



FRANCISCAN twitterts

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

• FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY •

YOUTH - ARISE, AWAKE!





Christmas is a time for family and fellowship

Wishing our readers lots of Joy, Love, and God's many blessings during this Christmas season...enough to last through the New Year 2024! May you spread the light of love around!

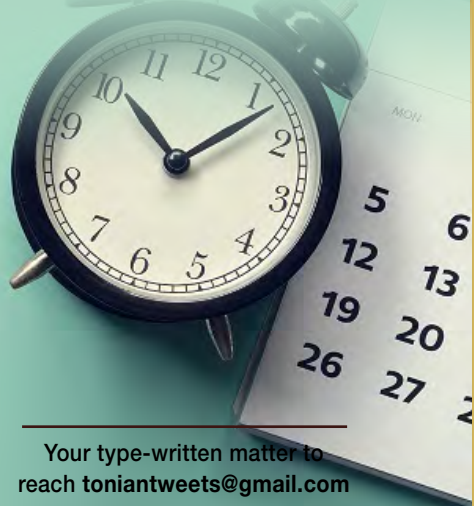
CONTENTS

➤ Editorial	01
➤ Celebrating Saints	02
➤ Community Collaborations	03
➤ Parish Peeps	12
➤ Matters that Matter	22
- Youth - Arise, Awake!	
- The three beads of the Rosary	
- World Youth Day	
- Should I question my faith?	
➤ Adult Quiz	30
➤ Kiddies Corner	31
➤ Called to Eternal Life	32
➤ Forthcoming Events	33

THEME FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN A YEAR!

You know what they said in Lion King:
"You can either run away from the past
or learn from it!"

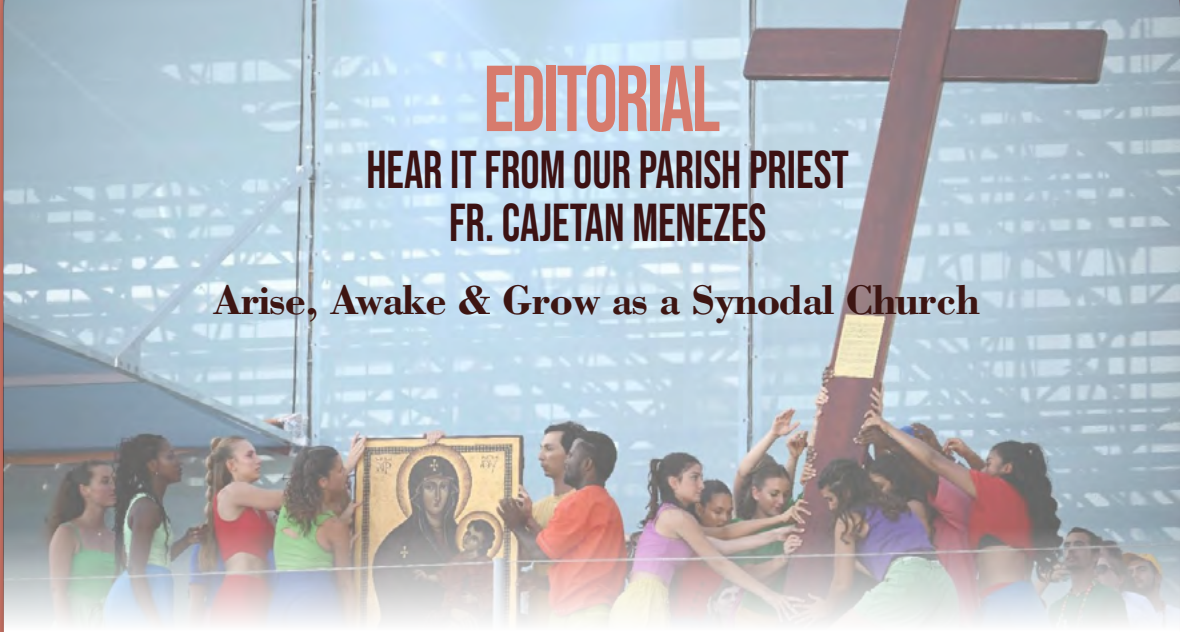


Your type-written matter to reach toniantweets@gmail.com by 30th December 2023

EDITORIAL

HEAR IT FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST
FR. CAJETAN MENEZES

Arise, Awake & Grow as a Synodal Church



As we focus on the “Youth” in this issue, I am reminded of the recently concluded **World Youth Day (WYD)** in Lisbon. Pope Francis was excited, the crowds of young people swelled to around 1.5 million for the final Mass, this provided an injection of hope for the Church, and Pope Francis returned from Portugal rejuvenated. This October, the Universal Church is busy with the Synod in Rome. The focus of the ongoing **Synod on Synodality** is to listen to the Holy Spirit and discern on the way participation is fostered and decisions are made in the Catholic Church. The working document for the Synod emphasizes, the move to a more synodal Church requires a fundamental shift in how authority is exercised in the Church. All people of God – Bishops, priests, lay men & women, religious men & women, and not forgetting our Youth. It also implies more formation for the lay faithful to understand the working of the **Church as a divine - human institution**, and the path of discernment, and listening to the Holy Spirit to give bold witness is this changing world.

The role the youth will play in the present and future of the Church is very important. As a parish church, let us encourage and support them to **Arise, Awake and grow** in the right direction and not get distracted by the attractions of this world. As adults let us lead by example to foster an atmosphere of listening and collaboration with young people. This October, we will host the **Deanery Youth Day (DYD)** of the Borivali deanery, and **invite the Youth to Arise, Awake and Aim higher** as they participate in the Mission of the Church and give witness in the world.

The **Parish Family Day** is coming up in November, this year it is inspired by the theme **“Community Divinity Synergy: Igniting Team Spirit for a Greater Purpose”** We pray that our parish community may grow into a happy, vibrant and Spirit-filled purpose driven parish.

CELEBRATING SAINTS



Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

Love endures everything, love is stronger than death, love fears nothing.

Feast day: October 5
Apostle of Divine Mercy

Born in a small village in Poland, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. At a young age, she joined the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Despite a lack of education, Faustina diligently completed the humblest task assignments for the convent. However, she received extraordinary signs, messages, and revelations from Jesus. Jesus asked Faustina to record these experiences. These are known today as the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska. The Diary sparked a great movement with a significant focus on the Mercy of Christ. St. Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina in 2000, making her the 'first saint of the new millennium'.



Saint Cecilia

Arise, soldiers of Christ, throw away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Feast Day: November 22
Patron Saint of composers, music and musicians, musical instrument makers, poets, singers, and the visually challenged

Born a patrician in Rome towards the close of the 2nd century, Cecilia was brought up as a Christian. From a very young age, she was determined to offer her life to God. But her parents gave her hand in marriage to a young patrician named Valerian. According to a legend, while the musicians played at her wedding, Cecilia is said to have sung hymns as she renewed her vow to God. She informed her husband of the promise and by her witness to the Gospel inspired him to join the faith. Eventually, her husband was executed by the Romans for refusing to worship pagan idols. After her husband's death, Cecilia devoted most of her time to preaching and fasting for the conversion of souls. She too was arrested and sentenced to death by suffocation in boiling water! However, since she survived the fires, she was struck with an axe in the head. She bled for three days praying and preaching. On the third day, she died and was buried by Pope Urban I. She is regarded as the patroness of music and is often represented in art with a musical instrument in her hand.



Saint Stephen

I trust in the compassion and mercy of the All-powerful God.

Feast Day: December 26
Patron Saint of deacons, sling shooters, builders, chisellers, pavers, quarry workers

Stephen's name means 'crown'. The Acts of the Apostles speak of Stephen as the first of the seven deacons who were appointed to distribute food daily within the early Christian community. Scriptures describe Stephen as 'a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit' who 'full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people'. However, it failed to open the hearts of the unwilling. Stephen was arrested and dragged before the Sanhedrin. When the council heard Stephen preach, they were enraged. Stephen filled with the Holy Spirit gazed into heaven and said: 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God'. At this, they ran violently toward him and cast him out of the city to stone him to death. Before dying, Stephen, in imitation of the Saviour, cried: 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' Saul (future St. Paul) approved of their killing him.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Celebrating our Grandparents and Parents

On Saturday, 29th July, Zone VI, comprising of 5 Communities: Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, Holy Family, St. Teresa and Divine Mercy united to regale our Parents and Grandparents, at the Infant Jesus Chapel grounds.

The celebration commenced with a short prayer. We were also fortunate to have our Parish Priest, Fr. Cajetan Menezes, who recited a spontaneous prayer.

What followed was unique games, a plate of delicious snacks, spot prizes and a few songs in English, Konkani and Hindi by our members. Fr. Osmand D'Souza, joined in for a short while and addressed the gathering.

The evening took off with some energetic foot tapping music and dance, followed by a game of Housie. Our SCC Coordinator, Vincent Colasso, requested each coordinator and animator of all the 5 Communities to introduce themselves. A round of applause rent the air in appreciation of their good work.



A vote of thanks was presented and heartfelt gratitude expressed to the youth who organized the get-together for parents and grandparents to make it an enjoyable evening.

Dinner was sumptuous and everyone left the celebration with happy memories of an evening well spent.

*- Bibiana Fernandes
Holy Family Community
On behalf of Zone VI*



Parents' Day Celebration

The Gift of Peace and Gift of Goodness communities, united to honour parents by celebrating Parents' Day on 29th July 2023, at St. Anthony's High School Annexe.

The parents and grandparents of our community gathered enthusiastically. Our Spiritual Director, Sister Valencia and Sister Rita explained about God's greatest gift to us - our Parents. Our Parish Priest Fr. Cajetan and his team - Fr. Osmand, Fr. Victor and Bro. Nelson Mathews also surprised us with their visit.

The fun-filled games were played with much gusto while our talented kids wow-ed us with their performances. The hall was resounding with laughter and giggles – a sign that the evening was being thoroughly enjoyed. The highlight of the evening was

the songs of the yesteryears by the parents. 'Star caterers' provided a fulfilling meal. It was evident that nothing but sweet memories were carried home by all.

*- Bruntha Anthony
Gift of Peace Community*

An evening dedicated to Parents on Parents Day.

The Gift of Hope and Love communities had the honour to appreciate our Parents on August 5, 2023.

The celebration was organised by our enthusiastic youth, aided by the elders who gave each of our loved ones a chocolate welcome. They began with a prayer action dance to a song by Don Moen beautifully expressed “**Thank You Lord**”. It was then time to get our beloved parents off the chairs and onto the floor for interactive games, awesome goodies and spot prizes.

After all the action, we had a sumptuous snack, followed by a beautiful skit in action sending across a warm message both to parents and the youth

Fr. Cajetan Menezes conveyed a heart-warming message to Parents and Grandparents. Bro. Nelson Mathews sang soulfully and brought a tear to everyone’s eye.



An action song explaining and expressing the theme song of Tarak Mehta ka Ulta chasma, was an absolute replica of what our cosmopolitan communities are made up of. That wasn’t all: it was then time to digest all of the goodies we were fed. There was fun and frolic amidst dance.

The evening ended with a vote of thanks to all those responsible for making it an evening to remember.

*- Enid Rodrigues
Gift of Hope Community*

Celebrating our Elders

"The voices of the past and the doors to the future," these are the phrases that perfectly encapsulate the essence of our Grandparents and Parents.

The evening of August 19, 2023, saw enthusiastic grandparents and parents excited to celebrate a day specially dedicated to them.

Hosted by 7 communities of Zone #7, the evening began at 6.30 pm with a Prayer service that included Hymns, Gospel reading, Reflection and Intercessory prayers. We were honoured to have our esteemed spiritual leaders in our midst - Fr. Cajetan, Fr. Osmond, Fr. Victor, and Br. Nelson. Almost 150 members attended the event.

ZONE 7 **19TH AUG 2023**
PARENTS DAY



Following the spiritually enriching prayer service, the evening transitioned into a world of excitement, masterfully hosted by our very own Ms. Laura. With her charm and boundless energy, Laura set the tone for a night of fun, laughter, and camaraderie. Exciting games and spontaneous spot prizes kept everyone busy and smiling. X-beats with their foot-tapping music compelled everyone

to set the dance floor ablaze! The youth, brimming with enthusiasm, dazzled the audience with their captivating dance performances, while the crowd cheered them on.

Fr. Victor, a man of many talents, captured the hearts of everyone with his rendition of a beautiful East Indian song, thoughtfully penned by Fr. Osmond. His performance was a tribute to the cultural diversity and rich traditions within our parish, highlighting the beauty of unity in diversity.

Delicious appetizers were served which fuelled the energy. Perpetual Caterers under the guidance of Jennifer Nigrel made sure the appetizers and dinner

were lip-smacking.

As the evening drew to a close, the stage was graced by Renita, who delivered a heartwarming vote of thanks. Her words were a reflection of the deep appreciation we hold for all who contributed to making this evening truly special and successful.

A big round of applause to the Animators & Coordinators for their relentless effort in making the evening special.

The celebration was not merely an event; It was a night where generations came together to revel in the beauty of family, community and the enduring bonds that unite us all. It was a reminder: the voices of the past and the doors to the future are indeed, inseparable threads that weave the tapestry of our parish.

*- Caron Pole
 Shalom Community, Zone 7*

YET ANOTHER TOKEN OF LOVE TO PARENTS AND ELDERS....

August 16, 2023: It was a long awaited day for parents and elders of Zone 4, Rathodi, which was made worth the while with the fanfare accorded to them by the 4 communities of the Zone. Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Velankani and Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

A prayer service by Marian Yarde, Coordinator, set the tone for the evening. The Coordinators with Mentor, Ms. Yucca Gomes, thanked God for the gift of Parenthood and in helping to nurture children



in challenging times. Children were made aware of the gigantic role played by parents and how blessed they were to have them in their lives.

The youth of the 4 communities took over and there was no looking back! Fun and entertainment, dance and musical performances had everyone participate with much gusto. The creatively planned games were catered to suit the old and young alike. Spot prizes were a-plenty. Gail Hendricks,

our Compere, sensed the pulse of the crowd and had everyone asking for more!

The clergy team and mentors were appreciated and presented with gifts as a token of love and gratitude.

The dinner cooked by Jennifer Caterers was delicious and the gulabjamuns served as dessert, left a sweet taste to compliment the sweet memories of that evening.

*- Yucca Gomes,
Mentor Zone 4*



Parents' Day Celebration

The Parents' Day celebration included members of St. Joseph, St. John Paul and St. Francis Xavier Communities of Marve. It was held on Saturday, 26th August 2023, in the Mini hall. Around 60 - 65 people attended.

The event commenced with a prayer service for all our parents. The Youth and animators welcomed the parents with music and conducted a march-past by showering them with fresh petals and also presented them with cards. Fun games were organized and many wacky spot prizes kept the tempo spirited.

An interesting part of the programme was of parents sharing a joyous memory in parenthood out of their book of life with their child.

The floor was set ablaze with foot tapping music and everyone enjoyed themselves, especially the masala session. The community was privileged to have the presence of Fr. Cajetan, Fr. Francis, Fr. Victor and Bro. Nelson. Fr. Victor sang a beautiful song which was deeply soulful. Scrumptious dinner with dessert was a fitting finale to the evening.

*- Charmine Gomes, PPC Coordinator,
St. Francis Xavier Community - Zone 1*

A fitting tribute to Grandparents and Parents

Zone 5 celebrated their parents, grandparents and the elderly on 30th July 2023, at the Infant Jesus Chapel, on a bright sunny Sunday morning from 11.00 a.m. onwards. It was well organised.

Members of five communities - Sacred Heart, Krista Prem, Our Lady of the Rosary, Nativity of our Lady and Holy Cross were present for the event. Ourcompere: Senorita and Nikita, kept the crowd well entertained. There was music, dance, games and many spot prizes. The snacks and lunch was yummy. We were privileged to have the

presence of Fr. Osmand and Fr. Cajetan. The decoration was sponsored by Nikita's friend and the place was decorated by Sr. Sophie, Allwyn and Dillon. The celebration ended by 2:30 pm, with everyone leaving with happy memories of the morning.

*- Ramona Arrakal, Animator
Sacred Heart Community - Zone 5*



Parents and Grandparents Day

On July 30th, 2023, we hosted a heart-warming Parents' and Grandparents' Day Celebration at St. Anthony School Annex, solidifying the bonds within our community. This event was a testimony of the power of togetherness and unity.

The program began with a prayer led by Sister Rita, our Spiritual Director, setting a reflective tone. An enchanting welcome dance electrified the air with joy and anticipation.

Zone 2's diverse communities showcased their talents through captivating performances, including solo and group dances, singing, poetry recitals, and a delightful skit. The confirmation students even treated us to a special lazy dance. These performances not only entertained but also celebrated our community's rich tapestry of traditions, fostering understanding and appreciation.

To infuse excitement, various games were organized, with prizes awarded by esteemed guests, including Rev Fr. Cajetan Menezes, Fr. Osmand D'Souza, Fr. Victor Dalmet and Bro. Nelson. Their presence emphasized the importance of family and community bonds.

Guests enjoyed refreshments and dinner and a lively game of housie, while bonding through shared conversations.

*- Navel Nazareth, PCC Coordinator
Our Lady of Foresaken Community – Zone 2*

UNITY & VICTORY ARE SYNONYMOUS....

The 77th Independence Day and the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary were celebrated with great zeal with 2 communities together - Our Lady of Forsaken & Our Lady of Fatima.

All the animators and coordinators of both the communities assembled together by 9:30 am. Navel accorded a warm welcome to Sr. Rita and all the members. The event was hosted by Holianna which commenced with a prayer by her, and a 'Message for the Day' by Flora. Rhea, a youth, read the Gospel, followed by Prayers for Our Country by Gregory. The National Flag was hoisted by our Chief Guest, Sr. Rita, followed by singing of the National Anthem. People also repeated the Pledge after the children. The Preamble was then read by Jennifer and repeated by all, followed by the quotes of "Kahlil Gibran" read by Navel and the readings from the Holy Scriptures of different religions by Holianna. Sr. Rita's speech on our Indian Martyrs was inspiring and she also paid tribute to the people of Manipur with a special prayer.



The celebration was joyous and ended with a vote of thanks by Holianna and as a sweet gesture, laddoos were distributed to all.

On the whole, there was great enthusiasm among the people. Keeping it short and sweet, this event helped bring together everyone in both communities.

*- Maxita Rodrigues,
Our Lady of Forsaken Community - Zone 2*



Flag Hoisting

15th August 2023 marked India's 76th year of Independence. It was a reminder of our great freedom fighters who sacrificed and struggled in order to free our Motherland from the British rule.

We celebrated this day with enthusiasm. The place was decorated with tricolour streamers, balloons and ribbons. The elders, children and youth of our community gathered for the flag hoisting ceremony. We started with a prayer and song. A bouquet was presented as a token of

our love and appreciation. We saluted the tricolour Flag while singing the national anthem **Jana Gana Mana**, with much gusto. The youth then said prayers in different languages, to denote national unity. The pledge was also read as a reminder of the promises made to our motherland. Snacks and beverages were distributed to the attendees.

*- Succour Fernandes, PPC Coordinator,
Our Lady of Velankani Community - Zone 2*

THE 76TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

‘Responsibility and Freedom’ was the theme set for the celebration of the 76th Independence Day as the two communities from Rathodi - Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Lourdes, got together with children, youth, and adults dressed suitably for the occasion. It was also heartening to have amongst the gathering at the Cross, members of different faiths and denominations. The venue looked festive with tri-coloured flags and balloons waving merrily in the background.

Welcoming the participants, Freda Bhobe, reminded us about the heroic sacrifices of our freedom fighters whose dream for India was that all Indians live in peace and harmony. Reflecting on the current situations, it was highlighted that responsibility and freedom go together.

Intercessory prayers were offered for the country’s peace, freedom, progress and especially law and order in Manipur. Members of different faiths read significant verses on peace and harmony from their holy scriptures.

Chief guests Teresa Hendricks and Betty Fernandes were invited to hoist the national flag which was followed by the singing of the national anthem. The national pledge was led by Evan Gomes. Together, all recited the Preamble of the Constitution of India, which was followed by the singing of the



patriotic song: Jhanda Uncha Rahe Hamara, and the recitation of a poem entitled: Khari Deshseva by Aquila Gomes. The chief guests were introduced and addressed the gathering.

Ms. Yucca Gomes, mentor for the communities, presented the vote of thanks. She appreciated and thanked MaryAnn, PPC coordinator and her family for their efforts in preparing the venue for the event, Freda for her putting together the programme, Eugene and Salim for getting the flag set-up for hoisting, and to all who participated in honouring the nation as one family.

The take away message was “**Let us not just be observers, Let us get actively involved**”. Sweets were distributed as the event came to a close.

*- Marian Yarde, PPC Coordinator
Our Lady of Lourdes Community – Zone 3*



Manipur Outreach

The Community of Our Lady of Fatima Rathodi, joined Sr. Martha Mondal, from Sneha Sagar Orphanage, in the Parish, as she reached out in loving service, to our brethren in Manipur, in the light of the recent happenings in July 2023

The members of our Community were rather generous with their monetary contribution as well as essential commodities for daily

need. A few dozen blankets, bed sheets and towels purchased from the contribution, added to the generosity of the outreach.

Besides praying for peace and stability in Manipur, we felt privileged to be a part of the outreach program.

Thanks to Sr. Martha Mondal and her team

for her courageous initiative in reaching out and being there personally to organize the distribution. The members were happy to be shareholders, in a small way, in alleviating the plight of the unfortunate Manipurians.

- MaryAnn Dsouza , PPC Coordinator
Our Lady of Fatima Community, Rathodi - Zone 3

BE EXALTED, O GOD!

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!*

One of the most beautiful lyrics came alive in one voice at the Jaynagar Holy Cross on 14th September at 8 pm along with the Holy Rosary recited by the family of Zone 7.

It was an hour of divinity and spiritual state of grace for no less than 80 devout followers of our Lord; and every decade of the Holy Rosary concluded with

*“We hail thee, Saviour and Lord,
Thy Cross, ever be adored!”*

As praise and worship along with the Holy Cross prayer of Exaltation satisfied our spiritual needs, a little snack satiated our physical wants.

The Holy Rosary is celebrated (almost) every day at the Jaynagar Cross. And some special days, like the Exaltation



of the Cross, it is a huge celebration! Thank you Zone 7 participants and special thanks to the organizers.

- Viviet Dsouza, PPC Coordinator
Good Shepherd Community - Zone 7



Quiz Competition

Congratulations to members of Zone 7, and heartfelt thanks to those who took part in the quiz, particularly the youth and to Fr. Cajetan and Fr. Osmand for organizing the Quiz competition. This exciting event saw the active participation of five zones in a thrilling 42-round quiz, skilfully hosted by the AYG headed by Salvajones D'Cunha.

My experience with the quiz was truly enriching. It provided me with the opportunity to forge new connections, especially with Aaron, Pearl, Kaelyn and Malcolm, my team members from

different communities within our Zone 7. Meeting new people often leads to the creation of lasting bonds, and for us, this was an instant connection. Ironically, despite being the youngest member of the group, I managed to secure 20 bonus points for successfully pronouncing the longest word, neumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoiosis."

The quiz felt like an exhilarating game show, and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it.

What's even more commendable is the dedication shown by the youth in organizing this event. I learnt that they spent nearly 7 to 8 hours daily for almost 10 days researching, formulating questions, and then meticulously concealing the answers on chart papers covered in black paper, adding an element of suspense and drama.

On hearing about the quiz, my enthusiasm knew no bounds. I eagerly approached my parents, saying; "Mamma, Dadda, I WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS QUIZ!!!" After a brief exchange of glances, they agreed. My joy knew no bounds, and I had numerous questions: What topics would be covered? When would it take place? Who would be participating? Was I too late to join? Thankfully, my queries were promptly addressed by my parents, community members, and coordinators, who were all incredibly helpful.

Once again, thanks to everyone involved in making this quiz a memorable and enriching experience.

*- Katelyn Almeida,
Good Shepherd Community – Zone 7*

NOVENA TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

In continuation of our annual tradition, members from St. Michael and Emmanuel Communities, Zone 7, came together to celebrate the Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary from 30th August 2023 to 08th September 2023. All the 9 days of the Novena, as well as the feast day celebration saw a large turnout from both the communities. Each day's liturgy was planned based on the theme - "Friends of Mary- Flowers" and their related virtues. The prayers and readings were planned by the animators and recited by members from both the communities, including the children and senior citizens.

On weekends, the rosary was followed by housie, in which all members participated enthusiastically. On the last day of the novena, many members offered groceries that were donated to the church for distribution.

The feast was celebrated with prayers, singing and a procession with Mama Mary. This was followed by dinner. Fr. Cajetan Menezes along with Ms. Senita



Hendricks - the Mentor for St. Michael community, attended the celebration and shared a beautiful message of praying together as a community. Overall it was a great opportunity for the community to come together in prayer and fellowship.

*- Jennifer Pandya, Animator
Emmanuel Community – Zone 7*

Clergy Day Celebration on Vianney Sunday

Vianney Sunday is a day when Priests are reminded to recall the life of their patron, St John Marie Vianney who in that tiny and obscure village of Ars in France, dedicated his life to God and His people.

But Vianney Sunday cannot be about priests only! It also has to have the involvement of those entrusted to their care. And so the laity shared the joy of this feast day with our Anthonian family in a befitting manner.

On Sunday, 6th August after the 09.30am Mass in the Church, our Parish Pastoral Council organized a Fellowship Programme for the priests of our parish: Fr. Cajetan Menezes, Fr. Francis Xavier, Fr. Osmand D'Souza, Fr. Victor Dalmat, and Brother Nelson. Entertainment and games were organized. Zonal representatives expressed their gratitude towards the team and as a token of love they were presented a posy of flowers to each Priest. What followed were some fun-filled moments of singing and sharing of views. Zonal volunteers had arranged earlier in the day, a breakfast and delicious lunch for the priest team at the parochial house.



In finality, we offer our prayers of thanksgiving in the words of St Paul. “We thank our God in all our remembrance of you, always in every prayer of ours for you all, making our prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. And we are sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

*- Richard Lasrado
Vice President-Parish Pastoral Council*

Goal by Goal: Reliving the thrills of a Football Tournament

11th - 15th August 2023

The Anthonian Indi Cup (AIC) was organized by the youth of St. Anthony's again this year, celebrating Freedom, Unity and Cultures. A part of the funds collected for Anthonian Indi Cup will go as a donation to the sisters of 'Helpers of Mary'.

It was a five-day football tournament which commenced on 11th August and concluded on the 15th of August



2023. The matches were conducted from 6:30 pm onwards on the church grounds. There were five categories: U15, U17, Men's Open, Women's Open and the Veterans. The winners of the categories were: U15 - Team OLPS, U17 - Team Twisters, Men's Open - Team Cecelians, Women's Open - Team Shalom United and Veterans - Team

St. Joseph's. The winners of the categories received cash prizes, trophies as well as attractive gifts.

The tournament received an overwhelming response as there were teams registering even at the last moment. This tournament wouldn't have been possible without the constant support and motivation of the clergy team of Fr. Cajetan Menezes (Parish Priest), Fr. Francis Xavier, Fr. Victor Dalmat, Fr. Osmand D'souza and Br. Nelson Mathew. They showed support wherever required and always pushed the youth to expand their horizons which resulted in the huge success of the tournament.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our parishioners as well as the non-parishioners who supported us in the form of donations, sponsorship and in spreading the word. With your participation and support we've been able to have another year of great success with the Anthonian Indi Cup.

*- Salvajones Dcunha
Vice President - Anthonian Youth Group*

Spiritual Inner Healing Retreat Satyagiri Dominican Retreat Centre

The scene at 5.30 am at St. Anthony's Church, Malvani, was worth a watch, as the excited 49 YOUNG elders got into the bus to attend the Dominican Retreat at Igatpuri.

The journey took 3 1/2 hrs, with a brief stopover for breakfast consisting of a pan roll, cutlet pav, a slice of cake and coffee sponsored by the JMJ Association.

Fr. Brineesh was present to welcome us with a warm smile, and the rooms were allocated. Gratefully each participant was extremely co-operative and accommodating.

The three-day "Spiritual Inner Healing Retreat" was an



experience beyond words. Inner Healing and Infilling of the Holy Spirit was a Heavenly experience. If some were crying, others were sobbing. Some more were hugging

and sobbing as if they were long lost siblings. The move of the Holy Spirit with a vibrant choir and the enchanting voice of Sr. Phalguni transported us into His divine presence.

Special thanks to Fr. Brineesh and his team of Priests who were always so humble and

sweet, living examples of Christ who came to serve and not to be served.

Grateful thanks to all the team members who took part in making this Retreat possible. My humble request is that everyone should attend this Retreat: at least once!

*- Jessie Coelho
Senior Citizens' Group*

NOVENA AND FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF MOTHER MARY - CHURCH

In anticipation of the feast of our Lady's birth on September 8th, we began the novenas to our Lady on August 30. Each and every one of us has treasured these past 10 days of preparation. The daily themes gave us an entirely new dimension to learn more about Mary's life. Mary's life on Earth was central to the novena's themes. Additionally, on the basis of the topic, the catechists and the children from the church put together meaningful skits and action songs. Children from STD 1 to Confirmation Class, performed skits and action songs. The Sunday before the novenas, each child was given a Blessed Rosary to bring with them for each day of the novenas to help them pray the holy rosary before mass and at home with their families. This added a new meaning to the young minds of the children to continue to pray to our Beloved Mother.

Every day a parishioner gave a thorough reflection on the theme. The congregation was moved to deep thought and understanding. Furthermore, each day's themes were accompanied with a particular floral offering that represented Mary's life in addition to the themes of the day. The children, parents, and catechists joined together in prayer as each day a new flower was added to Mary's garden of flowers. The tree was covered in a variety of flowers made by the children as the novena went through. And at the end of the mass, the



children came ahead to venerate Mother Mary and went home with sweets and plenty of love and grace from our Mother.

On the Feast Day, we honoured our Lady's birthday by having the celebrant and the children cut the cake. During the Marian Novenas, additional events for kids were held alongside these. It was a wonderfully devout, significant, and blessed time to get to know Mary, our Mother, and to become closer to our Lord Jesus. May Mamma Mary continue to intercede for us all!

*- Sian Quadros,
Sunday School Coordinator*

NOVENA AND FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF MOTHER MARY AT INFANT JESUS CHAPEL



‘O Mary, we crown you with blossoms’, was the theme of the Novena this year, in preparation for the Nativity. The focus each day was on the virtues symbolised and depicted through different flowers. Each class of JAM (Jesus and Me), was allotted a day to present flowers in art, namely Iris, Daisy, Violet, etc. A rosary, symbol of devotion to Mother Mary, was blessed and given to each child on the first day.

The congregation was captivated by the action songs and skits, enacted with apt messages connected to the virtue for the day by each class, from standard one to confirmants. The reflection on the theme were shared by coordinators, Catechists and religious, some accompanied by a power point presentation. On the feast day, the beautiful backdrop of Mamma Mary

illuminated each day with an array of flowers looked spectacular. As also the blossoms and green leaves entwined by students daily and Catechists on teacher’s day respectively, on the bare branches placed on either side of the grotto, made the tree of blossoms look alluring and aesthetic.

Children were also given class-wise activities, like drawing, colouring and making 2 D image of Mother Mary, to prepare a grotto. An essay on Mary, her life journey, etc. was an alternate activity.

The response to the offerings of provisions, like, pulses, rice, sugar, etc. allotted each day was overwhelming. Kind sponsors donated sweets to the children. On the feast day, children were all smiles to receive assorted goodies from the Church.

The 10-day event was a grand success, thanks to the detailed planning by our Spiritual Director Fr. Osmand, catechists who trained the children, the choir, for their melodious singing, the encouraging parents and the communication cell, who captured and uploaded the children’s performances on the church social media for the benefit of parishioners.

*- Freeda Bhohe, Catechist
Sunday School - Chapel*



You Go Girl!

In a world that continually strives for gender equality, some might question the need for a dedicated celebration of the girl child. However, as we navigate through a landscape still marred by misogyny and sexism, marking occasions like this becomes ever more crucial. Such events serve as poignant reminders of why acknowledging even the smallest achievements of women holds the power to amplify the message of pursuing one's goals despite the pervasive gender bias that persists.

Recently, the women of our parish, representing diverse strata of society, gathered under one roof to share the honour and privilege of being a girl child. This heart warming celebration was meticulously organized by The Bombay Catholic Sabha in collaboration with the Women's Cell. Fr. Victor Dalmat, our Spiritual Director, stood at the helm, felicitating remarkable individuals who have made significant contributions to social and community service.

During the event, each honoree took centre stage, delving into their personal journeys, recounting the trials and tribulations they encountered along the way. They were, Yucca Gomes, Lily Fernandes, Oshin Fernandes, Abbe Fernandes, Sr. Rita Francis, Mary Chettiar, and Alice D'Souza. What emerged were stories of unwavering determination, resilience, and unshakable faith that propelled them forward, enabling them to overcome challenges and make lasting impacts on their communities.

The event resonated with touching narratives that stirred hearts, eliciting applause at various intervals. In addition to the honoured guests, the occasion wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our esteemed members led by BCS Chairperson Bernadine D'Costa, and WC Chairperson Elizabeth Pereira. They invested their invaluable time and unwavering dedication to make this ceremony a genuinely memorable and cherished experience, leaving everyone with a profound sense of pride in celebrating the essence of being a girl child.

In commemorating these achievements and stories of empowerment, we take another step toward a more inclusive and equal society, where the potential of every individual, regardless of gender, is recognized, celebrated, and nurtured.

*- Oshin Fernandes, Recipient of the Award
Holy Cross Community – Zone 2*

A Sunday school Trip to Matheran - STD 7 and 8



Extremely beautiful and lush green, absolutely clean, with no pollution lies Matheran, just 100 kms away from Mumbai tucked in a cosy little hill station which was the perfect spot chosen by Rev Fr Osmand for a camp for Std 7 and 8. The children could hardly contain their joy and their energy levels soared on hearing about the camp. There was excitement, the parents were ready to send their children and at 5.00 am sharp on 21st Sep 2023, most of the children were present at the church premises. Each child carried a backpack filled with essentials, a notebook, and a Bible.

The journey to the camp by bus was filled with laughter, chitchatting and sharing of the past picnics and camps. We started the trip with the rosary and ended with the hymn to our Mother Mary for a safe journey. The children could hardly sit still as they peered out of the windows, eagerly watching for their destination.

The moment the bus pulled into the chosen spot, a chorus of cheers erupted. The children rushed out, eager to explore their surroundings, and enjoy the natural beauty. Then we all hopped into a taxi to go right to the peak of the Ghats where we were welcomed by the fog and the monkeys. Most of the children immediately hid their chips and other eatables because they saw a few of the wafer packets being snatched by the monkeys. Then we boarded the toy train into the interior of the Ghats for further exploration for which Matheran is famous. The various vantage points from which one could see breath-taking views of the surrounding landscape led us to the railway station of Matheran. As we walked to the

Holy Cross Church and then checked into our rooms, the boys and girls occupied the beds and relaxed for some time.

The next two days were spent exploring Matheran's natural wonders. We trekked to panoramic viewpoints, like Echo point, Alexander point, the Charlotte Lake and so on. In the evening of the first day we had the Eucharistic celebration and next day in the morning. The food also served was delicious and enjoyed by all.

As the trip neared its end, the children's faces reflected a blend of sadness and contentment. During these two days of their stay there was a bond of friendship and we were all like one family. We boarded the bus, leaving Matheran with hearts full of gratitude or his wonderful creation and then Fr. Osmand who planned this entire itinerary which went on so well. On the journey back, the children sang songs of joy, still cherishing the memories created on this special trip.

*- Minino D'Souza,
Sunday School Catechist*

Sunday School Trip - Std. 9 & 10

On September 19 and 20, 2023, 58 JAM students from STD 9th and 10th visited Matheran, one of the most adorable and undeveloped hill stations in Maharashtra. The students' brains were forever changed by the captivating experience of trekking through the trails, hills, and visiting different locations like Charlotte Lake, Echo Point, Monkey Point, etc.

It was fascinating to stay at the Holy Cross Church Dormitory, which was situated in the middle of a mountain. Morning prayers, the rosary, hymn singing, and praising God created a peaceful environment. Students were given a variety of tasks during the enjoyable activity where they were taught the value of cooperation, teamwork, and being alert, trusting, and helpful to one another.

Students were engaged in a variety of games, excursions, photo opportunities, and adventure. Additionally, they learned how to be self-reliant, take responsibility for serving and washing their own dishes and cups, which truly enhanced their sense of independence.

We the Catechist would like to thank Fr. Osmand for the efforts taken to organize such a fantastic trip to Matheran for our students. The allure of Matheran captivated our attention, making the vacation unforgettable!

*- Augustine Fernandes and Zeenat Pereira,
Sunday School Catechists*



Night Vigil

On 25th August 2023, our Ministry organized a Night Vigil, based on the theme – JESUS SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT IN PRAYER.

It was a special prayer service for Manipur and Peace and Harmony in our country.

The program included Praise and Worship, Teaching, Intercessory prayers in different languages (English, Marathi, Konkani,) Divine Mercy Prayers, Adoration, Jericho March and Holy Eucharist.

The participants were welcomed with a stimulating cup of Coffee. After the coffee break, a Jericho March was organized in the chapel premises. During the Adoration, a box with chits of Bible verses were kept near the Blessed Sacrament. Each participant, at the time of venerating the Blessed Sacrament, was requested to pick up a chit from the box, and apply the Bible verse in their daily life with the intent of bringing about a change within them. The vigil ended with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by our guest priest, Fr. Allwyn Misquitta sdb.

*- Bosco Patel,
Daya Sagar Prarthana Sangh*



Feast of St. Joachim and Annie Grand Parents' and Parents' Day

At our regular prayer service. On Friday, July 28th our prayer ministry celebrated parents day at Infant Jesus Chapel. Special pray was organized for the parents. Theme: LOVE OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

Arrangements were made for parents in first pews a warm welcome was given to all parents before the Eucharist celebration as they marched with the priest unto the altar as the entrance hymn was sung.

Our guest priest in his teaching on (Bible

verse Colossians 3 20:21) “Children obey your parents in all things for this is will pleasing unto the Lord” gave examples of his own parents in his childhood taking care of him with his siblings the challenges they had to bring them up and the challenges faced by today’s parents in this fast and instant world with growing technology informed children to understand their parents and parents to understand and know the needs of their children and keep track of their children.

Our parents are the best parents, and they do best for us for what our parents have done for us, we must have forgotten to say thank you to them or must have not thanked them, or we may be having grudges against our parents for not giving what we wanted. Some of us our parents are not here some are in Gods house so let's today say thank you to our parents and ask blessings and forgiveness.

After the teaching Fr. Francis R. ofm priest, requested two elder parents to seat in front of the altar and request all the faithful gathered to come ahead assuming their own parents to say sorry and ask forgiveness.

In Adoration after special prayer and blessing to each parent, the celebration ended with fellowship.

- Clive Patel,
Daya Sagar Prarthana Sangh



FEAST OF SAINT JOHN MARIE VIANNEY



On Friday, 04th of August 2023, the Prayer Ministry celebrated the FEAST OF SAINT JOHN MARIE VIANNEY. Special prayers along with a felicitation programme was organized for our dear priests as a tribute to their services in our parish. The celebration was attended by our Spiritual Director Fr. Victor Dalmat, Fr. Osmand D'Souza and Bro. Nelson Mathew. A warm welcome was accorded to them as also to our guest priest Fr. Vilas Correia, OFM, by showering flower petals from the entrance to the altar.

Helen, Our Ministry Secretary, welcomed them with words of appreciation as well as a warm message to Fr. Cajetan and Fr. Francis for their wonderful work in our parish and for supporting our Ministry.

In their speech, Fr Victor and Fr Osmand appreciated the work of our Ministry, and the faithful gathered, for their spiritual growth through the ministry.

The program ended with felicitation and fellowship.

- Clara Fernandes,
Daya Sagar Prarthana Sangh

Exaltation of the Cross and Mother of Sorrows



Our Prayer Ministry celebrated the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross and Mother of Sorrows on Friday, the 15th of September. The theme for the day was Mother Mary, Lily of the Valley (Lk- 1:37 for nothing will be impossible with God) Our preacher, Fr Andrew Rodrigues sj, in his teaching shared the story of Lily flowers.

As St. Gertrude was praying, the Mother of God appeared to her with a white lily with three leaves: The upright leaf of the lily represented the omnipotence of God the Father, and the two leaves which bent down, the wisdom and love of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Andrew also shared his own story: his devotion to Mother Mary! When he was a seminarian in a remote village, he had to travel long distances, often at night, and he used to pray to Mother Mary for protection, and she always led him safely.

The service ended with the veneration of the cross.

- Meena Patel,
Daya Sagar Prarthana Sangh



To serve the poor is to serve God

The SSVP Feast which falls on the 27th of September, is universally acknowledged as

“The Feast of St. Vincent De Paul”

He is the patron saint of the Vincentians and Blessed Fedric Ozaman is the founder of the Society. The main intention of setting up this organization was to provide relief to the less unfortunate people of that time, being the nineteenth century. Presently this Society has spread across the globe in almost every country and parish. In our parish we cater to the needs of forty-five families. Some are elderly, some are disabled, some are sick, some have low-income jobs, some have no jobs. We help them with rations, medical aid and in cases where there are children, with educational aid. The aid we give is not always enough with a steady increase in the number of the underprivileged families.

We are thankful to Fr Cajetan Menezes, our Spiritual Director, and his team of priests, who have allowed us the use of the medico-socio center for our meetings every Monday evening. He has also permitted us to have a box collection every second Saturday and Sunday of the month. This is our main source of income for aid to the poor. We thank our benefactors who have been generous sponsors with cash and in kind.

On the 27th of September 2023, we organized a get-together of about a hundred family members beginning with a Feast Mass at 7.00 pm in the church followed by a celebration in

the School Annex. We welcomed them with snacks, played a few games with prizes, spot prizes, and felicitated the children of our adopted families who had secured marks over seventy percent in the board exams and presented cash gifts as a token of appreciation. Our compere who hosted the function did everything to make it fun for the families. We also had music and dancing. After a sumptuous dinner

our families departed joyfully carrying a takeaway gift.

We are just fifteen active members in a parish of over fifteen thousand parishioners. We invite other dedicated volunteers to be a part of this Association, that is geared towards reaching out to the lesser fortunate of the parish.

*- Ronnie Menezes,
SSVP Junior Vice President*

ANTHONIAN SERVERS



Pope Francis says: "Being an Altar Server is a call to prayer and mission". In keeping with his lofty thought, the Altar servers of our parish, also known as the "Anthonian Servers," met together for a day of celebration on Sunday, August 20th 2023. The Altar servers were welcomed in the church. It started with an input session by Fr. Osmond and also some practical tips on serving Mass. On this day, almost 70 servers were present. There were numerous spot prizes along with ice-breaker games to set the tone for the party atmosphere. Snacks and refreshments were served. Fr. Cajetan Menezes, our Parish priest, spoke briefly about his time as an Altar server in the parish. The children unleashed their creativity and presented beautiful charts on the theme of Altar serving. The artwork

was judged by our Parish Priest, and the winner of the competition was announced.

It was heartwarming to see our kids, dancing to the beats of the action song, led by Sian Quadros. The event ended with a jam session to add spice to the evening.

- Bro. Nelson Mathews

St Anthony's Pre-Bap Course

The Pre-Baptism Course for the first-time parents is scheduled for 4th, 5th, 11th and 12th of November 2023, from 5.00 to 7.00 pm in the School Annex.

Please enlist!

- St Anthony's Pre Bap Team (Malwani)



Ms. Fallyn Ann Pereira

D/o Alvito & Fiona Pereira from Jankalyan Nagar.

Congratulations for topping the University Exams.

M.Sc Topper in Human Development in the year 2021-22, studied at College of Home Science (Nirmala Niketan), Mumbai University.

MATTERS THAT MATTER

YOUTH: ARISE, AWAKE ...

This year, for the World Youth Day (WYD) 2023, Pope Francis set the theme as: **Mary arose and went with haste**. *“As soon as Mary knew she was going to be the Mother of God, she didn’t stay there taking a selfie or showing off. The first thing she did was to set out on a journey, in haste, to serve and to help. You too may learn from her to set out on a journey to help others”*. Pope Francis, was motivating the youth and all those who attended and reflected on the theme to go out and help - to reach out to the world!

To Shine, to Listen and Do not be Afraid

On the last day, the 6th of Aug 2023, in his concluding homily, Pope Francis focused on 3 words: **To Shine, to Listen and Do not be Afraid**. As the Holy Father motivated the youth to shine in this world: to listen to the signs of the time, to listen to themselves, and to listen to their families and in their place of residence and work. He also invited them not to be afraid and motivated them by using scriptures to progress on their onward journey.

As we reflect on this theme, we are inviting the youth to face the future with confidence. We need to build their self-confidence. We need to help them to develop a strong sense of self-esteem and self-worth. Confidence is the key to shining in various aspects of life.

Arise and Awake

The youth will arise and awake, if they have built a strong self-confidence. They need to have a positive mindset. We, as a Parish, need to encourage them to have a positive mindset to grow. We need to teach them to view challenges as opportunities for growth and to learn to handle setbacks. Youth will be able to arise and awake and shine, if we teach them **resilience**: To be able to bounce back from adversity. Life will have its ups and downs and resilience is crucial for shining

through tough times. They need to invest in education. Learning is a life-long process. A well-rounded education provides knowledge and skills and helps them open doors to opportunities.

Youth need to learn to have the right goals, so that they may grow up as well balanced individuals - always outward-looking, reaching out and being helpful. They need to learn the importance of setting clear and achievable goals. Goal-setting provides direction and motivation for personal growth. As they learn and develop skills, they will learn to negotiate the challenges of life.

The youth are not the future - they are the present

We, as a parish, as family members, as community animators, need to support them and in all their endeavours and give them more opportunities in our community. **The youth are not the future - they are the present**, and the choices they make will help them decide how bright the future is!

Exposure to diverse perspectives can broaden the world-view of the youth and help them understand the complexities of the world. We need to encourage them to engage with people of different backgrounds and cultures. This is one of the views the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has been emphasizing on, as we participate in the Synod in Rome.

Mentoring youth

We need to be a listening church, a dialoguing church and this also includes all stratas of society. We need to help the youth to grow, to be heard, to be listened and helped through a mentorship process, connecting them with mentors who can provided guidance and support in their chosen fields of interest. We also need to celebrate their achievements and success in the Parish - both big and small.

One of the nice things of this parish in the last few years is that many of the youth, have taken up

leadership positions in SCCs, in Zonal Youth events, and in the PPC.

Providing opportunities to youth

We have a good blend of adults and youth. The more opportunities we give the youth, we will have a more vibrant and active parish that reaches out in service.

The role the youth will play in



Youth: ARISE, AWAKE!

There is a belief among some youth that God uses only the Anointed to accomplish His kingdom objectives. But what they do not know is that God is intending to equip, inspire, instruct and motivate the youth to be useful to God. Youth are not only the pillars of our future but also the very foundation to the growing church and the budding joy of our families

For every parent it is a song sung in love for their children every morning from Psalm 144:12 “May our sons in their youth be like plants, full grown, and daughters like corner pillars cut for a building of a palace.”

The 5 process formula that promotes youth are the 5C's : competence, confidence, connection, character building and caring nature. And the godly topics are obedience, witnessing relationships, prayer and salvation. These are the inner blocks of each youth which can hone them to **Awake** and **Arise**. Eccl 11:9 we read “Rejoice, young man while you are young and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth” The symbolic wheel spokes that a youth encounters are “worry and wealth” But the Word of God to fall back on from Jer 29:11 “For surely, I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm to give you a future with hope.”

The word of God in Psalm 121:2 says “My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth” giving a motivational confidence

the present and future of this parish is very important. As a parish, let us encourage and support them to Arise, Awake and grow in the right direction and not get distracted by the attractions of this world. Like many other communities, our Youth must be focused to be more Christ-centred, fully alive and giving glory to God.

- Fr. Cajetan Menezes

to compete in the world to be spiritual and yet successful. Psalm 71:5 encourages: “*For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord from my youth*” when the youth encounters stumbling blocks in choosing career paths and making right decisions. Nurturing love and relationship is a holy task and the obedience to seek can only enjoiner and instruct through Pov 1:8-9 “Hear, my child your father's instructions and do not reject your mother's teaching; for they are a fair garland for your head and pendants for your neck.” Character building cements through Rom 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect” The caring nature comes from the heart of God into our own hearts through the Holy Spirit which fills us when we imbibe Eph 3:17 “and that, Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.” The salvation for each youth to grow into a stage of a fully developed man and a fully developed woman is from Rom 8:31 “**If God is for us, who is against us?**”

So *dear youth*, when you *Wake up* each morning *Arise* into the Love of God through the inspiring scripture verse from the Bible and journey into the *Abundance of Life*.

- Carmine Serrao, Word Minister-Bible cell,
Our Lady of Assumption community, Zone 7

THE THREE BEADS of the Rosary

In the month of September, we celebrate the Nativity of Mother Mary followed with the Devotion of Rosary prayer in Communities and clusters of our Parish. The statue of Mother Mary is taken from house to house to intercede for the host family and the community neighbours as we pray together representing unity in faith.

While reciting the rosary, the power of Triune God comes alive. The first three beads of the rosary are a teaching for us from **1Cor 13:13** *'And now faith, hope and love abide these three, and the greatest of these is love'*. These are the three free gifts given to us by the holy church when we pray our daily rosary.

LOVE The Bible says "God is Love" a perfect source to learn how to love others, even those who are difficult for us to love. (**Jn 15:12** *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you*) Love brings change in the heart and mind when you pursue God. (**1Cor 16:14** *Let all that you do, be done in love*) just as Jesus did for us in his earthly stay here, when God the Father in Heaven sent his son for us (**1Jh 4:19** *we love, because he first loved us*). In the first Hail Mary, let's thank God for his unconditional/steadfast "love".

HOPE simply means trusting God. For hope to fully surface in our lives, suffering is a component factor. (**Rom 5:3-4** *And not only that but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us*). There are times in life, that it feels like the future looks bleak (**Job 17:15** *where then is my hope? Who will see my*

hope? In the second Hail Mary, let's pray for "hope" to remain ever alive in our lives.

FAITH Jesus said *"Your faith has saved you, go in peace Lk 7:50*. Faith simply means trust, confidence and hope all combined together. You can't have Faith if you first don't have hope. Faith gives strength for all things to be okay. Faith is a spiritual gift to make us strong in our beliefs. If "hope" is God's promise to give us light in the darkness, "faith" means believing completely and being confident in God. It is the "first foundation" of our prayer life, filled with the power of hope. **Psalm 46:10** *"Be still and know that I am God"*. Jesus gives us a free will when he says *"According to your faith, let it be done to you" Mt 9:29*

It is so easy to face fear and failures and to lose faith in God's plan for your life. Then we question, is God real? Does he care about us? The creator of the universe is working in and through you while you go through struggles as Jesus says *"Whoever believes in me, rivers of living water will flow from within them" Jh 7:38*. In the third Hail Mary, let's pray for our "faith" to remain intact.

God is everything, I ever hoped for and the three beads of the Rosary represents "Desire = love", "Decision = hope" & "Determination = faith". May the 3 beads of the Rosary manifest the highest blessing from heaven above as we recite our daily rosary!

- Carmine Serrao, Word Minister-Bible cell,
Our Lady of Assumption community, Zone 7



WORLD YOUTH DAY – A Living Memory

The word ‘pilgrimage’ is defined in dictionaries as a ‘journey’, especially one undertaken with faith to a foreign land. For the 1.5 million pilgrims who participated in it, the World Youth Day (WYD) in Lisbon was indeed a journey of faith, a period of encounter, and a celebration of Catholic youthfulness. The theme for the WYD 2023 was the Visitation as derived from the Gospel of Luke, *‘Mary arose and went with haste’*.

The Pre-Journey:

In February 2023, I stumbled upon a few YouTube videos about the World Youth Day (WYD). St. Pope John Paul II founded the WYD in 1986, and it is celebrated every three to four years in various nations throughout the world. The joy as witnessed on the screen was infectious and it stirred a desire in me to attempt to partake in the forthcoming event. The location picked was Lisbon, Portugal which also happens to be the birthplace of our patron St. Anthony. This information combined with the Marian theme provided the necessary motivation and inspiration to make the trip. By the first week of July, the application process was completed and we were waiting for the Visa to be approved and delivered. Days passed into weeks, and weeks into July 25 – the departure date – but there was no indication of confirmation.

When I got home from work on July 25, I was

reassuring myself that it was okay if this trip did not take off. Ten minutes later I received a call from the travel company that the Visa had arrived and that our flight was scheduled to depart at 2 a.m. that night. What transpired in the next hour I have little memory of – heedless last-minute packing, calling relatives, answering messages, shedding a tear or two in disbelief, shaking off the nerves, and indulging in the excitement of the unknown.

The next 24 hours were spent traveling. On July 26, post-midnight we arrived in the sleepy town of Santa Catarina da Serra (located in the diocese of Fatima), only to be warmly welcomed by a wide-awake and excited community, and a table filled with food. Tucked into our individual homes, the World Youth Day had now taken off.

Days in the Diocese:

Days in the Diocese or ‘Pre-Days’, as they used to be called – is a preparatory program that precedes the World Youth Day week. It serves to foster the integration of young people from across the world into the local parish communities of the host

country.

‘Welcome, Discovery, Mission, Culture, and Sending forth’ were the five pillars of the Days in the Dioceses program that preceded the World Youth Day celebration at Lisbon. A scriptural theme accompanied



the five pillars. The DND was organized from July 26 to 31, 2023.

Experiencing the DND program in the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima was a dream come true for the young pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Bombay. The sanctuary of Fatima was a fifteen-minute drive from our host parish! Living under Our Lady's mantle was the best possible beginning to this amazing adventure. I can never forget the serene and surreal candlelight procession at the Sanctuary of Fatima. Here along with hundreds of pilgrims we prayed the Holy Rosary at the Chapel of Apparitions. The memory of watching countless pilgrims raise their candles in the air between every decade of the rosary, the uninterrupted sea of flames during the procession, and the multitude of voices singing 'Ave, Ave, Ave Maria' in unison, was nothing short of a goosebump experience!

Noteworthy was our visit to the Sanctuary Museum. It is here that the crown holding the bullet extracted from St. Pope John Paul II's body during the 1982 assassination attempt is displayed. Witnessing this miraculous relic and reminiscing the faith of the founder of WYD in person is a memory to be treasured for a lifetime.

The heart of the Days in the Diocese experience was our stay with the host families. Their incredible hospitality and unforgettable warmth transformed a group of strangers into one big family. Surprisingly language was no barrier to this bond and when it did threaten, Google Translator came to the rescue. On July 31, as we left for Lisbon, we carried something greater in our hearts – a faith that unites and a sense of saudade for the priceless moments we shared.

World Youth Day, 2023:

From the calming village of Fatima, we took a two-hour bus ride to the cultural hub of Lisbon, the host city. With the call of '*Todos, Todos, Todos...God loves everyone*', Pope Francis inaugurated the WYD. The week was filled with



many challenges and many more moments of grace. Some of my most memorable takeaways are:

1. **WYD in action:** The painstaking and constant care of the volunteers during my brief sickness in Lisbon made me experience a home away from home. I witnessed the theme of the WYD in action through the unforgettable kindness of the people.
2. **Papa Francis:** Love and Hope were at the center of the messages given to us by Pope Francis. '*Do you cry?*' the Pope asked 800,000 youth at WYD; '*so does Jesus. Jesus with his tenderness wipes away our hidden tears. And He waits to push us, to embrace the risk of loving.*'. On the last day, during the Mission Mass, Pope Francis uplifted us saying, 'What will we take back with us? *I would respond with these three words: to shine, to listen, and to be unafraid.*'
3. **The Universality of the Church:** During the WYD the streets of the world met at Lisbon. Young pilgrims from almost every country in the world arrived, barely speaking a word of Portuguese. However, smiles and hugs immediately became the international language of love. The enthusiasm was palpable across the city. Spontaneous songs and chants could be heard reverberating from the streets and the metro tunnels. The sea of youth was seen moving in all directions to attend various WYD events. Imagine an open field at sunset filled with a billion youth kneeling before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as the Vicar of Christ leads them

in prayer. It was overwhelming to express the least.

4. **The WYD was a pilgrimage, not a vacation.** Long hours of travel, the scorching heat, claustrophobic crowds, basic food, cold showers, sickness, fatigue, uncertainty – everything about this experience pushed us out of our comfort zones. Each night the pilgrims slept on the classroom/gym floor and one night in a field of dirt and rocks but beneath the stars. The lack of comfort and living on bare necessities was humbling but it taught me to be grateful and to depend on God in everything. It reminded me that pilgrimages are not meant to be perfect but, in every imperfection, there lay a blessing.
5. **St. Anthony's Birthplace:** Finally, one of the best moments was visiting the Church built on the birthplace of St. Anthony. I was taken aback and humbled by the golden grandeur, the solemn Eucharist, the pressing crowds, the fervent faith, and the simplicity and stillness. I was conscious as a



carrier of the many prayers prayed by my family back home and my home parishioners and I felt happy to belong to our parish and to a saint whose witness and intercession never fails. It reminded me of God's unfailing providence through the thick and thin of life.

And thus, the WYD 2023 chapter came to an end. It ended with an invitation by the Pope to partake in the Jubilee Year 2025 in Rome and the next WYD in Seoul, South Korea in 2027. All in all, the WYD is a living memory and an unforgettable glimpse of the spirit of the universal and local Church and I feel blessed, proud, humbled, and excited to be a part of it.

- *Joyne! Fernandes*

SHOULD I QUESTION MY FAITH? OR SHOULD'NT I?

I'm nearly sixteen and this age is really no easy time. People – family and/or friends/peer – expect so much from us; it is no wonder we get burnt out easily. We are constantly reminded about time management; but when we have so much to manage, not all can fit in 24 hours! All kinds of distraction can be an obstacle in our journey of faith. As a teenager, peer pressure is the most challenging. We can be so naive and innocent at times, we don't know what we are getting ourselves into. Often, during these times, our connection with God is affected. We begin to question our faith. Our circle of friends ask us why we follow our religion and to be a part of this 'circle' we succumb to their pressures and question our faith. As children, we blindly follow our religion. As a part of growing up, we tend to

challenge our faith; we choose to rebel; we want to "be different". We don't realize that there is a purpose for this path we follow, which is why we look for questions: not answers!

Let's make it a moment of contemplation. Are my 'friends' right? Should I question my faith? Is Christianity a solution to my problem? If I pray, will my wish be fulfilled? If I don't, should I blame God?

Should you?

Life is a bundle of contradictions. It can be confusing. However, my faith is unshaken by the Church, elders with strong Christian beliefs and a family of unwavering loyalty to Christianity. I rest my case!

- *CARA DSOUZA, Confirmant (2023-2024)*
Good Shepherd Community, Zone 7

MARATHI

स्वातंत्र्य दिन

बाळ येशू विभाग खारोडी या शेजोळ परिवारातर्फे १५ ऑगस्टच्या दिवशी ७७ व्या स्वातंत्र्यदिनाचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते.

कार्यक्रमाला परिसरातील विविध जाती -धर्मांच्या लोकांच्या उपस्थितीमुळे उत्सवाचे वातावरण निर्माण झाले होते साधारणतः ५० ते ५५ जणांच्या उपस्थितीमध्ये सकाळी ठीक १० वाजता परिसरातील एका कुसाजवळ सर्व जण जमले असताना ध्वजारोहन केले गेले . राष्ट्रगीत, ध्वजगीत अशा गाण्यांनंतर विविध धर्मग्रंथातील उतऱ्याचे वाचन करण्यात आले. यामध्ये श्लोक, कृराण, ग्रंथसहीत पंजाबी धर्मग्रंथ व बायबल यामधून वाचनाचे पठण झाल्यामुळे सर्व धर्मीय सलोख्याचे वातावरण परिसरामध्ये निर्माण झाले. कार्यक्रमाच्या शेवटी मरियेच्या स्वर्गरोहणाच्या गीत घेऊन मरियेच्या स्वर्गरोहणाचे सणानिमित्ताने आदरांजली वाण्यात आली.

करमणूकीच्या कार्यक्रम म्हणून मुलांनी राष्ट्रीय भावनेवरील देशाला समर्पित अशा विविध गीतांचे सादरीकरण केले.समुदाय मुलांसोबत शेजारच्या इतर जातीच्या मुलांनीही मनोरंजनाच्या कार्यक्रमात सहभाग घेतला. त्यांनी पुढे येऊन शपथ घेतली. नृत्य सादर केले आणि देशभक्तीपर गाणी गायली.

आमच्या कॉर्डिनेटर ने समन्वयक जमलेल्या सर्व कुटुंबांचे आभार मानले विशेष आभार ज्यांनी आंतरधर्मीय प्रार्थना करण्यास पाठिंबा दिला.

त्यांचे आणि मुलांनी कार्यक्रमाला कौतुकाचे प्रतीक म्हणून जिवंत केले. त्या मुलांचे आणि मुलांना प्रेमाची भेट म्हणून गिफ्ट दिली.

शेवटी सर्वांचे तोंड गोड करून

कार्यक्रमाच्या समारोप केला:



वेलेन्सीया ग्रेसियस, अॅनिमेटर
बाळ येशू विभाग

पालक दिन



आपल्या धर्मग्रामातील विभाग क्रमांक ४ चा म्हणजे संपूर्ण खारोडी गावातर्फे पालक दिनाचे आयोजन शनिवारी ५ ऑगस्ट संध्याकाळी ७ वाजता बाळ येशू चॅपलच्या आवारामध्ये करण्यात आले होते.

या विभागामध्ये येणाऱ्या सर्व शेजोळ परिवारातील प्रेरक, समन्वयक आणि यूवा संघटनेच्या सभासदांनी मिळून या कार्यक्रमाचे आयोजन केले होते.

कार्यक्रमाला एकूण २२० पालकांनी उपस्थित राहून आपला प्रतिसाद नोंदविला. सर्व पालकांचे सूरवातिला प्रवेश करतानाच पुष्प देऊन स्वागत केल्यामुळे कार्यक्रमात फुलांचा सुवास दरवळत राहिला.

कार्यक्रमाची सुरुवात प्राथनेने करण्यात

आली. प्राथने नंतर एका

विशेष मुलाने (Special child)

पुढे येऊन आपले आई-वडिलांचे त्यांनी आभार मानले की या परिस्थितीत ती त्याची

किती काळजी करतात आणि ते बेस्ट पालक आहेत त्यांना सर्वासमोर थॅक्यू म्हणाला

कार्यक्रमांमध्ये विविध प्रकारचे खेळ, तसेच पति-पत्नींसाठी विशेष खेळाचे प्रकार होते. नृत्य, गायन, स्पोर्ट गेम या सर्व प्रकारच्या मनोरंजनाने कार्यक्रम खच्चून भरला होता

आल्यानंतर कार्यक्रमाला उपस्थित असलेले प्रमुख धर्मगुरु कॅजिटन यांच्या बरोबरीने फा.ऑज्मंड, फा.विक्टर व ब्रदर यांचे स्वागत करण्यात आले.

फादर कॅजिटन यांनी आपले मनोगत व्यक्त करताना पालकांच्या कुटुंबियातील जबाबदारी व कर्तव्य या विषयी आपले विचार व्यक्त केले.

कार्यक्रम चालू असताना सर्व पालकांना स्नॅक्स व ज्यूस देण्यात आले. केला मध्ये जे विजयी झाले त्यांना गिफ्ट देण्यात आले

पॅरिसचे धर्मगुरु आणि सिस्टर यांचे स्वागत करून त्यांना फुल इच्छा देण्यात आले व त्यांचे आभार व्यक्त केले.

एका चांगल्या प्रकारच्या कार्यक्रमांचा आस्वाद पालकांना घ्यायला मिळाल्याचा आनंद त्यांच्या चेहऱ्यावर ओसंडून वाहत होता अशाप्रकारे कार्यक्रमाचा नाचून गाऊन निरोप घेतला.

अलोमा गोम्स, अॅनिमेटर
बाळ येशू विभाग-खारोडी

बाळ येशू विभागांच्या पालक दिन या दिवशी २६ जुलै या दिवशी

कॉर्डिनेटर (प्रेरक) सारीका ग्रेसियस यांनी विभागातील सर्व मुलांना क्लस्टर बॉर्डिंग भेट देऊन

सर्वांना आपल्या आई-वडिलांचे धन्यवाद व्यक्त करण्यास प्रबोधन केले सर्व मुलांना एक चाट पेपर देऊन त्यांना आपल्या पालकांसाठी (थॅक्यू) आभार कार्ड करण्यास सांगितले. आणि पालक दिवशी हे कार्ड आपल्या आई-वडिलांना देण्यास सांगितले.

सर्व मुलांनी या सभेत भाग घेतला आणि त्यांच्या कृतीने चांगले असे कार्ड बनवले व पालक दिवशी आपल्या आई-वडिलांना व आई-वडिलांबरोबर आपली आजी आणि आजोबा यांनाही दिले.

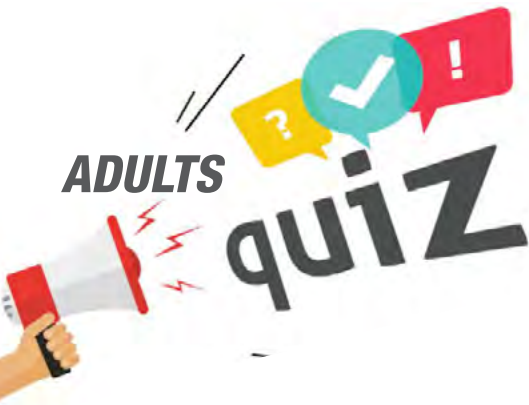
४८ मुलांनी सहभाग घेतला



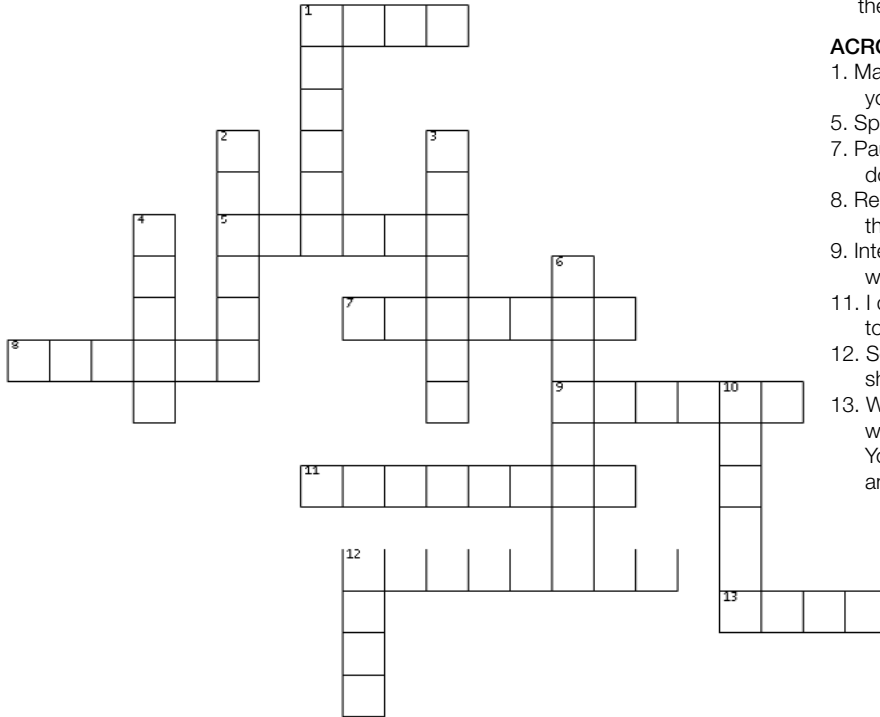
याला सर्व मुलांकडून फार चांगला प्रतिसाद लाभला:

मुलांचे आभार करून कॉर्नेटरने सर्व मुलांना चॉकलेटची भेट दिली.

सिंधीया डिसोजा, अॅनिमेटर
बाळ येशू विभाग-खारोडी



MANY YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ANSWERED GOD'S CALL. THROUGH THEIR WORDS OR DEEDS FIND OUT WHO THESE YOUNG BIBLICAL HEROS ARE.



DOWN

1. Shall I go and summon a Hebrew woman to nurse the child for you
2. Look, I had another dream," he said; "this time, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.
3. Asked for wisdom instead of wealth and power
4. Shepherd, King, Ancestor of Jesus
6. Was unharmed even after being thrown in the fire
10. Queen
12. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

ACROSS

1. May it be done to me according to your word
5. Speak, for your servant is listening"
7. Paul tells him not to let others look down on him because of his age
8. Rebuilds the temple, rediscovers the Word of God
9. Interpreted dream, spend a night with lions
11. I do not know how to speak. I am too young!
12. Son of the king friend of a shepherd.
13. Wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God, my God.

Kindly place your xerox answer sheet in the church / chapel collection box mentioning your name, community and zone by 25th November 2023. Names of those with correct entries will be published in the next issue.

**Answers to Adult Quiz
(TT3 July - September 2023)**

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>2. Brother of Abel Cain</p> <p>4. Brother of Joseph Benjamin</p> <p>6. Son of Hagar Ishmael</p> <p>7. Father of Abram Terah</p> <p>11. Wife of Issac Rebekah'</p> <p>13. Faher of Kenan Enos</p> <p>14. Wife of Easu Judith</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1. Rebekah's brother Laban</p> <p>3. Brother of Ephrahim Manasseh</p> <p>5. Jacob's daughter Dinah</p> <p>8. Son of Jared Enoch</p> <p>9. Sister of Rachel Leah</p> <p>10. Father of Noah Lamech</p> <p>12. Father of Ham Noah</p>
--	---

**Adult Quiz Winners
(TT3 July to September 2023)**

Name	Zone
Blanche Dsouza	1
Flavy Alva	2
Renita Alva	2
Rickson Alva	2
Bosco Fernandes	1



KIDDIES CORNER



FIND OUT THE 12 YOUTH ICONS HIDDEN HERE FROM THE BIBLE

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

Rush your answers by 25th November 2023

Place your xerox answer sheet in the church / chapel collection box mentioning your full name, standard, community and zone.

Called to
Eternal Life
July - September 2023

	Name	Date	Age	Relation	Area
1	Piter Ayajank Patel	07-07-2023	53yrs	S/o Ayajank Patel	Malwani
2	Maria Fernandes	11-07-2023	80yrs	D/o Dornic Fernandes	Rathodi
3	Sudyl Hendricks	14-07-2023	54yrs	S/o Mervin Henricks	Malwani
4	Victor Ignastius Castellino	17-07-2023	90yrs	S/o Ignastius Castellino	Jankalyan
5	John Martin Soares	22-07-2023	78yrs	S/o Martin Soares	Malwani
6	Swarimuttu Shetty	27-07-2023	78yrs	S/o Sawani Shetty	Kandivali w
7	Vailankanni Johnny Bayross	27-07-2023	60yrs	S/o Johnny Bayross	Malwani
8	Annie Horris Burgess	28-07-2023	68yrs	W/o Horris Burgess	Malwani
9	Concessina Fernandes	29-07-2023	61yrs	D/o of Maria Fernandes	Malwani
10	Pascal D'souza	31-07-2023	54yrs	S/o Thomas D'souza	Kharodi
11	Agnes Theo Gomes	01-08-2023	90yrs	W/o Theo Gomes	Kharodi
12	Rosy Gabriel Coutinho	03-08-2023	71yrs	W/o Gabriel Coutinho	Malwani
13	Roque Gomes	05-08-2023	79yrs	S/o Louis Gomes	Bandra
14	John Bosco Chettiar	09-08-2023	72yrs	S/o Lourdu Swamy Chettiar	Malwani
15	Clarence Robby Barretto	08-05-2023	52yrs	Son of Robby Barretto	Rathodi
16	John Louis D'souza	20-05-2023	93yrs	Son of Louis D'souza	Kharodi
17	Joseph Marian Pereira	21-05-2023	69yrs	Husband of Fatima Pereira	Bhoomi Park
15	Peter D'souza	21-08-2023	76yrs	S/o Mark D'souza	Kanchpada
16	Paul Menezes	26-08-2023	64yrs	H/o Linnet Menezes	Malwani
17	Dominic Zujiya Mendes	26-08-2023	84yrs	S/o Zujiya Mendes	Rathodi
18	Krishnan Velur	28-08-2023	75yrs	S/o Swami Velur	Malwani
19	Sophie Gomes	29-08-2023	75yrs	W/o John Gomes	Inaswadi
20	Treasa Patel	30-08-2023	88yrs	W/o John Patel	Kharodi
21	Joseph Aruldas John	04-09-2023	46yrs	S/o Aruldas Veeraswamy	Malwani
22	Frederick Gregory Mendonca	04-09-2023	73yrs	H/o Natalene Mendonca	Bhoomi Park
23	Christopher Silvester Monteiro	13-09-2023	71yrs	S/o Silvester Monteiro	Orlem
24	Jenifer Rocky Soares	21-09-2023	61yrs	W/o Rocky Marshal Soares	Asmita-Jyoti

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER	
22	Mission Sunday
28	Feast of Sts. Simon & Jude
NOVEMBER	
1	All Saints Day
2	All Souls Day
14	Children's Day
18	Parish Family Day
19	
22	Feast of St. Cecilia – Patroness of Choirs
26	Feast of Christ the Universal King
30	Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle
DECEMBER	
3	First Sunday In Advent
4	Feast of St. Francis Xavier, Apostle of India
8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10	First Holy Communion at the Chapel
24	Christmas – Carol Singing and Mass
25	Christmas Day
28	Feast of Holy Innocents
31	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
31	New Year's Vigil
JANUARY	
1	New Year's Day – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
6	Epiphany of the Lord
14	First Holy Communion at the Church
26	Republic Day
26	Infant Jesus Novena begins. Feast on Sunday, 4th February 2024





CLERGY DAY CELEBRATION ON VIANNY SUNDAY

Editor: Rudyard Gomes, **Co-ordinator:** Abbe Fernandes

Editorial Board: Fr. Cajetan Menezes, Yulricka Fonseca, Joynel Fernandes

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

Tel: 2888 5516 **Email:** toniantweets@gmail.com **Website:** www.stanthonychurchmalwani.in