statistics prove that it is warmer today, than it has been in 800,000 years. The world’s resources are being depleted, more than they can be regenerated.

Some of the pertinent questions asked are:

-  **With the ice and glacier melting, is it possible that the world would be underwater?**  
Perhaps a rise in sea level can be tomorrow’s prediction. Scientists don't know how rapidly sea levels could rise but are now trying to find answers by an analysis of how ice moves.
- **What could happen to marine life?**  
The quality of our oceans is deteriorating. The UN has warned that marine life faces severe damage from the loads of tonnes of plastic waste that land up in the oceans every year. The world’s coral reefs are being wiped out due to the sea temperature soaring high. This could result in widespread flooding, life-threatening heat, drought and poverty.
- **What could happen to the air we breathe in?**  
Human activity is triggering worldwide temperatures to escalate: higher and faster. The burning of fossil fuels, emissions from transport, and the environmental impact of intensive farming have all subscribed to high levels of CO2 in our atmosphere. And

scientists say, this is the fastest increase in CO<sub>2</sub> the world has ever seen. More than 1 million species face destruction.

Scientists have also conferred that this degradation of biodiversity will diminish the quality of water, food and also result in loss of natural pest control as predators like frogs and spiders become extinct. Alarming, isn't it?

- **How much more time does the world have to take corrective measures?**

**World scientists have confirmed that climate change could be irreversible by 2030.**

**Instantaneous action is needed to evade the disastrous effects of global warming.**

Everyone can do their bit to avert the effects of climate change, if we act NOW.... We must switch to green energy today.



### What is green energy?

Green energy symbolises those renewable energy resources and technologies that provide the maximum environmental benefit such as electricity produced from solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, and low-impact small hydroelectric sources.

Green energy offers tangible benefits for the environment since the power comes from natural resources like sunlight, wind and water.

Let's strive to make this concept clear to our children at the basic stages of their education, both at home and in schools/colleges. Undoubtedly, they could be the best advocates for pushing for this goal to be achieved by 2030, or earlier, at both national and international levels.

### In summary...

At the moment there is much discussion, but the will to achieve this end seems sluggish and weak. If our children are motivated, they could be relied upon to carry through the action plan...an integral spoke in the wheel of change... if our planet is to survive!

It's time to act NOW! For every human being on this planet, starting with our children!



*- Rudyard Gomes*

*Our Lady of Fatima Community, Rathodi, Zone 4*



## Papiyas

This ritual, is a tradition handed down over generations.... Taking over from their forefathers, the present group of 27 members of our Parish, move about from cross to cross, during the Holy season of Lent, at the dead of night, chanting prayers and reciting the Stations of the Cross at each cross. It is a call to Christians, to wake up from their sleep, get down on their knees and pray and ask for God's forgiveness.

The call in Marathi goes as follows:

"Bhavando, utha tumche neezemanche, deemi ghala, lazaar kara, ek Amche Bapala.....!"

This is followed by the soul-stirring, heart-piercing rendition of "Papiya re nirbhagya..." This lamentable chant in tones similar to Gregorian chants are in East Indian dialect. Listening to their mournful chants can be a hair raising experience and can send shivers down one's spines, especially when one hears them at the dead of night. They also shroud themselves in black or blue or brown tunics.

They play an instrument, known as crotalus (matraca), or 'clapper'. It is a wooden, liturgical rattle that replaces altar bells during the celebration of the Tridentine Paschal Triduum at the end of Lent in the Catholic Church.

In our Zone (Kharodi), this year, St Anthony Papiya Group, visited Rathodi, Alitalao, Enaswadi, Malwani, Chickoowadi and Marve village. They also visited Dongri and Tarodi Parish.

These groups become active from the Saturday night after Ash Wednesday and visit villages and other Parishes, every Saturday. The frequency becomes more active from Palm Sunday and on Maundy Thursday.

They organize themselves into groups of 10 to 20 persons. Traditional Papiyas from one village, would visit the neighbouring villages, and vice versa, No two groups would come face with each other. If both groups had the occasion to travel and would cross paths, then the group that spotted the passing group would hide behind the bunds (baands) of the field, till the other group passed by. As tradition goes, villagers would keep a kettle of hot tea at the foot of the cross for the Papiyas.

The Papiyas are representative of the apostles Peter, James and John, who accompanied Jesus to the Garden of



Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed and during His 'Agony' on the Mount of Olives.

As this Tradition was dying with the present generation, (MGP) Mobai Goathan Panchayat, is promoting more villages to join the Papiya band of men and visit other Parishes across Mumbai, to ensure that this religious tradition is revived and passed on to our future generations.

Groups from Kurla and Uttan Parishes visited our Parish this year.

In the bygone years, the St. Anthony Papiya Group has visited Kurla, Juhu, Vileparle, Kalina, Vakola, Orlem, Chembur, Manori Gorai, Culvem, Chavli, Uttan, Bhayandar, Chembur and Marouli village.

May this tradition live on...it is a beautiful legacy and a reminder to repentance!

**- Bosco Patel**  
*Infant Jesus Community, Zone-5*



## Those were the days when these made our days...



In no time 2023 began and was Covid free and so the AYG was back on its feet with the festivities. The 10-day Novena in honor of the Infant Jesus and the Yeshu Mahotsav, an entertainment segment filled with diverse craft and culture, spelt a balance of calm and chaos.

The 10-day saga of worship and jubilation commenced on 27th January 2023 at the Chapel. Every novena, the liturgy highlighted the significance of Jesus Christ in various courses of action.

The entertainment segment comprised more than one room for a fun time. The talent show

offered a platform to all artists for singing, dancing, drama, fashion, etc. for all ages in various categories – solo, duet and group. The physically and mentally stimulating box cricket with teams from youth, veterans, and mixed (boys and girls) categories competing with each other, honestly stole the show and got the entire audiences' adrenaline pumping. Housie was one of the fun games on the playlist, with exciting prizes to win and was enjoyed by everyone. The bumper prize of the feast day housie was a stuffed chicken.

There was also a Cultural food festival which consisted of traditional home-made and relishing food items belonging to different cultures such as the Tamil, Goan, Manglorean and The East Indian organised for two days each. The event then finally culminated with the most awaited 'Yeshu Mahotsav' event on the 5th of January on the Feast of Infant Jesus. The last day of the event was worth remembering as it was an evening of great dancing, music, cultural food and entertainment knowing no bounds.

The New Year of 2023 has already begun with a bang: so many events rolled into one big celebration! We continue to actively participate and anticipate further events as the year unfolds.

*- Tiane Menezes, Reuben Fernandes & Naomi Pereira*



### **\*Attention to All Parents\***

**Pre Baptism course** to the first time parents will be held on 1st and 2nd weekends (Saturday and Sunday) of July 2023 and November 2023 in the Mini hall from 5 pm to 7 pm. For more details please contact parish office or call **Vincent on 9820223953**



## बाळ येशु विभागाची क्रुसाची वाट

दि. २२ मार्च २०२२ आमच्या बाळ येशु विभागाची क्रुसाची वाट संत ज्युड चॅपल (उत्तन पाली) येथे नेण्यात आली होती. जवळ जवळ ३० ते ३५ माणसे तेथे जाण्यासाठी हजर होती.

सकाळी ८ वाजता आमची बस तेथे जाण्यासाठी निघाली १० वाजता आम्ही तेथे पोहोचलो. उंच अशा डोंगरावरती हे चॅपल बांधण्यात आले असून फळां फुलाची झाडे व प्रचंड अशा शांतीचा अनुभव आम्हाला घ्यावयास मिळाला.

क्रुसाची वाट करून आम्ही थोडा वेळ चॅपल मध्ये प्रार्थना केली .दुपारचे जेवण करून आम्ही ठरवल्याप्रमाणे आम्ही गोराई येथे बाळ येशू चॅपल व संत अंतोनी चर्च (ऊत्तन मरगाले) येथे दर्शनास गेलो. या सर्वांचे दर्शन घेऊन जणू आमची यात्रा सफल झाली.

सर्वजण आंनदाने परतीच्या प्रवासासाठी निघालो. आम्हाला लोकांकडून पॉजिटीव रिस्पॉन्स मिळाला. अशाच प्रकारे दर आठवडयात आम्ही आमच्या विभागात क्लस्टर वाईस क्रुसाची वाट करीत असतो.

लहानापासून ते वयस्कर माणसांपर्यंत सर्वजण हजर असतो. प्रार्थनेनंतर आजारी माणसांसाठी विशेष प्रार्थना केली जाते. कोणी स्वखुषीने खाऊचे वाटप करतो. आमच्या विभागाच्या क्लस्टर १ मध्ये दर सोमवारी संध्याकाळी ६ वाजता व क्लस्टर २ मध्ये दर गुरुवारी संध्याकाळी ५.३० वाजता. क्रुसाची वाट आम्ही करीत असतो.

यात हेतू हाच कि क्लस्टरची प्रगती.

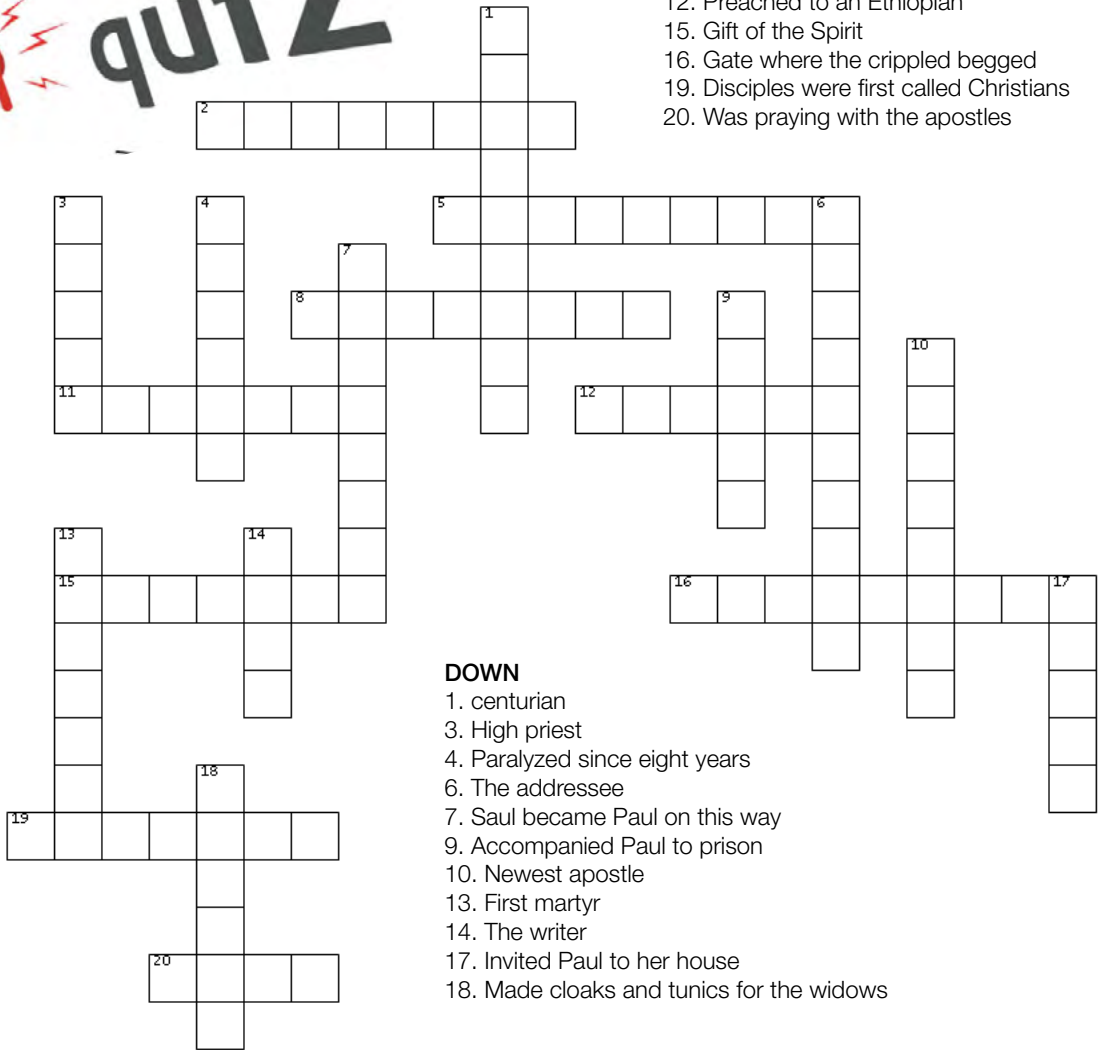


मेलवीना ग्रसेस, कॉर्डिनेटर  
बाल येशू विभाग, जून - ५



### ACROSS

2. Was an accomplice to her husband's sin
5. Filled with the Spirit
8. Repent and be
11. called to be a witness here
12. Preached to an Ethiopian
15. Gift of the Spirit
16. Gate where the crippled begged
19. Disciples were first called Christians
20. Was praying with the apostles



### DOWN

1. centurian
3. High priest
4. Paralyzed since eight years
6. The addressee
7. Saul became Paul on this way
9. Accompanied Paul to prison
10. Newest apostle
13. First martyr
14. The writer
17. Invited Paul to her house
18. Made cloaks and tunics for the widows

**Rush your answers by 10th June 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.

### January 23 Adult Quiz Answers

#### ACROSS

4. Son of Jesse **David**
5. Elimelech's hometown **Bethlehem**
8. Elimelech's daughter in law **Orpah**
10. Son of Obed **Jesse**
11. Elimelech's wife **Naomi**
13. Naomi's kinsman **Boaz**

#### DOWN

1. Elimelech's Tribe **Judah**
2. Followed Naomi **Ruth**
3. Father of Boaz **Salmon**
5. was being harvested **Barley**
6. Elimelech's son **Mahlon**
7. Naomi's grandson **Obed**
9. Father of Hezron **Perez**
12. Name chosen by Naomi **mara**



# KIDDIES QUIZ



Find out 20 words related to the season of Lent and Easter.

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

**Rush your answers by 10th June 2023**

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

## Winner for the Kiddies Quiz: January to March 2023

**Name**  
Sarah Fernandes

**Std**  
10

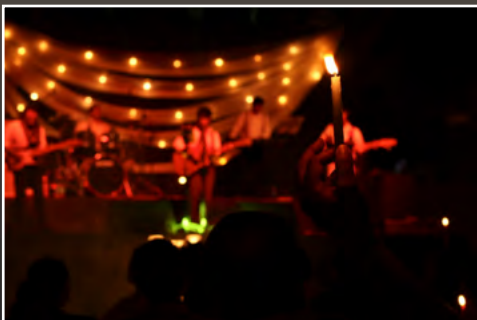
**Zone**  
3 (Gift of Hope Community)

*Called to*  
**Eternal Life**  
*January to March 2023*

	Name	Date	Age	Relation	Area
1	<b>Rosa Aranha</b>	02-01-2023	84yrs	Wife of Bonaventure Aranha	Malwani
2	<b>Agnelo Gonsalves</b>	09-01-2023	55yrs	Son of Ignatius Gonsalves	Malwani
3	<b>Allwyn Anthony Lobo</b>	13-01-2023	55yrs	Son of Anthony Lobo	Malwani
4	<b>Melissa Gonsalves</b>	15-01-2023	58yrs	Wife of Baylon Gonsalves	Jankalyan
5	<b>Diago Asdais Diniz</b>	15-01-2023	50yrs	Son of Joaquim Diniz	Rathodi
6	<b>John D'souza</b>	18-01-2023	77yrs	Son of Michael D'souza	Malwani
7	<b>Leo Francis Sequeira</b>	19-01-2023	91yrs	Son of Francis Sequeira	Jankalyan
8	<b>Mildred Stany Serrao</b>	21-01-2023	73yrs	Son of Stany Serao	Kharodi
9	<b>Charles Gonsalves</b>	22-01-2023	71yrs	Husband of Wilma Gonsalves	Malwani
10	<b>Eusebia Luis Povo</b>	25-01-2023	70yrs	Wife of Luis Povo	Jankalyan
11	<b>Cajetan Gonsalves</b>	26-01-2023	60yrs	Son of Alex Gonsalves	Kharodi
12	<b>Charli Coutinho</b>	31-01-2023	59yrs	Brother of Sheetal	Malwani
13	<b>Anthony Sebastian D'souza</b>	01-02-2023	70yrs	Son of Vitorin D'souza	Jankalyan
14	<b>Francis Joseph D'souza</b>	12-02-2023	72yrs	Husband of Lily D'souza	Jankalyan
15	<b>Joao Francisco Fernandes</b>	17-02-2023	67yrs	Son of Joaquim Fernandes	Rathodi
16	<b>Gregory Anjon Gomes</b>	11-02-2023	61yrs	Son of Anjon Gomes	Marve
17	<b>Virgin Cyril Gonsalves</b>	19-02-2023	71yrs	Wife of Cyril Gonsalves	Kharodi
18	<b>Ammani Chetti</b>	25-02-2023	85yrs	Wife of Rayapa Chetty	Kharodi
19	<b>Anthony Patel</b>	26-02-2023	53yrs	Son of John Patel	Kharodi
20	<b>Anthony Clement Miranda</b>	06-03-2023	76yrs	Son of Clement Miranda	Malad (w)
21	<b>Philomena Mascarenhas</b>	11-03-2023	71yrs	Husband Francis Mascarenhas	Malwani
22	<b>Francis D'souza</b>	11-03-2023	94yrs	Son of Elias D'souza	Kharodi
23	<b>Stella Rodrigues</b>	17-03-2023	92yrs	Wife of Lawrence Rodrigues	Jankalyan
24	<b>Daniel Fernandes</b>	21-03-2023	74yrs	Son of Josh Fernandes	Malwani
25	<b>Thangamani Marthur</b>	30-03-2023	62yrs	Wife of Marian Anthony Marthur	Malwani

# Forthcoming Events

MAY	
1st	Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
	Maharashtra Day
13th	Feast of Our Lady of Fatima
21st	Ascension of the Lord
	World Communications Day
24th	Feast of Mary Help of Christians
28th	Pentecost
31st	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
JUNE	
4th	Feast of the Most Holy Trinity
5th	World Environment Day
6th	First PPC Meeting
9th	Novena for the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, begins
11th	The Body and Blood of Christ
16th	Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
17th	Feast of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
18th	St. Anthony of Padua - Parish Feast
24th	Nativity of John the Baptist
25th	Laity Sunday
29th	Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
JULY	
2nd	Faith Formation Sunday
4th	PPC Meeting
16th	Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
24th	World Day for the Grandparents and the Elderly
26th	Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
31st	Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola



Open Secret's concert: 'The Last Words' held on St. Anthony's Parish Grounds, Malwani.

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