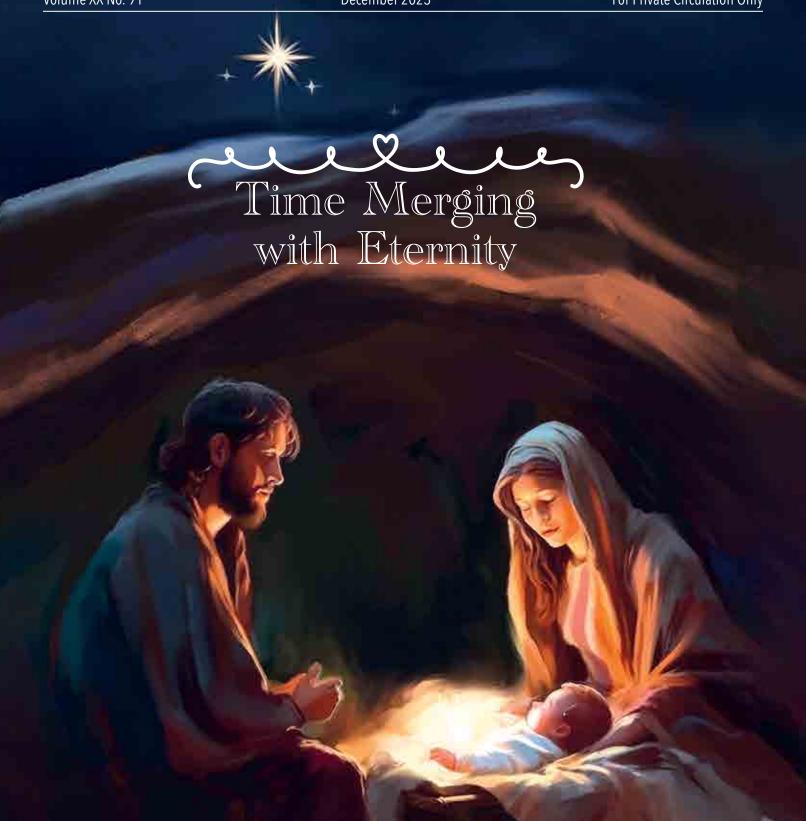


Heart to Heart

Bulletin of Sacred Heart Parish, Andheri (E)

Volume XX No. 91 December 2023 For Private Circulation Only



OUR REGULAR PROGRAMME

SUNDAY MASSES

Morning

6:30 am (English Mass) 7:30 am (Konkani Mass)

8:45 am (Parish Mass)

10:00 am (Children's Mass in the Church) 10:00 am (English Mass in the Community Hall)

Evenina

4:15 pm (Hindi Mass) 5:30 pm (English Mass)

Weekday Masses:

6:30 am, 7:30 am and 7:00 pm

Wednesday

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour after all Masses

Holy Hour: 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm (Except Thursdays before 1st Friday of the month)

First Friday:

Holy Hour 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm

Fourth Friday:

Intercession through the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 7:30 pm in the Church

Catechism for Children:

From 8:45 am to 9:45 am every Sunday

Confessions:

Weekday 6:30 pm and Saturday 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm Baptism: 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11:00 am

Pre-nuptial Enquiry: by Appointment

Wedding Mass Timings:

Monday to Saturday

Disparity of Cult and Mixed Marriage: 3:00 pm

Catholic Weddings: 5:00 pm All Thursdays and First Fridays: 4:30 pm Sunday: 5:30 pm (Scheduled Mass)

Sick Calls: At any time

Centre for Community Org.: (Tel: 8433605226)

Mon, Wed, Sat (10 am to 12 Noon)

Tuesday, Thursday (6 pm to 8 pm), and Sunday-Closed.

Dental Clinic: (Tel. 9324384676) Monday to Saturday - 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Homoeopathy Clinic:

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday (6.00 pm to 7.30 pm)

Parish Office hours

9:00 am to 12:30 pm (Mon to Sat) 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm (Mon to Fri)

4:30 pm to 7:00 pm (Sat)

Tel: 9324585610, 9004011807 e-mail: h2h.bulletin@gmail.com Website: www.sacredheartandheri.net

- Kindly submit the advertisements in a 'vector' format in the following file extensions .PDF, .AI and .EPS only.
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- Caution to verify bonafides of advertisers is exhorted.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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	Feast of St. Arnold Janssen
•••••	Memorial - St. Joseph Vaz, Priest
•••••	Memorial - St. Anthony, Abbot
	Confirmation (4:30 pm Mass)
	Word of God Sunday & All Associations Day
	Memorial St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor
nurs	Feast - Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
i	Republic Day & Marathon
at	Memorial - Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
i-Sun	Fun Kricket
'ed	Memorial - St. John Bosco, Priest
i	Feast - Presentation of the Lord & Day of Consecrated Life (Blessing of Candle
at	Memorial - St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr (Blessing of Throat)
on	Memorial - St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
ıe	Memorial - St. Paul Mikki and Companions, Martyrs
'ed	Memorial - St. Gonsalo Garcia, Martyr
at	Memorial - St. Scholastica, Virgin, First Holy Communion (4:30 pm Mass)
on	World day of the Sick
	Ash Wednesday
	Taize Prayer (8 pm to 12 midnight)
	World Marriage Day (MFC) 5:30 pm Mass followed by Get-together
	Feast - Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
	Deanery SCC RALLY
	English Missions
	Women's Day
	Konkani Missions Solemnity - St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
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• For additional details, kindly refer to the Parish Weekly Announcements.





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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Let's Contemplate On This Christmas

My Beloved Parishioners,

Christmas is God's intervention into the daily events and affairs of mankind. God loves us so much that He has never abandoned us from the beginning of time. With His birth "Time merges with Eternity".

God's Divine presence was seen, felt, experienced and contemplated upon by Adam and Eve as they walked in the Garden of Eden. Adoration and worship of the true God, in total awe and wonder, first began in Paradise.

In the Book of Exodus, Chapter 3, Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why this bush is not burned up." 'Turning aside and seeing' means to reflect and contemplate on the 'Flame in the bush' which signifies gazing at the Divine presence in the fullness of His holiness. Moses in adoration bows down on his knees on the ground in total contemplation and submission.



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In the book of Exodus, Chapters 25 and 26, God instructed Moses to build the 'Ark of the Covenant' and 'The Tabernacle' which was called 'The Dwelling Place of God'.



As the Israelites journeyed through the wilderness, the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. The journey of the Ark of the Covenant among the Israelites in Scripture represented God's presence, enabling the people and priests of Israel to reflect, ponder, meditate and contemplate in worship and adoration.

Prophet Isaiah announced the coming of the Messiah to the people of Israel who had turned away from their own God. Being wrapped up in pagan cultures and living in a world of darkness and evil, they were lost in idolatry and worship of pagan gods. Israel was losing their identity as God's people, yet God was mindful of their sufferings and Isaiah prophesized, "The people in darkness have seen a great light."

This Christmas season let us make a conscious effort to take time away from the festivities and celebrations to contemplate on the crib. Let's not just be taken up by its commercial, glamorous and pompous outward esthetic beauty. There is a deeper beauty we can discover in just remaining in silence, pondering and contemplating on the crib - God's Divine manifestation, proclaimed by Isaiah as 'EMMANUEL' 'God is with us'

Baby Jesus in the crib invites us to have a deeper understanding of His coming into our world. He came... He comes for each one of us individually. As our Savior, He reminds us, "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM YOUR GOD".

Prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah, born of a virgin from the house of David. Exactly so, it happened about 700 years later. The Angel appeared to Mary and said ".... He will be called the Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:32). Mother Mary pondered and contemplated everything in Her Heart.

In Isaiah's prophecy of the coming Messiah, He is called 'The Prince of Peace' How much our world is in need of peace, not just during Mary's time but much more so in today's times. Let's pray for peace in our warring world.



The angel announced of the babe to be born of Mary, 'His Kingdom will have no end'. It is over two thousand years since then and things seem to be going from bad to worse as the centuries roll on. How could you and I work to establish His Kingdom in and around us? Why is there no place for Him to be born in the 'INN' of our hearts?

With Mary, our Mother let's continue to ponder and contemplate on these questions. Mary had to repeat her 'YES' to God in total contemplation every day and at every step of the way.

Joseph pondered and contemplated in the silence of his heart when the Angel appeared to him saying, "...do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife!" (Matthew 1:20). He was a humble, righteous man of unique calling with selfless dedication and respect for Mary. We see his greatness and godliness in being obedient to God's plan. Joseph valiantly stood by Mary, as her faithful guardian and as the protector of the Divine child. As a man and head of the family, what can we learn from the life and faith of Joseph? How can I respond to God in total faith and responsibly go about my daily activities to safeguard my home and family? The Wise men followed the

bright Star, pondering and contemplating on the sign which shone from heaven, seeking to find the newborn king. Their contemplation led them to leave their home and country, everything and everyone behind to follow the Star. That bright Star led them away from familiar shores into the unknown. Let's contemplate and reflect silently in the

midst of our busy schedules – How much time could I devote to seek God in the Scriptures and Sacraments? Could I learn to renounce and leave behind familiar shores to OFFER MY BEST AND UNIQUE GIFTS in the service of the Lord?

The shepherds saw the bright light of Angels who announced to them "..to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior... You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:11,12). The shepherds fell on their knees in awe and wonder, meditating and contemplating in silence, adoring the glorious presence of the New Born Baby in a manger. Does spending a moment of silence before the Blessed Sacrament fill my soul with awe, wonder, joy and peace?

Let the Christmas Crib in our homes bring special joy and peace in our hearts as we sit together, around it and gaze intensely and contemplate closely on God's immense, incomprehensible and mysterious presence among us. Let Him be born in the little mangers of our hearts.

The New Born Baby Jesus offers this newness, time and again, day after day, moment after moment and year after year. As we go through life, our experiences bring in new levels of maturity. Life changes just as the seasons, the climate, the books we read, the clothes we wear, our interests, our goals. We change, and everything changes. In the midst of a chain of changes happening every moment, we who unconsciously run a daily rat race, feel lost and desperate to keep pace with the rapid changes.

It's time to Stop, take a break, ponder and contemplate on: WHO ARE WE?

WHO ARE WE? WHOSE ARE WE? WHO HOLDS OUR FUTURE? New Year is the time to refresh family ties that create belongingness into our communities, neighborhood, nation and the world. It is a challenge to look into the eyes of the other, to appreciate our differences, to recognize the pain or the joy lurking within; to feel, to bear, to suffer, to forgive, to heal, to grow and to belong. That is the gift we could exchange with one another as we wish each other a 'Happy New Year'.

This Year let us not only just pray verbally but also contemplate on God's love for us and meditate on His Word. May this New Year be for us a commitment in this direction. Let us discover more and more, that God who is born unto us, lives within us, walks with us, and leads us on until we find our Home in HIM.

Let's Grow from a Believing to Belonging Community From Verbal Prayer to Being a Contemplating Community

Along with my Clergy Team, I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2024!!

> Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD Parish Priest

46

The Magi are filled with awe by what they see - heaven on earth and earth in heaven; man in God and God in man; they see enclosed in a tiny body the One Whom the entire world cannot contain.

- St Peter Chrysologus

"

Time Merging with Eternity



In the heart of winter, as the world lies wrapped in a shroud of cold, there comes a sacred and transcendent moment when time seems to merge with eternity. It's that enchanting season when the spirit of Christmas weaves its divine spell, creating a timeless realm of joy and wonder, reminiscent of the miracle of Bethlehem. This magical merging of time and eternity is what makes Christmas a truly special and transcendent celebration, echoing the timeless grace that enveloped the birth of Jesus.

As the holiday season approaches, families gather in anticipation of a heavenly promise, and streets twinkle with the divine light of festive decorations. It's a time when we transcend the boundaries of our ordinary lives, reaching out to the extraordinary and embracing the divine mysteries that surround us. In this sacred moment, we glimpse the timeless and eternal nature of Christmas, much like the star that guided the Wise Men to the new-born King.

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

Christmas carries with it a profound sense of sacred history, rooted in the age-old and hallowed story of the birth of Jesus Christ. This divine narrative is a poignant reminder that Christmas transcends the confines of a single era, for it invites us to relive the past, as we recount the miraculous story of Mary and Joseph seeking refuge in a humble stable. It beckons us to celebrate the sacred present, where families come together in the embrace of divine love and joy. And it calls us to envision a future filled with hope and goodwill, guided by the eternal light of Christ.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

At the heart of Christmas lies the sacred and enduring concept of giving. As we exchange gifts, we partake in a tradition that unites us with generations that have come before and those yet to come, mirroring the ultimate gift of God's love through the birth of His Son. The act of giving is a divine bridge that connects the past and the future, making Christmas an eternal celebration of love and generosity, much like the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Christmas traditions, from adorning trees to singing carols, allow us to tap into the sacred customs that have persisted through centuries, echoing the wisdom of prophets and the hymns of angels. These sacred rituals bridge the gap between the past and the present, letting us partake in a shared and divine experience with our ancestors, as we remember the birth of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. In these sacred moments, time merges with eternity, and we connect with the enduring spirit of Christmas, just as generations before us did.

"Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

The divine beauty of Christmas lies in the way it suspends time. In this sacred season, it doesn't matter whether you are young or old, rich or poor, for we are all united in the enchantment of the holy holiday. It is a sacred time when the old become young again, when we recapture the innocence of our childhood, and when the world seems to glow with renewed hope, much like the hope that Christ brought to the world.

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people'" (Luke 2:10).

Ultimately, Christmas is a sacred reminder that, in our hurried lives, there are moments when time loses its grip, and we become part of something larger and more profound an eternal celebration that transcends the boundaries of days, months, and years. It is a reminder that the true magic of Christmas is in the merging of time with eternity, much like the divine unity between God and humanity through the birth of Jesus Christ.

So, as the winter winds blow and the world is draped in a blanket of snow, remember that Christmas is not just a holiday; it's a sacred and divine time when we merge with eternity, connecting with the past, embracing the present, and looking forward to a brighter future. It is a time of divine love, compassion, and the joy of giving a season when we, too, become a part of the timeless and enduring miracle of Christmas, much like the eternal miracle of Christ's birth.

CCO on the Move

The arrival of Jesus into the world can be likened to a hug from GOD for which the entire human race awaited, A hug of love, hope, peace, forgiveness, care and concern.

This Christmas let us express our heartfelt love and hope to the members of our Parish communities who are elderly, homebound, marginalized and lonely.

The activities held by the various Cells and Associations are as follows:

CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (CCO):

The joy and delight in successfully placing unemployed people with gainful employment is priceless. We also have people of other faiths approaching CCO for jobs. We are happy that we have been able to place many of them in jobs like domestic help, cooks, drivers, day/night caretakers etc.

Every week we reach out to the needy of our Parish through the Community Welfare Fund by filling out forms for Medical, Education and Housing needs. The Community Welfare Team makes the necessary verifications and authenticates the requests/claims received through the respective PPC members and then finalizes the amount to be given to the applicant.

We register a number of eligible boys and girls contemplating marriage in the near future, both from our parish and other parishes for Matrimonial alliances.

COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND (CWF): During the period April to October payments were made as follows through CWF:

 Education
 29

 Medical
 75

 Housing Aid
 62

 Total
 166

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSOCIATION (SVP):

The SVP renders help to needy parishioners and also to the needy people of other faiths.

The details of help given every month are as follows:

Cash Assistance - **8 families** Ration Aid - **26 families**

Educational aid and Medical aid is also given to the needy.

On 27th September, the SVP members along with their adopted and aided families, benefactors and well-wishers celebrated the feast of their patron saint, St. Vincent de Paul, with Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm followed by a get-together with games and dinner. A takeaway gift was given to every adopted family.

SENIOR CITIZEN CELL: A pilgrimage to Our Lady of Fatima Church, Karjat was organized on 9th September. It was well attended by about 100 people.

Vintage Vibes', Games for the seniors were organized and played over two weekends culminating on 1st October, 2023 celebrated as World Elders Day. 18 communities participated. The winning team played with the senior citizens of 3 neighboring parishes. Fr. Edwin Vas, SVD Spiritual Director celebrated the Mass which was animated by the Seniors.

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (SCC): A

half-day Training for all SCC animators on the topic 'Relationship and Commitment' was held on 27th August, which was attended by over 100 participants.

A prayer Service was held on 23rd September, 2023 for the statue of our Lady to be taken to all the Communities. 36 statues were blessed and handed over to the Community Co-coordinators with a vision that Mother Mary visit all the homes of our Parish. Area Wise Rosaries are being held in the Church on all Saturdays at 6.15 pm.

LEGION OF MARY: Legion of Mary celebrated their Annual Day on 8th September at 5.30 pm. It was attended by all the legionaries. The Rosary was prayed followed by a small get-together.

Rosary-making competition was organised by the Legion of Mary Cell on 29th October 2023 on our Church grounds. The aim of the event was to spread devotion to Our Lady who will help us get closer to Christ. 13 Communities and two Cells/Associations participated. Hosanna, Community No. 31 was adjudged the winner. Good Samaritan, Community No. 18 and Genesis, Community No. 35 were the first and second runners up respectively. The competitors were full of enthusiasm and did their best.

PARISH YOUTH COUNCIL (PYC): The Youth Ministry of Sacred Heart along with the PYAT organised Aqua Mania 2023, a community tele-game event from 14th September to 17th September. 18 communities participated. Good Shepherd, Community No. 7 was the winner and Morning Star, Community No. 6 was the runner-up.

Parish Youth Day was celebrated on 4th and 5th November, 2023 by the PYC along with the PYAT members. There was a stand-up comedy show and the youth showcased their diverse talents. On 5th November, Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Barthol Barretto followed by a talk for the youth ending with dinner. It was well organised and attended by about 250 youths.

DIVINE MERCY CELL: On 19th September, a half-day recollection was conducted. The topic was "Divine Mercy - Source of Healing", It was attended by about 135 parishioners.

HEALTH CELL: Health Cell organised an ECG Camp for Heart Treatment on 17th September, 2023 and a blood donation drive on 15th October.

May the love of God bloom in each one of us during the Season of Christmas.

On behalf of the CCO Team, we wish all our Parishioners a blessed and joy-filled Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Ida Quinny CCO Co-ordinator





HEARTY LAUGHTER

UNBELIEVABLE

The Struggling artist gets the shock of his life when the Gallery owner tells him he has good news and bad news.

"The good news is that a man dropped by the studio today and put in an offer to buy every single piece. He just wanted my guarantee that the works would be worth twice what he paid if you were to pass away. I told him they would double, possibly triple, in value

So he bought them all."

"Whoa!" exclaims the artist

"That's fantastic

What could be the bad news?"

"The guy is your doctor," the owner says.

OUTSTANDINGS DEAL

One day, a customer placed a huge order for numerous goods but suddenly the company realized they hadn't paid for the previous order. Immediately, they left a message on their machine saying the new order cannot be placed until the last bill has been paid. The next morning, they opened their emails to find a reply 'We would like to cancel our order, we just can't wait that long'.

PICKING THE GOOD ONE

"Mum, am I adopted?"

"No, of course not", replied his mother Why would you think such a thing?

Fred showed her his genealogy DNA test results. No match for any of his relatives, and strong matches for a family who lived the other side of the city. Perturbed, his mother called her husband, "Honey, Fred has done a DNA test, nd ... and ... I don't know how to say this ... he may not be our son."

"Well, obviously!" he replied. "What do you mean?" "It was your idea in the first place" her husband continued. "You remember, that first night in hospital when the baby did nothing but scream and cry and scream and cry. On and on. And you asked me to change him?" "I picked a good one I reckon. Ever so proud of Fred."

OFFICE CONVERSATIONS

'We need somebody for this role who is responsible.'

'Not a problem, sir. Every time something went wrong in my old job, my manager told me I was always responsible!

My boss is very easygoing. He told me not to think of him as the boss, rather, think of him as a friend who is never wrong.

'What's your biggest weakness?'

'I'm really honest'

'That's not necessarily a bad thing, you know'

'I don't really care what you think'

'You all worked really hard this year, I'm giving you all a check for \$2,000. If you work the same next year, I'll sign them'.

'Doctor, there's a patient on line one that says he's invisible.'

'Well, tell him I can't see him right now.'

RANDOM INSIGHTS

- 6:30 is the best time on a clock, hands down.
- What's the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care.

- Adam & Eve were the first ones to ignore the Apple terms and conditions.
- Refusing to go to the gym is a form of resistance training.
- A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.
- The trouble with being punctual for meetings is that nobody's there to appreciate it.
- I can tell when people are being judgmental just by looking at them.
- The closest people come to perfection is on an employment application.
- My spouse tells me I talk in my sleep all the time. But I'm skeptical. Nobody at work ever mentions it.
- Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.
- The problem with kleptomaniacs is that they always take things literally.

SOUND PROBLEM

Mary complained to her cousin that the walls of her new apartment were so thin that the neighbours on either side could hear every thing she said. Her cousin suggested that she hangs some tapestries over the walls, to which Mary shook her head and said, "Then we couldn't hear what they say!"

LOW SCORES

Mother: Why did you get such a low mark on that test, Jimmy?

Jimmy: Because of absence.

Mother: You mean you were absent on the day of the test?

Jimmy: No but the kid who sits next to me was.





Family Bible Quiz: December 2023

I) SELECT THE CORRECT ANSWER	?:
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1. In which of the following	books is it mentioned:	"His name shall be
called Wonderful?"		

a. Matthew 1:18 b. Luke 1:26 c. Luke 2:1 d. Isaiah 9:6

2. How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth?

a. about 3 days b. about 3 weeks c. about 3 months d. about 3 years

3. According to the gospel of Matthew and Mark, Jesus travelled from _____ to Jordan to be baptised.

a. Galilee b. Bethlehem c. Jericho d. Capernaum

4. St. Joseph Freinademetz is known as the patron saint of which country?

a. India b. China c. Japan d. Korea

5. Name the Divine Word missionary who accompanied St. Joseph Freinademetz to their given mission land.

a. St. Arnold Jansenb. Fr. John Baptist Anzerc. Fr. Stanley Plutzd. Fr. Aloysius Liguda

6. What was the meaning of the name "Fu Shenfu" which was was given to St. Joseph Freinademetz by the people whom he served as a missionary?

a. Great priestb. Wise priestc. Holy priestd. Lucky priest

7. What changes did St. Joseph Freinademetz adopt to accommodate himself to the new surroundings of his mission Land?

a. He learned the language and dressed like them

b. He ate and lived like them

c. He acquired their religion

d. Both option a and b.

II) Read the Gospel of Luke and match the following:

1	Mary Joseph and Jesus lived in	a. Bethlehem	1.
2	Birth of Jesus	b. Galilee	2.
3	Presentation of Jesus	c. Nazareth	3.
4	Jesus preaches	d. Jerusalem	4.

Full Name (Head of Family)_____

Names of Participants ______

Community No ______Family No._____

Telephone/Mobile No_____

_	• E
	i
	• T
	d
	• T

III) Read the Gosp	els of Matthew a	nd Luke and	then quote	th
Chapter and Bible	verse/s:			

- 1. Which chapter and verse in the gospel of Matthew tells us that the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus.
- 2. Which chapter and verse in the gospel of Luke tells us that Mary is Elizabeth's relative
- 3. Which chapter and verse in the gospel of Matthew tells us that Emmanuel means God is with us _____
- 4. Which chapter and verse in the gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus was about 30 when He began His work _____
- 5. Which chapter and verse from the gospel of Matthew tells us that Joseph was descendant of David.

IV) Guess the Christmas Carol from the lyrics given below Eg. Later we'll have some pumpkin pie and we'll do some carolling Answer: Rockin' around the Christmas tree

- 1. The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay _____
- 2. God and sinners reconciled _____
- 3. Tis the season to be Jolly _____
- 4. A star, a star, dancing in the night _____
- 5. Long lay the world in sin and error pining _____
- 6. One seems to hear words of good cheer from everywhere _____
- 7. King for ever, ceasing never _____
- 8. Then he smiled at me _____
- 9. Holy infant so tender and mild _____
- Email the answers to h2h.bulletin@gmail.com OR Drop the responses in the LETTER BOX in front of the sacristy, latest by 15th January, 2024.
- There are 3 prizes. If there are many right answers the prizes will be determined by casting lots.
- The decision of the Editorial board will be final and binding.

Address____

ANSWERS OF FAMILY QUIZ - SEPTEMBER 2023

I. 1 Rebecca; 2. Abigail; 3. Anna; 4. Mary; 5. Bathsheba; 6. Leah

II. 1. Our Lady of Good Health;

2. Our Lady of Guadalupe;

3. Our Lady of Akita;

4. Our Lady of Lourdes;

III. 1. Luke 1:38; 2. Luke 1:46; 3. John 19:26; 4. Luke 1:35; 5. Matthew 1:18; 6. Mathew 1:22-23

IV. 1. January 1 2. September 8 3. August 22 4. October 7

5. July 16

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE WINNERS OF FAMILY QUIZ - SEPTEMBER 2023

1st Prize:

Faustina, Vanessa, Valerian, Veena Rodrigues

Family No: 2743, Community No. 33

2nd Prize:

Stephen, Shalome, Shavon Rodricks Family No: 2665, Community No. 27

3rd Prize:

Robin, Chelsea Almeida

Family No: 2388, Community No. 30



PARISH ACTIVITIES

Embracing Unity In Diversity: A Joyful Visit To The Parsi Fire Temple

In the spirit of fostering understanding and celebrating the rich tapestry of religious diversity, the Inter-Religious Dialogue Cell embarked on a momentous visit to the Parsi fire temple in Parsi Colony near Pump house to mark the occasion of Novruz - the Parsi New Year Day. This endeavor aimed at bridging the gap between different faiths, promoting mutual respect, and strengthening the bonds that unite us all as members of the human family.

Accompanied by the Spiritual Director of the Inter-Religious Dialogue Cell, Fr. Callisto Gomes SVD, we, the members of the IRDC, extended warm greetings to the temple priest on the auspicious day of Parsi New Year, observed on the 16th of August 2023. Our visit was not merely a gesture of courtesy but a sincere attempt to connect on a deeper level, transcending religious boundaries.

Parsi New Year, commonly known as Novruz; holds profound significance for the Parsi community. The term itself encapsulates the essence of the occasion – 'Nav' meaning new and 'Roz'; meaning day. It is a time when Parsi people come together to offer prayers for good health, prosperity, and seek blessings for the journey into the new year. The prayers also extend for their ancestors, thus interweaving the past, present, and future.

As we entered the Parsi Colony and the sacred space of the Parsi fire temple, a sense of reverence enveloped us. A symbol of purity and divinity in the Zoroastrian faith, cast a warm glow on the faces of those present.

Our visit to the temple was not only a gesture of goodwill but an acknowledgment of the shared values that underpin our diverse faith traditions. The Parsi Community, known for their emphasis on love, harmony, and familial bonds during Novruz, welcomed us with open hearts. The exchange of best wishes and the sharing of our respective traditions served as a testament to the power of dialogue in fostering understanding and building bridges between different religious communities.



In the moments spent with the Priest of the fire temple, we witnessed the beauty of religious pluralism and the potential for unity that lies within our diverse beliefs - a symbol of hope and shared humanity, emphasizing the importance of mutual respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the richness that each faith contributes to the collective human experience.

Our visit to the Parsi fire temple on the Parsi New Year Day was not just an interfaith celebration; it was a reaffirmation of the values that bind us together as fellow beings on this journey of life. As members of the Inter-Religious Dialogue Cell, we left the temple with hearts full of gratitude, carrying the light of understanding and unity to share with our respective Communities, inspired by the harmonious spirit of Novruz.

Michael D'Souza Inter Religious Dialogue cell

Independence Day Flag Hoisting

On 15th August 2023, our nation celebrated its 77th Independence Day, commemorating 76 years of freedom. As per the practice every year, this time too, the flag hoisting ceremony was organized by the **Bombay Catholic Sabha (BCS)**.

The Chief Guest for the Flag Hoisting Ceremony was our very own Parish Priest, Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD who was joined by the entire Clergy Team.

The Tricolor Flag was hoisted after the 7:30 am Mass and the National Anthem was sung with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor.

After the flag hoisting ceremony, Fr. John addressed the gathering and delivered a beautiful message to all present. He expressed that the recent happenings in our country have

deeply affected us as individuals and citizens of our beloved nation. We are all experiencing, in silence, the feelings of being mesmerized, traumatized, bewildered and confused. He said each one of us as individuals, should work together to safeguard, uphold and protect the Sovereign, Secular, Socialist and Democratic values enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

This year was also special because, for the first time, the felicitation of SSC students was initiated. Students were nominated and the selected students were given awards for their achievement after the 8:45 am Mass.

Jude Zac<mark>cheu</mark>s Bombay Catholic Sabha



Rooted in Leitourgia

The evening of Sunday 20th August 2023 was well spent at the Atma Darshan Chapel Hall, where over a hundred parishioners, gathered for the Liturgy Training Programme. Fr. Savio De Sales - Director of the Liturgy Commission of the Archdiocese of Bombay was the resource person. His great fervour, dedication, commitment and unwavering passion for enriching the liturgical experiences of the faithful, are remarkable.

Fr. Savio began the session by explaining the meaning of the word 'Liturgy', derived from the Greek word 'Leitourgia' which means 'Works of the People'. He then explained in detail about the Sanctuary, the area around the Altar, from where the priest celebrates the Holy Eucharist. Behind the table of Sacrifice or the Altar is the Presidential chair and the Presidential stand, from where the Priest officiates at the Holy Eucharist and then later moves towards the Altar. All churches may not have the Presidential stand though some older churches do. The Sanctuary also has the Lectern or the Ambo, from where the Word of God is proclaimed. The Tabernacle

could be a part of the Sanctuary or a little away from it. The Sanctuary also has a Crucifix and a Credence table on which are placed the sacred vessels used at Mass.

Next was the explanation of the Liturgical Seasons, the Liturgical calendar and the Liturgical Cycle. The Liturgical year consists of six Liturgical Seasons; namely, Advent, Christmas (ending with the Baptism of Jesus), Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter (ending on Pentecost Sunday), and then again, the Ordinary Time right up to Advent.

For the Sunday Gospel Readings, we now have a Liturgical cycle of three years, centred around readings from the three synoptic Gospels i.e., Year A - Matthew, Year B - Mark, and Year C - Luke with the Gospel of John interspersed all through. That is how we complete reading the Word of God from all the Gospels in the three-year cycle. The weekday cycle is divided into two years, Year I and Year II. Year I is read in odd-numbered years e.g., 2023 and Year II is read in evennumbered years e.g., 2024.

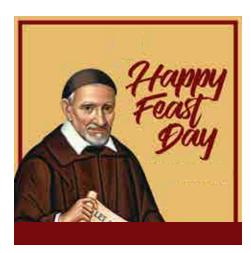
We received an overview of the grades of Liturgical celebrations namely, Solemnity, Feasts, Memorials, and Optional Memorials. The Liturgical Vestments were described. The role of the cantors who sing at the Liturgy was enumerated. The significance of the various gestures at the Eucharist and the sequence of the entrance procession was defined.

There was time to ask questions and clarify any doubts. We are grateful to Fr. Savio De Sales for enlightening us about the Liturgy. Thanks to our Parish Clergy team, Lectors and Liturgy Core teams for organising this Training program.

Fr. Savio concluded the session with the words from *Sacrosanctum Concilium* which says, 'Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that *fully conscious*, and *active participation* in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy' (SC14).

Josephine Fernandes St. Paul's, Community No. 21

Celebration Of The Feast Of St. Vincent De Paul



The St Vincent de Paul Society members along with our adopted and aided families, benefactors and well-wishers celebrated the feast of St. Vincent de Paul on 27th September 2023.

The celebration began with the Eucharist at 7.00 pm in the Church. It was a concelebrated mass. Our Spiritual Director Fr. Christi Selvraj SVD was the main celebrant. The homily was meaningful and inspiring as it focussed on the life of St. Vincent de Paul.

After Mass, refreshments were served. Our President Cynthia Pinto, extended a warm welcome to the gathering. Thereafter, our compere for the evening, Cyprian took over. He ensured that everyone including the children and the elders mingled together. There were games and spot prizes. Housie was best enjoyed by all.

Rose Almeida proposed the vote of thanks, mentioning specially, each and every person who was involved in organising the function. She also thanked our Parish Priest Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD for his active involvement in the event.

Thereafter, Fr. Christi prayed the Grace before meals and dinner was served. In all, there were about 91 people who participated including the guests. Everyone was happy with the sumptuous meal. Every adopted family was given a take-away gift as they departed with contentment and joy.

The function was a success as all the members did a wonderful job.

Cynthia Pinto President - SVP



Vintage Vibes 2023

You are as old as your fear, as young as your hope and as ancient as your despair. You are as young as your faith and as old as your doubt. - Author unknown

The above adage is absolutely true for the **Young at Heart, Senior Citizens' Cell** of our Parish. To commemorate "World Elders' Day", the **Youngies** as we call ourselves, organised and conducted "Minute-to-win-it" games of skill for the seniors of the Parish. Spread over two weekends in September and culminating with the grand finale and prize distribution on 1st October, the participants, all above 55 years of age participated with verve and vigour for the coveted 3 spots. Eighteen teams of varying ages, consisting of 5 participants each, dressed in their Community colours and accessories, were indeed a force to reckon with.

VINTAGE VIBES 2023, kick started on 23rd September with the games being officially declared open by our Parish Priest, Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD. The games, the brainchild of Conrad and Anita D'Sa, were captioned exotically and seemed easy to accomplish but in actuality needed skill, presence of mind and dexterity.

The Grand Finale was something else altogether. Joining us were three Parishes of the Andheri Deanery; St. John the Evangelist, Marol, St. Vincent Pallotti, Marol and Our Lady of Health, Sahar. These three teams vied with the highest scorer of Sacred Heart, in a battle of skill. The three Parishes performed valiantly and each participant received a love token at the end of the evening. The highlight of the grand finale was our Clergy team competing against each other enthusiastically, for their spot in the games. Fr. Edwin Vas SVD, the Spiritual Director of the Cell, emerged the winner.

Besides trophies to the winning teams; Apostles of Christ, Community No. 12 in 1st place, Yahweh's Clan, Community No. 33 in 2nd place and St. Anne's, Community No. 26 in 3rd place, each participant was presented with a medal, making us feel like Olympic Winners! Later, the Deanery Teams, the Animators of the Young at Heart Senior Citizens' Cell, and the youth volunteers, sat down to a fellowship and gupshup with our visitors.

Heartening reviews poured in later that evening thanking the "Youngies" for the engaging and exciting weekends. To quote a couple of them:

"Thank you Conrad, Anita and the entire team who orchestrated the beautiful event of Vintage Vibes. It warms my heart to witness the vibrancy and unity within our Parish communities. Such gatherings have a way of rekindling cherished memories from our childhood, fostering a sense of togetherness, promoting teamwork and pure enjoyment. Marcelino Pereira, St. Dominic Savio, Community No. 17."

"Thank you Anita, Conrad, Janice, Jude and your team and Dear Fathers for the lovely camaraderie, fellowship and hospitality extended to us, and also exchanging and becoming aware of the nature of the activities in our parishes. God bless! regards, Mario, Brian, Anthony, Ancilla and Siddon - Our Lady of Health Parish, Sahar"

Candida Mendoza Animator, Senior Citizens' Cell

Lector Proclaims

"For The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word" – Isaiah 50:4

A great Bible verse to start with, for someone who pondered for the longest time to join the Lectors Cell. I always thought I would not be able to manage it with my work schedule. But once I joined and learnt how systematically everything was predesigned by the Core committee, and their efforts towards arranging a beautiful Eucharistic celebration, the decision was here to stay.

As a newly inducted lector, I sincerely thank the Core committee for the training provided to the new lectors and for organising various sessions to help us prepare:

 Our first session was conducted on 16th September, 2023 by Fr. Wilfred D'Souza SDB, where we were enlightened about the responsibilities of a lector, their importance and role in the liturgy and the skills required to effectively proclaim the Word of God.

- To be an effective lector, one must develop a deeper understanding of the Scriptures, by focusing on the passages that would be read during the liturgy. This would help us understand the significance of the chosen passages.
- We received guidance on enhancing our speaking skills, including articulation, pace and voice modulation, diction, clear pronunciation, and the pauses to be maintained giving the congregation time to reflect on the Word of God. Also, on the placement of the microphone to make sure our voice does not echo or pierce through.
- We had practice sessions conducted by the Core team, where every new lector was given the platform, to read and we were provided constructive feedback and evaluation of the same in order to improve.
- We had a detailed meeting, running through the rules, right from arriving 15 minutes before the scheduled Mass timing,

- the prayer to be said before proclaiming the Word of God and how to seamlessly move in sequence to enable the next lector to make way to the altar, to mention just a few.
- As a lector, we are given an option to select our convenient Mass timings. Based on our preferences a well-organised roster is prepared by the 26th of every month, making sure every lector is given an equal opportunity to read.

As I continue my journey, I realise that being a lector is not just about reading words, it is about transmitting the Word of God to the congregation with passion and sincerity. I feel a profound sense of responsibility and a deep connection to my faith. The training process, coupled with the support and encouragement from the Community has enabled me to serve effectively in this role. I look forward to this opportunity to grow further in my faith.

Seles Paul Pavan Atma, Community No. 25

Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Beginning from 1st August 2023 a new initiative was undertaken by our Clergy team to conduct a Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on all weekdays, half an hour prior to the evening Mass, during this time, a priest is available for Confession.

It is a sacred time when the faithful gather to unite in worship and prayer and is a blessed opportunity for each one to speak to the Lord and to have a personal encounter. Praying before the Blessed Sacrament makes one feel more exposed towards God and will help to prepare meaningfully for Confession.

The Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a powerful expression of the community's faith. As the faithful gather together, they recognize the strength that comes from praying and worshipping as a united body. The presence of each person adds to the collective devotion and brings the community closer to God. In these moments,

the Church becomes a sanctuary of solace, peace, and spiritual renewal.

The faithful at Sacred Heart Church have embraced the divine promise, "For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20), understanding that their prayers carry immense power. Everyone's intentions and supplications become intertwined, creating a harmonious symphony of devotion, love, and faith.

Silent Adoration provides a respite from the noise and distractions of daily life. It offers a space for introspection, meditation, and deep connection with the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. In this serene atmosphere, the faithful can pour their hearts out to the Lord, sharing their joys, sorrows, hopes, and dreams. There is a profound freedom in bringing our dark areas and experiences to the light of the love of the Eucharistic Lord and avail of the plentiful graces of the Sacrament of

Reconciliation, finding guidance, solace and an experience of the unconditional love of God.

The introduction of Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on a daily basis provides a nurturing environment for spiritual growth. It serves as a powerful reminder that even in challenging times, the community can find strength, hope, and comfort through collective prayer. As the faithful gather around the Blessed Sacrament, their hearts unite as one, creating a bond that strengthens both individual faith and the spiritual fabric of the entire community.

May the Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament become a cherished practice for all the parishioners and may this form of worship continue to inspire and uplift the hearts of all those who participate, fostering a deep connection with God and one another.

Marcelino Pereira PPC, St. Dominic Savio, Community No. 17

Relationship And Commitment

On 27th August, 2023, the SCC animators of our Parish, had a half-day training programme titled "Relationship and Commitment" by "Learning and Development Professionals", Dr. Charles Carvalho and Dr. Fallan Carvalho. Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD, Parish Director of SCC's led us with the opening prayer. The session from the word "go" was highly interactive and engaging. Before introducing each principle on effective and non-violent communication, the duo organized activities like Human Bingo and an Observation Activity, which were Individual / Team Exercises.

The principles derived from the above exercises were:

- "Let's get curious" This referred to getting curious about people by listening to them sharing their stories thus developing a deeper connection.
- 2. "Communicate observation, not judgment and evaluation" This referred to describing facts, free from any interpretation or evaluation. Observation is the most vital component of effective communication because it enables people to see things without adding their own interpretations and communicate without passing judgment, rejecting or blaming others,

labeling, or equating behaviors with character. Instead, we can focus on what we are observing rather than interpreting other people's intentions or personalities.

- 3. "Communicate Feelings." This refers to expressing one's emotions in a clear and non-judgmental way while taking responsibility for them. It emphasized the importance of identifying one's feelings and communicating them without blaming or criticizing others, while also recognizing that our feelings are related to our own needs and values. Communicating feelings involved expressing observations, needs, and requests in a way that would further foster empathy, understanding and connection with others. The ability to express feelings with clarity and authenticity is a key to building mutually respectful and fulfilling relationships.
- 4. "Understanding your need and the need of the association." This principle recognizes that all human beings have universal needs or values that drive their actions and behaviors. Understanding your own needs and the needs of the association involve developing a deep self-awareness and awareness of the collective needs within the community. By identifying

and acknowledging these needs, one can effectively communicate and collaborate with others to find solutions that meet everyone's needs.

5. "Make request not demand." This emphasized the importance of making clear requests instead of demands when communicating with others. It was rooted in the understanding that demands can create resistance, defensiveness and conflict, while requests invite collaboration and mutual understanding. It stressed the idea that when we make requests instead of demands, we foster a respectful and compassionate environment where both parties can feel valued, heard, and willing to work together towards a mutually beneficial outcome.

The session concluded on an interesting note: "Let's get CURIOUS, not FURIOUS; let's CONNECT not CORRECT; let's OBSERVE not EVALUATE; let's REQUEST not DEMAND."

It enriched and equipped the SCCs to build healthy communities through meaningful communication and was well responded to by over a hundred participants.

Natasha D'Souza SCC Coordinator - Hosanna, Community No. 31



Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all men

- St. Ambrose of Milan





Picnic to Bosco Wadi. Uttan

On October 1st, 2023, our community was blessed with a truly remarkable outing to Bosco Wadi, Uttan. Community members of all age groups, from the youngest children to the wise senior citizens, eagerly awaited this special event with joy and fellowship.

Upon our arrival, we were graciously greeted with a nourishing breakfast, which provided us strength and energy for the day ahead. After partaking in the delicious meal, both the youth and the elders revelled in the refreshing pool, playfully splashing about, genuinely enjoying themselves and creating moments of pure delight.

We also engaged in various enjoyable games and activities which fostered friendly competition and forged a deep sense of togetherness and unity within our community. Soon it was time for lunch and the staff at Bosco Wadi served us a delectable Lunch, satisfying not just our physical hunger but also our communal spirit.

As the hours quickly passed by and the day gracefully transitioned into evening, a fervent desire arose among us to pay homage at the Our Lady of Velankanni Shrine, Uttan, a sacred pilgrimage site, near Bosco Wadi. With hearts full of faith and reverence, we embarked on this spiritual journey, seeking solace, guidance, and the intercession of our blessed Mother.

Thus, having enjoyed the day with fun and frolic and also with a visit to the Shrine of our Blessed Mother, by the providence and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we returned home safely to our beloved Community, knowing that His loving presence had been with us all through the entire day. We are grateful for His protection and care, and our hearts overflow with gratitude for the abundant blessings bestowed upon us.

May the memories of this day continue to fill our souls with joy and strengthen our bonds as a united and faithful Community.

Jeev Sabu Kodankandath PYC, St. Dominic Savio Community No. 17

An Outing To Remember!!

2nd October, 2023 dawned with happy smiles, as we, the members of Community No. 9 were all excited to go for our picnic, the planning of which began around mid-August. Some of us had been to the previous such outing in November 2019, while many others who joined were new to the Community. But everyone eagerly awaited the day to be together, away from the hustle, bustle and noise of everyday life. We were a happy group of children, youth, adults and also a few senior citizens. The oldest person in our group was 87 years old and the youngest was just a year old. Our Community's Spiritual Director, Fr. Edwin Vas SVD joined us and we were 40 people in all, comfortably accommodated in the 49-seater bus which took us to Ferreira Farms Residency, a picnic spot in Manori.

After a prayer by Fr. Edwin, we began our journey at 7.15 am, joyfully, reciting the Holy Rosary at the start of our journey.

Thereafter, some light snacks, thoughtfully prepared

by a member of the organizing team, were served to all while we proceeded, viewing the beauty of God's creation along the way. Our mobile phones ensured that the happy mood on the bus was captured and shared with the Community on our WhatsApp group.

We reached our destination by 9.15 am. Two large rooms were allotted for our use during the day. Though we had all carried umbrellas on account of the end-of-season showers, the weather remained dry and pleasant.

We had the place almost entirely to ourselves as there were just a few others apart from our group.

On our arrival, we were served with a mouth-watering Maharashtrian breakfast. The children just wanted to get into the swimming pool, while music played in the background. The adults relaxed in the chairs by the pool, chatting with one another and enjoying the lovely weather, which was cloudy for most part of the day. Later we all assembled in one of the rooms to play a game of 'Housie' enjoying one another's company.

Then it was time for a buffet lunch after which we spent time playing some more games in an open area away from the pool. Both the young and the old participated, while a few of the elders relaxed in the rooms. Soon it was time to wind up but not before we gathered for a group photograph to treasure the nice time we spent together as a community. After a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits, we boarded the bus. A prayer by Fr. Edwin, and we were on our way back, having thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the day.

We thank God for this beautiful experience. The many photographs we have on our cell phones testify to the lovely time we all had. What an excellent way to promote fellowship and bonding within the Community!

Charlotte Lobo Divine Mercy, Community No. 9

Annual Day – St. Anne's Community

St. Anne's Community celebrated the feast of Sts. Anne and Joaquim on 30th July, 2023. Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD our Spiritual Director and Fr. Bosco D'Mello celebrated the Holy Mass at 10.00 am at the Community Centre.

After Mass, the function began with a prayer and hymn, following which refreshments were served to all. All present were welcomed especially the clergy team, the new families of our community and our newly elected PPC member. Floral bouquets were presented to the clergy team, our outgoing PPC member, and our new PPC member, Linda Noronha who introduced the animators to the gathering.

Greta Alvares took charge of the games and did a good job of getting everyone on the floor to introduce and interact with each other. 'Passing the hat' was enjoyed by everyone. Then followed another group game, 'Quiz' in which all participated actively and enjoyed thoroughly. There were Spot prizes being announced all through the event. Finally, the much loved 'Housie' was played with great excitement.

Linda proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the co-operation, dedication and commendable work done by our outgoing PPC



member, during her tenure of seven years. She also thanked Fr. Callisto Gomes SVD for his support and guidance during his tenure as our Spiritual Director.

The event concluded with the sharing of a sumptuous lunch with Fr. Sandesh, leading the Grace before meals.

We wish to thank all the members of our community for taking time off their busy schedule and making the Annual Day celebration, both, memorable and successful.

Rose Almeida St. Anne's, Community No.26

Divine Mercy - Source of Healing

19th of September 2023 was a day of celebration as the Divine Mercy Cell organized a half-day Recollection, open to all parishioners of Sacred Heart Church.

Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD, welcomed the gathering and Fr. Christi Selvaraj SVD, Spiritual Director of the Divine Mercy Cell celebrated the Holy Eucharist and preached.

Fr. Christi gave a beautiful insight by reflecting on the theme - **Divine Mercy Source of Healing.** He started by conveying a compelling revelation from the scriptures regarding the beginning of creation, from the book of Genesis. Adam and Eve were the first of God's creation who sinned yet our Lord forgave them. God's mercy began then and still continues. Then Cain sinned by killing his brother Abel but God had mercy on him too and put a mark of protection on his forehead. We were created in God's image and likeness but sin still continues to this day. God's mercy and healing are bestowed when we submit ourselves to the will of the Almighty who is loving, compassionate and merciful. Through prayers, supplication and repentance God forgives us. We have been blessed with the Sacrament of Confession. Through repentance, we receive mercy and healing in a special way during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist when we offer ourselves in total submission to God.

We are glad to have Fr. Christi as Spiritual Director of the Divine Mercy Cell to guide, motivate and help to propagate the devotion to the Divine Mercy. We thank Fr. Christi for these meaningful and encouraging words of wisdom, inspiration and motivation:

Whenever we fall into temptation and sin we can repent and make a good Confession as God is so merciful that He forgives all our shortcomings. But if we go to Eternity without repenting, God will appear as a Just Judge and not as a Merciful God, and then we will be accountable for the consequences of the sins committed.

We thank the Lord for the participation at the Recollection by praising, worshipping, adoring and glorifying the Almighty God. It was a wonderful experience, bringing comfort in moments of despair, calmness in times of anxiety and peace amid chaos. The Chaplet was prayed, followed by Eucharistic adoration and celebration of the Eucharist. There was a short break when refreshments were served.

Many experienced recovery from their brokenness and healing in their pain. Some shared that when the road seemed tough or impossible, they were able to persevere. It made them feel that they were never alone during their struggles and pain, for God's mercy and healing comforted them.

We pray for everyone, facing difficult times with their health, finances, career or family life that they be granted comfort, as God is merciful and loves us unconditionally and heals our drooping spirit.

May the Divine Mercy of Jesus touch and heal us. Pray the Chaplet every day, and receive many graces and blessings.

Thereza Fernandes
Divine Mercy Cell

To Jesus Through Mary

On September 9th, 2023, the Senior Citizens Cell, organized a Marian Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Karjat. This Church is the first in India and Asia, to be dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima. The statue of Our Lady presently placed in the Church was brought from Portugal in 1920, three years after the apparition in 1917.

A group of 100 Senior Citizens, travelling in two buses departed from our Church campus at 6.30 am with the blessings of our Parish Priest Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD. We were fortunate to have Fr. Edwin Vas SVD, the Spiritual Director of the Senior Citizens Cell, Fr. Valerian Fernandes SVD and Fr. Kuriakose Perapadan SVD accompanying us.

Fr. Louis Kajar, the Priest-in-Charge of the Shrine, gave us a hearty welcome when we arrived. After settling down and freshening up, we were served a delicious breakfast.

At the Shrine our beautiful heavenly Mother awaited us and we gathered around her and recited the Holy Rosary, a devotion very dear to her heart. With gratitude, we contemplated and reflected on the Joyful Mystery, interceding for our needs.

On September 13, 1917, the 5th Marian Apparition at Fatima, the crowd witnessed white rose petals falling from the sky and disappearing as Lucia, now declared 'Servant of God' requested Our Lady to cure the sick. In commemoration of that eventful day, our organizers recreated that moment by giving each of us a white rose and they asked us to offer it in thanksgiving for the numerous favours and blessings received. We also wrote personal petitions for good health and our other needs. This was followed by a talk by Fr. Valerian and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Fr. Edwin.

A simple and tasty lunch was provided with great generosity by Fr. Louis after which most of us spent time in personal prayer at the feet of Our Lady. The Shrine has the relics of St. Francisco and St. Jacinta Marto, the two Shepherd children to whom Our Lady appeared in 1917. We were grateful for the opportunity to venerate them. Finally, we prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet, invoking God's mercy and help.

Sharing our experiences of this beautiful pilgrimage, many expressed the profound sense of love, peace and protection in the



presence of our dear Mother and in looking into her loving and compassionate eyes. Before leaving from the Shrine, we thanked Fr. Louis for his kind hospitality and presented a cash offering generously donated by the pilgrims as a token of our love.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Senior Citizens Core group for organizing this meaningful Pilgrimage. Their personalized attention and selfless service made the trip manageable for the elderly. We appreciate their efforts and recognize that this event would not have been possible without their diligent inputs. It was truly a rich spiritual encounter with our Blessed Mother. May Jesus bless and guide us through Mary's intercession!

Treffy D'Souza, Our Lady of Rosary, Community No. 29

Prevention Is Better Than Cure

At the September meeting of the Health Cell, it was decided to hold a Cardio Vascular Camp in collaboration with the Holy Spirit Hospital at our Parish on the 17th of September 2023. The planning was done and members present took up various responsibilities to ensure that the camp would be a great success.

Accordingly, announcements were made at the Masses over two weekends. Flyers were sent to our Parish groups and communities and a standee was put up informing the parishioners of the upcoming cardiac camp. All arrangements in the designated rooms for the camp were made a day prior to the Camp. On Sunday, the 17th of September 2023, the Camp commenced at 8.30 am with an opening prayer by Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD. It was heartening to welcome the participants as they came in, some looking apprehensive but most of them cheerful and smiling.

The screening and tests offered at the camp were: RBS, SpO2, ECG, Ankle-brachial index, Diabetic foot screening and consultations with eminent cardiologists and diabetic foot specialists, all for a nominal registration fee of Rs. 50/-.

After all the tests were completed with consultations, health cards were issued to the participants. Discounts would be available

to them on further tests and procedures undertaken during the period of the next two months from the date of the Camp.

All participants left with a smile on their faces and hope and assurance in their hearts. A total of 125 parishioners participated in the camp. The camp wound up at 2.00 pm.

Our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD, our Parish Priest, Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD, our Spiritual Director, Sr. Elsy, Sr. Lichy, Sr. Pushpa, Holy Spirit Hospital Doctors, nurses, staff and the entire team, members of the Health cell and our dear parishioners who made this camp possible and successful.

Florine D'silva Health cell

A Healthy Outside Starts From The Inside

The Health Cell of the Sacred Heart Parish organized its second activity for the year 2023-24 in collaboration with Holy Spirit Hospital.

Announcements were made at the Masses and flyers were sent out to make the parishioners aware of the Health Checkup Camp and register at a nominal fee of Rs. 30/- so that many could benefit from this Camp.

The Basic Health Checkup Camp was conducted in the Community Centre Room No. 1, on 20th August 2023, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD, our Parish Priest, commenced the Health Camp with a prayer and blessings. The Holy Spirit Hospital Team comprising experienced physicians, nurses and competent technicians made possible an easy and happy checkup. The Camp conducted a Random Blood Sugar test, Blood Pressure and Weight measurement.

The team provided valuable health information to promote healthy living. The Health Camp was successful and around 50 parishioners participated. The Health Camp also created an opportunity for community togetherness. This was a small endeavor by the Health Cell to create awareness that being healthy should be a part of our daily lifestyle, which can prevent chronic diseases and long-term illnesses.

Parishioners benefitted by participating in the same, some happily smiling that all was well. Some of the participants whose reports were not too good were advised by the health team on changes necessary to be made in their lifestyle. They were asked to make changes in their dietary habits, exercise regularly and if necessary, follow up with the doctor for further tests and treatment.



Snacks were provided to the participants after the checkup. Many parishioners provided feedback that they are looking forward to many more health camps.

The Health Cell thanks our Parish Priest, Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD, Spiritual Director -Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD, and Sr. Elsy along with the Holy Spirit Team and all the Health Cell members for making the Health Camp possible.

> Flavia Furtado Health cell

Mary: A Chosen Vessel of the LORD



A child of God is chosen to serve as a tool in His hands. We are all chosen to provide spiritual life and encouragement to others, just as Mary was chosen to give life to the Son of God. He came down through Her so that we come back to Him through Her.

Following a prayer session after the evening Mass on September 23rd, statues of Mother Mary were blessed and sent to the 36 Communities of our Parish. Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD, our Parish Priest and Director of SCCs presented the statue to the SCC coordinator and PPC member of each Community, who came along with a few community members to receive Mother Mary. This was part of the SCC Cluster activity envisioning that the pilgrim Virgin visits each and every home in the Parish. Those who could not host her for an entire day welcomed her into their homes at least for a few moments of prayer.

The Animators played a critical role in ensuring that no house was overlooked; by charting a schedule. At the allotted time, all the neighboring families of the cluster gathered for prayers. Even Convents and Catholic Religious Institutions within

Communities welcomed our Blessed Mother. In homes where there was no one to assist, the Animators went to the extent of helping to prepare the home for Mother Mary's visit.

The Community prayed the Rosary, placing the needs of the families, the Parish and that of the world at large. It was a time of togetherness, belongingness and fellowship. Mary's visit to the families in our parish, just as in the Bible, brought joy to the lonely, consolation to the sick, suffering and widowed, clarity to those living in confusion, and hope to the despairing. Above all, Mother Mary's visit brought everyone closer to Her Son, Jesus.

Let us not be afraid to invite our Blessed Mother into our homes and to receive God's many graces through her intercession.

May we surrender our lives to His will and purpose for our lives just like Mother Mary on bended knee and say, "Yes Lord".

Jayesh George Parish SCC Coordinating Team

Special Children and Differently Abled Persons Day Providing a sense of hope, purpose and belonging

The MFC (Missionary Families of Christ) – formerly CFC (Couples for Christ) organized a special liturgy for the 5:30 pm Mass on August 27, 2023, for the Special Children and Differently Abled persons of our Parish along with their families. The Liturgy had an anointing and special blessing for the participants and their family members. This was followed by a small get-together to celebrate life and the special grace of Differences and Uniqueness providing a sense of hope, purpose and belonging for the families that were present.

A team of buddies from the MFC Ministry conducted activities and prayers which reflected togetherness, hope, and trust.

My child Joshua is a special child with Down syndrome and as his mother I am grateful to God for the uniqueness that he brings to our world and the goodness, through his innocence that he awakens in everyone around him.

Life is hard and life with a disability is even harder. It is challenging at times to see the silver lining. But isn't it precisely at these times that we unburden ourselves to the Lord? He alone can make our struggles lighter and our burdens easier to bear. If prayer is the door, then acceptance of our situation is the key to unlocking God's graces for us.

Because of our prayers, there will come a time when we will feel confident and equipped to have seen such tremendous growth and progress that the blows, if any, will be easier to bear. We need not face our challenging situations alone. By coming out and sharing our experiences, motivating each other, by helping each other will we be able to face our situations more confidently and realize that we are not alone.

Sunita Chandran
Our Lady of Rosary, Community No. 29

Rosary Making Competition 2023

The much-awaited Rosary Making Competition which is organized annually by the Legionaries of Sacred Heart Church was held on 29th October. This Competition is held with the aim of spreading devotion to Mother Mary. It also helped in building team bonding. The theme this year was "Miracles through the Recitation of the Holy Rosary".

This year 15 teams participated in the Competition. The participants were extremely talented and creative and used innovative techniques to craft beautiful and artistic rosaries. The unity, love and enthusiasm which the participants displayed while working together was very impressive.

This event would not have been possible without the support of our Parish Priest Fr John Mascarenhas SVD and the Spiritual Director of the Legion of Mary - Fr Callisto Gomes SVD along with the priests of our clergy team. We thank you, dear Fathers!

The winners this year were:

1st place – Hosanna – Community No. 31

2nd place - Good Samaritan, Community No. 18

3rd place - Genesis, Community No 35

AVE MARIA!

Cheryl Leon Legion of Mary

The Gift of Blood is the Gift of Life

It is said that 'the gift of blood is the gift of life'. Blood donation could potentially be someone's lifeline, but it also acts as a cleaning mechanism for donors. Keeping this in mind, the 'Health Cell' of the Sacred Heart Parish, in collaboration with Holy Spirit Hospital helped facilitate a well-planned blood donation camp.

The event was held in Room no. 3 of the Community Centre on 15 October, 2023 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Fr. Nickson Gabru SVD inaugurated the Blood Donation Drive and prayed before beginning the Camp.

The Holy Spirit Hospital team included doctors, pathologists and staff. Five beds were made available and also the necessary equipment for blood collection, storage and testing of the prospective blood donors. About twenty-one people donated blood. Although there were many more enthusiastic individuals who attended the camp, they were

advised against donating blood due to age and other co-morbidities.

Post donation, each donor was given a mini-breakfast, a hot beverage and biscuits. They were also presented a medal and a Certificate of appreciation.

We would like to thank our Spiritual Director, Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD, Fr. Nickson, Holy Spirit Hospital team, Health Cell members and our dear Parishioners for making this drive successful.

Nicholas Lee D'Souza Health Cell

A Sacred Partnership Sacred Heart Parish Nourishing Tala Mission

In the realm of compassion and community service, there are few experiences more profound than the act of giving. It is with immense gratitude and a heart overflowing with appreciation that Fr. Lucas Parkhe SVD and I extend our heartfelt thanks to the compassionate parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish, Andheri East who have played an extraordinary role in supporting the mission of Janseva Tala.

The success of this mission was made possible through the unwavering support of the Parish Priest, Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD, and his team along with parishioners of

Sacred Heart Parish. Their generosity, both in terms of resources and commitment, has not only filled empty stomachs but has also warmed countless hearts. Your prayers and financial support have breathed life into our mission, and you have allowed us to reach even greater heights in our efforts to improve the lives of the people we serve.

As we express our gratitude, we also acknowledge that our journey is far from over. With your continued support, we can keep weaving the threads of compassion, love, and transformation into the fabric of our community. Together, we can create a fabric of hope, love, and positive change.



On behalf of Janseva Tala and the entire mission we serve, we extend our deepest thanks and heartfelt appreciation to the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church. Your support is the cornerstone of our mission, and we are truly blessed to have you by our side. Thank you for being the change that our world so desperately needs.

Fr. Nickson Gabru SVD Director, Janseva Society Tala

Sacred Heart Parish Celebrates SVD Mission Month

Lay participation in the mission of the Church is a calling rooted in baptism. Involvement of laity in this Mission of the Church is a crucial aspect of the Catholic Church's mission and outreach. It recognizes the unique gifts, talents, and vocation of each individual, and how they can be used to advance the mission and purpose of the Church in the world. It is a vital and dynamic expression of the Church's engagement with society and the fulfilment of its mission to bring the message of Christ to all corners of the earth. With this mindset, October 2023 was celebrated as SVD Mission Month at our Parish.

The first weekend focused on getting to know the SVD Lay Partners and their activities. Every Saturday, the Disciples of the Divine Word (DDW) - Lay Partner group of the SVDs, in collaboration with Atma Darshan, distributes around 1,500 freshly prepared packets of hot lunches to poor/homeless persons in Mumbai. With it, they also supply a bottle of water, toiletries, medicines, clothes, and other necessities. Fr. Gregory Pinto SVD, and Fr. Tony Menezes SVD, celebrated the Eucharist and spoke about the DDW group and its mission, especially the

Feed the Hungry project, for which they invited the support of the parishioners.

The second weekend was dedicated to raising awareness of the proposed construction of **St Arnolds Degree College building** on the SVD campus and how parishioners might become involved. Fr. Raja Reddy SVD and Fr. Jolly Mudakkampurathu SVD addressed the parishioners and solicited their support for this project.

The third and fourth weekends were dedicated to promoting **Tala Mission**. Janseva Society, Tala works in Kathkari Tribe hamlets and Dhangar villages. They operate in education for children, women empowerment, youth enrichment, livelihood programs, etc. making use of government subsidies. Our Parishioners have been actively involved in helping the Tala Mission for over 10 years. Fr. Nickson Gabru SVD and Fr. Lucas Parkhe SVD, along with three social workers from the Tala mission, took part in the SVD Mission Month. They brought vegetables and other products from the mission to sell over these weekends.

The final weekend was all about the **Youth** to encourage and obtain active participation from the Parish youngsters.

SVD Mission Month served as an opportunity to showcase the global impact of the mission and to inspire support and involvement from the parish community. During the five weekends, SVD lay partners, and SVD missionaries shared their experiences and stories with the parishioners. For three weekends, members organised a cafeteria, with revenues going to Tala Mission and the Feed the Hungry project.

The great support shown by Sacred Heart Church parishioners during SVD Mission Month is admirable. Parishioners were inclined to support the causes that were close to their hearts. We are extremely thankful for the mission's significant and positive outcome. We are grateful to the Parish Priest, Fr. John Mascarenhas, SVD and his team, SVD fathers in the campus, SVD lay partners (DDW), and the parishioners for this motivating **collaboration**.

Susan Noronha Good Shepherd, Community No. 7

Nine days Novena to Sacred Heart of Jesus

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." - Ezekiel 36:26

With great joy and reverence, we gathered for the celebration of our Parish Day which was celebrated on the 18th and 19th of November 2023.

In preparation for these auspicious days, we embarked on a nine-day Novena, a devotional journey honouring the Sacred Heart of Jesus to whom our Parish is dedicated. Each day centred around a specific theme, all under the overarching theme of our Parish Day: "From Believing to A Belonging Community." The homilies delivered each day of the Novena nourished our souls, guiding us to deepen our faith and understand the true meaning of belonging to a community founded on Christ's love.

The spiritual atmosphere was enhanced with the sacred hymns and prayers offering our love and devotion to the Sacred Heart. We carried our intentions and petitions before Him, knowing that He hears and answers our prayers with His boundless grace.

Alongside the spiritual aspects, the Parish Day Planning Committee also organized a cafeteria stall for all nine days. Each of the seven Areas of our Parish was assigned a specific day to manage the stall, fostering unity and cooperation within the Community. The funds raised from the cafeteria helped tide over some portion of the expenses incurred during the Parish Day celebration, ensuring responsible stewardship of our resources.

It is with immense gratitude that we reflect upon the profound spiritual blessings we received throughout the nine days. We earnestly hope and pray that our beloved Parish will continue to engage in such spiritual activities during future Parish Day celebrations. May our devotion to the



Sacred Heart of Jesus always be a source of inspiration, strengthening our faith and nurturing a deeper sense of belonging and love among us.

The love offerings received during the Novena days of devotion are sent to Tala Mission, where they will bring hope and support to those in need.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus guide us always with His infinite love and compassion.

Flora D'souza PPC - Pavan Atma, Community No. 25

The Parish Feast Day Celebrations - 2023

November 18th and 19th, 2023 were days eagerly awaited by our entire Parish Community, with great expectations, immense preparations and untiring efforts for it was the celebration of our annual Parish Day. No Community fiesta is complete without its own measure of fun and cultural activities, without in any way diminishing the spiritual focus of the celebrations.

The preparation for the Parish Day began with a nine-day novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. A word of appreciation goes to the team who presented meaningful themes for each of the nine days. A good number of Parishioners attended the Eucharistic celebration every day and participated wholeheartedly. I am sure everyone felt their faith and trust in the Sacred Heart of Jesus deepened.

The parishioners were provided an opportunity to walk the talk by thinking of the poor and the marginalized—the families of Tala, whom our parish has adopted. Offerings were made as per the schedule drawn up, and many put in their bit for the cause. The preaching each day was inspiring and enriching. The area-wise cafeteria was a novel experience for a variety of food delicacies and cuisines.

The theme for Parish Day - From Believing to a Belonging Community, was aptly chosen. All the events of the celebrations were woven around the theme, thus ensuring a forceful message of a lovecentred belonging Community.

The Solemn Holy Eucharist for the Feast Day was celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Barthol Barretto who gave an inspiring homily,

exhorting the faithful to move towards living lives with compassion, care and concern for one's neighbours and to turn away from living individualistic and solitary lives.

The cultural events on the 18th and 19th were a potpourri of skits, musicals, cultural dances from across India, fashion baby and family talent contests, and an electrifying performance by the youth. The highlight of the event was the melodious song composed and sung by our parish priest Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD, "Mere Ghar Aake Dekho."

The experience of togetherness was at its zenith, with young and old bonding and swaying to the music of the live band eNGAL N aL. The Parish Day Celebration culminated with a grand festive dinner and a wow feeling.

Bernadette Fernandes Divine Mercy, Community No. 9

YOUTH FULLY A L I V E

Orientation Camp: Newly elected Parish Youth Council (PYC)

The Parish Youth Animation Team (PYAT) organized an orientation camp for the PYCs on 15th & 16th August 23, to connect, bond and learn together. We began our journey on 15th August at 7:00 am. It was a fun-filled two-hour bus ride to Don Bosco Yuva Centre, Karjat. On arriving there, we were greeted by Fr. Cletus D'Souza, SDB who has a wonderful sense of humour.

After breakfast, we assembled in the hall for a session by the Rector, Fr Anthony Santarita SDB and were given details about the centre. This was followed by a session by two Pauline sisters on the topic 'Effective use of Social Media'. Since the sisters were from Manipur, they also shared their first-hand experiences about the violence in Manipur. It was an emotional moment when the Sisters could not control their tears as they narrated the pain and trauma especially on the young children, the sorrow at seeing Christian places of worship desecrated and the fear of being attacked at any moment of the day or night.

After lunch, we had some team-building activities organized by our PYAT members. It was an enjoyable way to know each other. We then visited the popular 'Stations of the Cross'. Each Station was depicted by a life-size statue which made it very real and meaningful.

As it was the feast of 'The Assumption of Our Lady', we met in the chapel around 7:00 pm for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD our Spiritual Director. He explained the reasons for celebrating the feast of the Assumption of Mother Mary into heaven.

Later Jesse, Chris, and Fr. Sandesh explained to us the purpose, formation and duties of the Neighbourhood Youth Groups (NYG), Parish Youth Council (PYC) and PYAT, based on the guidelines issued by the Archdiocese of Bombay. The first day thus ended with a lovely gathering, assembling under a starry night for some quality bonding time as Jaison, our Vice President, with his guitar led us in songs.

The next morning, Fr. Cletus SDB celebrated the Holy Eucharist during which he gave us beautiful insights into 'Time Management' and 'Prayer'. We then went on a short hike ending at a lovely waterfall with an amazing view and refreshing water which we all enjoyed.

On arriving back, a well-known influencer on social media, Abner Dias conducted a session on 'the Understanding of Sexuality'. He shared how God helped him on his journey from being a nobody to a somebody. He stressed on the importance of daily Eucharistic Celebration and a strong relationship with God and encouraged us teenagers to exercise our option to turn to God and discover how He can help us live our lives to the fullest.

Truly an amazing trip! We bid farewell to the Salesian priests, snapped some group pictures and started our journey home.

Crispin Quadros PYC - Pavan Atma, Community No. 25

Deanery Youth Day

"Youth ignites the flame, tradition keeps it burning." This sentiment resonates when reflecting on the Deanery Youth Day (DYD).

DYD is an occasion where youthful energy blends seamlessly with cherished traditions, crafting an experience that's both vibrant and grounded. This event was held within the welcoming walls of Holy Family School Hall with the inspiring theme 'Breaking Barriers and Building Ourselves'. For every young soul in the Andheri deanery, DYD captivates the youth with its compelling allure of unity and rejuvenation.

As the youth from different parishes entered the venue, they were split into groups. Our Parish was represented by nearly ninety youths. The evening kicked off as our dynamic compères took the stage, setting the tone with their lively jokes and interactive icebreakers that brightened the evening. The 'magic' was in the manner in which they effortlessly united youth from different parishes of the deanery in shared moments of fun. The evening then shifted into a thought-

provoking session where a priest or a Parish Youth Animation Team (PYAT) member joined each group and moderated a group discussion on overcoming life's barriers. They shared their experiences and enlightened us on how we could build a stronger bond with God. They encouraged us to embrace challenges, have faith in ourselves and avoid negative influences. The theme 'Breaking barriers and building ourselves' was further demonstrated by a fun activity of writing down our barriers/challenges on sticky notes, sticking them on a cardboard and then breaking or tearing them down.

Everyone was then treated to a well-deserved snack break. While each Parish was allotted some specific tasks to ensure the event's success, our Parish youth happily handled the duty of hospitality. There was an array of spot prizes and games which added loads of fun and brought us all closer together. The core members of the Diocesan Youth Centre (DYC) introduced themselves and then led everyone to join for an energetic action dance

on the DYC anthem. The youth of five Parishes then performed on stage, showcasing their talents by way of a dance competition, keeping the vibe fun and lively while beautifully representing the event's theme.

As the evening progressed, we hit the most awaited segment: the gospel band's thrilling performance. Their music had everyone swaying and truly enjoying themselves. Just when we thought the fun was over, it was time for the moment everyone had been waiting for. To our joy and pride, our very own Sacred Heart Parish secured 2nd prize in the dance competition.

Wrapping up the evening on a heartfelt note, Fr. Harry Quadros, the Deanery Youth Director expressed his gratitude to everyone. The event concluded with a takeaway snack for all, marking an end to an amazing evening.

Glevita Dsouza PYC - Christ the King, Community No. 19

Aquamania 2023

"How very good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

In September, our Church witnessed an extraordinary, enjoyable, and exhilarating event-'Aquamania'. This four-day tele-games event (14th - 17th Sep), organised by the Parish Youth Council (PYC), attracted participants from 18 communities.

The event offered a thrilling line-up of exciting team games that included different age categories: the energetic kids, dynamic youth and vibrant adults. This year we introduced the 1-v-1 concept during the quarters and semis, adding an extra layer of excitement.

The preparation for 'Aquamania' commenced in July when our PYC secretary, Royson, allocated tasks to the members. Led by Royson and the core team, we were split into various teams. We organized weekly meetings, brainstormed and identified various games to be played.

The event began with a spectacular inauguration ceremony on Day 1. Our dynamic comperes ensured there was never a dull moment and ensured the audience was entertained. The

enthusiasm shown by the teams had the audience applauding and cheering for their respective communities.

The semi-finals and finals of 'Aquamania' had everyone on the edge of their seats. The semi-finals included games like 'Fill it to win it', 'X&O', 'Flip and Pop' which were played in the 1v1 format by the different age categories. During the break, the presence of a mascot, a playful 'Panda' in costume added fun and cheer with his funny antics.

The finals involved a unique and innovative twist – a relay game with a key element where each competing team was split into three groups. Two out of the three groups within a team were tied up (yes tied up! and locked) while the third group played the first game. This group had to win the first game and get the key to unlock the second group and both together played the next game to unlock the third group before the entire team played the final game. This new idea pumped up the excitement, making teams think

and work together in new ways. After 40 minutes of excitement, Community No. 7 was declared the winner of 'Aquamania' and Community No. 6 emerged as runners-up.

The preparation leading up to 'Aquamania' was undoubtedly demanding, requiring countless hours of hard work and dedication. However, the hard work paid off and this was evident in the joy that radiated from the participants and the feeling of 'a job well-done' by the organizers.

As we wrapped up 'Aquamania-2023', the echoes of joy and laughter linger. It was nice to see the competitive spirit at the fore, the unity displayed in every Community and the cheer, all of this under the watchful gaze and open arms of the image of Jesus Christ in front of our Church. It was as if Jesus was reminding us that these games are not so much about competition but about Community, not about how well we play the games but about the grace we display while playing.

Andriana Viegas PYC - Our Lady of Nazareth, Community No. 16



Maker of the sun, He is made under the sun, In the Father He remains, From His mother He goes forth. Creator of heaven and earth, He was born on earth under heaven. Unspeakably wise, He is wisely speechless. Filling the world, He lies in a manger. Ruler of the stars, He nurses at His mother's bosom. He is both great in the nature of God, and small in the form of a servant.

- St. Augustine of Hippo



Thank God It's Friday: Strengthening Bonds And Building Communities

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, finding moments of respite becomes essential. "Thank God It's Friday" (TGIF) is not just an expression of relief; it has become a vibrant initiative in our parish, bringing the youth together, forging friendships, and expanding horizons. In a world where everyone is constantly juggling their busy schedules, TGIF is where the youth come and find solace in the company of their peers.

At the heart of TGIF lies the unity of purpose: to create an atmosphere filled with warmth. The concept is simple. The youth of each of the seven areas within the parish (comprising 5 to 6 Small Christian communities) come together on Fridays and take turns to organize the TGIF; each time with a unique theme, weaving a taste of diverse ideas and activities that make the evening memorable. These themes serve as the building blocks of the evening, setting the stage for the wonderful bonding experiences that follow.

TGIF goes beyond just casual gatherings; it is a platform that nurtures friendships and creates lasting memories. These newfound friendships blossom, enriching lives and expanding the circle of their social horizons especially for those who are lonely and live in localities where they have very little interaction with youth of their age and faith.

Moreover, TGIF has proved instrumental in fostering a sense of belonging and community spirit among the Parish Youth. As these young leaders collaborate and participate in the TGIF events, they learn to appreciate different leadership styles. The initiative becomes a melting pot of ideas, where diverse leadership approaches are celebrated, paving the way for a future generation of inclusive and empathetic leaders.

As the evening progresses there is a wonderful blend of fun and spirituality. These events culminate in a heartwarming adoration before

the Blessed Sacrament, where after enjoying a delightful time, the youth community unites to offer prayers and surrender themselves in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. It's a moment to express gratitude for all the blessings, singing hymns of praise, presenting our heartfelt petitions, and experiencing the loving touch of our Lord, who makes all things possible.

In conclusion, 'Thank God It's Friday' has become more than just a phrase; it has evolved into a sparkle of hope and unity for the youth of our parish. Through this initiative, bonds are strengthened, communities are built, and lives are enriched. TGIF stands as a testimony to the power of togetherness, showing us that amidst our busy lives, there is always time to pause, connect, and celebrate the beautiful feeling of friendships that make life worth living.

Valentina Pinto PYC, St. Anne's, Community No. 26

Visit To The Carmelite Monastery

Pondering over the words of Blessed Sandra Sabatini, "This life is not mine. This life, which evolves through a breath that is not mine, passes in a serene journey that is not mine", makes one rethink the purpose and the uncertainty of the days of one's Life. The complexity of this quote can simply be understood by observing the Carmelite Sisters in their humble abode.

The peace and joy radiating from their faces, when we the Parish Youth Council (PYC) visited them, was so enriching and profound that it made us seek and desire what they had found in their relationship with Jesus. They had nothing to their names but in their nothingness, they found everything they ever wanted just as Blessed Chiara Luce once professed, "I have nothing left but I still have my heart and with that, I can always love."

We gathered at the Monastery at noon on the feast of St Therese of Lisieux on 1st October 2023 which also coincided with the birthday of one of the Carmelite sisters. We had a brief interactive

session with the sisters and were amazed by their way of life; a life of obedience, serenity and contentment. Our curious minds were surprised with the grace with which they answered each and every question. It felt as though they were inviting us to share their experiences and feel the mercy and love they had experienced in their lives. The calling, the conversion, the sacrifices, the provision, the grace, the strength and the love they felt were proclaimed throughout their sharing and testimonies. For those couple of minutes that we were in their presence, all our anxieties and concerns felt rather worldly and insignificant. We were at peace; our troubled ships were anchored for once. Each one of us went back with our own bundle of lessons to be learnt and words to remember.

The visit to the Monastery definitely left a mark on each one of us. None of us left emptyhanded as the Sisters prayed for each of our special intentions.

Claranta Fernandes PYC- Good Shepherd, Community No. 7



250+ Youth Gather For The First Ever Parish Youth Day

The Youth of Sacred Heart Church came alive as it hosted its much-anticipated Parish Youth Day on 4th & 5th November 2023. For the first time post-COVID, 250+ youth came back to the Church for a weekend filled with faith, fellowship, and fun.

The Parish Youth Day began with a vibrant welcome on Saturday 4th November that set the tone for the day. Day 1 was themed "MEET & GREET" where the youth met up with the other youth of the parish. They showcased their talents and also portrayed them through a small interactive Q&A with the others. Stalls were set up for Face painting, Nail Art, Canvas Art, Fashion Design, Cycle Repair/Work, Violin Instrumentalist, Sketching and Art. The youth had an opportunity to showcase their unique talents.

Attendees were treated to a variety of entertainment and games organized by Emcee Ashville Simoens aka Mr. Kadakman. He was able to pull the youth together through ice-breakers that brought them together as one family. Mr. Kadakman, being a famous personality himself, also gave the youth a few cents on how to put their skills and talents to the best of use for the Church and the Community.

Day 2 began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 5:30 pm graced by His Lordship Bishop Barthol Barretto after which Bishop

Barthol engaged with the youth over a 60 min session. The session began with action songs followed by an interactive Q&A between the Youth and the priests. Bishop Barthol highlighted that the "Youth are the salt of the earth" and should use their minds wisely in work for the Community and the Parish. Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD our Parish Priest, expressed his gratitude and pride for the active participation and presence of the youth at the event. There was a stand-up comedy special which was a perfect dose of laughter adding to the bright evening. This was followed by a Treasure Hunt played in the Parish and Gyan Ashram campus where the youth played with others whom they had never met before.

Dinnertime was a moment for fellowship and bonding as everyone enjoyed a delicious meal together. Fr Sandesh Patil SVD - Spiritual Director of the PYC thanked all the youth for coming together for the Parish Youth Day and emphasized that the youth are the future of the Church and that events like Parish Youth Day play a significant role in nurturing their spiritual growth and sense of responsibility.

The success of the Parish Youth Day was a testament to the strength and vibrancy of the Parish Youth Community. The event not only deepened their faith but also allowed them to

come together, celebrate their talents, and build lasting connections with fellow youth of the Parish. The spirit of the event will undoubtedly continue to inspire them in their journey of faith and service to the community.

Stalin Mathias Parish Youth Animation Team

Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ 'from heaven, go out to meet Him! Christ on earth, be exalted! Sing to the Lord all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word, let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him who is of heaven and then of earth. Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, with joy because of your hope.

- St. Gregory Nazianzen



HEALTH SPACE

A Synchrony Of Mind, Body And Soul



A healthy individual has three dimensions to one's Health - The Physical or Bodily Health, the Mental or Emotional Health and the Spiritual Health. The Mind, Body and Soul could be called the Trinity of Life and all three dimensions must work in synchrony to maintain homeostasis (a state of internal balance despite changes in the conditions around) and harmony in an individual. Any disturbance at any of the three levels will affect the health of a person, thereby producing disharmony which is commonly called 'Disease'.

Human Health is not set on automatic mode, but one has to take great care and effort to maintain good health. There are both external and internal factors which can derange health to produce various illnesses. Scientifically speaking, in every human person the mind and body are inseparable and work in synchrony. In digital language, the body can be considered to be hardware and the mind as the software which controls the entire body for its harmonious functioning. Any illness of the mind reflects on the body and bodily illness deeply affects the mind too.



This day He Who Is, is born; and He Who Is, becomes what He was not.

- St. John Chrysostom



Our bodies are our only home or the physical representation of our existence on Mother Earth and the only real property we own. Hence it requires great care and nourishment all through our lifetime. Optimum care of the body requires at least a 30-minute daily walk or exercise and at least a 15-minute mental exercise like meditation, engaging in hobbies such as singing, music, dancing, drawing, gardening etc. which goes a long way to keep the mind in a positive and happy state.

All addictions which give transient pleasure to the mind, such as alcohol, drugs, smoking, chewing gutka, tobacco products etc. affect our body in a grave manner. Sooner or later there will be the deterioration of one's health bringing various health problems which could prove fatal. Abstaining and avoiding such life-threatening harmful addictions can only enhance better living and bring higher quality standards of living.

Mental health has become one of the foremost health issues after the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the main reasons is that many have experienced the loss of a near and dear one, financial losses and grief due to the loss of a job, a sense of isolation due to frequent lockdowns and quarantine, lack of social communication and absence of social interaction. This has led many senior citizens and elders to be afflicted with panic attacks, fears and chronic depression. The only way to combat this is to rebuild human connections and get back to routine daily communication. Developing habits like reading daily, either a book or newspaper, singing hymns or listening to your favorite songs will enhance your well-being and ensure a positive and happy state of mind.

> Dr. John Rodrigues Pavan Atma, Community No. 25

Disclaimer: All information contained in the Health Page is of a general nature and the opinion of the authour about medical conditions should not be construed as medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Please consult your physician for specific advice and also for continuance/discontinuance of existing treatment based on the information contained herein. The Sacred Heart Parish and/or the Editorial team make no representation and assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in the Health Page.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER



Shane Colaco**	S/o	Shawn Colaco & Ankita Shawn Colaco	13-Jun-23
Nigel Colaco**	S/o	Shawn Colaco & Ankita Shawn Colaco	13-Jun-23
Alden Konkurkar	S/o	Alex Latesh Kondurkar & Denizia Alex Kondurkar	27-Aug-23
Erica Crasto	D/o	Collin Crasto & Greta Monteiro	8-Oct-23
Katherine Fernandes	D/o	Lester Fernandes & Joan Fernandes	15-Oct-23
Lienna William	D/o	Wilfred William & Shiji Biji	12-Nov-23
Brielle Fernandes	D/o	Aaron Anthony Fernandes & Doris Fernandes	12-Nov-23



Rohan Stephen Fernandes Rishabh Sukhdev Agarwal Nikhil John Johnson Lloyd Dsouza Jason Yohann Edge Dwayne Joseph Brian DSouza	To To To To To To To	Carina Claudia Fernandes Venessa Melanie Fernandes Ankita Barthwal Vijayta Dsouza Daphne Vaz Doris Puducherry Bini Koshy Pulimpallil	7-Sep-23 30-Sep-23 19-Oct-23 28-Oct-23 28-Oct-23 5-Nov-23
Brian DSouza	10	Bini Kosny Pulimpallil	12-N0V-23



Resting in Christ

Cyril Michael Dsilva	101	Home For The Aged	14-Aug-23
Sidon Colaco	75	B / 1, Sai-Ashish CHS, M.C. Road	16-Aug-23
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•
Carmalin Fernandes	88	16 B / 12, Takshila CHS, Off M.C. Road	17-Aug-23
Tresa Machado	56	B-001 Gr Floor Dhwalgiri CHS LTD, Sher-e-punjab	20-Aug-23
Edita D'Souza	58	R. No 3, Chandroday Chawl, M. C. Road	26-Aug-23
Greta Fernandes	87	A/303, Vastu Riddhi, Pump House 29-Aug-23	29-Aug-23
Manuel DMello	78	A / 306, Trans Apartments, M.C. Road	4-Sep-23
Philomena Dsouza	67	201, Jaswant Park, Opp Home For The Aged.	20-Sep-23
Anita Mascarenhas	51	B 4 / 27, Greenfields, JVLR	16-Sep-23
Kathleen Pereira	86	A / 603, Poonam Sagar, Poonam Nagar	6-Sep-23
Roque Britto	77	24 A / 24, Takshila CHS, Off M.C. Road	5-Sep-23
Quiteria D Costa	74	A /14, Laxmi Nagar, M.C. Road	23-Sep-23
Pauline Aranha	78	6 / 47, Sundar Nagar, M.C. Road	26-Sep-23
Agnel T. Salvador Rego	63	A 10 / 30, Guru Govind Singh CHS, Bindra Complex	10-0ct-23
Agnelo Alex D' Souza	63	B/ 203, Poonam Sagar, Poonam Nagar	21-0ct-23
Christopher D`Souza	52	Room 2, Snehlata Sawant Chawl, Malpa Dongri	6-Nov-23

For the 8.45 am Mass Schedule, Youth Mass Schedule and the Holy Hour Schedule kindly look up the Parish Website: www.sacredheartandheri.net

Inspiration from Saints

St. Joseph Freinademetz

Feast Day: 29th January
Patron: Saint of China

Priest and Missionary of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) congregation

Joseph was born on April 15, 1852, in Olies, Northern Italy, as the fourth child to Catholic parents of a poor farming family in the Alp Mountains. Daily life was deeply rooted in Catholic tradition and he inherited from his family a simple but tenacious faith.

At school, though not an academic highflyer, Joseph showed an excellent talent for languages. He had teachers in school and at the seminary who cultivated lively contacts with missionaries. The idea of becoming a missionary one day undoubtedly germinated there.

He was ordained a priest on July 25, 1875, and assigned to the community of Saint Martin, near his own home. In January 1878 he saw an article about the Steyl Mission House and contacted Fr. Arnold Janssen, the founder of the Mission House, which later developed into the Society of the Divine Word. With his bishop's permission, Joseph, then 26 years old, entered the mission house in Steyl, Netherlands, in August 1878.

On March 2, 1879, he received his mission cross and departed for China with Fr. John Baptist Anzer, another Divine Word Missionary. Five weeks later they arrived in Hong Kong, where they remained for two years.

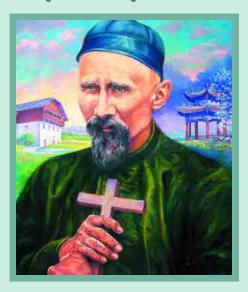
In 1881 they travelled to their new mission in South Shandong, a province with 12 million inhabitants and only 158 Christians. Once he arrived in China, he studied the language of the people, dressed, ate and lived like them. He told them about Jesus and brought them, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to faith in Jesus and His holy Church. The people gave him the name of 'Fu Shenfu' meaning 'Lucky Priest'.

Soon Joseph came to appreciate the importance of a committed laity, especially catechists, for first evangelisation. He dedicated much energy to their formation and prepared a catechetical manual in Chinese. To him, they were genuine apostles, and as community leaders, they shared in the pastoral mandate.

At the same time, he put great effort into the preparation, spiritual formation and ongoing education of Chinese priests and other missionaries.

Those were hard years, marked by long, arduous journeys, assaults by bandits, and the difficult work of forming the first Christian communities. At the end of that process, he regarded the people of China as people with and among whom he wanted to live God's love, making that love tangible. Joseph had come to love the people, his 'dear Chinese'.

Except for a three-week rest in Japan to recuperate from illness, Joseph Freinademetz never again left Shandong.



Although not the bishop, Fr. Freinademetz was six times the administrator of the mission while the bishop was in Europe.

The Christian missionaries were a real thorn in the side of the local Chinese authorities, who hindered the mission wherever they could. They skillfully manipulated the general xenophobia and stirred up the masses against the foreigners. Fr. Freinademetz experienced that several times. In May 1889 he was severely maltreated and left half dead.

In 1900 the political situation in China became critical when the Boxer uprising broke out. The missionaries were ordered to retire to the safer coastal areas.

By then, Fr. Freinademetz was sick with laryngitis and the beginnings of tuberculosis as a result of his heavy workload and many other hardships. So, at the insistence, of the bishop he was sent for some rest to Japan. He returned to China somewhat recuperated, but not fully cured.

Later when the Boxer uprising had been put down and the missionaries had returned to their stations, Arnold Janssen appointed Joseph Freinademetz as Provincial of the missionaries who were members of the SVD Society.

Caring for his confreres gave Freinademetz new zest and his health greatly improved. In 1902, at the age of fifty, he became more and more the calm centre of the South Shandong mission, finally becoming the 'Mother of the Province'.

Freinademetz remained in office until his death. He regularly visited his confreres, kept up a brisk correspondence with the Society's leadership in Steyl, and constructed a central house in Taikia on a large piece of land. For a time, he directed the catechists' courses and for one year the major seminary, as well.

When the bishop had to travel outside of China in 1907, Freinademetz took on the added burden of the administration of the diocese. During this time there was a severe outbreak of typhus. Joseph, like a good shepherd, offered untiring assistance and visited many communities until he himself became infected. He returned to Taikia, the seat of the diocese, where he died on January 28, 1908.

He once said, 'I do not consider being a missionary as a sacrifice I offer to God, but as the greatest gift that God is giving me'.

In 1975, during World Mission Day, Father Joseph Freinademetz was beatified and on 5 October 2003 he was canonized a Saint by Pope John Paul II.

Our Parish Fathers are 'Divine Word Missionaries', an order in which St. Joseph Freinademetz served. If you feel God calling you to serve as a Divine Word Missionary, feel free to contact Vocation Promoter Fr. Ivan D'silva SVD on 9833 843 050.



Wishing all Parishioners the Peace and Blessings of Christmas 2023 and a Joyous and Blessed New Year 2024!





Parsi New Year Visit by Inter-Religious Dialogue Cell



Divine Mercy, Community No. 9 - Picnic



Divine Mercy Recollection Organized by Divine Mercy Cell



Senior Citizens' Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Fatima Church, Karjat



Prayer Service before sending Mother Mary's Statue to the 36 Communities



Vintage Vibes-1st Place Winners



Winners of Aquamania



Winners of Rosary Making Competition Organized by the Legion of Mary



Parish Vision Mission Statement

Vibrant with the Spirit of the risen Lord, towards a community of deeper faith, worship, love and service





Parish Day 2023 - Day 1



Eucharist Celebrated by Bishop Barthol Barretto - Parish Day 2023



Parish Day 2023 - Day 2



Parish Day 2023 - Vibes



Bishop Barthol Barretto at Parish Youth Day 2023



Parish Youth Day 2023



SVD Mission Month



Winners of Family Bible Quiz - September 2023