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APRIL 2025

# FLOCK news

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI -400053.

HE IS  
*Risen*

## VISION

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





# OSHIWARA LOKHANDWALA CITIZENS FOUNDATION (OLCF)



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|    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 04 | SUFFERING AND FAITH               |
| 06 | SHEPHERD'S<br>VOICE – INSPIRATION |
| 06 | PARISH BLEAT (NEWS)               |
| 09 | SCC BLEAT (NEWS)                  |
| 15 | MISCELLANEOUS                     |
| 23 | MILESTONES                        |

**WISHING YOU A  
JOYOUS EASTER**

**MAY THE RISEN LORD  
FILL YOUR HEARTS & HOMES  
WITH HIS UNDYING JOY &  
LOVE THAT WILL DISPEL  
ALL DESPAIR & PAIN.**

**From : Frs. Anil Rego,  
Joseph Mathew, Frankie Crasto &  
Dn. Fredrick Correa.**



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## SUFFERING & FAITH

**I**n Life, we often wonder why things happen the way they do. Why do innocent people suffer?? Why is there sickness & disease? Why are there calamities like floods and earthquakes that take the life of so many people? Why do the wicked & evil prosper?? Why does God seem absent or silent??? In situations like this our FAITH is called into play.

Abraham, our Father in Faith, had a very difficult life. He could not comprehend the events that unfolded in his life much less face them. But we are told that He did not question God. He just SUBMITTED TO HIS WILL.

God first tells Abraham to leave his homeland Ur (which is in present day Iraq) and go to a land He was going to show him the land of Canaan ( present day Israel). God promises to make him a great nation and bless him a hundredfold – (Gen. 12: 1-2). Abraham was well settled in Ur with large tracts of land and cattle and a lot of servants. For him to leave all that he had in Ur and move with cattle and servants to a strange land must have been heart wrenching. We are told that Abraham obeyed God and did move to Canaan – the land of Israel, that is the most fertile land in that area. The biggest source of income in Israel today is Agriculture. Those of us who have been to the Holy land must have seen the vast tracts of land under cultivation and vegetation. Which is why every country in the neighbourhood wants a piece of that land. Which is why there is so much of conflict and peace is elusive in that land. Abraham went to Canaan and was indeed blessed a hundred fold.

And then God tells Abraham that his descendants will be as many as the stars in the sky. (Gen. 15: 5-6.) This was laughable to say the least as Abraham & Sarah were advanced in age and were past childbearing, but Abraham did not laugh. He believed in God's promise. **GOD DID KEEP HIS PROMISE.** Today the followers of the 3 major religions in the world – Christianity, Islam & Judaism consider themselves to be the descendants of Abraham. Think of all the Christians, Muslims & Jews over centuries and indeed they are like the stars in the sky. There were many other challenging situations that Abraham had to face that were beyond his comprehension. Abraham totally submitted to the will of God.

In life we are often faced with suffering & trials. And we often ask why is God doing this to us?

The thing to remember about suffering is:

1. The fact is that all of us have our share of sufferings, trials and blessing. The sad thing is that most of us think that we are the only ones suffering.
2. The second fact about suffering is that it is 'Not Permanent'. All suffering is for a given time and temporary. Even a terminal sickness is temporary. It ends in inevitable death, which is the final healer.
3. Suffering is like garbage. It does not feel good or smell good. But it makes wonderful fertilizer. Fertilizer makes plants and trees grow well. If we endure suffering with fortitude & faith in God like Abraham, Job, Mother Mary and our own Lord Jesus, we will come out of it stronger & wiser. Jesus showed us that there is No Crown without the Cross. No Gain without Pain.

I do not know if it has struck you that the 2 races that have suffered the most in the last 100 years are today the most progressive and accomplished races today – the Jews & the Japanese.

The Jews suffered tremendously in World War II. Six million perished. The rest who survived had horrific stories to tell of their treatment in concentration camps. The Japanese suffered the horror of the atom bombs that devastated that nation.

Today the Jews are the most advanced in science, research, business, law and the arts. They have produced a lot of inventors in recent years – Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton to name a few. They are the most successful community in America today. Though they are a small community, they are a considerable minority. They wield a lot of influence, which is why America cannot take any stand against Israel. Comedians in America make fun of the Catholic Church and the Pope, but they dare not make fun of the Jews or their Rabbis, because their lawyers will take those comedians to the cleaners. Look how mighty the small nation of Israel is today!.

About the Japanese you all know how disciplined, hardworking and productive they are.

So suffering, trials and hardships bring out the best in us. History has proved. Salvation history has so many examples.

The renowned singer and musician, Eric Clapton was nominated several times for the Grammys. The only time he won it was for the song that was his best 'Tears in Heaven'. He wrote it in grief for his small son who tragically died in a freak accident.

So hang in there and in this season of Lent let us remind ourselves that suffering is redemptive. They are there for a purpose.

I would like to end with the beautiful words of a song:

### **God on the Mountain**

1. Life is easy, when you're up on the mountain  
you've got peace of mind, like you've never known  
But, things change, when you're down in the valley  
Don't lose faith, for you're never alone.
- Ch. For the God on the mountain, is still God in the valley  
When things go wrong, He'll make them right  
And the God of the good times, is still God in the bad times  
The God of the day, is still God in the night
2. You talk of faith, when you're up on the mountain  
But talk comes, so easy, when life's at it's best  
Now it's down in the valleys, of trials and temptations  
That's where your faith, is really put to the test.

*- Fr. Anil Rego*  
*Parish Priest*

## Shepherd's Voice - Inspiration

“The Resurrection is God's “Amen!”  
to Christ's statement, “It is finished.” - S. Lewis Johnson

“Easter is the demonstration  
of God that life is essentially  
spiritual and timeless.  
- Charles M. Crowe, Pastor

“On Easter Day the veil between time and eternity  
thins to gossamer.” - Douglas Horton

“We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when  
his light illuminates the dark moments of our  
existence.” — Pope Francis

“Let the resurrection joy  
lift us from loneliness  
and weakness and  
despair to strength and  
beauty and happiness  
- Floyd W. Tomkins

## Parish Bleat (News)

### PARISH FEAST - 2025

On 02nd February, our parish lawns were lit up not only in lights but also by the energy of the wonderful parishioners who gathered in large numbers to celebrate the much awaited Parish Feast. ‘The GOOD SHEPHERD FIESTA’ as it was called had something in store for everyone, the young, the youth and the young at heart.

From game stalls organised by our ever-energetic youth that tested the skill, it was also fun to see face-painting, fashion stalls and also the white elephant stall, because charity and giving is always part of the parish values. Let's not forget the food stalls with mouth-watering delicacies put up both by our talented parishioners as well as external outlets gave our guests a sumptuous choice from chaat to barbecue, to snacks and chinese and then the Goan, East Indian and Mangalorean favourites. The trending 360 degree camera capturing fun videos was an attraction that was well received by all.

The scintillating kids dance competition as well as that of the open category for the waltz, jive and the cha cha kept all eyes glued to the floor and feet tapping and hands clapping to the music. Good Shepherd Parish has surely got talent and loads of it!. Our youth opened the evening with some great songs and even greater singing! What an awesome opening it was that set the pace for the rest of the evening!. Once the floor opened everyone took to enjoying themselves like there was no tomorrow.

The spot prizes and the lucky draw took the cake with its raffle that was floated earlier and the lucky winners took home some big prize vouchers.

Fr. Anil's welcome to Deacon Fredrick's jokes, Sylvia's melodious singing to the fiesta march conducted by yours truly, Bianca, what a hit this evening was!! Truly an evening of not just camaraderie but also bonding and a feeling of family that each and everyone present there felt.

Gratitude to our parish priests, our sponsors, youth group and volunteers that curated both the evening and the stalls. Until next year, keep the community flame burning and spirits high at Good Shepherd Parish!

-Bianca Rosemeyer





## APPRECIATION DAY - 2025

### Snippets:

Putting together any event needs a lot of effort and team work and plenty of enthusiasm too.

Our parish events organised through the spiritual calendar of the year is a reflection of all of the above by our Parish Pastoral Council, Small Christian Communities, various Cells and Associations of our parish along with the support of our Parish Fathers. To acknowledge these efforts of the various associations is what the

'Appreciation Day' is all about and why it is held.

This year too on 19th January we had organised Appreciation Day and like each year it was quite a success for all the efforts gone into it. We had some entertainment organised by our youth and good music to dance to as well. Fr. Anil Rego, Fr. Frankie and Dn. Fredrick shared words of gratitude. Dora Martis gave a vote of thanks, not forgetting the entire event was compered by our very own Remita Fernandes.

*- Percy Pereira*

Appreciation day is a special day to honour the unsung Hero's & Heroine's who work tirelessly both in front and behind the scenes in the day-to-day activities of the church and other church events during the calendar year. The day was truly well organized with good decor, excellent entertainment, music, games and not forgetting the food, which was awesome!. Let's continue to support one another and celebrate other people's success by learning from our challenges.

*- Clarence Pereira*

## SENIOR CITIZENS 'GOLDEN HEARTS' - PICNIC

We organized a one-day picnic at Velankanni villa, Madh Island on 03rd March for the members of Golden Hearts of Good Shepherd Parish. The excitement of the picnic started early in the morning at 8:30 am, meeting all the picnickers at the Versova Jetty. The boat ride was cool and short. On the other side everyone engaged to share a rickshaw and reached our destination.

Once at the villa, cake was distributed followed by breakfast. After a good breakfast, Joan organized an introductory game - getting to know all the members better. Loretta organized 2 group games - alphabets as hints to form the word. It was fun, racking our brain performing our best. Deacon Fredrick exercised with us to a little different song of dancing and also organized a target group game with 4 groups, aiming their best to score the highest points to be the winners. We enjoyed and danced to the DJ music. Deacon led us to the grace and we all had a delicious lunch, not forgetting dudi halva which just melted in our mouths.

The best part started after a heavy lunch, 'Housie' conducted by Peter Lobo and Clarence Pereira. All were thrilled with their winning amount. At 4 pm tea was served with biscuits and colorful delicious

pancakes. A surprise lucky prize was called out by Xavier and given to 4 lucky picnickers.

It was a day of fun and everyone enjoyed like little children - collecting their gifts, prizes and returned home happily eagerly waiting for the next picnic. God bless the Golden Hearts Committee for organizing this beautiful and enjoyable picnic. Thank you all.

*- Sylvia Chang*

## SENIOR CITIZENS - WORLD ELDER'S NITE

### A Night to Remember!

The much-awaited World Elder's Nite on 02nd February was an absolute blast. An evening bursting with laughter, music, dancing and unforgettable moments! Over 200 guests turned out, bringing with them, their enthusiasm and energy. The venue was nothing short of magical, with twinkling lights setting the mood to welcome everyone. A fun-filled photo booth encouraged guests to capture memories of this wonderful event.

The celebrations kicked off with a warm welcome from the President-Nancy Ferns. Fr. Anil Rego in his inimitable style shared a few heartfelt words showing his support for the event, like a true shepherd.

The compere for the evening Bianca Rosemeyer then took center-stage, with grace and poise infusing the event with her vibrant energy. She started off with a lively "march" inviting and bringing nearly everyone to join her on the dance floor. The spotlight was on a special Konkani musical session bringing in nostalgia with familiar tunes. The atmosphere was electrifying as the DJ played an exciting mix of tracks that had the guests tapping their feet and dancing. The fun didn't stop there - the compere had a surprise in store with a thrilling game, complete with chances of winning fabulous prizes. The floor buzzed with excitement as the guests eagerly participated, with spot prizes adding an extra layer of anticipation and delight.

As the night neared its end, the Secretary -Iona Godinho gave a vote of thanks commending all who



contributed to the evening's success. She also made a special mention of the unstinting support of the President-Xavier Almeida, who couldn't attend the program due to ill health. The guests were treated to a delectable dinner that was the perfect cherry on top of an already fantastic evening.

Senior Citizen's Nite wasn't just an event; it was a vibrant celebration of life, joy, and community. The laughter, the dance, the music and the shared moments of pure fun made it a night to remember.

- Flory D'souza

## SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE (EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS)

A recollection for Eucharistic Ministers was conducted at St. John the Evangelist Church. The resource person was Fr. Anthony Fernandes. He stated that a Eucharistic Minister should read the Gospel of St. Matthew Ch:5 to help them introduce Jesus to the home bounds. He also mentioned that they should abide by the teachings of the Beatitudes and introspect on them to grow in spirituality. He further explained the Beatitudes to us:-

1. **Blessed are the poor in Spirit:-** It depicts humility. We should not be boastful of our status, wealth, power, talent, intelligence. How do I portray and express myself in terms of intelligence? Do I try to show off or use it to benefit society? Power - those in power should not misuse their authority.
2. **Happy are those who mourn:-** Pope John Paul II spoke about social sin e.g. corruption, abortion. We have to be mournful for our sins and the sins of the world.
3. **Happy are those who are meek:-** Meekness expresses gentleness, to be polite and respectful to all. Pope Francis has said greatest challenge to the world is to touch a beggar which can be done when we are meek.
4. **Happy are those who do what God requires:-** Righteousness - do what is right. Thirst for it and should be practiced in every sphere.
5. **Happy are those who are merciful:-** We cannot show mercy to the world unless we receive it from God through the sacrament of reconciliation.



6. **Happy are the pure in heart, they will see God:** We need to go for regular confession and forgive as emotional burden is an invitation to physical sickness.
7. **Happy are those who work for peace:** We get peace from Jesus and this peace has to be shared with the homebound.

Needs of a Eucharist Minister:-

- 1) Spirituality.
- 2) Faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- 3) Loyal to the team of priests.
- 4) Good interpersonal skills - should be able to manage negative feelings, ask for help just as Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for water.



It was suggested that we read the Gospel of St. John to understand that Jesus gave us the sacrament of Holy Eucharist to be with us till the end of time and that we may have life to the fullest. In the Eucharist Jesus provides a visible means of communicating this life to us so that we can fully live in this world and in the NEXT.

Education in the Church's Social Doctrine is necessary to cause change in the WORLD.

- *Kamla Desouza*

## THE BOMBAY CATHOLIC SABHA

### Republic Day 26-01-2025:

Fr. Anil Rego along with the Guest of Honour - Mr. Lawrence D'Souza, Director of the film 'Saajan' (1991) unfurled the flag after the 7.00am mass in the presence of more than 150 parishioners and our BCS members. The national anthem was sung. Sweets were distributed to all.

### Christmas Tree Sapling:

As part of the environment and plantation drive, a sapling received from the centre was handed over to Fr. Anil Rego and planted in the church premises in the presence of our committee members.



### 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.

A big thank you to our Spiritual Director - Fr. Anil Rego for his guidance and to all the parishioners for all your support. We thank God for His many blessings to us and our families and may our parish unit continue its journey towards creating 'A Better Tomorrow Today'



- *Dora Martis*

## SCC Bleat (News)

### ZONE I UNIT 1 & 2 - DIVINE MERCY COMMUNITY

#### Community Get Together:

The get together was organised to foster a sense of community and belongingness. The programme commenced with a prayer by Peter Gerhart and continued with fun filled games conducted by Allwyn Fernandes and Tracy Gerhart along with the animators. Towards the end lip smacking snack boxes



were served to all. This get together was a resounding success, achieving its objective of promoting community spirit and cohesion. We look forward to organising more such events in the future.

### **Carol Singing:**

The community carol singing was organised on 21st Dec'2024. People of all ages came together to celebrate this festive spirit by singing christmas carols like 'Silent Night' to spirited renditions of 'Jingle Bell', the music echoed through the streets, spreading warmth and festive cheer.



### **Prayer For Confirmands:**

A prayer service was held at Maureen Rebello's residence on 18th Feb'2025 for the confirmands-Keola Lobo and Yvette D'Souza who were preparing for their confirmation. The animator's offered prayers for the confirmands spiritual growth, strength and guidance as they embark on this significant step in their faith journey.

*- Peter Gerhart*

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

### **Epiphany Feast:**

The community celebrated the feast of the Epiphany on 5th Jan'2025 in Good Shepherd Church by offering mass and participating in the liturgy. Fr. Frankie was the main celebrant. The homily was enriching and enlightening.

The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a fellowship in the church hall. Snacks were sponsored by one of our community member. Games and housie filled the evening with cheer and happiness as everyone



from children to the seniors participated and enjoyed themselves to the fullest.

Fr. Anil and Dn. Frederick graced the evening with their presence and words of wisdom. The evening ended with dancing, bonding with one another. As the celebration came to a close dinner boxes were given to all present.

Special thanks to our sponsors and animators who made this evening truly memorable.!

### **Lenten Service:**

During the Lenten season all of us engaged ourselves in prayer and devotion. Our community prayed the stations of the cross every weekend in our members residences as scheduled. Posters displaying 14 stations were prepared. During each station, each poster was displayed which further added to the prayerful experience. A big thank you to



each and every community member for their time, participation, efforts in keeping our community vibrant and enthusiastic God Bless us all!!

*- CA Remita R. Fernandes*



## ZONE II UNIT 7 - ST. ALPHONSA COMMUNITY

### Christmas Celebrations:

On 21st Dec'2024, we embarked on a joyful carolling spree, visiting our homebound members and spreading festive cheer. The experience was truly thrilling for all!

One of our members dressed up as Santa Claus, distributing gifts to the homebound and adding to the merriment. We also carolled at nearby societies filling the air with festive tunes and laughter. The evening culminated in a delightful community dinner at a neighbour's residence, marking a wonderful conclusion to our carolling adventure.



Our Community also participated in the Star and Crib Competition. We were judged as 'runners-up' for the crib and secured a '3rd place' for the star!.

This achievement was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and teamwork displayed by our community members, as well as the invaluable support from our neighbours. The experience fostered a wonderful spirit of camaraderie and togetherness.

- Priscilla D'Souza

## ZONE III UNIT 2 - ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COMMUNITY

### The Essence of Lent:

There is a particular stillness that comes with Lent, a sacred quiet that calls us to turn inward, to reflect on the immeasurable love of Christ and to carry His teachings into the very fabric of our lives. Families gather during Lent to listen to the Word of God and reflect on it. The interpretations of Mama Mary bring a profound sense of connection. It is in these moments, sitting together in prayerful contemplation, that we are reminded of the tenderness and sacrifice that form the heart of our faith.

### A Sacred Gathering:

On one such evening, Belinda Rodrigues led the members of our community through bible reading and reflection. The gospel passages take us through the journey of Jesus's betrayal, suffering and the ultimate sacrifice on Calvary. Yet, woven within this sorrowful narrative is a gift of indescribable beauty: the moment when Jesus, in His final hour, gazed down from the cross and gave us His mother. Christ offered Mama Mary to all of humanity making her the spiritual mother of us all.

### The Mother's Mantle:

Mama Mary's presence and the interpretations of the gospel guide us with gentle humility. She reminds us that her strength was in surrender to God's will. Her motherly wisdom encourages us to be patient in suffering, compassionate in forgiveness and unwavering in faith. She stood at the foot of the cross in silence. Through her, we are taught that true strength lies in persevering when it is hardest, in loving when it is most painful and in trusting when the path ahead is unclear.



### Carrying Lent into Everyday Life:

The beauty of having the Word and the essence of Mama Mary in our homes during Lent is that it does not end with the final prayer. It lingers. Lent calls us not just to observe but to transform, to extend the mercy we have received to those around us. It beckons us to embrace forgiveness, even when it is difficult, just as Jesus forgave His persecutors. It challenges

us to offer comfort to the suffering, as Mary comforted her Son with her mere presence.

## A Lasting Gift of Love:

As we gather as a community during Lent with the Bible in hand and Mama Mary in our midst, we are reminded that this season is not merely a time of penance, it is a season of LOVE. Jesus' sacrifice was not for sorrow alone but for redemption, for healing and for hope. In His final act of selfless love, He gave us His mother- a gift that continues to walk with us throughout our lives. May we hold this gift close, carrying it with us beyond Easter, allowing the lessons of Lent- the lessons of love, mercy and unwavering faith to guide our steps each day.

- Nisha Samson



## ZONE III UNIT 4 - ST. SEBASTIAN COMMUNITY

### A Star of Unity, A Crib of Hope Dec'2024:

In the true spirit of Christmas, our community, created a breathtaking eco-friendly Star and Crib. Embracing the theme "Called to Save Our Planet," we used only sustainable materials, proving that faith and environmental responsibility go hand in hand. We were awarded with the 'First Prize' for both the Star and Crib—a proud moment which is beyond words.



Heartfelt gratitude to all the community members in garnering support, coordination, creative methods used, generous hospitality, securing permissions as it was instrumental in making this initiative possible. The hard work and dedication of every contributor set a high standard, inspiring us all. This achievement beautifully demonstrates how teamwork and collaboration can create magic.



### Bringing Christmas Joy to the Sick and Homebound in Dec'2024:

During Christmas, our community visited the sick, homebound, and lonely, spreading comfort and cheer. Each visit reflected the true spirit of Christmas—sharing love with those in need. Fr. Anil Rego, our Spiritual Director, visited a sick member upon request, offering prayers, communion, anointing, and blessings. The warm smiles and heartfelt gratitude touched us deeply. The visit fostered spiritual unity and hope. We also supported families in need reaffirming our commitment to ensuring no one is in want, especially in this season of love.



### Prayer & Thanksgiving 27th Dec'24:

Our community gathered around the crib, a symbol of Jesus' humble birth and love, to give thanks for the year's blessings. We celebrated the unity of our members and non-Christian friends who collaborated on an eco-friendly crib and star, embodying the spirit of harmony and fellowship. Prayers were offered for the sick, aged, homebound, and lonely, seeking God's peace and strength. We also prayed for our community's unity and thanked God for our plane. The evening was filled with prayer, carol singing, and fellowship.

### St. Sebastian's Feast:

On the Feast of our dear patron, St. Sebastian, on 20th January, we were filled with gratitude for his guidance and protection over our community. To honor this special day, we offered a Thanksgiving Mass in our church. Fr. Anil Rego, our Spiritual Director was the main celebrant. He beautifully highlighting





the life and passion of St. Sebastian. After the Mass, we served snacks to all present, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere. We thank Avelino for sponsoring a snack.

In tribute to our patron, the animators united in the mission of love and service. To mark the feast, on 21st Jan 2025 we prepared 60 food packets for street children and adults. The joy on their faces was deeply moving. We thank God, St. Sebastian and our generous donors for making this outreach possible. As we departed, we carried the true spirit of faith in action—one meal, one smile, one heart at a time.

### Parish Feast Celebration 23rd Feb'25:

It was heartwarming to witness our community come together for an evening of joy, music, dance, and fellowship. A special congratulations to Theresa Coelho, our very own community member, for winning First Prize in the Raffle Draw—a moment of pride and celebration for us all!

### A Joyous Celebration of Women:

On 8th March 2025, the community gathered to celebrate the women in our midst, filling the day with laughter, love, and togetherness. This time our spouses joined in making it even more special. The restaurant's



warm ambience set the perfect tone and the welcome drink lifted our spirits. The food was spectacular. Diana led us in grace and Emmanuel along with the other spouses serenaded us with a heartfelt song adding a magical touch. The friendly staff enhanced our experience, treating us to refreshing mojitos and a Phirni dessert came as a surprise. Thanks to one and all for their presence and enthusiasm for making Women's Day truly memorable!

*- Aloma Fernandes*

## ZONE III, UNIT 6 - DOMINIC SAVIO COMMUNITY

### Parish Feast:

A stall was put up by the community for the Parish Feast day celebration on the church lawns. Various items like chicken hot dog, chutney sandwich, pork & beans, and lemon mojito were on sale. The response from the parishioners were good. The community would like to thank everyone who patronized the stall.



### Annual Mass:

The community had their annual mass on 21st Mar' 25 at 07:30 pm at the Recreation Club.

The Spiritual Director-Fr. Anil Rego was the main celebrant. He was accompanied by Dn. Fredrick Correa. Merlyn gave a warm welcome

to all present. The theme was 'Family life'. Fr Anil gave an enriching homily on family. The choir sang beautifully. More than 40 community members were present. The Eucharistic celebration was followed by games that were entertaining. The evening ended with delicious dinner and prize distribution.

## ZONE III UNIT 7 – HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY

### Visit to Home for the Aged:

This year as a part of our Lenten service, we decided to visit the Home for Aged at Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (East). We coordinated with the Sister in charge and contributed cash and clothes. The Sr. in charge welcomed us and introduced us to the



inmates. We interacted with all and spent some quality time with them. Later the staff of Taj group of hotels came along and they played housie for them. We helped the inmates to play the game. Before leaving, we prayed the Divine Mercy in their chapel. It was a day well spent and we felt truly blessed and happy.

### Lenten Cross:

During this Lenten season we brought the cross from the church and each family keeps it for 3 days. We have the stations of the cross on Mondays and Thursdays. All of us attend these stations of the cross and look forward to the next. These reflections help us to reflect on our lives and have a meaningful Lent.

- Valerian Lewis



## ZONE IV UNIT 2 – ST. CHRISTOPHER

### Visit to Orphanage:

Members of our SCC Unit along with our Spiritual Head, Fr. Joseph visited the Orphanage Children at St. Catherine's home, Veera Desai Road on Saturday 22nd March evening.



The Sisters took us around the home, showing us and explaining the various sections for girls of different ages and the facilities made available to them: for studies, social events, entertainment, sports, counselling and guidance, etc. It was a heartfelt experience both for our community members and the children giving us an opportunity to interact with the homeless, abandoned, orphaned



and less privileged children. We gave snacks and soft drinks for the children and inmates of the home. The participation of the members truly made a difference and brought smiles and warmth to the wonderful children there.

### Stations of the Cross:

We prayed and said the stations of the cross at the various homes of our community members in preparation during the Lenten season. Members participated in the Konkani Stations of the Cross in the Church on 19th March and the English Stations of the Cross on 4th April.

### Parish Feast:

Two families of our community put up stalls for the Parish Feast on 23rd February.

- Paul Rodrigues



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*"Reach the Gates of Heaven"*

## MISCELLANEOUS

### EMPOWERING CATHOLIC YOUTH OF MUMBAI GIVE WINGS TO THEIR DREAMS

#### About Take Charge Mentorship:

Take Charge was started in 2014 by a few senior successful Catholic professionals in the Archdiocese of Mumbai with the sole objective of giving back to the community. They felt that many Catholic youth needed mentors to shine a light on their potential and guide them to achieve more than what they believed was possible to be accomplished. They strongly believed that senior professionals could help bring about changes in the hearts and minds of these youngsters simply by providing them with windows of opportunities. They approached the Cardinal with the idea and he gave permission to pilot with a smaller number and then take it forward.

The program works on the basic premise that every young person is a genius in his or her own unique way and has tremendous potential. The mentor acts like a catalyst and role-model guiding the mentee to the best he/she can.

Take Charge in other words is a one-to-one community based mentoring model with an objective to EMPOWER the Catholic Youth of Mumbai to achieve possibilities way beyond their current aspirations.

The mentors coming from professional and business backgrounds are carefully chosen for their professional and personal track record of excellence are from diverse fields. They take time out from their busy professional and personal

lives to guide the young mentees they have been assigned.

The program eligibility is for Catholic youth from the Archdiocese of Mumbai from ages 18 to 24 years. The shortlisted mentee is paired with a successful mentor. Over a period of a year, the mentee is regularly in touch with the assigned mentor who acts as a trusted friend, guide and role model. The guidance is largely in the areas of All round personality development, Academics, Skill development and Career choices

Over 700 youth from the Archdiocese of Mumbai have benefitted from the mentorship program over 6 batches. TC7, the seventh batch starts from June 2025.

#### FIND OUT MORE

Visit [www.takecharge.in](http://www.takecharge.in) or the Instagram and Facebook handles to view the impactful stories and to apply.



*"It is essential that our Catholic Youth discover their calling and become authors of their own destiny; it's time to say 'no' to mediocrity and 'yes' to excellence. It's time to Take Charge!"*



**- OSWALD CARDINAL GRACIAS**

Archbishop Emeritus of Bombay

## MENTEES from Good Shepherd Parish



"Take Charge Mentorship ignited my growth. I gained confidence, clarity, and skills to tackle challenges head-on. With the guidance from my experienced mentor, I unlocked my potential and achieved my goals. I'm forever grateful for the impact Take Charge Mentorship has had on my life!"

### **Althea Miranda – Mentee TC4**

NMIMS (School of performing arts), Working at Theme Music Institute.

"Take Charge is life changing. It helped me develop my personality, be grateful about life and be open minded about new things and try new things. Most importantly Take Charge will give someone whom you can talk to about anything (it doesn't have to be a long or formal conversation; it can be a small conversation which helped me lighten my day up)"

### **Shane Mathews – Mentee TC5**

PGDM (Welingkar Institute of Management)



"I found Take Charge as the perfect way to find comfort and fortitude with someone who has experienced many years of trial and would be an understanding helper along the way. To my benefit, my mentor has positively impacted my daily outlook on life and has been a tremendous support whenever I feel stuck."

### **Rachel Ferreira – Mentee TC6**

BMM (Don Bosco College), Quantic India

"Take Charge has helped me find a direction in my career, a path to walk by, a guiding light in my professional journey. It's given me a place to share my stories and a safe place to vent out. I would really recommend it to connect and carry that connection through ups and downs through life."

### **Winston Pereira – Mentee TC5**

Intern, MBBS, Dr. VM Govt Medical college, Solapur



"Take Charge has been an incredible opportunity for me. Not only did I get a supportive and understanding mentor but I've also grown so much in the past year. My confidence in myself has improved and I've finally found some clarity in choosing a career for myself. There's so much you can learn with this opportunity."

### **Stephanie Miranda – Mentee TC6**

B.A. in Psychology & Sociology (Sophia College for Women)

"Being part of Take Charge was an incredibly meaningful experience. My mentor's guidance over those two years was invaluable, shaping my confidence and perspective. What means the most is that our relationship didn't end there, I still reach out for advice and they're always happy to help. It's a bond that continues to inspire me, proving that mentorship is more than just guidance; it's a lasting connection."

### **Caelean Tavares – Mentee TC4**

Digital Marketing, Google







“Joining Take Charge has been a transformative experience. It helped me gain confidence, sharpen my focus, and set clearer goals for my future endeavors. The guidance and encouragement from my mentor have been instrumental in helping me progress toward my aspirations.”

**Glenn Johnson – Mentee TC5**

B.Sc in Hospitality Studies, Don Bosco College, Kurla

“Take Charge is an amazing platform where I have seen myself growing, becoming more confident about myself, to be able to move towards my career and been more focused on it.”

**Steffi Mascarenhas – Mentee TC5**

BSc in Information Technology, Wilson College



“Made one of the best decisions to have joined Take Charge as a mentee. Found a forever companion and coach in my mentor who has guided and supported me in my journey of life. Overall, I've become more confident and I believe I've changed the way I think by becoming more analytical in the way I approach challenges in my daily life.”

**Tresa Pothan – Mentee TC5**

Computer Engineering, Fr Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering

**Mentors from Good Shepherd Parish**

“Working my way towards my personal and professional career I was in a constant battle and that battle was not with anyone else but myself. This limited me from speaking up and achieving my goals much later. I found this program to be the means to help our youth NAVIGATE through their journey and also a way to learn more about their struggles, challenges and stay connected with the new generation.”

**Sheldon Pereira – Take Charge Mentor**

Human Resources Professional



“Mentoring fosters other's growth and enriches my learning. Grateful for mentors who shaped my life, I'm eager to PAY IT FORWARD.”

**Gavin Dsouza – Take Charge Mentor**

Finance Professional

“A number of people are responsible for guiding and moulding my life journey. Me giving my time for mentoring others is my way of saying THANK YOU.”

**Ajit Martis – Take Charge Mentor**

Marketing Professional & Entrepreneur



# DIVINE MERCY FEAST April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

NOVENA & TRIDUUM APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 26<sup>TH</sup> 2025



## DIVINE MERCY NOVENA:

- Friday April 18, 2025 :
- Saturday April 19th 2025 :
- Sunday April 20th 2025 :
- Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> :

## TRIDUUM WITH PREACHING

- Our Own Good Shepherds

## SOLEMN CELEBRATION FEAST MASS

## APRIL 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2025 (Beginning Good Friday)

Good Friday immediately after Three Hours Agony  
Holy Saturday at 9.00am  
Easter Sunday after 10.00 am Mass  
After 7.00 am & 7.00 pm Mass

Wed April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thurs April 24<sup>th</sup> & Fri April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 p.m Mass

## Feast Day Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2025

- Mass at 10.00 am followed by Holy Hour @ 11.00 am & fellowship.  
The Holy Hour is an hour of mercy, so please attend in large numbers.

- MARIA JANARDHAN & TEAM

## THE HOLY WEEK PROGRAM

**Confessions:** Easter confessions will be on 14th and 15th April.

- Timing: 05:30 pm to 07:00 pm, 07:30 pm to 08:30 pm. There will be a guest priest.

### Palm Sunday:

- Blessing of Palms at 08:10 am on the lawns followed by procession to the Church and Mass.

### 17th April: 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.  
Cel.: Fr. Frankie Crasto.
- Holy Hour service at the Altar of Repose at 11:00 pm in the church conducted by Bible Cell.

### 18th April: 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. Gilbert D'lima.
- Evening service of the Lord's passion is at 06:30 pm on the church lawns.  
Cel.: Fr. Gilbert D'lima.

### 19th April: Holy Saturday

**Solemn Easter Vigil - 08:00 pm on the lawns. Cel.: Fr. Joseph Matthew.**

### 20th April : Easter Sunday

- Masses:- 07:00 am-Konkani.  
Cel.: Fr. Joseph Matthew.
- 08:30 am - English. Cel.: Fr. Anil Rego.
- 10:00 am-English. Cel.: Fr. Frankie Crasto.
- 04:00 pm - Hindi Mass.

**Limited Parking in Sarita Lawns on Maundy Thursday & for Easter Vigil only. There will be NO PARKING ARRANGEMENS FOR GOOD FRIDAY. PLEASE USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.**



## EASTER HOUSE BLESSING PRAYER

**Head:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

**Peace to this house and all who live here.**

**Our help is in the name of the Lord..**

**R/- Who made heaven & earth**

### 1 Prayer:

**Head:** Almighty God and Loving Father of us all, together as a family, we ask you to bless our home so that all our actions, conversations and attitudes towards one another may always be inspired by you and that our home may be protected from all kinds of danger and evil. May your blessings continue to pour down upon this home and upon all who are gathered here; that our home may be enriched with love, memories, grace and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### 2. Gospel by a Family Member.

A Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (20: 19-22)

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord!

**Head:** On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he has said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(A brief pause.)

### 3. Intercessions:

**Response:** LORD BLESS OUR HOME AND OUR FAMILY.

- Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the blessings you have given us during the past year. We look up to you for protection and care in the days to come. R/-

- Lord, often we have hurt each other in this home by our thoughtlessness and selfishness. We ask for your grace so that we may be a little more concerned about the good of all present here. R/-
- Lord, be our comfort in our sadness, heal us when we are hurt and be by our side when we feel lonely and rejected. R/-
- Lord, with the power of the Holy Spirit, you filled the house where the disciples were gathered; send the same Spirit upon us with the gifts of peace and joy. R/-

(The Head of the family invites each member to offer a prayerful intention. Prayers are also to be offered for the parish community and the deceased family members).

### 5. Prayer of Blessing.

**Head:** Let us now pray that the Lord will enter our home and bless it with his presence. May the Lord always be here among us, deepen our love for each other, share in our joys, and comfort us in our sorrows. May our home be a place of love, filled with the goodness of the Lord.

(By making a Sign of the Cross says):

We bless this house + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

(The Head now sprinkles Holy Water on the Altar, on all present & all over the house).

While he/ she is doing it, an appropriate hymn can be sung. ('I have decided to follow Jesus' or 'Showers of blessing'.)

(After Blessing the Home.)

**Head:** Now let us invoke the Blessings of God upon us.

(Either the Head of the Family blesses each family member with the Sign of the Cross on the forehead, or all the members of the family bless themselves with the Sign of the Cross saying): + In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Hymn :** Bind us together(holding hands).



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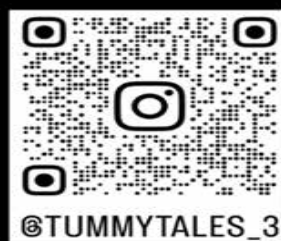
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## MILESTONES

### BAPTISMS

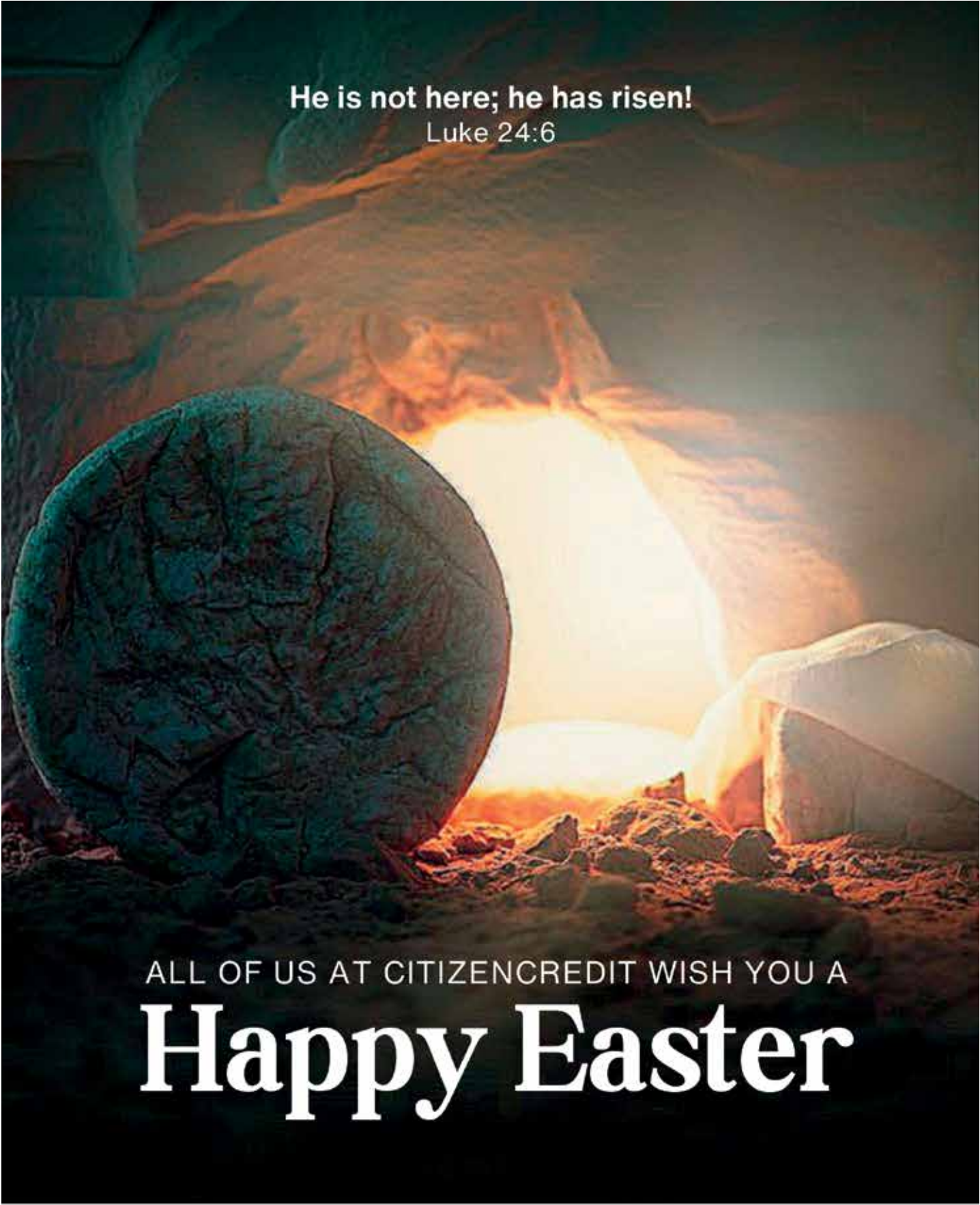
| Date of Baptism | Date of Birth | Name | Parents                    |
|-----------------|---------------|------|----------------------------|
| 17-12-2024      | 17-05-2023    | NOAH | DAVID AND SONIKA RODWELL   |
| 12-01-2025      | 13-10-2024    | EVA  | GAVIN AND BHOMIKA BRAGANZA |
| 19-01-2025      | 28-05-2024    | MYRA | MAHESH AND PEARL PRABHU    |

### MARRIAGES

| Date       | Name  |
|------------|---|
| 13-12-2024 | AARON JAMES CAEIRO AND AASHNA RANE          |
| 18-12-2024 | KENNY ANDREWS LOBO AND GENEIVE MENDES       |
| 28-12-2024 | ULRICH JUDE D'SOUZA AND MICHELLE PEREIRA    |
| 04-01-2025 | ROHAN NADAR AND CAROLINE MARISKHA D'SOUZA   |
| 11-01-2025 | NIGEL DOMNIC RODRIGUES AND EMERLIN PASSANHA |
| 18-01-2025 | STEVE VINANCIO NORONHA AND SUSAN GOMES      |
| 26-01-2025 | ROYSTON KINNY AND FRITZY CHRISTINA MATHEW   |
| 08-02-2025 | BRENDON D'MELLO AND FLAVIA CARDOZ           |
| 22-02-2025 | SUNNY PETER D'SOUZA AND ZAINAB KABA         |

### DEATHS

| Date       | Name                       | Age | Address   |
|------------|----------------------------|-----|---|
| 14-12-2024 | PHILOMENA ROCKEY D'SOUZA   | 69  | 76/17 AKSHATA CHS, 4 BUNGALOWS, MHADA,  |
| 18-12-2024 | SISTER MARY GERALDINE      | 83  | ST. LOUIS CONVENT, 4 BUNGALOWS  |
| 19-12-2024 | MATHEW INACIO BORGES       | 74  | A/46/304, PARAGON BLDG, 1ST CROSS LANE, LOKHANDWALA COMPLEX,                          |
| 24-12-2024 | RAYMOND JOHN COLACO        | 74  | 303/B REGENCY, 3RD CROSS LANE, LOKHANDWALA COMPLEX,                                   |
| 31-12-2024 | LUIS DIOGO PIRES           | 84  | F-601 MAHALAXMI TOWER, NEW D.N. NAGAR,  |
| 02-01-2025 | NANCY JOHN MEDEIRA         | 71  | ANDHERI WEST  |
| 04-01-2025 | HELEN GOMES                | 93  | K5/304, KISHORE DARSHAN, N. DUTTA MARG, 4 BUNGALOWS,                                  |
| 14-01-2025 | JOSE CALAZAN-CIO FERNANDES | 77  | 6, PARAS APARTMENTS, N DUTTA MARG, FOUR BUNGALOWS,                                    |
| 14-01-2025 | GEORGE STANISLAUS PINTO    | 79  | F-202, SERENITY COMPLEX CHS, NEW LINK ROAD, NEAR CITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, OSHIWARA, |
| 04-02-2025 | IGNATUS MICHAEL D'GAMA     | 89  | 158/6, VRINDAVAN, N DUTTA MARG, SEEMA SOCIETY, 4 BUNGALOWS,                           |
| 12-02-2025 | STANLEY MATHEWS CHACKALA   | 62  | ANDHERI WEST,   |
| 18-02-2025 | BEUIS ST.CLARE FENWICK     | 72  | ANDHERI WEST,   |
| 02-03-2025 | IDA PEREIRA                | 96  | ANDHERI WEST,   |
| 05-03-2025 | GREGORY D'SILVA            | 95  | BLDG NO.51, A WING, FLAT NO.B/14, MANISH NAGAR, FOUR BUNGALOWS,                       |
| 12-03-2025 | ESWIN PETER ESTEVES        | 80  | 101, ROOPAL, SEVEN BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI WEST,   |
| 27-03-2025 | STEVEN FERNANDES           | 73  | C-309, PLOT 17, VERSOVA AKASHDEEP, SVP NAGAR, ANDHERI WEST,                           |
| 31-03-2025 | GUILHERMINE D'COSTA        | 86  | 2/B, 202, RATAN NAGAR, FOUR BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI WEST,                                  |



He is not here; he has risen!  
Luke 24:6

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