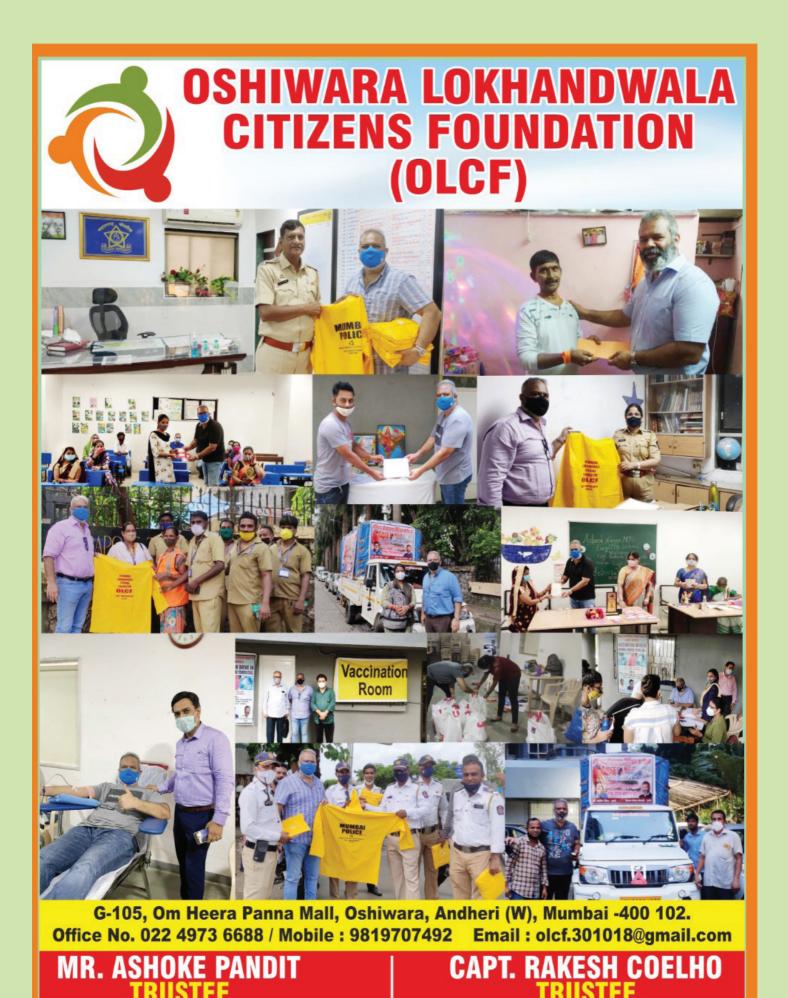
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**APRIL 2023** 

FLOCKNEWS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, ANDHERI WEST, MUMBAI 400053

OUR VISION FAMILIES IN COMMUNION WITH GOD LEADING TO VIBRANT COMMUNITIES & EMPOWERING THE NEEDY



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From the Pastor's Desk

## HE IS RISEN INDEED!!!

"Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said (Matthew 28:5-6)

Many attempts have been made to debunk the resurrection of Jesus from the very time of His rising from the dead. But the following irrefutable facts can be put forth in defense of His Resurrection.

- 1. Jesus' body was missing. If the Jews could have found it, they could have stilled the preaching of Jesus' resurrection that filled Jerusalem. But they could not.
- 2. The body wasn't stolen. The Romans had no motive. The Jews had no motive. Ah-ha, you say, The disciples stole it. There is the matter of the Roman guards, and the disciples' initial disbelief when the women brought them the news early that Easter morning. This brings me to my third point.
- 3. If the disciples had stolen the body, you wouldn't expect them to risk their lives. People don't die for what they know is not true. But the disciples put their lives on the line, and nearly all were eventually martyred for their faith. They certainly believed it.
- 4. The church mushroomed size in Jerusalem, the very place he was crucified. Followers of Jesus in the city of Jerusalem grew from a few dozen to thousands upon thousands soon after Jesus' resurrection. They believed it was true.
- 5. Contemporary documents refer to the event. Thallus the Samaritan, Suetonius, Tacitus, Pliny contain references to Jesus. Jewish historian Josephus writes about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. They knew something had happened.

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer.

Death is strong, but life is stronger.

Stronger than the dark, the light.

Stronger than the wrong, the right...

#### - Phillips Brooks, "An Easter Carol"

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is actually more plausible than any other explanation. Christ's death and resurrection is the foundation of the Christian Faith. That's why we celebrate. This is the most joyous feast of the year. The church is now filled with the spirit of Jesus and with His Light. It is no longer silent as we join our songs of praise with the choirs in heaven. We are reminded of Christ's promise "I will give you a joy which no one will take from you." (John 16:22). Easter is the beginning of our new life with Christ.

Jesus' resurrection means that death is not the end. That though my body may lie rotting in the ground, Jesus whom the Father raised from the death, gives me eternal life. Ultimately, we Christians believe, our bodies, too, will be raised from the death.

What do we Christians say in the face of death? There are many mysteries. But two things we know for sure. First, death is an enemy. But second, and more important, Jesus' resurrection from the grave is God's proof to us that death is not the end. The empty tomb and Jesus' Spirit within us testify that Easter morning is God's triumph over death. And ultimately, Jesus promised, God will raise from the dead all who believe in His Son. "I am the resurrection and the life." Jesus said "He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

And since Jesus is not dead, people can encounter him today. You can know him through a personal relationship. I could point to several people who can testify what Jesus has done in their lives to bring them from the brink of disaster to peace and meaning and joy. People who have encountered Him at a retreat and or at a healing service and were able to battle the demons of their lives and conquer them with His help. He changes people for good. While some leaders reform. ONLY JESUS TRANSFORMS.

Christ's resurrection brings him into new life and promises the same for us. Not just eternal life, although that's part of it, but genuinely new life. Change is hard, as so many people tell me and as I know myself. Left to our own devices, we'd probably just settle for an improved version of our present life. In the words of Floyd W. Tomkins, "Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and weakness and despair to strength and beauty and happiness." –

For while religious leaders have come and gone, the fact remains: only One stepped forth from the tomb. Only One has risen from the dead. Only One has conquered death. Only One offers the promise of eternal life to those who follow him.

#### Alleluia! He is risen!

FR. ANIL REGO Parish Priest

## HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

**2nd April. 2023, Palm Sunday:** Blessing of palms on the church lawns at 08:15 am followed by a procession to the church for Mass.

**6th April.2023, Maundy Thursday:** Mass FOR THE SICK & AGED in Konkani at 05:30 pm in the church.

- Solemn service of THE LORD'S SUPPER at 07:30 pm on the church lawns.
- Holy Hour service at the Altar of Repose at 11:00 pm in the church.
- 7th April. 2023 Good Friday: Way of the cross in Konkani at 07:30 am.
- Way of the cross by the youth in English at 08:30 am.
- 3 hours agony service at 10:00 am. By Fr. KT Emmanuel
- Evening service of the Lord's passion is at 07:00 pm on the church lawns.

8 th April, Solemn Easter Vigil - 10:00 pm. On the lawns

9th April, Easter Sunday, masses - 07:00 am-Konkani,

- In English at 08:30 am and 10:00 am.
- 4.00 pm : Hindi Mass

Parking of vehicles will be on the Sarita Lawns , But not on Good Friday, as chairs will be placed on the Sarita Lawns

## FLOCK BLEAT - NEWS

## GOLDEN HEARTS -WORLD ELDERS NITE

World Elders Day is celebrated annually to recognize the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge the wisdom, dignity and needs of our senior citizens and to rededicate our efforts to ensure their well-being. According to the World Health Organization, we are in the "Decade of Healthy Ageing" - 2020-2030.

And precisely, we the "Golden Hearts", celebrated World Elders Day in our parish on Sunday, 04th December 2022. Xavier Almeida, President of the Senior Citizen 'Golden Hearts' welcomed the guests and Fr. Anil Rego, Spiritual Head opened the programme with his blessings and good wishes.

Guess what... We had around 200 young at heart Elders, joining in the celebrations. The excitement was building up in the air as we had gathered after 3 years. We started with the March Past... everyone was on the floor. As the World Cup Football matches were going on, our theme for the game was based on the team and the countries. The winners got the prize but had to dance on a Bollywood Hindi song. It was fun to see everyone grooving and shaking their legs. There were lots of unique spot prizes, music and dance... and of course not forgetting the all-time favorite game of our Seniors 'The Housie', prizes of which were sponsored by Tressa D'Mello. The highlight was the Masala Dance followed by a huge Hamper for the lucky winner of the evening.... given to Mrs. Aggie Fernandes.

Xavier thanked and felicitated Joan D'Souza for conducting the March Past & Games and Dora Martis for compering the entire event. And I must truly say that I received a lot of Congratulatory messages, personal calls, etc. The icing on the cake was a message which stated 'Hi Dora... Excellent... Your Compering was Out of the World". Thanks to Xavier Almeida -President, Marina Borthwick - Hon. Secretary and the Golden Hearts Committee Members for giving me this life-time opportunity.

Snacks and dinner were served by Temptation Caterers. Joan D'Souza gave the Vote of Thanks and Fr. Savio Lobo said the Grace Before Meals.

All in all, to sum up, we had a beautiful musical evening with mauj, masti, dhamaka and manoranjan.

- Dora Martis



#### **GOLDEN HEART'S PICNIC**

What would life be without a Picnic? Picnics make one fall in love with life, because they bring out one's spontaneity, and spontaneity is the best kind of adventure.

One Tuesday morning, the Golden Hearts of our parish were up with the Lark, strapped with a knapsack on their back, off to a picnic on a bus to Madh island. Our destination was the quaint little bungalow, popularly known to all as the Valankanni Villa. We were all of fifty in number, bursting with childlike enthusiasm, leaving our inhibition behind and letting our hair down after a three-year Covid break. We were all charged and

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looking forward to the unexpected.

It was a beautiful day. The weather was on our side. The ride started off with a prayer and a Hymn led by Fr. Anil, followed by a rosary, after which there was a cacophony of chatter & laughter till we alighted from the bus and were instantly drawn to the aroma of hot breakfast and Chaiready to be served. With our stomachs satiated we then assembled on the open grounds and remembered and prayed for the departed souls of Teresa Dalgado, Ubaldo D'souza and Dorothy D'souza, the three pillars of the golden heart's committee. We were then put into four groups - Bugs Bunny, Scooby Doo, Mickey Mouse & Snoopy. Everyone participated in the games with fairness and comradery, laughing, giggling, joking and of course making sure their team won. We played 4 games. The highlight was the Queen of Sheba dress -up game. The Bugs Bunny group led by Fr. Anil got the highest points and were proclaimed the winners for the day.

It was almost 12 noon and by now we were all thirsty. After quenching our thirst and snacking on chakna, we had a non-stop sing song session that went on till lunch time. The guitarists were given some respite as DJ music took over while we lunched. Every one enjoyed large helpings of the mouth-watering East Indian cuisine.

Housie!! Of Course, there had to be a housie. Three rounds of housie were played post lunch with attractive cash prizes given out. They say when you are having fun, time flies. Soon it was tea time. Much to our surprise we were served mouth watering colourful pancakes and garam chai. Everyone relished the pancakes. Thanks to the thoughtfulness of the committee members to order themin keeping with the tradition of Pancake Tuesday. Oh! What a Day!

Dates, flowers, letters, phone calls, and late-night drives are for youngsters, but old school things like PICNICS is for the ever young at heart seniors. It was a mirthful Shrove Tuesday. We enjoyed to the hilt, and made moments that will be embedded in our mind and converted into beautiful memories.

Thanks to Fr. Anil the spiritual Director of the Golden Hearts and all the Committee members for their unstinted effort in putting this picnic together.

I'd like to end by saying.." A Picnic may well be a metaphor for life".

- Vera Correia

## WORLD MARRIAGE DAY 19TH FEB '23.

World Marriage Day was celebrated on 19-Feb at the 5:30 pm Parish Feast Mass in our Good Shepherd Church.

Married couples were seated in the front pews of the church.

In his Homily our Parish Priest Fr. Anil Rego preached of the Marriage commitment and it's challenges in today's times.

After the homily the marriage vows were projected, a couple from the Family Cell represented the couples, they and all the couples renewed their Marriage vows.

At the offertory, along with the other prayers, wedding

0

rings, representing the marriage bond, were offered and prayed for.

At the end of the Mass the video of the song "I will never find another You" by "The Seekers" was played and the whole congregation joined in singing along, wishing each other as they left the church.

The enjoyable celebration of the Parish Feast continued in the Church Lawns with music, fun-games, singing and food stalls.

We thank God for the double Joyful celebration of our Parish Feast and the World Marriage Day

- Francis Rodrigues

## THE BOMBAY CATHOLIC SABHA

#### SABHA DAY 'STAR UNIT'

The Bombay Catholic Sabha, commonly known as BCS conducts the Sabha Day annually. It is a day which unites all the BCS units of the parishes in our Diocese under 1 roof. The committee members including myself attended the Sabha Day on 04th March, 2023. The evening began with mass at St. Peters Church followed by the program at St. Andrew's Auditorium.

Being a first-time goer, I was very keen to learn more about the Sabha activities. The program began by lighting of the Samai by HIS Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias followed by the Sabha anthem. Mr. Dolphy Dsouza, President gave us a warm welcome and a complete overview of the Sabha and its forums such as Socio, Civic, Political, Youth and Environment. These forums enhance uniting and working together with people of different faiths, backgrounds, caste and creed. Keeping in mind the total number of Catholics in Mumbai, membership to the Sabha is only one third. He stressed on the need for more parishioners becoming members of the Bombay Catholic Sabha and standing as one strong united family to protect our rights as citizens and our church as Christians. Fr. Felix Dsouza, Ecclesiastical Advisor, known for his excellent humor said that with our effort, we will surely have maximum members one day. He further added that going forward, Sabha Day might need to be hosted at the Wankhede Stadium with the Sabha members standing as security for the police!! True that...!!

Mr. Vinod Noronha, Secretary General projected and displayed the various activities/ workshops/ seminars conducted by the respective forums of the Sabha. As EASTER 2023 - **FLOCK NEWS** • **7** 



the evening advanced, there was a classical dance performed by a group of young ladies. It was mind blowing, their expressions and hand movements were fantastic. The performance was synchronized very well.

The next event that everyone was looking forward to....The AWARDS!! Along with our parish, it was marvelous to learn about the involvement, dedication and commitment of other parishes towards Sabha activities. Our Parish was judged as a 'STAR WINNER' for our initiatives, involvement and implementation of the activities carried in our parish. Our Chairperson, Mrs. Dora Martis ensured that all committee members present, were on stage. The award was presented to our Chairperson and Committee Members by the Chief Guest : HIS Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias. In Dora's own words... "It's a Hat-Trick... In 2019 we won the 'Challenger Award', in 2020-2021 we received an 'Appreciation Award' and now for the year 2022 we won the highest 'Star Award' for the Andheri Deanery".

It's a proud moment and I must say, all the three awards have been won by our parish unit for the first time under the Dynamic Leadership and Chairperson - Mrs. Dora Martis. It's a feather on the cap for the Unit and all our parish BCS members.

Towards the end, Mr. Sambhaji Bhagat kept us thinking through his song cum dialogue snippets which was thought provoking about our country and the importance of WE as citizen's coz WE together build and make the nation. The evening ended with the Cardinal speaking on the Bombay Catholic Sabha and the need to keep it going to shape our future and that of our country. HE thanked and appreciated all the Sabhaites present for our commitment and dedication towards the Sabha.

The caption of the Bombay Catholic Sabha struck a chord with me, "Committed to A Better Tomorrow, Today" which itself is self-explanatory and speaks volumes. The evening ended with the National Anthem being sung by all and we later proceeded for the lip-smacking dinner that was arranged for everyone.

#### ANNUAL ACADEMIC AWARDS

We extend our Heartiest Congratulations to Two of our young parishioners who achieved Academic Excellence during the year 2021-2022. They were honoured by The Bombay Catholic Sabha at the 31st Annual Academic Awards function held on 22nd January, 2023 at St. Michael's Auditorium Mahim. Chief guest was Dr. Srinivasan R. Iyengar, Director of Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies.

- 1. Emerlin Passanha, M. Com 85.69%
- 2. Kierra Ann Vernekar, Class XII CBSE 93.40%

#### **ORIENTATION TO UNIT OFFICE BEARERS**

Our office bearers, Dora, Walter, Terence, Milan and Conrad, took advantage of the Orientation on 04th December, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Santacruz. The vision of the Sabha was clearly explained and the plan of action of all the 3 forums 1) Socio, Civic and Political 2) Environment and 3) Youth, were presented by the 3 respective VP's. Our Committee Members will represent each of these forums.

## CAMPAIGN DEMANDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE AMENDMENT OF THE DP PLAN OF 2022

Few of our members joined the unit at St. Blaise,

## WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER!

FROM: DEACON INACIN FERNANDES, FRS. SAVIO LOBO, JAMES D'COSTA, &. ANIL REGO



Amboli and held a candle-light Prayer Service at 5.30pm in support of the campaign.

## PROTEST AGAINST VANDALISATION OF THE GROTTO

Our unit was represented to protest against the vandalization of the grotto, opp. Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem on 24th February 2023. The protest was initiated to demand the immediate arrest of the miscreant and to investigate his motive.

## PROTEST AGAINST DEMOLITION OF CHAPEL AT SANTACRUZ

BCS members met at Vakola Police Station on 09th March, 2023. The protest was initiated to demand

the immediate filing of FIR against the developers and illegally trespassing into the premises and demolishing the chapel built in the year 1966.

#### **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:**

We request all our parishioners above the age of 18 years to be a BCS member. Forms are available with the Committee Members.

Thank-You dear Fr. Anil Rego, our Spiritual Director, for your guidance and to you dear parishioners for all your support.

> - Jasmine Nair BCS Committee Member

## DEANERY TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SCC ANIMATORS

Training Programmes at SCC level are a source of inspiration and motivation to Coordinators and Animators to carry out their service to the members of their communities. One such programme was held on Sunday, 19th February, 2023 at Sacred Heart Church, Andheri East for all SCC Animators of Andheri Deanery. Registrations were on as soon as people reached the venue. Around 180 SCC Animators including 23 from our parish attended this training program.

The programme began with a beautiful opening prayer by Our Lady Of Health Church, Versova and our very own Good Shepherd Church. The first session 'Understanding the Positives and Usage of Social Media; What is Artificial Intelligence; How can we as SCCs use these tools to our Advantage' was conducted by Neil D'Souza, Digital and Social Media Professional. He revealed the various tools/ software apps that would make life easy at the click of the button. This session was very informative, innovative and extremely interesting with user friendly topics.

After a short tea/ snack break, the second session commenced. 'SCC with SHC (Small Human Communities)' by Fr. Gerard Rodricks SJ. He spoke



of the early Christian Community being the twelve disciples of Jesus and the functioning, challenges and changes that evolved until this day. He explained the need for Small Human Communities and Inter Faith Services in our Communities. He focused on praying together as one people and on enriching each other through dialogue, prayers and sending silence peace vibrations.

In all, both the sessions were enriching and there was a good interaction with the speakers and the audience. A scrumptious lunch was served to all.

- Celine D'Souza, Zone 2 Unit 7 St. Alphonsa Community

#### PARISH FEAST





The Word 'FEAST'- F-Fun, E-ntertainment, A-nd, S-avoury, T-reats. The parish feast was an excellent combination of the above word 'FEAST' In preparation for the feast, there was a Triduum on 16th, 17th and 18th Feb followed by Eucharistic celebration on 19th Feb 2023 at 05:30 pm. The cultural committee organized a fete with games, quiz, a variety of stalls from delicious food to clothing to accessories to games. Dilkush school had its stall of all utility items made by the children. Teams were made for the games and the parishioners were on the floor enjoying and participating. Later they put on their thinking caps for



the quiz competition.

Parishioners were seen enjoying, dancing and grooving to the music. The highlight of the evening was seeing our parish priest Fr. Anil Rego playing the guitar and singing – Yellow River with the live band!! Awards for academic excellence were announced for the year 2021- 2022 and all those receiving were felicitated with a certificate and a cash prize. It was an evening well spent which ended with bonding and mingling, fun and frolic.

- Peter Gerhart



In preparations for Easter, Lenten Missions were held in the parish from 17th to 19th Mar 2023 in the **10 • FLOCK NEWS** - EASTER 2023 evenings after every mass on the church lawns. The missions were conducted by Derick Fernandes and

his team from "Jesus the Real Vine" Ministry. The Theme which said, 'Come' truly saw our parishioners attending and participating during the missions in large numbers. All 3 days were filled with praise and worship, word of God, enriching talks on repentance, marriage and forgiveness as we journey to develop a closer relationship with God. Derick on day 1 brought about the importance and need for repentance in its true sense. On day 2, the speaker Titus spoke on marriage and the relation between man and wife and Jesus' presence in the covenant of marriage. Day 3 Eleanor gave a talk on forgiveness. The missions ended with inner healing service and deliverance on the last day.

- Zynidia Michael

## LITURGY MINISTRY COURSES CONDUCTED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOMBAY

The Archdiocese Commission for Liturgy among other functions conducts basic and advance Liturgy courses for laity. Liturgy as we understand today is encounter and action; the action of Christians who belong to a community of believers in carrying out the work of God. The course contents deal with the various dimensions of the liturgy and the study reveal the depth of the various actions undertaken in liturgy. Being community centred, all those who assist in making the liturgy meaningful collaborate towards proper fulfilment of the liturgy, which includes the Sacristan, Altar-servers, Commentator, Cantor and/ or choir, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist among so many others.

In view of the pandemic, the Liturgy office conducted online sessions for both the Basic as also the Advanced Liturgy Courses consecutively in the years 2021 and 2022. The Professors who were hand-picked for conducing the twelve sessions (2 per month), per course, were an authority on the subject matter, and it is a matter of pride that our Archdiocese boasts of so many talented Priests. Equally talented were the three women Professors which included a Religious Sister.

The program was seen to have both its own advantages and disadvantages. The disadvantages being the Resource persons were not able to relate to participants as in an in-person atmosphere. However it was felt that the advantages were many first being that 61 participants (a bumper crop as per Fr. Savio de Sales, Secretary, Commission for Liturgy!) completed the Basic course against a restricted number traditionally. Besides the ones from Bombay Diocese, there were a couple of them from outside Mumbai and also one from outside the country!! All the Professors ensured that we remained awake and attentive throughout the sessions by making the sessions as interactive as possible. The only challenge for the participants was announcement of assignments after every session with a fairly strict deadline for submission of the assignments. This made us scan many documents of the Church like

Scrosanctum Consillium, Dies Domini, Scramentum Cariatis, Musicam Sacrum, Catechism of the Catholic Church to name a few.

It was an enriching experience for all the participants. The culmination of the course was the Graduation Day at the Pauline Media Centre, Bandra. A beautiful and meaningful prayer service was put together by the Liturgy office where all the participants of the course were involved. Keynote address on Liturgy and Youth with a modern outlook of Liturgy was delivered by Sr. Joeyanna D'Souza, FSP during the graduation of the Basic course in March 2022 and keynote address in the year 2023 was delivered by Fr. Luke Rodrigues SJ, on a very relevant topic Liturgy and Ecology.

Bishop John Rodrigues, in-Charge of the Commission for Liturgy did the honours of presenting the certificates and the Score card!!

Having successfully completed both the courses I feel I have become rich, rather richer in my understanding of Liturgy. As St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians, Ch.2, v.9 – What no eye has seen, nor ear heard nor the human heart conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. This sums up my experience at the Liturgy courses. I was washed clean in my mind about the correct understanding of the richness in Liturgy. The church in all her wisdom guided by the Holy Spirit brings us so near to the Father through Jesus. I remain in awe at every mass that I now attend. I am now able to immerse myself into the depth of the Liturgy of the Word which is so so rich. I am now aware that during the Liturgy of the Eucharist that Heaven joins the Earth in the moments of timelessness. The Liturgy that is celebrated at the Altar is the foretaste of the Liturgy which is being celebrated in Heaven.

In conclusion, I'd like to encourage many more to undertake the Liturgy Courses and partake in the enrichment and experience the unique beauty and meaning of the Liturgy

> - Cecilia Banz Zone II, Unit 2 (Rosary Community)

### **AWARD FOR MRS. ALEX AIYAR**



All of you will be delighted to know that on the occasion of Women's day this year, Mrs. Alexandrina Barreto Xavier Aiyar, our parishioner was specially honoured with "THE NARI SAMMAN PURASKAR", an award for her selfless service rendered to society at large and N. Dutta Marg in particular. The award was presented by our respected M.L.A Shri Ameet Satam.

This is but one of the recognition conferred on her and on the N. Dutta Marg ALM over the last several years.

I have known Mrs. Aiyar closely for over twenty years. Both of us reside on N. Dutta Marg. She took voluntary retirement in 1998, as Senior Manager, State Bank of India, after 35 years of service. Previously, she was employed with Banco Nacional Ultramarino, Goa till its merger with State Bank of India, after liberation in December 1961.

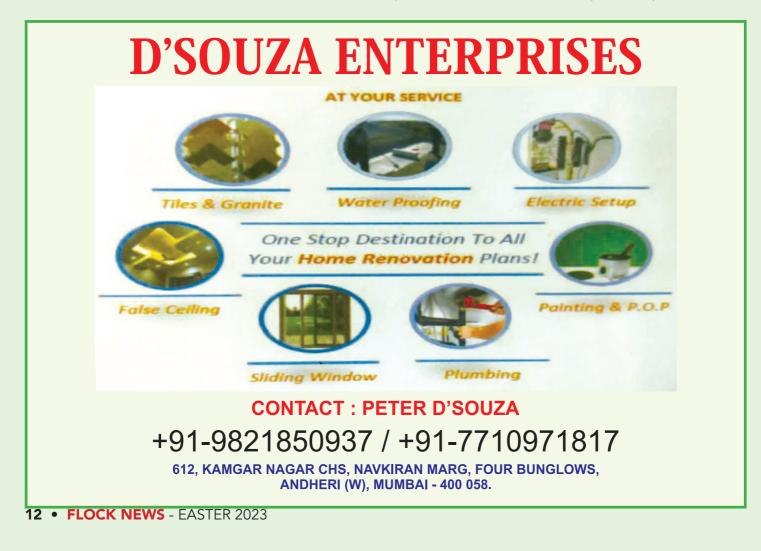
She always had a passion for social work. Her long stint with SBI where she worked with people of all communities imbued her with an innate sense of secularism. She was determined to do social work for the community at large and not any particular segment.

As is evident, her sartorial sense too, is a testimony to her secularism. This has led to her widespread acceptability among the entire gamut of MCGM employees. She is as comfortable interacting with the roadside sweepers as with the officers in the higher echelons.

Alongwith, Dr. Mrs.Lalita Bhat, Mrs. Shashi Lodha and others she started the N. Dutta Marg Environmental Group in the year 2000.

She is highly alert and very energetic. She is a real livewire and brightens up any gathering.

Over the years she has cultivated an excellent personal relationship with the MCGM, the local Police and with persons across all hues of the political spectrum.



Thanks to her efforts N. Dutta Marg has been consistently adjudged as the "cleanest and greenest road" in K(West) ward.

And thanks to her relationship, the authorities have been very cooperative. The newly painted walls of the church, convent and other buildings along our road are proof enough of her persuasive abilities.

She is also largely instrumental in forming the N. Dutta Marg Senior Citzen's MUSIC MANCH. The

Manch brings together Senior Citizens on a common platform every fortnight to bring some cheer into their otherwise mundane lives.

On behalf of all parishioners, I extend our heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Alexandrina Aiyar on her prestigious conferment. We wish her continued success in all her future endeavours and a long life filled with peace and contentment.

- Oscar Mendes

## **GREEN CELL- CARE FOR CREATION**



The effects of climate change are hazardous and are affecting every aspect of life be it human, marine, flora and fauna.

One needs to be the change to bring about any kind of change.

I firmly believe; when two or more persons are involved in a common goal, the results are accomplished faster. The word TEAM for me is - 'Together Everyone Achieves More'.

Keeping the above in mind the 'Green Cell Team' of Good Shepherd Parish was formed in November 2021 under the guidance of Fr. Anil Rego. Our team of 7 aim in caring for nature, contributing towards the environment and reducing carbon emissions.

After brain storming, it was decided to first focus on 3 areas- recycling of plastic, e-waste and wet waste composting. The team has initiated recycling of plastic and e waste. Bins are marked for placing plastic and e waste for recycling in the parish premises. The parish is registered with Bisleri which carries out the pick up every Friday. From July 2022 till date the parish has recycled 174 kilos of plastic. E waste recycling is carried out by Eco Reco and is done on a monthly basis.

We also initiated wet waste composting for the parish. The staff at the parish were educated on the items that need to be kept aside for converting wet waste into manure. A separate bin for composting is placed near the grotto. The converted manure is used as a fertilizer for the various plants within the church premises.



You will agree that anything to do with climate change, environment related is an ongoing process and will always remain ongoing.

The upcoming tasks that will be undertaken are the wet waste composting workshop for the parishioners which is scheduled on 26th March 2023. We will also be rolling the concept of recycling and using ecofriendly products across the parish communities, neighbourhood, individual societies so on and so forth.

Myself Jasmine on behalf of the team thank the parishioners for their contribution till date and we look forward to your continuous support in 'Caring for Creation'

> - Jasmine Nair Green Cell Team.

## SCC BLEAT - NEWS

#### ZONE 2 - UNIT 5 : ST. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY

#### **OCTOBER ROSARY**

Our Unit members in Model Town, had a beautiful Rosary month where Mother Mary visited most of our houses and spent a day with us. Many families invited their near and dear ones, neighbours, animators and recited the Rosary together as one family. Beautiful altars were made with flowers for Mother Mary's visitation. On the last day, after the rosary, we bonded and shared in the snacks and cold-drinks that were served. Indeed, we had a lovely time interacting with one another.



#### **ANNUAL FEAST DAY**

We have St. Andrew as our Patron Saint and on 30th November, the Feast Day our Community celebrated with mass at 7.30pm and a wonderful get-to-together at Gloria Building in Model Town. Fr. James, Spiritual Head for our unit, visited and conducted the mass which had a lively gathering of around 45 people in attendance post Covid. Fr. James was happy with the turn out and blessed 2 new animators for our Community. After Mass, we had a fellowship with snacks and a game of Housie followed by Pahadi Biryani served to all. We enjoyed a good evening of bonding made possible with the united efforts of our Animators.

As part of our Community Social Responsibility, our unit members donated clothes, utensils, crockery, newspapers, books, bedsheets, electronic items like mixer-grinder, flasks and even a new bed with mattress, food grains and food items, etc. to Sneha Sagar Ashram at Malad West.

#### **CRIB COMPETITION**

We are happy to announce that our Unit won the First Prize for the Crib competition. It had been put up in Sangeet Building in Model Town. Thanks to Monis family for the wonderful theme and creativity and all community members.

#### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

On Ash Wednesday, we took the Holy Cross from the Church. The Holy Cross is taken by each and every family in the Unit and kept in their homes for a day. Prayers and stations of the cross are being said with their family members and passed on to the next family. This Lenten season let us foster a spirit of Prayer, Fasting and Penance.

- Annet Lobo

## **ST AMBROSE COMMUNITY ZONE V UNIT II**



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Most students are deeply stressed during their examinations. A prayer service to invoke the help of the Lord on behalf of all our STUDENTS appearing for the board exams was conducted.

Members and students gathered on March 1, 2023, for prayers in one of the member's home. Likewise, a housewise devotion for the HOMEBOUND based on the prayer – FIVE WOUNDS OF JESUS was also conducted on the 11 th March 2023.

The elderly and the homebound were able to reflect and pray along with community members in attendance.

Both these services were conducted by Mrs. Esther Henriques along with the animators and members of the community.

- ADALINE ALPHONSO

## **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ZONE 3 UNIT 1**

The animators of Immaculate Conception Community, Zone 3 Unit 1 organized a pilgrimage to Infant Jesus Shrine, Nashik on 18th February. Fifty of us all excited assembled at the Swami Samarth circle early morning, boarded the bus and started our journey around 7am. One of our animators led us in prayer of protection followed by a hymn. We were served with snack boxes for breakfast . We then sang hymns followed by some yester years melodious party songs. Most of us participated and enjoyed the journey. We reached the Shrine just in time for the Eucharistic Celebration. The Shrine was packed with devotee's from Mumbai and around. After the service we all met at the Shrine cafeteria for a delicious, sumptuous lunch. Later most of us dispersed in various directions : writing petitions, donations, clicking pictures, etc. Some of us spent time in silent prayer.

As it was time to leave the Shrine, we assembled in front of the Shrine for a memorable group picture. We then boarded the bus for departure. The onward



journey was spent in reciting the rosary, singing hymns and party songs, housie and antakshari.

Our sincere thanks to the sponsor of the bus and breakfast. Thanks to all our animators who made this

pilgrimage possible. It was indeed a prayerful and enjoyable one. God bless them all.

- Community Member

## THE DOMINIC SAVIO COMMUNITY

A Visit to the house of charity On March 4, 2023. The Dominic Savio community, Zone 3, unit 6 had organized a visit to the House of Charity at Versova. There were 25 inmates at the home, with the youngest being age 16 and the eldest being 60 years. They were disabled and Spastic inmates, majority of them were on wheelchairs. The sisters at the home were taking very good care of all the inmates. The community purchased pulses, grains, toiletries etc and gave it to the sisters at the home. We also gave a cash donation of Rs 10,000/- to the sisters for purchasing the other needs of the inmates. After spending an hour with the inmates, we visited the Chapel where the blessed Sacrament was placed. The animators would like to thank all the donors from the Dominic Savio community for their donation and also all the members who organized this visit.

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Organized at the RRC Grounds, Secunderabad on 18-19 March 2023

Date:

Dr. Surekha Ramachandran President - DSFI

## HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY – ZONE III UNIT VII

Our community brings out the very essence of its name and helps each and every member of the Community to live like the Holy Family.

I recently joined as an animator of this community and was welcomed as a youth representative.

In the month of October, wecelebrated the month of rosary. The families in the community welcomed Our Mother with great joy after the pandemic. Rosary was prayed at the member's homes along with veneration of Mother Mary. The statue of Mother Mary was taken to homes in the community in processions. We sang hymns, prayed, asked Mother Mary to intercede for



us and thanked her for her abundant blessings and care. Community rosary brought all the members of the Holy Family together under one roof praying like a huge family.

We had a wedding in our community. It felt like it was a wedding in our own homes. A few days prior to the wedding, the bride, Sheryl Mendonca was blessed by the elders of the community and a prayer service was held attended by children, youth and adults. She was anointed with holy oil andshowered withblessings, wishes and love by the community members.

Our Community Thanksgiving Mass was held in the church, celebrated by our Spiritual Director, Fr. Savio. He prayed for our Community members and made us feel special. We had a little fellowship after mass.

During this season of Lent we brought the Cross from the Church to our homes. Each family kept the Cross for 4 days and The Stations of the Cross was held every Monday and Thursday. Members attended these stations and we pondered on the passion of the Lord.

We also provided grocery to the poor children coming to the Good Shepherd Convent as a Lenten mission work.

I thank God for given me this opportunity to work in His vineyard as an animator and member of the Holy Family Community.

By Anna Shirke

## **EPIPHANY COMMUNITY: ZONE II UNIT 6**



Epiphany community participated in the parish Inter community crib competition in the month of December 2022 and won the second prize. Trophy to the winning communities were given on New Year Eve Mass. This served as an immense motivation to the entire community as this was the first time when our community came forward for the parish competition and all felt encouraged to do even better the next time. Further, our community celebrated the Epiphany Feast on 9th January 2023 for the first time after covid pandemic. The feasting began with the celebration of Epiphany Feast Massby Fr. Savio accompanied by Deacon Inacin at St. Mary's High School (MHADA) which was specially dedicated to the members that our community has lost during pandemic and the well-being of our community. The Mass was held in the evening followed by fellowship.



It was wonderful to see around 100 people enthusiastically looking forward for this celebration and reunion. The fellowship began with the serving of snacks. There were games like Bombing the city and musical chairs where children to senior citizen, everyone participated and enjoyed themselves to the fullest.

Annual felicitation and appreciation was held where prizes were given to top 3 winners of Mother Mary's Decoration competition that was announced in the month of October 2023. Prizes were also given for regular attendance for house to house rosary conducted with procession within the community. Our 2 special kids of the community were also appreciated with gifts, chocolates were distributed all the toddlers and children present and all were immensely joyful.

Towards the end there was dancing, fun, jokes and bonding. From children to senior citizens all had fun

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and dancing moments together. Finally, after the celebration, before returning to our homes, dinner boxes were given against the coupons and all left with an evening so memorable.

Moreover, Lenten season is around and all of us are engaged in prayers and devotion. Our community prayed the stations of the cross in each of the 3 clusters every weekend. Posters displaying 14 stations were prepared and holding them throughout the way of the cross added to the prayerful experience.

Thanking each and every member of Epiphany Community for their vibrant response and all the efforts and time that they sneak out from their busy schedules to come together and show a sense of bonding for each other. God Bless us all...!!

#### **By Remita Fernandes**

[Coordinator of Epiphany CommunityZone II Unit 6]

## **ST. SEBASTIAN'S COMMUNITY**

To bring the Spirit of Christmas to St. Sebastian's Community, we participated in the Star Competition, emphasizing conveying the message of Christ's birth in a simple yet meaningful way. Our brainstorming resulted in the caption "HOPE IS BORN," signifying that Jesus is our hope and brings salvation to all mankind. Our 10 ft. x 10 ft. star, strategically positioned in a prominent location, conveyed our wishes for Christmas & New Year 2023. We were delighted to win 1st prize in the competition, a testament to what can be accomplished through teamwork and commitment. As part of our Christmas service, we donated books to 20 street students being educated by the Sona Sarovar Trust in a slum area in Oshiwara. We presented each student with 20 books of Capital and Small English Alphabets, numbers 1 to 50 and 1 to 100, and Maths Workbooks for Nursery and Junior KG students. The kids' excitement upon receiving the books was heart-warming, and we also distributed bananas and spent quality time with them. Thanks to our generous members for contributing to this cause and making a positive impact on the lives of these underprivileged children.

In January 2023, we visited the House of Charity and donated adult diapers in different sizes and grocery items. The House of Charity provides unique services



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to disabled, handicapped, and special children aged 12 to 60. During our visit, we spent over two hours with the inmates and were struck by their gratitude despite their disabilities. We fed them during their early dinner and were reminded of the importance of serving our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

In the same month, six of our animators assisted the tribal sales in the counters, after each mass organised by our Parish and initiated by CSA, Archdiocese of Bombay. In February, we celebrated the Community Feast on 22nd January 2023, officiated by Fr. Anil Rego. As the date could not accommodate a Community Gathering, we had an amazing picnic at Velankanni Villa, Madh Island on 25th February 2023. The community enjoyed games, music, sing-song sessions, and delicious food, which facilitated social interaction, sharing & community spirit, and fostered beautiful bonding among the Community.

Three of our Animators participated in the Deanery Training Programme which was an excellent initiative, informative and eye-opening, understanding the importance of AI in our day-to-day functioning, its pros & cons, improving communicating skills, etc.

In March, we visited The Little Sisters of the Poor at Andheri East. Lent is an ideal time for us to show our love & concern for those who need it the most. We organized a game of Housie, served them snacks & chocolates, and had a sing-along session for the residents. Seeing the joy and smiles on their faces was heartening, but we also recognize the pain and sadness they may feel from being away from their loved ones. Visiting them brightens their day, and we were grateful for the opportunity to bring joy, love, care, and attention to them.

In the same month, Fr. Anil Rego visited five sick/homebound community members and was

accompanied by two of our animators. Our community also provided two readers in English & Konkani for the Holy Hour and Way of Cross respectively.

Every Month, the ladies of our community organise Our Lady's Rosary & Prayers, held atthe residence of a member for upholding the Community, Religious, Parish & Others in prayer and fostering bonding and community spirit.

#### - ALOMA FERNANDES

• R.I.P. •



Reynolds Polycarp (R.P. Roy) 21.6.1953 - 17.3.2023

Ex-Indian Institution of Plant Engineers (National Vice President-West), Shri Bhagubhai Mafatlal Polytechnic (DME), St. Michael's High School Beloved H/o Mary Reynolds, F/o Burt/Carol/Kris Reynolds. Gf/o Emma, S/o Late Raphael and Annie Polycarp, Brother of Pearl, Paul and Sybil. Son-in-law of Late Mr.Pappoo Valooran and Mrs. Lily Pappoo, Brother-in-law of David Chandy, Elizabeth Paul, John Mathew, Pascal & Grace Valooran.

Roy to most of us and Reynolds Polycarp to the rest.. the ever-smiling 'man with a mission & vision' with an indomitable spirit.

To describe him in one line, one would say "If you see a man on the street without a smile, give him one of Roy's and make him happy as Roy's infectious smile is simply irresistible."

A prolific writer, as his captivating blogs bear true testimony to his incredible knowledge and creativity in various fields that labels Roy as a 'Man of all Seasons'.

His amazing passion for social work reflects the highest credit on his philanthropic spirit for our Good Shepherd Church and other social causes which include the renovation work of Oshiwara cemetery, the successful handling of various camps in different fields of finance & portfolio management and doctors from dental, ENT, Ophthalmology etc. not to mention the friendly master of zoom meetings on wellness, culinary and the famous housieman.

All this speaks volumes of the gregarious Roy in one sentence "Precious stones are packed in little parcels."

Roy is survived by his wife Mary with her 2 lambs - sons Burt & Kris.

**MILESTONES** 

#### **BAPTISMS**

Date of Baptism	Date of Birth	Name	Parents
22-1-2023	21-9-2022	IVAN ALDRICH	IAN AND SHARON D'SOUZA
19-02-2023	10-1-2023	ISABEL	SACHIN AND ALPHONSA KSHATRIYA
19-02-2023	22-1-2023	BREVYN	BERNARD AND VANESSA FERNANDES
12-03-2023	24-1-2022	AGNES	AARON AND XUEYING FERNANDES

#### **MARRIAGES**

Date	Name
10-12-2022	JOYSON D'SOUZA AND SHERYL PATRICK MENDONCA
17-12-2022	SUNEET RUSSEL AND KARISHMA VELAN
18-12-2022	BRENDON RYAN ALVARES AND NISHITA SHASHIKANT CHAVAN
20-12-2022	AKHILESH MAITRA AND CHANTELLE RACHAEL SALDANHA
21-12-2022	LALIT SHARMA AND ESTHER RANI EDWARD
22-12-2022	MONDAR CHAUDHURY AND MELANIE VIRGINIA D'SOUZA
28-01-2023	SIDDHARTH JAMES KANTHARIA AND LINNET DEVDASS
05-02-2023	LEROY FERNANDES AND LETICIA FRANCIS
11-02-2023	CLIVE MAC QUADROS AND AMRITA HARRIET DE SOUZA

### DEATHS

Date	Name	Age	Address
17-11-2022	REGINALD JEROME D'CUNHA	84 YRS	GURUPRASAD CHS LTD, 6/C/003, 2ND CROSS ROAD, LOKHANDWALA, ANDHERI
01-12-2022	ELSY JOSEPH	74 YRS	U - B/503 OAKLAND PARK, YAMUNA NAGAR, ANDHERI (W)
20-12-2022	ALPHONSUS SOUZA	78 YRS	EMPIRE CHS, BLDG. NO 24, B-309, LOKHANDWALA COMPLEX, ANDHERI (W)
01-01-2023	GERARD ANTHONY LA CROIX	74 YRS	102 A, KANCHANGANGA APNA GHAR CHSL, 1ST CROSS ROAD, LOKHANDWALA
17-01-2023	MARTHA GABRIEL D'SOUZA	91 YRS	E-4, MANISH NAGAR, FOUR BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W)
19-01-2023	FELICIDADE FERNANDES	71 YRS	D/304, LAXMI RATAN CHS LTD, RATAN NAGAR, FOUR BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W)
29-01-2023	CAEDMON PATRICK TREVOR D'MELLO	78 YRS	A-5, KANWAL APTS, FOUR BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W)
30-01-2023	SANDRA ESTELLITA FERNANDES	53 YRS	FLAT NO. 601, SHIVAM, NR. BON BON, SEVEN BUNGALOWS
21-02-2023	ASSUMPTION RODRIGUES	69 YRS	E/66/47 MANISH NAGAR, FOUR BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W)
26-02-2023	MATHEW D'SOUZA	80 YRS	2/10 VITHALWADI, AZAD NAGAR, J.P. ROAD, ANDHERI (W)
27-02-2023	REGINALD ROSARIO HEREDIA	82 YRS	505-506, 15, INDRA DARSHAN, OFF. LINK ROAD, ANDHERI (W)
06-03-2023	SIMON ROZARIO	67 YRS	A/3 VARSHA CHS, MODEL TOWN, FOUR BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W)
17-03-2023	REYNOLDS POLYCARP	69 YRS	C-102, PLOT 2/3/4, MANISH GARDEN CHS, FOUR BUNGALOWS ANDHERI (W) MUMBAI

## **EASTER HOUSE BLESSING PRAYER**

HYMN:
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We are gathering together unto Him (2) Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be We are gathering together unto Him We are praising together unto Him (2) ...



**LEADER:** God our Father, with Easter joy we have gathered around the family altar. Look upon this family in your love and give us the blessing of your peace. Let your Spirit of joy fill our hearts, so that we may be holy and happy. May our concern for others reflect your love and bring us happiness throughout our lives. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (2:17-22)

And Jesus canme and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

#### The Word of the Lord.

**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS:** Leader: Let us pray to Jesus, our Lord, that he may bless and give peace to our house. Our Response is: Stay with us, Lord

- Through your obedience to Mary and Joseph you consecrated family life; make our family holy by your presence. For this we pray ...
- You made your own family the model of prayer, of love and of obedience to your Father's will; pour down your abundant graces on our family. For this we pray ...
- You loved those who were close to you and they returned your love; bind our family and all the families in our parish together in the bonds of peace and love for each other. For this we pray ...
- At Cana, when a new family was beginning, you gladdened it with your first miracle, changing water into wine; accompany us in our sorrows, struggles and worries, and change them into joy. For this we pray ...
- You healed the sick and forgave the sinner. May all those in our family who are suffering from ill health experience your forgiveness and healing. For this we pray ...
- We now pray in silence for the members of this family, who have gone before us marked with a sign of faith ... (pause for a few moments & if possible the family can name those who have died) ... Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls rest in peace. Amen

#### Our Father ... Hail Mary, Holy Mary ... Glory be ...

**Leader:** Let us pray. Blessed are you, 0 Lord. At the Passover in Egypt, you kept unharmed the houses of your people that were sprinkled with the blood of a lamb. Bless and protect our family and home that will be sprinkled with this Holy Water. We implore you to pour the richness of your graces and peace on this house and keep all who dwell here always in your love and safe from harm and danger. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the

unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(The family members greet each other with a sign of peace as they sing the final hymn followed by the head of the home sprinkling holy water on the family and the home)

HYMN: Jesus is the joy of living; He's the King of life to me Unto Him my all



I'm giving; His forevermore to be I will do what He commands me; anywhere He leads I'll go Jesus is the joy of living; He's the dearest friend I know I have found a wondrous Saviour; Jesus Christ, my soul's delight Every blessing of His favour; Fills my heart with hope so bright



## **Jesus The Easter Light**

Jesus the begotten Son of Mary his Mother, A precious gift to Humanity sent by his Heavenly Father. Wonders of Wonder was He, taught the doctors and priests of high Order, Astonished at His prodigy, shocked and were left in deep ponder.

Along with apostles, He travelled on muddy roads and sandy soils far and wide, Performing miracles and healings,unconcerned of His life and tide, Assuring the crowd, He is the Truth, the Light and the Way to His Father, Beseeching them for conversion and sin no more to save the world from asunder.

Oh! said some, this man has come to team us his heavenly laws, Ridiculed Him with palms as a Son of God, since they had a fear of what they saw. Jesus foreseen the vision of thorny crown, nails and a heavy cross to behold, Blood sweat He knelt, remembering the time and by whom He would be sold.

> They had Him dragged to Pilate as a criminal thief, Enraged with the crowd, asked Pilate for all His briefs. "Son of God says He" they sarcastically replied,

"Not our God, but Caesar" said they with an unscrupulous pride.

A heavy cross they laid on his shoulder, dragged Him to the Golgotha trail, With a thorny crown, oozing blood, He was thirsty, tired, and frail. Mercilessly they had his hands and feet nailed to the cross to putHim to shame, "Truly Truly" cried some "He is the Son of God and will never lose his fame." Calling out to his Father God, He bowed His head and that was his last, Great indeed His death on the Cross revered by all and till date never treated past. His Love for humanity, Father God, let not go off His Son's death to plight,

#### He risenHim up on the third day, so that we have Jesus theEaster Light. HAPPY EASTER!

By Maria Janardhan, Zone V – Unit I



## **SHEPHERD'S VOICE**

• "Our old history begins and ends with the cross. Our new history begins with our resurrection & quot;"

"And all that is therein; invisible and visible. Their notes let all things blend, for Christ, the Lord is risen. Our joy that hath no end."

- Saint John of Damascus

- Watchman Nee

— Byron Pulsifer

• "Easter is a time to rejoice, be thankful, be assured that all is forgiven, so life extends beyond the soil of the earth."

#### We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.

Martin Luther King, Jr.
"I believe in Christ like I believe in the sun. Not because I can see it but by it, I can see everything else."

#### — C.S. Lewis

• "To summarize, Easter Sunday is the most important Sunday. It is the Sunday of all Sundays. It is the day of the new beginning of the entire cosmos, the day of resurrection. It is the soul's first taste of spring."

#### - Robert E. Webber

- "The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise." — Carl Knudsen
- "Love always involves responsibility, and love always involves sacrifice. And we do not really love Christ unless we are prepared to face His task and to take up His Cross." — William Barclay



# **DIVINE MERCY**

#### DIVINE MERCY NOVENA & TRIDUUM 7th - 15th April, 2023

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA 7th - 15th April 2023 (Beginning Good Friday)

- 7<sup>th</sup> April On Good Friday immediately after Three Hours Agony
- 8<sup>th</sup> April Holy Saturday at 9.00am
- 9<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday after 10.00 am Mass

10th - 15th April - After 7.00 am and 7.00 pm Mass

**TRIDUUM WITH PREACHING by Our Own Good Shepherds** 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023 during 7.00pm mass

#### SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST MASS

Sunday, 16th April,2023 at 10.00 am followed by Holy Hour @ 11.00 am

- MARIA JANARDHAN & TEAM

#### BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED 1 PETER 2:24



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