



Heart to Heart

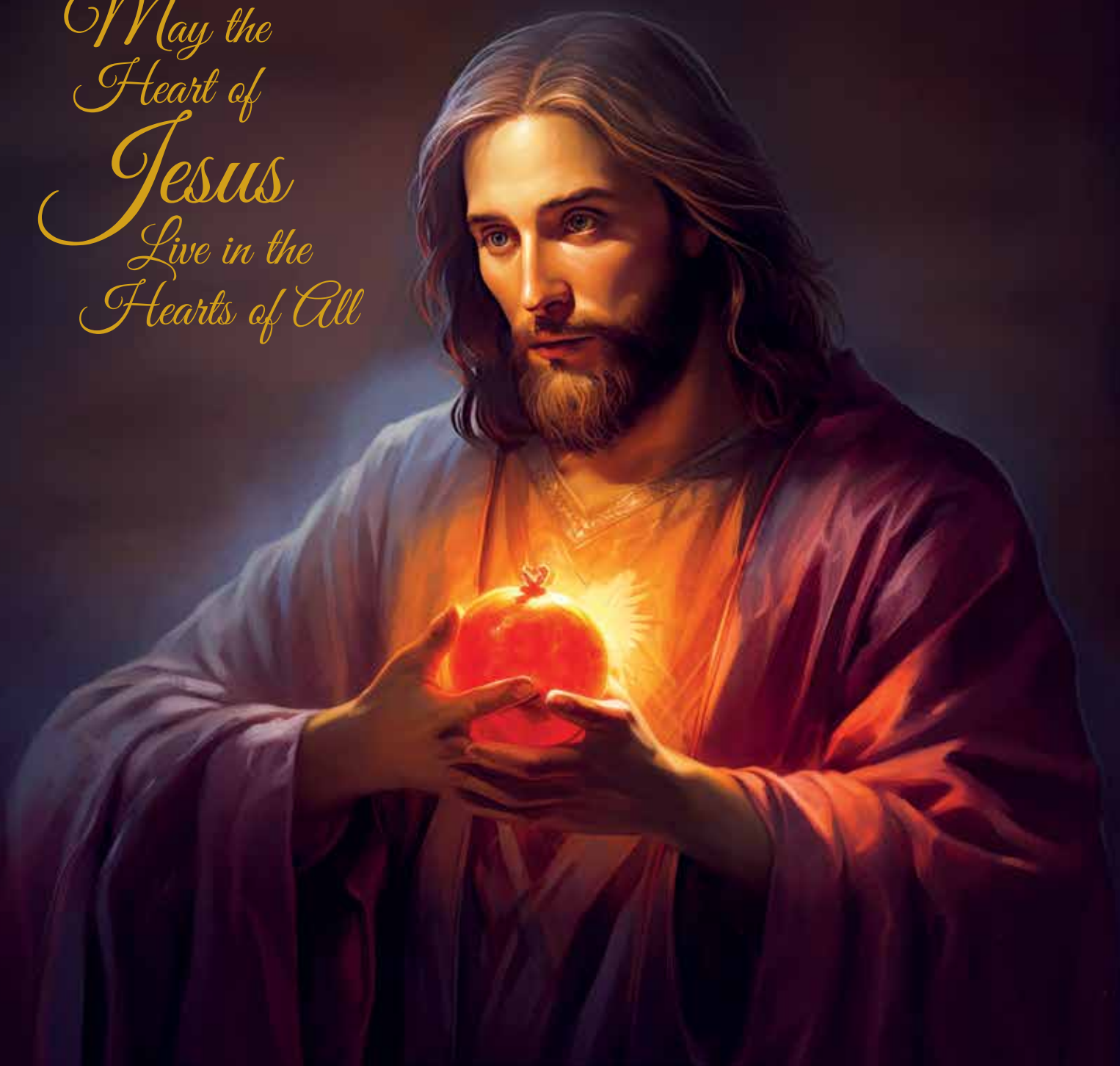
Bulletin of Sacred Heart Parish, Andheri (E)

Volume XX No. 93

June 2024

For Private Circulation Only

*May the
Heart of
Jesus
Live in the
Hearts of All*



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)

Evening

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

Thursday

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

Friday before every First Friday of the Month:

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

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Forthcoming Events

09 June **Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

11 June Memorial of St. Barnabas, Apostle & Martyr

13 June **Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, Priest & Doctor (Novena 4th June onwards)**

21 June Memorial of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

23 June **Recollection for PPC members, SCC Co-ordinators & Animators**

24 June Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

28 June Solemnity of St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

29 June Solemnity of Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles

30 June **Laity Sunday, Commissioning of PAC members**

03 July Solemnity of St. Thomas, Apostle of India

07 July **Faith Formation Sunday**

11 July Memorial of St. Benedict, Abbot

15 July Memorial of St. Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor

16 July Memorial of Our Lady of the Mount Carmel

22 July Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles

25 July Feast of St. James, Apostle

26 July Memorial of Sts. Joachim and Ann, Parents of Blessed Virgin Mary

28 July **Parents/Grand Parents Day Celebration by Sr. Citizen's Cell**

29 July Memorial of Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus

31 July Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

01 Aug Memorial of St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor

04 Aug Vianney Sunday

06 Aug Feast of Transfiguration of Jesus

08 Aug **Memorial of St. Dominic, Priest**

10 Aug Feast of St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr

11 Aug Memorial of St. Clare, Virgin

11 Aug **Prison Ministry Sunday**

14 Aug Memorial of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

15 Aug **Solemnity of Assumption and Independence Day**

18 Aug **PYC Trek/Camp**

20 Aug Memorial of St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor

21 Aug Memorial of St. Pius X, Pope

22 Aug Memorial of Queenship of Mary

24 Aug Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle & Martyr

25 Aug **Mass & Get together for Special Children & Differently Abled Persons**

27 Aug Memorial of St. Monica

28 Aug Memorial of St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor

29 Aug Memorial of Beheading of St. John the Baptist

30 Aug Memorial of St. Euphrasia Elovathingal, Religious

30 Aug-07 Sept Novena in Preparation for the Nativity of Our Lady

01 Sept **Mini Bible Quiz**

03 Sept Memorial of St. Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor

05 Sept Memorial of St. Teresa of Kolkata, Religious & Teachers Day

08 Sept **Feast of Nativity of Blessed Mary & Dedication Day of our Church Building**

- For additional details, kindly refer to the Parish Weekly Announcements.



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From The Pastor's Desk

The Glory of GOD is man Fully Alive - St. Irenaeus

My Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

After the long sweltering summer vacation, it's time to be refreshed and rejuvenated to begin and face yet another year ahead of us. As the Church prepares to celebrate the Jubilee Year in 2025, I, along with my Parish team welcome you to a holistic, spiritual and fruitful year of God experience. I take this opportunity to thank God for each one of you who have been part of the Parish Animation Team which forms the backbone of planning, organizing and executing various creative and innovative events and activities throughout the year for the all-round development and spiritual growth of the Parish.

As we begin a new year of spiritual journey into the Infiniteness of God's mercy and love, I thank the Almighty God who journeys and accompanies us on our way, to accept the good with the bad, to smile with the sad, to love the things and persons in our lives and remember and reflect fondly on the past experiences, for the opportunities to forgive generously and learn from mistakes committed, as the Roller-Coaster ride of life continues.

'The Lord of Hosts has sworn: As I have designed, so shall it be; and as I have planned, so shall it come to pass:' (Isaiah 14:24). As we look forward eagerly, let us not forget to listen to the inner voice that constantly urges us to evolve into being fully human and fully alive, living the purpose of life in the spirit of God's love.

Once a young girl asked her Guru to tell her about the purpose of her existence. ***"What does God want me to do with my Life? What tasks am I expected to perform?"***

The Holy Man advised her to go to a nearby garden and observe the flowers, then come back and tell him of what she saw, after which he would answer her questions. The girl came back in a short while and said, "I have seen beautiful, fully formed flowers in bloom. The flowers are wide open, their petals are of a lovely color and they are very fragrant, but I have also seen buds which are yet to open and bloom. They are not so beautiful, colored or fragrant. They seem to be waiting for something great to happen".

The Guru nodded and said, ***"The purpose of the bud is to bring out all the beauty and color and fragrance that it has inside itself"***, explaining further, ***"Its ultimate purpose is to bloom fully and become a perfect flower"***.

The Guru added, ***"Similarly, you too are capable of such beauty and perfection. Your aim must be to evolve into a perfect human being, an ideal and spiritual person in whom all the beautiful virtues such as compassion, kindness, service, humility and sacrifice will be manifested. You too must bloom fully like a perfect flower"***.

The purpose of life is to be fully human and fully alive in the spirit of God. It is to become at least a slightly better person today as compared to yesterday.

As a Parish Family, we belong to the Sacred Heart Parish. Let us all Re-commission and Re-consecrate our homes, families, purposes, dreams, plans, achievements, and missions at the feet of the Lord, so that together we may grow and bloom to perfection spiritually and holistically.

I place on record a word of thanks and appreciation to Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD and Fr. Christi Selvaraj SVD who have served our Parish Community with so much zeal, enthusiasm, dedication, wholehearted commitment and utmost love. We, as a Parish community, remain indebted to you, dear Fathers and as you bid us goodbye, we implore heavenly blessings upon both of you in your new mission endeavors. May God who called you, attain His ultimate purpose through you and in you. May You be blessed and bloom and grow in the vineyard of the Lord.

I also extend a hearty welcome to our new incoming Parish Team Members, Fr. George Mepurath SVD and Fr. Lucas Parkhe SVD who will be joining our Sacred Heart Parish Family. May your presence and companionship bless our Parish with immense heavenly graces and love.

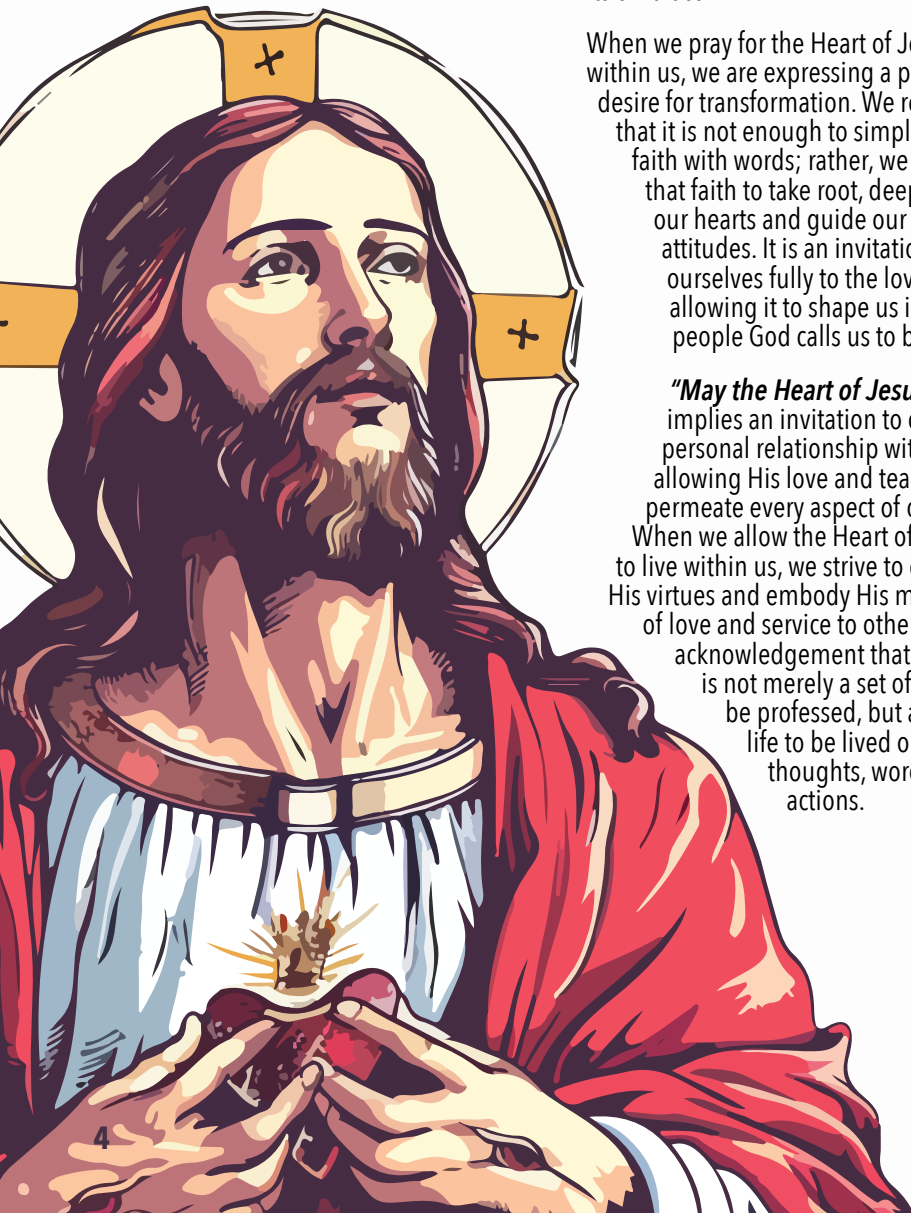
May the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all.

Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD
Parish Priest

May the Heart of Jesus Live in the Hearts of All

In our journey of faith, we are constantly reminded of the transformative power of love – a love that emanates from the Heart of Jesus and calls us to live as disciples in the world. As we reflect on the simple yet profound prayer, “May the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all”, we are invited to ponder what it means for each of us individually and for our parish community as a whole.

“May the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all”, is part of the Quarter Hour Prayer composed by St. Arnold Janssen, the founder of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD).



It was his favourite prayer which he drew inspiration from the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Sacred Heart of Jesus is a symbol of Divine love and mercy, a manifestation of Christ's immense compassion for humanity. It is a love so vast and unconditional that it encompasses all of humanity, transcending time and space. In the image of the Sacred Heart, we see a heart pierced, a heart that bore the weight of our sins, yet remains open, overflowing with love and forgiveness. This heart, burning with divine fire, radiates warmth and solace to all who seek refuge in its embrace.

When we pray for the Heart of Jesus to live within us, we are expressing a profound desire for transformation. We recognize that it is not enough to simply profess our faith with words; rather, we must allow that faith to take root, deep within our hearts and guide our actions and attitudes. It is an invitation to open ourselves fully to the love of Christ, allowing it to shape us into the people God calls us to be.

“May the Heart of Jesus live” implies an invitation to cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus, allowing His love and teachings to permeate every aspect of our being. When we allow the Heart of Jesus to live within us, we strive to emulate His virtues and embody His message of love and service to others. It is an acknowledgement that our faith is not merely a set of beliefs to be professed, but a way of life to be lived out - in our thoughts, words, and actions.

But this prayer goes beyond our own individual selves; it encompasses the entirety of our parish community and, indeed, the entire Body of Christ. As we gather together in worship and fellowship, we are reminded of our shared identity as brothers and sisters in Christ. As members of this parish community, we are not merely individuals walking our individual paths alone; rather, we are bound together by a common bond – the love of Christ that dwells within us. We are called to support and encourage one another, to bear one another's burdens, and to rejoice in one another's triumphs.

As members of this parish community, we are called to be living reflections of Christ's love in the world. Our parish should be a place where all are welcomed with open arms, where forgiveness and reconciliation are freely offered, and where the marginalized and oppressed find a voice and a home. It should be a place where the love of Christ is made manifest in all that we say and do.

This prayer challenges us to emulate Christ's love in our own lives. It calls us to love unconditionally, to forgive without measure, and to serve others with humility and compassion. This prayer is both inspiration and accountability to live as a vessel of Christ's love in the world.

So let us pray fervently that the Heart of Jesus may indeed live within the hearts of all – not just within our own hearts, but within the hearts of every member of our parish community. May we be a beacon of Christ's love in our neighbourhood, our city, and beyond. And may our Parish continue to be a place where the love of Christ is made known to all.

May the Heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all.

Fr. Raja Reddy SVD
Soverdia House

CCO on the Move

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the symbol of that boundless love which moved the Word of God to take upon human nature, carry the burden of our sins upon Himself and willingly die on the Cross, offering Himself as a victim and atoning sacrifice to the Eternal Father.

We pray that the boundless love which flows continuously from the Sacred Heart of Jesus touches our hearts as we celebrate and share that love with the ones in need.

The Parish Associations and Cells (PAC) meeting was held on 18th April 2024. Core group members along with the Heads of cells and associations attended the same. Forthcoming events were announced. Each Cell and Association spoke briefly on their functioning.

The Centre for Community Organization (CCO) continues to help the needy and marginalized of our parish by reaching out to them through the Community Welfare Fund by filling out forms for their education, medical and housing needs.

The CCO networks with different Cells and Associations to ensure the proper functioning of the activities.

We register several eligible boys and girls contemplating marriage in the near future, both from our Parish and other Parishes for Matrimonial alliances.

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

Small Christian Communities (SCC): A Training session was held on 18th February 2024 for all the SCC Animators, Coordinators and PPC members from 11 am to 1.30 pm. The topic was "Cluster formation in Small Christian

Communities" led by Fr. Felix D'Souza. It was an interactive and informative session.

The Andheri Deanery SCC Rally was held on 25th February at the Holy Family School Lower grounds, Chakala. The theme was 'No One in Want', It was well-organized and informative.

The Parish Youth Council (PYC) organized a live enactment of the Way of the Cross on Good Friday. It was held in procession around the Church campus.

Mission outreach to Mangaon and Tala was organized on the 18th and 19th of February, 2024.

The Youth Ministry organized 'Taize', a meditative form of worship with music, scriptural reflections, and prayerful silence on 17th February 2024.

The Youth of our Parish (PYC) along with the PYAT members organized a summer camp from 29th April to 5th May for children from Std. III to Std. IX.

The Divine Mercy Cell conducted the Divine Mercy Novena commencing from Good Friday. The Feast Mass was celebrated on 7th April at 10.00 am in our Church followed by a get-together and fellowship meal of the Cell members.

The Senior Citizen Cell organized The Station of the Cross at the Don Bosco property in Karjat. It was well organized and there was a good response. All those who attended had a wonderful experience.

Lenten Recollection was conducted on 16th February 2024. The theme 'Forgiveness is the greatest gift you can give yourself' from 9.00 am onwards. There was a talk by Fr. Edwin Vas SVD followed by silent moments for reflection. A talk titled "Reconstructing" by Fr. Tony Menezes SVD followed a meditative Stations of the Cross in the Church Compound

Way of the Cross was conducted by the Senior Citizens Cell on Good Friday in the Church.

Community Welfare Fund (CWF)

Details of the Assistance/Aid provided for the period from February to March 2024:

Education	02 cases
Medical Aid	22 cases
Housing Assistance	24 cases
Total cases	48 cases

The Dental and Homeopathy clinics are functioning smoothly.

St. Vincent De Paul Association (SVP) reaches out to the adopted families of our parish and the needy belonging to other faiths with ration, medical and cash assistance.

Missionary Families for Christ (MFC) organized a special liturgy for married couples on 18th February 2024 to mark World Marriage Day, followed by a fun-filled get-together in the Community Centre.

The members actively participated in a session by MFC Continent Co-ordinator, Bro. Cocoi from the Philippines, held on 9th March for MFC Members all over Mumbai.

Monthly online teaching for March 2024 was conducted for MFC Members.

All the activities of the CCO in collaboration with the Cells and Associations are functioning smoothly.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the members for their selfless contribution, dedication and commendable work done this year and look forward to an equally wonderful year ahead.

We wish you all dear parishioners a Happy Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

Ida Quinny
CCO Co-ordinator

Hearty Laughter

RANDOM INSIGHTS

- You know your children are growing up when they stop asking you where they came from and refuse to tell you where they're going.
- If you can stay calm while all around you is chaos, then you probably haven't completely understood the situation.
- It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world everyday always just exactly fits the newspaper.
- The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously.
- The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you are born, and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.
- The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.
- Some of us learn from the mistakes of others; the rest of us have to be the others.
- I have to exercise early in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing.
- A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.
- Just about the time when you think you can make ends meet, somebody moves the ends.
- Wise people think all they say, fools say all they think.
- It's not the fall that kills you; it's the sudden stop at the end.
- When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.
- A TV can insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.

My wife is an economist and I am an engineer.

I was watching my wife make her breakfast one morning, and noticed that she made way too many trips to get each of the items she needed. So I said in my best engineer voice, "Hey sweetheart, why don't you utilize the load maximization principle and carry all the items you need in one trip, thereby minimizing total distance travelled?"

Well don't you know, she loved my suggestion!

It used to take her 11 minutes to make her breakfast... now I do it in 5.

Study shows that...

Study shows that if you say 'study shows that' before saying a statement, people are 56% more likely to believe you and this number can increase to 71% if you add a random statistical data and to further amp up this number to 82.3% you can include decimals in that number as well.

Quick Maths

Interviewer: "I heard you were extremely quick at math"

Me: "yes, as a matter of fact I am"

Interviewer: "What's 14x27"

Me: "49"

Interviewer: "that's not even close"

me: "yeah, but it was fast"

How to communicate with God

A poster is found in all French churches. The translation is:

"By entering this Church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is less probable that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to him. If you want to see him, send him a text while driving."

Spouses and Communication

A husband shows his wife a study which indicates that on the average men use fifteen thousand words a day, whereas women use thirty thousand.

The wife thinks about this and then tells her husband that women use twice as many words as men because they have to repeat everything they say. The husband turns from the paper and says, "What?"

Clever Kids

Jake : Why are you running, Pat?

Pat : I am trying to keep two people from fighting.

Jake : Which two people?

Pat : Mike and Me

Mike: Do you know about the Arabian Sea? My father dug the hole for it!

Joy: Do you know the Dead Sea? My father killed it!

Sunday School Teacher: Methuselah was over nine hundred years old.

Riley: How did they manage to put so many candles on his birthday cake?

Family Bible Quiz: June 2024

I) SELECT THE CORRECT ANSWER:

- The month of June is dedicated to which Catholic devotion?
 - Holy Name of Jesus
 - Immaculate heart of Mary
 - Sacred Heart of Jesus
 - Feast of Corpus Christi
- What according to Jesus were the two great Commandments that should guide our lives?
 - You shall not murder and you shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour.
 - You shall not bow down before any idol, and you shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour
 - Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy, and you shall have no other gods before Me
 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself.
- What happened when Moses was asking Pharaoh to let God's people leave?
 - God hardened Pharaoh's heart
 - God melted Pharaoh's heart
 - God pained Pharaoh's heart
 - Option a and c.
- What according to the Gospel of Luke 21, (did Jesus say) will cause men's hearts to fail?
 - Love
 - Fear
 - Pride
 - Option a and b
- St. Devasahayam, is the _____ to be declared a saint.
 - first converted Hindu
 - first married layman
 - first priest
 - first peasant
- The story of _____ impressed Nilakandan and helped to sow the Word of God in his heart.
 - Peter, the Rock denying Christ three times
 - Jacob who worked for fourteen years to marry Rachel
 - The Prodigal son
 - Job and his absolute confidence in God
- Who arranged catechism for Nilakandan before his baptism?
 - Eustachius Benedictus De Lannoy
 - King Marthandavarma of Travancore
 - Jesuit Father Giovanni Baptista Buttari
 - Both option b and c.
- What does the name 'Devasahayam' mean in Tamil?
 - God has freed
 - God has rescued
 - God is with us
 - Lazarus, God has helped

II) Read the following Chapters of the Bible and complete the following Scripture verses: Psalm 119, Proverbs 4, Proverbs 26, Philippians 4

- I have stored up your word in my _____
- Above all else, _____
- My son, give me Your heart _____
- And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, _____

III) Complete the following

(Center of all hearts, the Word of God, treasures of wisdom and knowledge, charity, Gate of Heaven, Holy Spirit)

- Heart of Jesus, formed by the _____ in the womb of the Virgin Mother
- Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of _____
- Heart of Jesus, substantially united to _____
- Heart of Jesus, House of God and _____
- Heart of Jesus, in whom are all _____
- Heart of Jesus, King and _____

ANSWERS OF FAMILY QUIZ - MARCH 2024

- 1-c, 2-d, 3-a, 4-a, 5-d, 6-c, 7-b, 8-d
1. Mark 15:1-5/Luke 23:13-25
2. Mark 15:21/Luke 23:26
3. Luke 23:27-31/Luke 23:28
4. Luke 23:33-34/Mark 15:24
5. Mark 15:37/Luke 23:46
1. Matt 6:27-28 2. Matt 7:1 3. Matt 26:40
4. Matt 16:24 5. Matt 6:16 6. Matt 6: 14
7. Matt 6:19

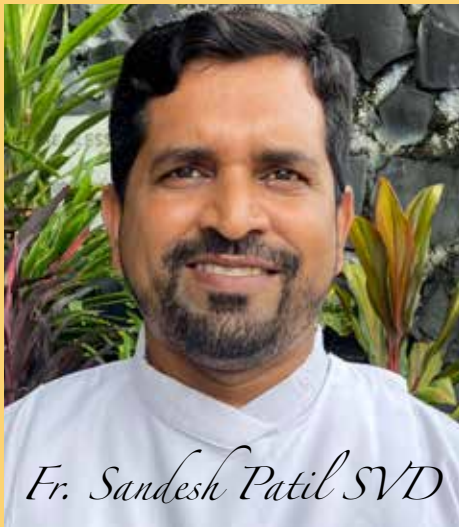
- Email the answers to h2h.bulletin@gmail.com OR Drop the responses in the LETTER BOX in front of the sacristy, latest by 30th June 2024.
- The decision of the Editorial board concerning the winners will be final and binding.

Full Name (Head of Family) _____
 Names of Participants _____
 Telephone/Mobile No _____ Email _____
 Community No _____ Family No. _____
 Address _____



1. **Moses Xavier Dsouza** (Emmanuel, Moses, Xavier, Gauri) Community No. 27
2. **Vernon Rosario** (Sharon, Stasia & Shanin) Community No. 24
3. **P. J. Antony** (Ponnamma, Sonia, Subin, Sofia) Community No. 24
4. **Victor Dsouza** (Erica Dsouza) Community No. 32
5. **Eric Furtado** (Eric/Rovina/Klint) Community No. 12
6. **Royce D'souza** (Royce, Jacinta, Rachael) Community No. 16
7. **Veronica Ferreira** (Veronica, Ronald, Jacintha, Rohit & Rhea) Community No. 25

FAREWELL DEAR FATHERS



Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD

It is with much appreciation and heartfelt thanks that we bid goodbye to **Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD**, who leaves our Parish to pursue his master's degree in Social Work. Fr. Sandesh was appointed a co-pastor at our Church in the year 2022 after a deeply enriching experience working with the Catholic tribal people at his previous posting at Jan Seva Trust Tala. He quickly took up the pastoral responsibilities that came with his appointment at our parish and did them enthusiastically.

As Spiritual Director of various Cells, Associations and Communities, he diligently fulfilled all his responsibilities. His contribution, guidance and service in the Youth ministry of our Parish has been noteworthy.

He is helpful by nature, keen on learning new things and receptive to new ideas. Thank you, dear Fr. Sandesh, we are grateful to you for guiding, uplifting and teaching our youth and for bringing them closer to Christ. We wish you much happiness, good health and great success in your studies as well as in your future endeavors. May you be blessed with God's presence as you work selflessly for His kingdom.



Fr. Christi Selvaraj SVD

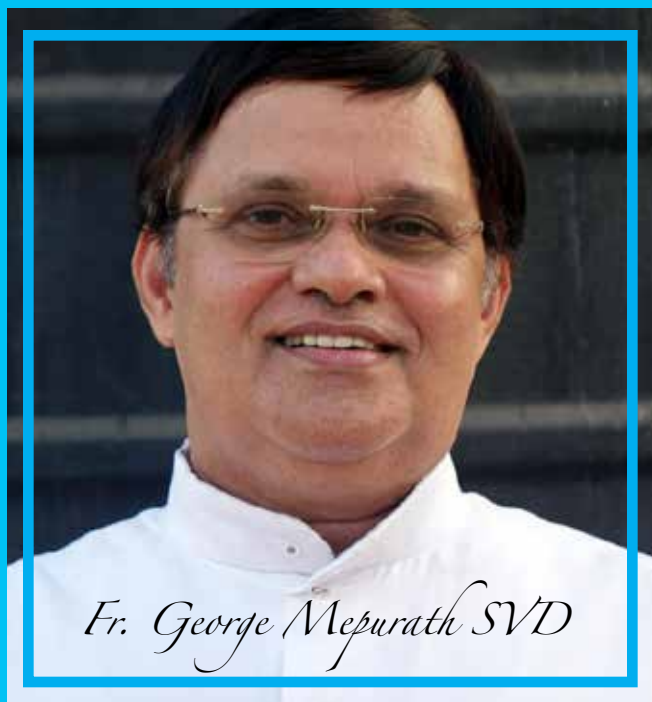
It is with deep gratitude and appreciation that we bid farewell to **Fr. Christi Selvaraj SVD**. He will be proceeding overseas for his new assignment at SVD Botswana province, Tzaneen Diocese, Africa.

Fr. Christi joined our parish team as a co-pastor in June 2023. During his brief tenure, the prayerful and down-to-earth, Fr. Christi touched the lives of the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church, through his inspiring homilies and active participation in the ministries he was involved in. His valuable contribution and input as Spiritual Director of many Small Christian Communities, Cells and Associations are well appreciated and will be sorely missed.

Dear Fr. Christi, we wish to thank you for all your guidance during your rather short assignment in our parish. We wish you could continue to be with us for a while longer. May you continue to be sustained by His Grace and may your life in God's service always be filled with joy.

We take this opportunity to wish you all the very best in your new assignment and an Abundance of Life in Jesus!

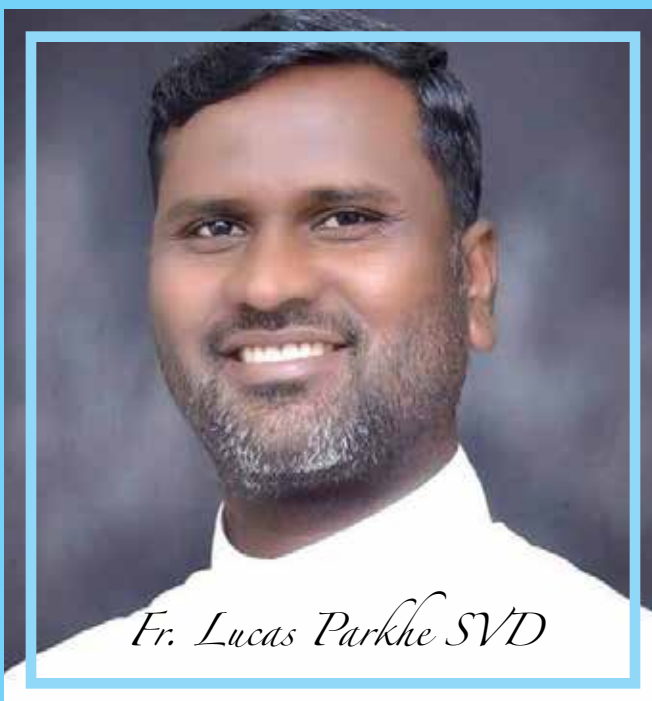
A Warm Welcome Dear Fathers



Fr. George Mepurath SVD hails from St. Mary's Parish of Kothamangalam diocese in Kerala. Born on 24th October 1964 to late Mathew and Martha Mathew, he is the youngest among their five Children. Inspired by his siblings who are religious and his ardent desire to become a priest, he joined the Society of the Divine Word in 1980 after completing his SSLC. He completed his College education at St. Philomena's College and Philosophy at Vidya Niketan, Mysore. Upon completing his theological studies in Pune, he was ordained a priest on 5th May 1992 by Archbishop Raphael Cheenath SVD, in his home parish. His ordination motto was **"O Lord, You give me light; You dispel my darkness."**

He was privileged to work in Parish ministry in Telangana during the initial few years after which he was engaged in the formation of the young Seminarians in Kerala and Chennai, Tamil Nadu for many years. In 2004 he was sent to the Philippines for his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. He also worked as a school Counsellor and teacher at St. Arnold's Central School, Aduvassery, Kerala. For the past year he was on the staff of Atma Darshan as a Counsellor. Fr. George joins our Parish as a Co-pastor from June 2024.

Dear Fr. George SVD, we, the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church, Andheri East accord a warm and hearty welcome to you and wish every success in your new posting, as co-pastor of our parish and pray for God's choicest blessings upon you.



Fr. Lucas Parkhe SVD, born on 3rd December 1986 is the son of the Late Saduji Parkhe and Sarsabai Parkhe of St. Mary's Church, Wahegaon Maharashtra. Both his parents were farmers. His three siblings, a sister and two brothers departed from this world and are with the Lord.

He studied in his home town till Grade XII after which he left home and went to Pune to build a career. While working in Pune for 5 years, he felt that God was calling him to choose a different way of life by which he could serve God and His people by becoming a priest. After much reflection and contemplation, he joined the SVD Shishyalaya (Seminary), Vasai, in 2009.

After spending a year in Vasai, he was sent to Mysore for his college studies and obtained a degree in English Literature from St. Philomena's College, Mysore. He completed his Philosophy from Vidya Bhavan, Bhopal

and Theology from Divine Word Seminary, Pune. Fr. Lucas completed his Diaconate ministry at St. Anne's Church, Pali Hill, Bandra West.

He was ordained as a priest on 22nd January 2022 at his home parish by Bishop Ambrose Rebello, Bishop of Aurangabad. His Pastoral motto is **"I Have Chosen You" (John 15:16).**

After his ordination, he served at St. Anne's Church for 4 months. His first assignment was at Janseva Society, Tala in 2022 as Assistant Director and Procurator. Fr. Lucas enjoys music, reading books and likes to proclaim the Word of God.

He is appointed as a Co-Pastor to Sacred Heart Parish, Andheri, effective June 2024.

Dear Fr. Lucas, we, the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church, are delighted to welcome you in our parish and wish you a blessed and fruitful ministry in our parish.

Precious Is The Life Given For Mission

Our outgoing Pastors, Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD and Fr. Christi Selvaraj SVD walk us down memory lane

To Be A Channel of His Blessing

Jesus called ordinary individuals and then did extraordinary things through them. This is the life story of **Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD** who bears testimony to the fact that "God equips those He calls"

'To Be A Channel of His Blessing' was the priestly motto he chose, hoping and praying that God would use him as a conduit and a vessel to enable the grace and love that God has lavished upon him to permeate his life and his work in order to impact others.

EARLY DAYS AND VOCATION TO PRIESTHOOD

Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD, born on 17th March 1984, is the youngest of the five children of Valentine and Javlu Patil from Uttan Chowk. He comes from a family of fisher folks and he has three older brothers and an elder sister.


He was quite weak in his studies and struggled academically. Two of his siblings never attended school and the other two dropped out of secondary school. Though he

too was tempted to give up on his studies, the constant encouragement of his father prodded him to go on. The family's fishing activity was strenuous and involved hard labour. When he failed in two subjects in Grade XII, he took over the care of his little niece and nephew, while their parents were out at sea. It was at this time that he attended a vocation camp, having been invited by a friend who had recently joined the seminary. The camp included a visit to Shisyalaya SVD seminary, Vasai where he met a seminarian, now Fr. Nickson Gabru who was also from his Koli community. Based on their conversations, Fr. Ivan D'silva SVD, Vocation Promotor visited his home and offered an invitation to come, observe and learn English at the Seminary. With this in mind, Fr. Sandesh joined the Seminary in 2006. This proved to be a turning point in his life as he completed his graduation without ever again failing in any subject or scoring dismal marks. He was the only one of the batch of 11 who was ordained as 8 of them left within the first 6 months and 2 others left later in the Minor Seminary. His family was happy with his decision to join the priesthood and they wholeheartedly supported him and prayed for him continuously.

He recalls an incident from his Novitiate when he was asked if he had a sign that God had called him to the priesthood. After spending much time in prayer, Fr. Sandesh got the insight of God's message 'You are the pillar which holds the tent'. This convinced his novice master and he stayed and pursued his seminary studies.

APPOINTMENT TO THE SACRED HEART PARISH

His maiden assignment, after ordination, was at the Jan Seva Mission at Tala, which was a mission he always hoped to work for. There he had an enriching experience and enjoyed working for the poor and the downtrodden. There are no Catholics in Tala and the community speaks only in Marathi. Hence, on being posted to Sacred Heart Parish, Andheri, he was apprehensive as he would have to converse in English, which he was not confident of and interact with well-placed and well-educated parishioners. He also had doubts about his ability to spiritually guide the parishioners from diverse backgrounds here. This was a challenge but the positive reports of this vibrant parish made him realize the immense opportunity to learn and grow. So he took up the assignment with an open mind and joined our parish in June 2022.

 *I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of Jesus.*

- St. Margaret Mary Alacoque



▶▶ EXPERIENCES IN THE SACRED HEART PARISH

The Parishioners include people from various states of India and diverse backgrounds, qualifications and socio-economic backgrounds. All come together as one family to serve the needs of the Church, displaying genuine concern and care for all in the Church, ever ready to lend a helping hand. He says emphatically that he was never homesick here and was made to feel at ease.

He is greatly inspired by the large number of parishioners who sacrifice selflessly of their time, talents and skills to contribute to the vibrancy of the Church. The dedication and commitment of the parishioners motivate Fr. Sandesh to be available to the people at all times and has greatly increased his confidence.

▶▶ CHALLENGES HELP YOU DISCOVER YOUR HIDDEN POTENTIAL

One of the challenges faced was to prepare and preach effective homilies for the diverse parish community.

Another challenge of being appointed as Spiritual Director of the Parish Youth Ministry was the ways and means to attract the youth to the Church. The Youth Ministry is a vital unit of the Church community as it fosters the spiritual and personal growth of young people. Youth ministries provide direction, mentoring, and a secure environment for young people as they grapple with issues of faith and identity. Youth Ministry assists them in strengthening their foundation for a lifetime. The Parish has over 700 youth and should ideally be represented by about 72 representatives at the Parish Youth Council. However, when he took over, there were only about 20 to 25 representatives. With his focused efforts and the support of the Parish Youth Council and the Parish Youth Animation Team, there is now a robust youth ministry in our parish which is helping in the growth and development of the Neighbourhood Youth Groups.

The youth of our parish greatly inspire Fr. Sandesh with their diligent service to the Church, interspersed with fun times as well.

▶▶ MEMORABLE INCIDENT

Inspired by the sharing of a fellow priest at a Deanery level Spiritual Directors meeting, Fr. Sandesh suggested to the Parish Youth Animation Team and some office bearers of the Parish Youth Council about having an evening, especially for the youth. From there was born the idea of **'THANK GOD IT IS FRIDAY'**. This fun-filled weekly Area-wise event draws an attendance of about 30 to 40 youth and has helped the youth improve their interpersonal skills, besides developing their organizational and leadership skills. These evenings conclude with a meaningful Silent Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

▶▶ DAILY MOTIVATION TO KEEP UP WITH THE ASSIGNMENT AT THE VIBRANT SACRED HEART PARISH

Sacred Heart Parish is known to be always buzzing with activities and it is the time specially reserved for Personal prayer, Daily Mass, Rosary and other Spiritual activities that have helped Fr. Sandesh to keep pace. All of this he lacked in Tala as there was no Chapel, no parishioners and Mass was celebrated in solitude, yearning for people to be around.

▶▶ SUMMING UP SACRED HEART PARISH IN THREE WORDS

'Vibrant, Loving And Caring', says Fr. Sandesh who considers his experience in the parish as very fulfilling.

▶▶ SUPPORT OF CLERGY TEAM MEMBERS

Fr. Sandesh acknowledges the presence of a wonderful community of priests here at Sacred Heart where he has had a rich pastoral experience. Though he had gained theoretical knowledge at the seminary, it was here that he gained practical experience of administrative duties from the members of the clergy team. The former clergy team of Fr. Innocent, Fr. Ciril, Fr. Callisto and Fr. Rakesh guided him in doing the paperwork and in administering the various Sacraments. The present Clergy team of Fr. John, Fr. Callisto,

Fr. Edwin and Fr. Christi have been a great support, placing abundant trust in him and entrusting responsibilities without doubting his capabilities and ample liberty to work with the youth. He is glad to have been part of a supportive Community and is grateful for their wonderful companionship.

▶▶ MESSAGE TO THE PARISHIONERS

With gratitude for the kindness and love received from the Parishioners and prayerful blessings upon all, Fr. Sandesh shares his farewell message:-

- » *"Apno ko apna kahane se koi apna nahi hota, Apno ko apnane se apne apne hote hai."* It is not sufficient to say 'My Church' 'My Church', Step Forward and be of service to the Church.
- » What you express, you must also show in action. Action that follows words becomes your message to others. Our life should be a message to others, otherwise the message will have no life.
- » Have Community meetings in SCCs, Bible sharing and work to build your Cluster.

Fr. Sandesh will be leaving our parish to pursue higher studies in Social Service at Nirmala Niketan while staying and serving in a parish of the diocese.

***How good and pleasant it is to dwell in the Heart of Jesus!
Who is there who does not love a heart so wounded?
Who can refuse a return of love to a Heart so loving?***

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux

The One Who Sent Me Is With Me

Fr. Christi Selvaraj, SVD who barely completed a year as Co-pastor in our parish has been assigned to the SVD Botswana province, Tzaneen Diocese, Africa.

His pastoral slogan, "The one who sent me is with me," from the Gospel of John 8:29, captures the essence of his mission and faith. It highlights his belief that he is not alone and God, who has called him, is always with him to assist him in his ministry. He believes that his role as a priest is to represent and share God's loving presence with those around, in the likeness of Jesus' ministry on this earth.

EARLY DAYS AND VOCATION TO PRIESTHOOD

The second of Arokianathan and Amal Selvaraj's three sons, Fr. Christi Selvaraj SVD was born on May 17, 1990 and belongs to St. Joseph's Church, Bolarum, Telangana. His dad is employed in the hospitality industry.

Since his childhood, he felt a deep and persistent call to become a priest and his mother's fervent dedication and her consistent prayer life greatly encouraged and inspired him. He vividly recalls a moment that profoundly impacted his young heart. His mother, a convert, once said, "How blessed is the mother of a priest!" This statement resonated within him echoing deeply in his spirit, and affirming his growing desire to walk the path of priesthood.

On completing the tenth grade, in answer to God's call, he joined the SVD congregation. His parents were very happy and supportive of his choice of vocation. The path was not easy and his faith and resilience were put to the test during the initial and final phases of his formation. There were periods of uncertainty, adversity and doubt when he held on to God's promise in Isaiah 41:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." This scripture became a source of strength and consolation for him, serving as a constant reminder that the Lord was always with him, guiding and sustaining him through every trial. These experiences taught him invaluable lessons about perseverance, faith, and reliance on God's steadfast assistance. Every obstacle brought him closer to God to comprehend His call more fully and fortify his resolve to serve Him as a priest.

APPOINTMENT TO THE SACRED HEART PARISH

Fr. Christi took up his assignment at Sacred Heart Parish, without any reservations whatsoever. His vocation as a missionary priest has ingrained within him a deep sense of readiness to embrace the unknown, viewing each new assignment as a divine calling and an opportunity for spiritual growth. He focused on the boundless possibilities for service and the opportunity to bear witness to God's love in a new setting. Sacred Heart Parish became not just a destination, but a sacred mission field where He could share the Gospel, offer pastoral care, and journey alongside in the spiritual lives of the faithful.

EXPERIENCES IN THE SACRED HEART PARISH

During the half-day Recollection organized by the Divine Mercy Cell on 19th September 2023, Fr. Christi, the Spiritual Director of the Cell celebrated the Holy Mass and preached the Word of God. About 135 persons participated, much above the expected number and many of them experienced recovery from their brokenness and healing in their pain. This was a turning point as after that many parishioners began approaching him for spiritual assistance, confessions, and prayers.

He says that he has realized that a priest must always be available to cater to pastoral needs, regardless of the time of the day.

This Parish has provided him with many pastoral opportunities. Besides many Cells and Associations, Fr. Christi was the Spiritual Director of eight SCC communities where he interacted with many people who shared with him their faith issues, struggles, joys, and sorrows.

CHALLENGES ARE OPPORTUNITIES IN DISGUISE

Since his previous assignment was at a Retreat Centre, Fr. Christi says that he initially faced a challenge in preparing the homily for Mass. This was due to his preconceived notion that people in Mumbai prefer short homilies due to their busy lifestyles. Initially, it was difficult for him to shorten his homily without compromising on the message of the Lord.

"If you have no earthly consolation, why do you not seek consolation in the Heart of Jesus? To love Him is truest joy."

- St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

►► DAILY MOTIVATION TO KEEP UP WITH THE ASSIGNMENT AT THE VIBRANT SACRED HEART PARISH

Fr. Christi leans completely on the assistance of the Holy Spirit. He attributes his strength to overcome obstacles and the grace to perform all his responsibilities to the quiet time that he spends before the Blessed Sacrament.

►► SUPPORT OF CLERGY TEAM MEMBERS

Just as in families, the youngest member receives more love, care and attention, so also, Fr. Christi, being the youngest member of the Clergy Team, admits having received much love, care and attention. All the members of the Clergy team have been supportive and he was open to seeking their suggestions and even corrections. He sought the help of Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD in administrative matters. He looks up to Fr. Edwin Vas SVD as his mentor, who guided and helped him in many things from providing guidance to a parishioner to preparing homilies. He is grateful to Frs. John, Edwin, Callisto and Sandesh for their support and help.

►► SUMMING UP SACRED HEART PARISH IN THREE WORDS

Almost immediately, Fr. Christi responds, 'My First Love'. Repeating it again he confirmed that he really meant what he said.

►► MESSAGE TO PARISHIONERS OF SACRED HEART

It is a blessing to be a part of this vibrant community, where our shared devotion and commitment to God's Word inspire a life of service and worship.

Deepening Your Faith: I encourage each of you to immerse yourselves in the Holy Scriptures. Let the Word of God illuminate your daily decisions and actions. Regular prayer and meditation on Scripture can transform our lives, making us more like Christ who is our ultimate example.

We must apply the teachings of Jesus in our daily interactions, showing kindness, forgiveness, and compassion. In doing so, our faith becomes alive and active, a true testament to the transformative power of God's love.

Strengthening Our Community: Community is not just about being together; it's about growing together. I encourage you to participate in the parish activities not just as attendees, but as active contributors. Whether it is through joining a ministry, assisting or partaking in Community outreach programs, your unique contributions make our Parish richer and more vibrant.

Furthermore, it is important to gather together. Each Eucharist, each meeting and each gathering is an opportunity to build each other in faith and communion.

In conclusion, dear brothers and sisters, let us walk together in faith, guided by the Scriptures and united in our mission to live out the Gospel. May our hearts always be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, and may our community continue to be a beacon of God's love and grace.

“

He belongs to you, but more than that, He longs to be in you, living and ruling in you, as the head lives and rules in the body. He wants His breath to be in your breath, His heart in your heart, and His soul in your soul.

– St. John Eudes

”

The month of June brings with it transfers and new appointments. We bid FAREWELL to the priests and nuns from the various congregations our parish community is blessed with, who leave us to take up new assignments.

Dear Rev. Fathers and Sisters, we appreciate your dedicated and whole-hearted service to our parish.

We also extend a WARM WELCOME to the Rev. Fathers and Sisters who take up their new assignments in our parish.

We wish you a joyful and fruitful stay here.

Parish Activities

Training for SCC Animators

The Animators Training Program was held for all SCC Animators, Coordinators and PPC members of the 36 communities of our Parish on 18th February '24 at the Community Centre from 11.00 am to 1.30 pm.

Light refreshments were served before the program commenced.

Fr. Felix D'souza, the Resource person elaborated on the Principles, Challenges, Questions and Guidelines on Effective Pastoral Functioning. He shared some fundamental rules applicable for all whether in a Corporate or Community organization.

1. Love what you are doing. Even though you don't like what you do, when you start loving it, passion comes from within to do it.
2. If you are not part of the solution, you become part of the problem.
3. Be the leader. Lead from the front.

4. Look at the bigger picture. Set achievable time deadlines, targets and goals.

5. Know that you are chosen. Your presence is proof that the Lord Almighty has chosen you. There could be several people who may have been chosen to encourage and motivate you to be in the PPC/SCC.

Fr. Felix, in his jovial way, gave many examples to explain these principles and emphasized that the PPC's and SCC's are not event managers. They have to work towards implementing and accomplishing the vision of the Parish and SCCs; to see there is 'No one in want' in our Communities.

We were then divided into groups based on the color of our name badges and into further sub groups to discuss and interact with other Animators on two positive aspects of our Sacred Heart Parish and regarding any clarifications that may be needed from the Parish on issues faced by Communities in general. This activity led to much fruitful discussion. All the animators unanimously agreed that

- Our Parish is spiritually lively and vibrant.
- All the priests in our Parish are friendly and approachable.
- There are many activities organized for all groups including children, youth and Senior citizens.
- Whatsapp groups ensure clarity of communication from the Parish to Communities

Some difficulties being faced due to clash of dates between activities and the large number of activities being held were also raised. Issues relating to the rise in inter-caste marriages and members leaving the Church, etc. were also discussed. Fr. Felix concluded the session urging all Animators to pray for the Parish, and also seeking the intercession of Mother Mary for our parish, during our daily night prayers.

Lolita D'souza
St. Paul's, Community No. 21

Andheri Deanery SCC Rally – No One In Want

In a vibrant display of faith and community spirit, SCC members of the Andheri Deanery came together for the much-anticipated Deanery SCC Rally held at Holy Family School lower grounds on Sunday, February 25th, 2024, from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. The rally served as a beacon of unity, bringing SCC Animators and Coordinators of all the 10 parishes in the Deanery, of all ages and backgrounds under one roof to celebrate their shared faith and commitment to service to ensure that **'NO ONE IN WANT'**.

The team of present and past Coordinators of the participating parishes along with Fr. Gerard Rodricks SJ – the Clergy Deanery Coordinator, planned the rally meticulously. The invitees included all current and former SCC animators and anyone interested in working in the Small Christian Communities in the near future. Fr. John Lopes, Dean of the Andheri Deanery was the Chief Guest. 145 members from our parish attended the Rally.

The Rally commenced with a solemn prayer service, setting the tone for a day filled with spiritual enrichment and fellowship. Next was a prayer dance by the novices from Canossa Convent of our Parish. Throughout the rally, the participants were kept engaged with the Theme Song 'No One in Want', Dance performances, a Talk Show by Fr. Felix D'souza - the Guest Speaker, a very meaningful Skit, Short Testimonies, a Song by the children of JFC (Jesus Fan Club) all of which aimed at deepening the understanding of SCCs and Cluster movements. The atmosphere was one of reflection as individuals and parishes sought to strengthen their connection to address the central theme of 'No One in Want'. The messages conveyed were very powerful and appreciated by all. The compere Vincent D'Souza engaged the crowd with Spot Prizes and fun moments. Snacks were served and all the participants were presented with a Memento as a takeaway.

Fr. Gerard SJ in his inimitable style, concluded the Rally with a Vote of Thanks.

The Deanery SCC Rally was more than just a gathering; it was a testament to the vitality and resilience of the SCCs in the Parish Communities. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to living out their faith and values and to support one another on their SCC and Cluster Movement journeys through active participation.

As the Rally's echo fades, its impact lingers, inspiring all SCC Coordinators and Animators to continue their efforts to build more compassionate, inclusive and just Communities and Clusters. Indeed, the Deanery SCC Rally was a shining example of the transformative power of faith and community when united with purpose and in love.

Jayesh George
Parish SCC Co-ordinator

Pilgrimage to Mount Mary's Basilica

The inaugural pilgrimage to Mount Mary's Basilica was meticulously organized by Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD, with invaluable support from the Clergy team and the PPC Team. A total of 125 registered and many more unregistered devotees gathered at our Church at 11:30 pm on March 16, 2024, before embarking on our journey at 12:15 am the following day. Participants were divided into special pilgrimage batches and grouped with leaders to facilitate the smooth movement of the procession.

The pilgrimage commenced with the recitation of the Rosary and singing of hymns in English, Konkani, and Hindi, accompanied by melodious guitar tunes. Our first stop was at Sacred Heart Church in Santacruz West, where we took a brief 30-minute break for rest and refreshment during which snacks were served. At 3:15 am we resumed our journey towards our main destination, offering prayers and singing in unison.

As we approached the Mount, a vast crowd joined us - pilgrims from the 33rd Annual Walking Pilgrimage that had commenced from Cross Maidan. Statues of Jesus carrying the Cross and Mother Mary were being carried and followed closely behind. Volunteers took turns carrying the statue, reminiscent of the solemnity of Mount Calvary. This sight evoked nostalgic memories of childhood processions on Palm Sunday in Goa, adding a profound spiritual dimension to our pilgrimage experience.

Upon reaching the Basilica, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated, symbolizing the culmination of our pilgrimage and fostering a sense of unity and reverence among all participants.

The success of this pilgrimage can be attributed to the visionary planning of Fr. John and the dedicated efforts of his team, who ensured the seamless execution of the event. A particularly touching moment was witnessing a courageous

family caring for a 7-year-old child throughout the pilgrimage, exemplifying the spirit of compassion and devotion. May our Lord Jesus bless them, and all who participated in this sacred journey. Following the Mass, snacks and tea were served, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among all attendees.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to our Parish Priest and the entire organizing team for their meticulous arrangements and unwavering dedication to making this pilgrimage a spiritually enriching and memorable experience for all. With our hearts filled with gratitude and our souls uplifted by the blessings of our Lord, we returned home safely by bus, cherishing the memories and spiritual growth achieved during this pilgrimage to Mount Mary's Basilica.

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

“Today, in adoring the Sacred Heart, let us pray fervently for peace. First of all for peace in our hearts, but also for peace in our families, in our nation and in all the world. Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation, have mercy on us!”

- St. John Paul II



Lenten Recollection

The Senior Citizen Cell organized a Lenten Recollection for the Sacred Heart Parishioners on 16th February 2024 in the Mini Hall. The house-full turnout reaffirmed our belief that it was the best way to commence the Lenten season.

The first half of the session was on the topic of **Forgiveness** conducted by Fr. Edwin Vas SVD. He touched on the subject of our relationship with God and with one another and the importance of forgiveness to maintain this relationship. To better understand the two aspects of forgiveness – receiving forgiveness and forgiving others, he showed us excerpts from three movies "Robe", "To kill a Priest" and "In my country".

Through Bible quotations, we understand that God forgives and He takes delight in forgiving us if we are truly sorry and ask for forgiveness. We have the right to be resentful and angry when we are hurt. Forgiveness is most needed when we find it difficult to forgive. God wants us to forgive others countless times. To refuse to forgive is to continue to hurt oneself. Unforgiveness is like drinking poison yourself and waiting for the other person to die.

The second half of the session was filled with interactive fun activities conducted by Fr. Tony Menezes SVD focused on the topic of **Lent is a time of Reconstruction**.

Through the activity of Identity Profile, we realized how attached we are to good and not-so-good things/traits e.g. titles, qualifications, birthplace, achievements etc. and even our past mistakes/faults. We are not ready to LET GO. Attachments are a hindrance to reconstruction. Even after confession, we are not open to God's grace and hence go back to committing the same mistakes again.

The activity of Introspection – 3 circles - Inner Circle (My fullness), Middle Circle (what I like to project to others) and my Outer Circle (my brokenness) helped us understand areas that needed reconstruction.

Sheets of 9 different quotations were placed around the room. We had to select quotations that directly speak to us. "Through acceptance you find freedom, out of acceptance you find growth" – this quotation touched my soul.

Lent is the springtime for our souls. We have to find our way back to happiness by letting go, getting rid of our attachments, being consistent from within and with others and choosing LIFE.

Besides our souls, our bodies too were nourished with the delicious Idli chutney, Choco biscuits and garam-garam chai.

Thank you, Frs. Edwin and Tony for this truly enriching session. The crisp Vote of Thanks by Candy ended these sessions on a positive note.

The Lenten Recollection was concluded with a unique, devotional and meaningful Stations of the Cross which accentuated the virtues that each station invoked e.g. judgment, hope, faith, kindness, commitment etc.

A big shout out to Conrad and Anita and the entire team of animators that orchestrated this successful event thus getting us into the spirit of Lent.

Lucy Rocha
Animator – Senior Citizens' Cell

Tracing the Footsteps of Jesus on His Way to Calvary

The Senior Citizens of our parish chose March 12th as the day to visit the Stations of the Cross at Don Bosco's, Karjat. Two priests were to accompany us. Unfortunately, Fr. Edwin Vas SVD was unwell. We missed him. Fr. Christi Selvaraj SVD too wasn't a hundred per cent, yet he chose to come with us.

Two busloads of pilgrims left the Church compound at 6.10 am, after a prayer by Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD. The Rosary was recited and each decade had a special intention. Hymns too were sung. Then the Divine Mercy Chaplet was prayed. An energy fruit and a sandwich were then handed out to everyone.

We reached the place at about 8.30 am. After tea and biscuits, Fr. Santarita SDB, addressed us all and stressed the meditative aspect of the entire experience.

Conrad then led us through an introductory prayer before we could set out to walk in the "Footsteps of Our Lord." Some of our people

carried wooden Crosses, nails and crowns of thorns, to try to get under the skin of Jesus and "actually feel" as Jesus felt during His passion.

Some among us were participating for the first time in this "Life-Like Commemorative and Spiritual Journey" and found it heart-rending and emotional. All of us will surely agree that the stories and meditations at each Station touched a chord in our hearts.

The way it was compiled, in language, simple yet emotive and read loudly by the animators it surely would have lingered in the hearts and minds of all those who were present and attentive. To hear repeatedly that, "IT WAS FOR ME!" reminded me again and again of HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. A LOVE that is given freely, in abundance. A LOVE that isn't dependent on the way I am, what I do, the style of my clothing, my degrees or the fortune I amass. HE LOVES ME! REGARDLESS! ALL HE wants is MY REPENTANT HEART AND A SINCERE rising every time I fall into ways that are not HIS WAYS!

The climb in places is a bit of a challenge, with heat adding to it. WHAT MUST JESUS HAVE FELT? Throughout HIS walk with the Cross, body bruised and battered, NO ONE OFFERED HIM WATER! The soldiers only shoved, pulled and pushed HIM. The crowd mocked and jeered. There were only a few instances of fleeting succour. HIS Beloved MUM, Simon of Cyrene, Veronica, and the weeping women. We may participate in this wonderful spiritual experience several times and yet NEVER FULLY APPRECIATE THE SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF OUR SAVIOUR!

After the Stations, we celebrated a very unique, interesting Mass. The main celebrant Fr. Cletus with his warmth and sense of humour kept us engaged throughout.

We then queued up for a delicious lunch which everyone ate to their heart's content. After tea, we set off to return home.

Kay A. Lobo
Senior Citizens' Cell

World Marriage Day A Celebration of Love

Love endures all things – (1 Cor 13: 7), keeping this theme in mind, the Missionary Families of Christ (MFC) of Sacred Heart, Andheri East Chapter, celebrated World Marriage Day in our Parish with much love, and lots of fun and excitement on Sunday, 18th February 2024.

The fun-filled evening started with the solemn Eucharistic celebration at 5.30 pm by our Parish priest, Fr. John Mascarenhas SVD. In his homily, Fr. John delved into aspects of how the institution of marriage has lost its significance in recent times due to the onset of live-in relationships, contract marriages, single parenting, etc. He extolled the couples gathered and emphasized that love, faithfulness, forgiveness and prayer are important pillars of married life. During the service, the married couples renewed their marriage vows by holding each other's hands signifying their mutual love. Blessed 'crosses' were distributed to the married couples and a special blessing was prayed over them during the Mass.

After the solemn Mass, it was time for a wonderful evening filled with music, masti, games and dance at the Community Centre. The comperes for the evening were Vincent D'Souza and his wife, Astrida D'Souza. Arrangements were made for the children who had accompanied their parents for a separate celebration on the first floor of the Community Centre where they were kept entertained and engaged with some fun games.

Some mouth-watering snacks were served and then it was time for the fun events. Any wedding celebration seems incomplete without a wedding march and so it was here. The Couples' March had the couples waltzing their way into each other's hearts with some foot-tapping music. Some fun games followed like 'Know your neighbour', 'Blindfolded Mine' 'Balancing the Balloon', and 'Take a Pose', while some interesting spot prizes were announced. This kept the gathering on their toes all through the evening. The youngest and the oldest married couple present were

felicitated. A selfie corner added a fun element to the entertaining evening. All in all, it was definitely a celebration of love, laughter, fellowship and togetherness.

Glacxy Ferrao
Christ the King, Community No. 19



Altar Servers Exhibition

The Altar Servers held a very interesting Exhibition on the 17th and 18th of February 2024 and displayed models of the religious articles used during the celebration of Holy Mass, made from reusable materials.

It was a best-out-of-waste Exhibition, in which six groups had six glamorous projects showcasing models of the articles and highlighting the structure; and most importantly the meaning of the Mass. The Church and the Altar were also vividly described.

The Exhibition Stall brought together all the articles used and explained their purpose and use. It included significant ones like the Monstrance, the Liturgical torches, the Thurible (the metal censer), the boat (which holds the incense to be placed by the priest in the Thurible) and the holy books used during Mass. The Vestments worn by the Altar servers,

the chasubles, Alb, stole and the cinctures worn by the priests were also exhibited. The four colors of the Vestments that represent the different liturgical seasons were also described.

The days of preparation for the exhibition were very interesting and fun-filled as we discussed how to make the various articles from recyclable materials, the layout and display of the articles in the stall, etc.

It was heartening to receive feedback from parishioners that the exhibition was an enlightening one and provided valuable information. Some parishioners were interested in knowing more.

All of us who took part also enjoyed the exhibition. The fun and excitement we had cannot be put into words. We were served scrumptious breakfast and also received a snack box in the end.

The two days were quite memorable for us and we look forward to coming together to do it afresh.

Megan D'Costa
Altar Server



Celebrating Divine Mercy

Jesus is the face of the merciful Father. Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and revealed the Mercy of God during the several apparitions. His own betrayed Him, denied and abandoned Him. He was falsely accused, flogged, wounded, bruised and exposed to public shame, yet He suffered all of this and died to save mankind, to redeem us. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy was given to St. Faustina by Jesus. The Image of Divine Mercy is a vessel of Graces; The fount of Divine Mercy – the spring of Life. The graces of God's Mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only and it is TRUST.

The A, B, C, of Divine Mercy:

A – Ask for His Mercy.

God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and on the whole world

B – Be merciful

God wants us to be merciful to others. Receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. Jesus says: If a soul does not exercise mercy in some way, it will not obtain His mercy on the day of judgement.

C – Complete Trust in Jesus

God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust Jesus, the more we will receive.

To know more about St. Faustina's encounter with Our Lord, Read the 'DIARY' – Divine Mercy in My Soul.

The feast of Divine Mercy was celebrated on 7th April 2024. The Divine Mercy Cell members led the Novena which began on Good Friday. The Triduum Masses were celebrated by Fr. Callisto, Fr. Sandesh and Fr. John, our Parish Priest.

Fr. John in his homily suggested visiting the House of Missionaries of Charity to experience the suffering of the people. As Christians we are called to be the Disciples of His Mercy, to be in the service of our Lord. Let us enter the door of mercy not to be loved but to love, understand, forgive and be merciful to one another.

The Blood and Water which flows out from the Heart of Jesus is a grace on our Church. **Jesus is Divine** and for our sake He became **human**.

The main Celebrant for the Feast Mass was Fr. Christi Selvaraj SVD, Spiritual Director of Divine Mercy Cell and concelebrated by Fr. Sandesh, Fr Bosco sdb and Fr. Raja Reddy SVD.

Fr. Christi spoke of his personal experience of being close to death when he suffered from COVID-19 twice, but God saved him from the jaws of death. He further elaborated on our God being a merciful and forgiving God and that the Holy Scriptures reveal this mercy right from the Garden of Eden to the Cross of Calvary. We need to believe and trust in His Love and Mercy.

After the Holy Eucharist, the Divine Mercy Cell members had a get-together in the Community Hall in which our Parish clergy team also joined.

Navidade D'costa
Divine Mercy Cell

Altar Servers Picnic

The time had come for the best memories of 2023-24. Our journey from the Church began with a short prayer by Fr. Callisto Gomes SVD, and then singing songs, we journeyed, till we reached the spot for the day – The Kalyani Village Resort, Virar East.

We lost no time and began playing on the slides and swings in the garden till an amazing breakfast was served giving us the energy to have a blast.

Changing into our swimming costumes, all of us headed to the colourful swimming pools. The time was well spent in the gentle calmness of the pools. The epic and fun slides brought in happiness, playful screams and loads of excitement. The brightly shining sun over the cool waters added to our joy. Bridge-walking and Zip-lining activities multiplied our fun even more. We popped in and out of the pool to grab the unlimited supply of ice gola, popcorn, and candy floss.

Time seemed to stand still in the pool and soon it was lunchtime. Nearly a dozen dishes including dessert were laid out for us. Tired after the swim, all of us had a hearty lunch. Then there were indoor games like carrom while Miss Jacinta animated some group games which had our full participation.

Some of us, wanting some quiet time, went towards the tall trees alongside the resort and watched the stream gurgling by. Some even rested on the charpai rope cots underneath the trees.

In the evening, we were treated to some good snacks and coffee. Back onto the bus, fully exhausted from the overload of fun, we were served snacks and some of us dozed off. We all received as a gift, a set of pens. The party was far from over as the singing and shouting continued.

Once in the Church compound, there was more shouting to declare this outing as the best picnic we had. Truly it will be an unforgettable memory and we hope we can relive these moments.

The Picnic was a real treat for serving at Mass all through the year. We are grateful and thank Fr. Christi Selvaraj SVD - Spiritual Director, our Sponsor and Jacinta Menezes - Head of the Altar Servers Group, who have helped and worked tirelessly for us throughout the year.

Janice Menezes
Altar Server

Taizé Prayer - An Evening of Chants, Reflections, and Meditative Worship



During the season of Lent, on 17th February 2024, the Youth Ministry of our parish organized 'Taizé', an evening prayer service to allow the parishioners to disconnect from their busy lives and reconnect with God.

In the realm of spiritual practices, Taizé prayer holds a special place, especially with the youth. This prayer encompasses the essence of meditative worship, chants, and deep reflections. Chants are the center of the Taizé prayer and every chant is repeated 3-4 times. This melodious and repetitive chanting leads one to have a deeper spiritual connection. The simplicity of the chants encourages people to participate and

let go of their thoughts, focus on the present moment and get connected to GOD.

The essence of the Taizé prayer is an immersive experience that engages the senses and invites people into a contemplative state. The dimly lit Church sets the tone for introspection and reflection. As the service begins, the Taizé cross is placed in the center of the Church as a focal point for prayer. In the dimly lit Church, the lit candles along the aisles and in front of the altar add to the ambience. The atmosphere is filled with a sense of reverence and tranquility.

Through the combination of chants, scripture readings and moments of silence, people are encouraged to enter into a state of deep reflection, allowing the words and melodies to resonate within their souls.

In organizing this event, the youth of our parish hoped that this would create a sacred space where individuals could connect with the divine in collective worship, quieten their minds, and experience a profound sense of serenity and peace not to mention the strength that comes from coming together in faith.

Sharon D'silva

PYC - St. Joseph the Worker, Community No. 28

Experiencing Stillness through the Cross

Lent is the time of preparation of one's heart and mind through prayer, fasting and reflection. This is also the time when the youth of our Parish begin their preparation for the enactment of the Way of the Cross on Good Friday (29th March 2024). The planning phase, like always, started early and involved auditions and the selection of the characters. However, the rehearsals could begin only 2 weeks before Good Friday, due to exams.

In 2022 and 2023, I played the role of a soldier. This year I was selected to play the role of Jesus. This was a huge change for me because to be a Roman soldier, one has to portray the role outside of oneself but to enact the role of Jesus, which is so much more profound, one has to interiorize the character within oneself.

It wasn't as easy as I had thought. There were tough times.

A week prior to the enactment I fell sick and was unable to attend the rehearsals. Though this caused much anxiety among the cast and me, personally. Just 3 days before Good Friday, thanks to everyone's prayers and support, I recovered and was able to get back to the practice sessions.

There were around 35 of us including the makeup and costume team and the crew members guided by the Parish Youth Animators (PYAT).

The toughest part for me was the last four stations depicting the painful final moments of Jesus' suffering, passion and death. Just playing the part was so tough and overwhelming, that after every practice I would sit back and ask myself, "This was just an enactment, how did Jesus bear the cruelty, the humiliation, the rejection, the ingratitude, the suffering, the pain and the scourging?"

To play a particular character's role, one has to study that character, understand that character and lastly become that character. Playing the role of the Roman soldier in the past years as a youth, I had fun during the practice sessions and the breaks; but playing the role of Jesus, I had to go into myself, maintain silence, reflect and allow the experience of what Jesus went through to sink into my consciousness. One thing I noticed in these moments of silence was an awareness of my inner self. I was able to watch my thoughts and feelings; and even experience the beauty around me. Though these moments lasted briefly, I had a glimpse of how beautiful stillness can be.

What I learnt from this enactment is that every day is a Way of the Cross, taking up your Cross and following Jesus, being still within and knowing that God is with us always.

"Be still and know that I am God"
(Psalm 46:10)

Jaison Dmello

PYC- Helpers of Jesus, Community No. 14
Vice President of Parish Youth Council



PYC Mission Outreach 2024

A Journey of Compassion and Connection

On February 18th 2024, our day began with a sense of purpose and anticipation. Departing promptly at 5.00 am, we embarked on our journey to Sarv Vikas Deep, SVD House in Mangaon. Under the guidance of Fr. Sandesh Patil SVD, our Spiritual Director, we set out with prayers, invoking God's presence to accompany us throughout the two days of our mission trip.

Arriving in Mangaon by 9:30 am, we participated in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. After breakfast was an orientation session where we learnt about the impactful work in the areas of education, social justice and women's empowerment undertaken by SVD Fathers and Cannosian Sisters in Mangaon.

Following a satisfying lunch of dal rice and locally sourced vegetable delicacies, we indulged in a much-needed power nap to rejuvenate ourselves for the evening ahead. We then ventured into a village 20 kms away, engaging with the locals in their native Marathi language. Despite the linguistic challenges,

the villagers received us with warmth and goodwill and shared with us their struggles and aspirations. The presence of numerous livestock delighted the animal enthusiasts among us. The villagers' hospitality extended to treating us with refreshing lemon grass tea, a delightful departure from our city routines. As darkness fell, we made our way back to our lodging.

The following morning, after a restful night's sleep, we gathered for Mass at 7.00 am. The scripture passages at Mass spoke directly to our hearts: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." These words resonated deeply with our recent experiences, reaffirming the importance of our mission trip. With gratitude for the opportunity to serve, we reflected on our visit the previous day, recognizing the resilience and generosity of the community we had visited. As we offered thanksgiving, we also prayed for the grace to be compassionate and humble; and to be blessed with an attitude of gratitude for everything in our lives.

The following morning, we bid farewell to Sarv Vikas Deep Home, Mangaon reassured by Fr. Richard Quadros's invitation to return anytime to support their noble cause. We expressed our heartfelt thanks for the warmth and hospitality before embarking on our final mission to a very remote village in Tala nestled amidst the hills.

The journey to Tala was challenging, trekking through jungle terrain in the mid-day heat. Despite fatigue, our spirits remained undeterred. Sharing a simple meal with the villagers, we savoured the humble offerings, including the village water from their local water sources. Engaging with the villagers, we distributed food packets and exchanged stories, bridging the gap between urban and rural lifestyles.

As we journeyed back to Mumbai, memories of our mission trip lingered. We have a lot to thank God for, especially for the many things we take for granted living in a city like Mumbai.

Aldrich Fernandes
PYC - Holy Cross. Community No. 03 and
Jt Secretary, Parish Youth Council

**“O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
fountain of eternal life, Your
Heart is a glowing furnace of
Love. You are my refuge and
my sanctuary.**

- St. Gertrude the Great



HEALTH SPACE

Demystifying Root Canal Treatment



A common reaction to root canal treatment is one of dread due to the fear associated with the procedure. However, understanding what a root canal entails and why it's needed can help reduce this fear.

One crucial point to understand is that a root canal alleviates severe, unbearable pain that even potent painkillers cannot relieve. The procedure can seem almost miraculous, as the intense pain often disappears once the root canal is cleaned.

A root canal not only removes pain but also helps save the tooth, making it a crucial treatment.

The Procedure Explained

The dentist begins by numbing the tooth with local anesthesia. Once the tooth is fully numb, the dentist removes any decay or caries from the cavity and accesses the canals. The number of canals can vary, with anterior teeth typically having one or two, and molars having three to six.

The canals are measured and cleaned using hand files and then rotary files, which are beneficial as they make the procedure faster and easier. If the dentist successfully cleans the tooth and there is no discharge of pus, the canals can be filled in one or two sessions. After cleaning, the entrance of the canal is sealed in a subsequent appointment to prevent further issues.

Advances in Dentistry

Recent advancements have made root canal treatments almost painless. Effective local anesthesia, including the use of articaine, intraligamentary, and intrapulpal anesthesia, helps manage pain, especially in cases of a "hot tooth"—a tooth that remains sensitive despite the administration of local anesthesia.

The use of rotary files and digital radiography (RVG) has simplified the cleaning of canals and reduced the number of necessary dental visits. Chemicals like hypochlorite are used to dissolve pulp tissue and clean the system more thoroughly.

Today, a root canal procedure is almost painless, thanks to these advancements.

Precautions for Special Cases

Patients with systemic conditions such as diabetes should control their blood sugar levels before proceeding with a root canal due to the risk of complications.

Prevention Tips

To avoid the need for a root canal, it's advisable to:

- Brush your teeth twice daily.
- Avoid sugary and sticky foods.
- Floss every night.
- Eat healthy foods.
- Regularly visit the dentist to detect and fill cavities at an early stage.

By following these preventative measures, you can reduce the likelihood of needing a root canal treatment.

Dr. Giselle Paes
Dentist

Disclaimer: All information contained in the Health Page is of a general nature and the opinion of the author 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



*Baptized
in Christ*

Keith Dsilva	S/o	Robin D'Silva & Sanjana Liyona D'Silva	31-Mar-24
Rupali Wakode	D/o	Suresh Wakode & Sarika Suresh Wakode	31-Mar-24
Shalini Prakash Chaugule	D/o	Prakash Chaugule & Mina Prakash Chaugule	31-Mar-24
Kumudini Tambutkar	D/o	Keshav Tambutkar & Kavita Tambutkar	31-Mar-24
Prem Ranade	S/o	Praful Ranade & Pushpa Ranade	31-Mar-24
Mayuri Prem Ranade	D/o	Baban & Anita	31-Mar-24
Sharon Ranade	S/o	Prem Ranade & Mayuri Ranade	31-Mar-24
Praful Ranade	S/o	Pramchand & Rojmary	31-Mar-24
Pushpa Ranade	D/o	Vijaynad & Lila	31-Mar-24
Tanaz Asha	D/o	Zubin Dinshaw Asha & Sabeena Zubin Asha	31-Mar-24
Alumelu Bahadur	D/o	Harka Bahadur & Sakuntala	31-Mar-24
David Lalbahadur Dcosta	S/o	Lalbahadur Thamang & Kanchi Thamang	31-Mar-24
Sayali Satvidkar	D/o	Vijay Sadhanand Satvidkar & Vrushali Vijay Satvidkar	31-Mar-24
Delilah Pinto	D/o	Daniel Pinto & Stella Fernandes	14-Apr-24
Mischa Faith Tigga	D/o	Mikhail Tigga & Chrisann Sequeira	28-Apr-24



*United
in Christ*

Renaldo Louis Pacheco	To	Melissa Dolly D'silva	6-Apr-24
Kenneth Pereira	To	Alisha Dias	6-Apr-24
Kevin Jude Pinto	To	Veenitha Dsouza	6-Apr-24
Vincent Paulraj	To	Abigail Pinto	7-Apr-24
Sanam Mehta	To	Priya Florence Dsouza	13-Apr-24
Akshay Dandekar	To	Sweata Pereira	20-Apr-24



*Resting
in Christ*

Dominic Serrao	67	A-104, Nirman Palace	2-Mar-24
Fatima Bernard	68	Home For the Aged	17-Mar-24
Cherian Mathew Thuruthyil	69	B /12, Kanti Welfare	22-Mar-24
Antoinette Fernandes	84	185 / 32, Om Shivam CHS	23-Mar-24
Angeline D'Souza	81	162 / 10, 11, Golden Hill Apts	26-Mar-24
Royce Vinod D'Souza	47	B / 4, Green Valley CHS	30-Mar-24
Perpetua Fernandes	74	303, Bindra Rose II	2-Apr-24
Hansel Fernandes	37	121 / 12, Munshi Colony	7-Apr-24
Helen Nathan	79	265 / 11, Happy Home CHS	15-Apr-24
Virginia Fernandes	97	Home For the Aged	16-Apr-24
Sr. Gracie Margaret Remedies	80	Little Sisters Of The Poor, Home For The Aged	17-Apr-24

For the 8.45 am Mass Schedule, Youth Mass Schedule, Holy Hour Schedule and the Saturday 6.15 pm Rosary Schedule,
kindly look up the Parish Website: www.sacredheartandheri.net

Inspiration from Saints

ST. DEVASAHAYAM PILLAI

Feast Day: 14th January

Patron Saint of Persecuted Christians

St. Devasahayam, a Hindu by birth was converted to Christianity in the 18th century and is the first married Indian layman, not connected to any religious institute, to be declared a saint.

He was born in 1712 in Kanyakumari and named Nilam or Nilakandan, after the Hindu God Siva. As a youth of the Nair caste, Nilakandan completed traditional education in Sanskrit and martial arts before he joined the army of King Marthandavarma of Travancore in 1729.

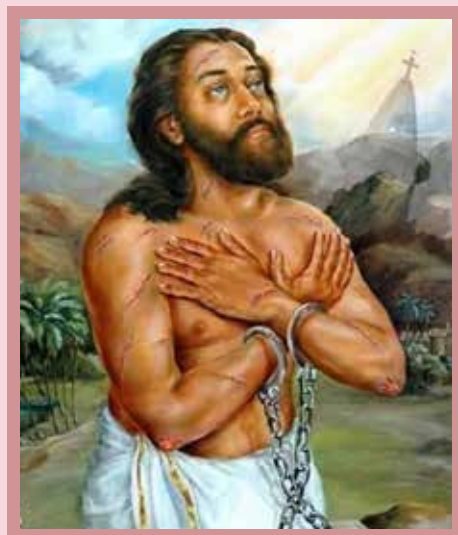
Nilakandan Pillai started his career as a soldier. Later on, he was also a palace official, working in the king's treasury. Between the years 1741 and 1745, his job brought him in touch with Eustachius Benedictus De Lannoy, a Dutch Catholic military officer, and a prisoner of war, whom the king had elevated as commander in chief to modernize his army in European style. They would often spend time in personal conversation, which sealed their friendship.

In 1744, finding Nilakandan sad and depressed, Lannoy queried him, and Nilakandan shared about the losses he had suffered - property lost, bulls dead and failed crops. He wondered whether the gods were angry with him even though he performed all his religious duties. He was also afraid that some persons were against him and had carried out some sort of black magic against him. Thus Nilakandan Pillai was beset with a lot of doubts and fears. De Lannoy consoled his friend Nilakandan by sharing with him his faith as a Christian.

"God tests faith through suffering," the Dutch commander, Lannoy told the Hindu soldier after narrating the story of Job - a personification of unconditional trust in God in the face of unbearable tragedies. Nilakandan listened to him with great consolation. He was impressed by Job's sense of absolute confidence in God, which was not evident in his knowledge of the Hindu faith. Thus the Word of God was sown in Nilakandan's heart and he started reading the Bible and wanted to embrace the Christian faith. Soon he decided to get baptized.

Since the local clergy were worried about incurring the Hindu king's wrath if they baptized him, they sent him to Italian Jesuit Father Giovanni Baptista Buttari, who had been taking care of a vibrant Catholic community nearly 45 miles away from the king's palace. Though Nilakandan wanted immediate baptism, Father Buttari, arranged catechism for him for months and then baptized him at the age of 33 on May 17, 1745, at Holy Family Church at Vadakkankulam and gave him the name 'Devasahayam', meaning, in Tamil, "Lazarus, God has helped". Despite strong opposition from his in-laws, Devasahayam's first convert was his wife, Bargavimmal, who became Theresa.

Soon, Devasahayam started sharing the Christian faith and denounced the caste system



that banned upper castes from interacting with lower castes. His own furious relatives accused him of causing misfortune to the family and even complained to the king of his betrayal of Hindu religious practices and gods and his authority.

Nilakandan Pillai was by nature active, energetic and committed to his duties, enthusiastic, ingenious and remarkably regarded for his high education and sharp intelligence.

Soon the Brahmin chief priest of the kingdom, the feudal lords, members of the

royal household and the Nair community brought false charges against Nilakandan and convinced the royal court that he was using his position to force others to convert, leading to his imprisonment. European Christians in Travancore came to Pillai's defence, urging the king to release him. Thus, Devasahayam was not executed; his incarceration continued for three years. Though beaten and tortured almost daily, pepper rubbed in his wounds and nostrils, exposed to the sun, and given only stagnant water to drink, Pillai consistently responded with kindness, openly praying for his captors. As a condemned prisoner, he was always in chains, as reflected in his depiction in statues and portraits.

On Feb. 23, 1749, hearing constant complaints from the upper castes decrying conversions to Christianity, the king accused Devasahayam of being a "most virulent defender of the Christian faith," and condemned him to death.

He was shot dead by local soldiers at midnight on January 14, 1752, aged just 39 years, in a deserted place on the fringe of the wild Aralvaimozhy forest. The spot was called Kattadimalai (now called "Devasahayam Pillai Mount"). His body was transported to St. Xavier Church in Kottar and later when his remains were interred beneath the altar, the site became a popular pilgrimage destination.

In 2012, Devasahayam Pillai became the first Indian layman to be beatified. Ten years later, Pope Francis approved his Sainthood and he was canonized on May 15, 2022.

**“May Christ be heard
in our language, may
Christ be seen in our life,
may He be perceived in
our hearts.**

- St. Peter Damian

Parish Vision Mission Statement

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



Prayer Dance by Novices of Cannossa Convent



Training for SCC Animators by Fr. Felix D'souza



Divine Mercy Sunday



Lenten Recollection organized by Senior Citizens Cell



Altar Servers Picnic



Prize Winners of the Family Bible Quiz



PYC Outreach 2024



Enactment of the Stations of The Cross by the Youth