# FLOCKNEWS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, ANDHERI WEST, MUMBAI 400053





# OSHIWARA LOKHANDWALA CITIZENS FOUNDATION (OLCF)



MR. ASHOKE PANDIT

CAPT. RAKESH COELHO TRUSTEE O4 CHRISTMAS – GOD IN THE ORDINARY

05 BLESSING OF THE CRIB

O6 FLOCK BLEAT - NEWS

1 1 SCC BLEAT

YOUTH CORNER

29 SHEPHERD'S VOICE

24 MILESTONES

25 THE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTERWAY





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# From the Pastor's Desk



# CHRISTMAS – GOD IN THE ORDINARY

A writer for the 'Washington Post' once conducted an experiment to test people's awareness and realization of a truth. He requested Joshua Bell, a famous violinist, to play his 3.5 million dollar Stradivarius at a train station one cold January morning. Thousands of people walked past, with only a few who stopped to listen. After about an hour, this violinist collected only \$34 in his open violin case. Two days earlier, people had paid \$100 a seat to hear Joshua Bell perform at a sold out concert.

Nobody realized or recognized Joshua's greatness as a violinist because people did not expect such a musician to play at a railway station. JESUS too was not recognized 2000 yrs ago by the people of His time, when He was born in Bethlehem in a manger. Though the Jews were expecting a Messiah, . It was not in the capital of the empire or in the palaces of a king that Christ was born. But in an impoverished dwelling in a small town, to identify Himself with EVERY PERSON. To teach us to find God, not in the exceptional, but in the unexceptional, not only at sacred heights but also in lowly dwellings - not only in temples, mosques, churches, and gurudwaras, but in every human being and in everyday human life.

He came not to a throne, but to a manger
He lived not as a king, but as a servant
He chose not an earthly kingdom, but a cross
He gave not a little, but everything....Holley Gerth

The good news to be shared by all is that in Christ, God is here. It is the mystery of God becoming Man of God now with us. No one however poor or forsaken, destitute or homeless, sorrowing or burdened is excluded from God's infinite love and compassion. Because our God Himself experience a wretched poverty and a cold rejection at His birth in Bethlehem. By doing this, He broke all barriers between heaven and earth and between man and man. The Lord's birth brought God to man. And the Lord's death on the cross brought man to God.

As we light up stars, our Christmas trees and our houses this Christmas, may we also seek to light up the hearts of the troubled and forsaken, the less fortunate and the dejected. May we become channels of peace, bringing love where there is hatred and consolation where there is injury, so that this Christmas, we may not merely be sharers of peace, but architects of peace in this troubled world.

When the song of the angels is stilled. When the star in the sky is gone. When shepherds are back with their flocks. The work of Christmas begins ... To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner...In the hearts Christ is born today, and there he lives & dies...Let everyday be Christmas in your life.

FR. ANIL REGO

**Parish Priest** 

### **BLESSING OF THE CRIB**



This blessing of the Christmas Crib is for use in the home, prayed by the family members over the Crib. Suggested use Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, before opening the gifts.

ENTRANCE HYMN: : O Come All Ye Faithful" or "Silent Night."

FIRST READING: The mother of the family reads:

The eternal Son of God having become man out of love for us, chose to be born in a lowly stable, rather than in the greatest palace of kings. Being rich, He became poor for our sake to show us how greatly He loves poverty and humility. But the presence of the King of kings made this lowly shelter to be the most honorable and noble of royal palaces. Herein He was pleased to be, adored by His virgin mother and father, by the poor shepherds, and by the wealthy wise men. As a man among men Christ came for all men, of all times, and all places; unless we say "there is no room," He will come into our home this Christmas night, and will make it a place of splendor, of love and of great joy.

All answer: Thanks be to God.

Mother: The Word was made flesh, Alleluia.

All: And dwells among us, Alleluia.

**SECOND READING** 

One of the children reads:

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:

At that time the shepherds were saying to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event that has come to pass which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in the manger. And when they had seen, they understood what had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard marveled at the things told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept in mind all these words pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken to them. Each member of the family kisses the Gospel text.

FINAL PRAYER

Father: O Lord, hear my prayer.
All: And let my cry come unto Thee.

Father: The Lord be with you.

All: And with you also.

Father: O God, out of your love for us you sent your dearly beloved Son to become man. You willed that he be born in a humble stable in order to give us an example of humility. We pray you now to bless this crib, a representation of the scene of his birth; may it draw us closer to him. By imitating his humility may we become a worthy dwelling place for his rebirth, Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord.All: Amen.

SING: AWAY IN THE MANGER OR JOY TO THE WORLD

# **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME**

#### **CONFESSIONS**

Tuesday, 13th Dec. 5.30 P.M – 7.00 P.M. 7.30 PM. – 8.30 P.M Wednesday, 14th Dec. 5.30 P.M – 7.00 P.M. 7.30 PM. – 8.30 P.M

Sunday, 18th Dec. 6.30 pm: Christmas bazaar, Deanery Carol singing for SS children followed by

Parish Zonal Carols, all on the lawns

Saturday, 24th Dec.: NO EVENING MASS,

10.00 P.M. SOLEMN CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS on the Church lawns

Sunday, 25th Dec. - 7.00 A.M (KONKANNI), 8.30 & 10.00 A.M.

THERE WILL BE NO EVENING MASS

Tuesday, 27th Dec.: 10.00 AM :MASS FOR THE SICK & HOME BOUND

6.00 PM: JUDGING OF CRIB & STAR

Wednesday, 28th Dec.: HOLY INNOCENTS -5.30 PM: SS Children's Christmas Party.

Blessing of infants and children at the 7.00 pm Mass

Saturday, 31st Dec. NO EVENING MASS,

10.00 P.M - 11.00 PM: THANKSGIVING HOLY HOUR

11.00 P.M. SOLEMN NEW YEAR MASS

Sunday, 1st Jan, 2020: **7.00 A.M (KONKANNI), 8.30 & 10.00 A.M.** 

4.00 P.M: HINDI MASS, 5.30 P.M.: ENGLISH MASS



# Mission Sunday 2022 - Witnessing for Christ

Mission Sunday 2022, at Good Shepherd Church had a kaleidoscope of engaging and enticing activities for one and all. Every community and parishioner, pitched in to do their part in supporting Christ's mission.

Following the old Christian traditions of sharing and contributing for the Church, the parishioners contributed their home items to be sold at the White Elephant stall. The Auction stall had an array of expensive and rare items. While a friendly bid was encouraged to raise the highest amount for the auctioned items, there remained a spirit of camaraderie, with no winners and no losers.

Tasty treats were put up for sale by different communities, which included baked, sweets & savoury items, Goan, sorpotel/sanas etc and desi hotchpotch like a chicken pani-puri. Other stalls of handicraft and accessories stalls were also put up. The Jukebox request show was kept for music lovers, both young and old all enjoyed, karaoking and reminiscing over nostalgic tunes.

Fr. Pravin D'Souza and his Mission station team from Mahad, Maharashtra, put up a stall of healthy food items and naturally grown medicinal & food products. They also spread awareness about benefits of using organically grown food items for a happier and a

healthier life.

Fr. Pravin, took the opportunity to preach at all masses on Mission Sunday, emphasizing the importance of being doers and not listeners alone. While Jesus entrusted his apostles to preach and make disciples, as apostles of the new age world, we all may not be called for the mission work, he encouraged the parishioners to support the mission work in our own ways.

The Mission Sunday brought together the Good Shepherd community as one family who offered their talents, time and resources to become witnesses for Christ and supported the missions to make it a success. As Pope Francis said in his message on Mission Sunday, "Every Christian must be a witness to Christ in daily life". Let us embrace this message and try to imbibe its meaning in our daily life.

Our Christian mission continues not just one day but every day of our lives, when we are challenged to choose to do good over evil, choose peace over anger, choose love over animosity, choose to share instead of hoard, choose to forgive instead of resent and choose to use our talents & resources for the Church. Let us practice this mission in our homes, in our church, in our community and in our country. Let us strive to be a witness for Christ in our daily life.

- Joan D'souza

# MAHAD MISSION AT GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

"This poor man cried and the Lord heard him".

On 22nd & 23rd October 2022, with the kind consent of our Parish Priest - Fr Anil, the Mahad Mission Team (The Jankalyan Trust) was at our Parish for a 2 day sale commemorating "Mission Sunday". Fr Pravin and two Sisters from Mangaon displayed products made by the tribals under their care. Fr Pravin also preached

at all the masses enlightening the Flock about the Mission work undertaken by their Jankalyan Trust.

The Jankalyan Trust is the only Mission Station of the Archdiocese of Bombay, which is located around 170 kms from the city of Mumbai, at Mahad in the district of Raigad, Maharashtra. This trust is committed to serving the people, especially the marginalised and





the oppressed, with a preferential for the tribals. Its goal is to promote an "abundance of life based on life values and communal harmony through fellowship". It is involved in the education, upliftment and development of the Katkari tribes of Mahad. The Katkari are an ingenious, nomadic tribal people that move home with the change in season. Warmhearted, friendly and highly skilled, their lifestyle and culture often remains invisible among those of the dominant populations in the State. Being a nomadic tribe, the entire family including the children move residence in search of employment. The children hence remain deprived of education.

The Jankalyan Trust runs a boarding school especially for the tribal Katkari boys and sends them to local schools thereby enabling education. This social work of upliftment and development is carried out in about 15 villages and the 'Centre for Social Action' partly funds the cause in 6 villages. This work happens through Gavki Meetings (governance at Community level), Government schemes, Bachat gatt (self-help groups), Puravni warg (supplementary classes), Bal-Sabha/Sansad (Children's Parliament), Kishori gatt

(Adolescent girls group) etc. The Trust also has an agricultural farm where rice, pulses, turmeric and different vegetables are grown for consumption at the Boarding School while the remaining are sold in the local market or across the parishes of the Archdiocese of Bombay. This helps the Katkari tribals, who work as farmers and labourers on the farm, thereby enabling them to gain means of livelihood and prevent migration.

The Mahad Mission Sale in our Parish was a huge success with generous parishioners patronising the products made by the tribals such as Rosaries, Diyas, Health tonics, Herbal Hair Oil, Nachni products & organic turmeric. The parishioners were also very happy to see their own Shepherd - Fr Pravin, back again. Envelopes were distributed to those who wished to contribute towards this noble cause. The Missions indeed commit to proclaiming and bearing witness to the Gospel. As Pope Francis said "In Christ, our life is itself a mission! We are a mission, because we are God's love poured out, God's holiness created in his own image."

- Sharlet Rego

# JOYFUL CELEBRATION - Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St.Vincent de Paul had a joyful celebration for their adopted families on 27th Sep 2022 after two years of house arrest.

It commenced with a Mass offered in honor of St.V.de Paul, which was celebrated by Fr.Anil Rego and attended by the adopted families and members of St.V.de Paul.

After Mass, an entertainment programmes was held on the first floor of the Church extension. At the very outset, there was a short prayer service in Hindi, followed by a message from Fr.Anil and Fr.Savio.

The program then took off with delicious snacks & juice, served to all present for the function. After refreshments, games were played for all age groups. It was a sight to behold as the young and old participated whole heartedly, and danced to the tunes of the melodious music. All children who show

cased their talents received gifts. It was enthralling to see everyone excited with the spot prizes.

Mouth watering chicken biryani that tantalized everyone's taste buds was served.

Throughout the program there was fun and frolic and love just filled the air. Everyone came together as one happy family to celebrate the feast.

Every family was given a valuable hamper as they left. Indeed it was a memorable evening, since we had such a fantastic gathering after a long lapse of time.

We thank God for giving us an opportunity to bring smiles on the marginalized.

May our supreme creator continue to be gracious, and bless us, as we journey with the adopted families of the society of St.V.de Paul.

- Kamla N. DeSouza





# **LEGION OF MARY GET TOGETHER**



On the 28th of October, the legionaries (English, Konkani and Youth Preasidia) held a get together for the Auxiliary members of the parish. This get together is in appreciation for the prayers and support the Auxiliary members give to the Active members.

Joyce Pinheiro welcomed all who were present. She encouraged them to continue praying the Tessera. She reminded them of getting their homes consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by doing the Enthronement. Our Spiritual Director, Deacon Innacin gave an insight of what the legion is and the role of

the auxiliary members. Benny Gonsalves and Rico Braganza entertained us with nice music. Members enthusiastically took part in the games planned by the youth .

Wilma Shirke thanked one and all for their support, our Parish Priest Fr. Jerome, Deacon Innacin, Tessa for the snacks, Benny and Rico for the music and the members who made it possible to respond favourably to our invitation. It was an hour and a half of fun and laughter.

- Myrtle Rego

# THE SCC RALLY - SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



20th November, 2022 marked an important date in the calendar of The Good Shepherd Church, Andheri (West). We not only celebrated the feast of Christ the King but also the Silver Jubilee of the Small Christian Community.

The Silver Jubilee of the Small Christian Community in our Parish was celebrated with a lot of fanfare. It began in style with the Zonal Coordinators carrying the flag of their zones to the flag post and the unit coordinators following with a placard displaying the name of their unit. The Chief Guests were Fr.Dr. Gilbert D'Lima, Mr. Elvin Colaco and Ms. Anita Rodrigues (ex SCC Coordinators?). Fr. Anil Rego presented all of them with a token of appreciation. A special mention was made of Ms. Priya Pereira and Ms. Joy D'Souza who served as coordinators for many years in their unit.

This was followed with a catchy welcome song sung by five wonderful singers from our community with the lyrics displayed on the screen. The audience joined in which made it a lovely sing-song experience for all of us.

The next item was a talk show anchored by Amit





groups sat across the table and shared problems faced by the SCC in bringing the community together and their solutions to these problems. Fear of getting infected was the biggest phobia during the COVID pandemic and proved to be a big stumbling block to getting connected with our community members. However, coordinators and animators found unique ways of solving these problems, either through service, e.g. fetching groceries, medicines etc for their members or through zoom meetings and reciting the Rosary. Other areas that needed attention were, lack of appreciation for work done, encouragement and respect for newcomers; lack of commitment of animators/members and more



emphasis on social activities and less on religious ones. The common consensus among the participants was that being centred in Christ in our commitment to our communities would make the SCC into a thriving module, worth emulating by all.

Fr. Gilbert then said a few words of encouragement. He said, not only should we open the window to let in the fresh air as advised by our Pope John Paul but also the door. He explained the logo of the Synod. The tree symbolises wisdom and light, it carries the eucharist which shines like a sun and the horizontal branches suggest the Holy Spirit. People of all walks of life marching forward were lead by children and students, echoing Christs' words, "be like little children if you wish to enter the kingdom of God". The buz words for the Synod are PARTICIPATION, COMMUNION AND MISSION. Participation meaning animators to ensure that all are involved and that we should reach out to all, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Communion -means fellowship, bring unity in diversity accept all. Mission - we should betheeyes, hand and feet of Christ in our relationship with our community. Let us keep our goal in mind "let no one be in want".





The next item was a modern dance presented by the Youth Group. Four young boys and girls danced to the lively tunes of Jerusalema and Staying Alive.

A Power Point presentation on what happened during the Pandemic and the role of the SCCs during those trying times was presented by Zynidia. Churches were closed and the Small Christian Community formed SOS groups bringing provisions to the homebound, paying their bills also helping the sick with doctors in time of need. Our on-line activities included Rosary recital, Stations of The Cross, Yoga, Christmas celebrations, Housie and helping the poor migrants.

To celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, Zone 5 presented a play emphasising the role of Christ in our life; where a family, a couple and a religious sister are tempted by Satan and how they have been able to overcome the devil through prayer. Christ rules over all!

Genevieve raised a vote of thanks and the evening ended with a round of applause to Zynidia and her team of organisers, to Fr. Anil Rego and his team and all who helped to make this occasion a big success.

- Vilma Kantharia

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# **Dominic Savio community - Unit 3 Zone 6**

Unit 3 Zone 6 (Dominic Savio community) had organized a community visit to Mount Mary Church on September 3, 2022. A mini bus was booked and 20 members from the community went for the 7.30 am mass. After which a brief halt was made at A-1 bakery. All the members were very happy to attend this mass at the Mount together.

We held our annual community mass on November 11, 2022. This mass was held after a period of 2 years. Fr Anil Rego had celebrated the Eucharist. There was an overwhelming response from community members. There was fellowship among the members, which was followed by a mini dinner.



# LITTLE FLOWER COMMUNITY – ZONE 3 – UNIT 3

# FEAST OF ST. THERESA OF THE LITTLE FLOWER, our Patron Saint:

On 07 October 2022, we the members of Little Flower Community, celebrated the feast of our Patron Saint, St. Theresa of the Little Flower, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration offered by our community in our Good Shepherd Parish Church. This was followed by a Dinner in the Blue Room on the 1st floor, with games and lovely music, which saw quite a few of our members dancing followed by sumptuous dinner. We had very good response of about 40 persons, considering the effort to come from Lokhandwala to our Church inspite of the heavy rains that day, to join in the celebration of our Patron Saint's Feast.

# ROSARY CELEBRATION IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2022 :

31 October 2022 celebration of our Lady of the Rosary. During the month of October – being the month we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, we werevery happy to celebrate the last day ie 31 October in a very special way. We rallied around our Community Members and organised a prayerful Rosary followed by a scrumptious Biriyani Dinner with Snacks, cold drinksand Dessert, at Cross Gate Building in Lokhandwala. We had a good gathering of around 45 members who were happy to get together in a bond of love and fellowship. We had a quiz on the rosary conducted by one of our youth members



Yoric Lobo. It was fun and competitive at the same time. We also had our Parish Priest Fr. Anil Rego and Fr. Savio, our Spiritual Director, grace the occasion. Fr. Anil kept the celebration alive, playing the guitar and all joined in the sing song session of party songs. We had some sponsored prizes. Donations received was contributed to the kitty. We are indeed Blessed with spontaneous and sporting members in our Zone 3 Unit 3 Community and really had a wonderful time together praying and enjoying each other's company. Always a good response from all our loving members. Kudos to all our "Little Flowers" for making the effort

to ensure we had a good crowd and a fabulous time of love and togetherness as always. And of course to our Coordinator who ensures everything goes according to plan !!AlsoIncredible memories well documented with pictures for usto revisit from time to time to thank Our loving God for His numerous blessings. Thanks and God bless us all always with His awesome Presence especially in getting us all together!!

- Ursula Cardozo Little flower community Zone 3 unit 3

# COMMUNITARIAN SPIRIT Community of Mother Teresa's – (Zone 1 unit 3)

The community of Mother Teresa's unit had a whole number of events for the month of October / November. Started first with the breakfast fast stall put up on the 12th October by Wendy with delicacy of chicken sandwiches n Keema pav , Leah with mouth watering healthy pasta salad n Sister Mary Jose with steaming cup of coffee / tea. It ws a huge hit with many coming forward hungry to take a quick bite after mass. We also had our Annual Thanksgivings Rosary on the 31st of October at the Good Shepherd Convent. A handful of our community members came to show their devotion to our Lady. Everyone was treated with Chana's , cake , chips , Kachori n frooti . On 12th of November we had our Annual Thanksgiving Mass n on the 13th November we had our Community getogether. The venue was the Good Shepherd Convent lawns. Evening started with a prayer led by Sr. Mary Jose n introduction of animators. Allwyn Fernandes Coordinator for Zone 1 unit 1 n 2 was our quest. He spoke about the work done as SCC animators n coordinators n invited the community to be a part of it. A group game was organized followed by mouth watering snacks n foot tapping music by Carlton Watts. Musical games n on the spot prizes were given especially to Aaron n Luke (youngest children in the unit.) n Mr. Cheruvally won fr the oldest member in the unit.. The efforts of Trevor, Marietta n Slyvia Swamy were appreciated at the parish level n a small token of love ws presented to them. As the night went on a game of House was enjoyed n Slyvia Swamy entertained everyone with her melodious voice. The event came to an end with the Grace before meals followed by packed dinner n sweet dish fr all. It was a memorable day to remember.





Compiled by Leah n Photos n editing by Wendy Watts (Zone 1 unit 3)

# St. Sebastian's Community





Together with all the Animators of St. Sebastian's Community and our wonderful members, I want to thank and Praise God for the fun filled day, the kids of Sneha Sadan had on 24th November, 2022, at the Infinity play zone, Andheri West, from 2.45 pm to 6pm.

It was heartening to see the kids so excited, playing games of a different kind than the usual and the rides that swayed them to wonderland. They won ticket scores for the games they played by which every child got a gift. It was a treat to see the joy and laughter that lingered on their faces from beginning to the end.

To top it all the kids freaked out on the chicken burger and french fries with lemonade drinks to quench their thirst. It pulled our heart strings, to see the kids smack their lips while each one enjoyed their happy meal.





Finally, it was time to say goodbye with a snicker bar chocolate that the children really loved. The thank you we received from all the 20 kids, sister and her team keeps resounding in our ears and heart, but the joy and happiness all you members of our awesome community brought to the kids by your whole hearted cooperation would not have been possible without your generosity.

On behalf of all the animators of our Community, I extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to one and all for making this day, 24th November, 2022, a truly memorable one. God Bless you all with His abundance.

Looking for to our next Charity event in this Advent season...

- Aloma Fernandes

# Celebrating community and togetherness!- Zone 1 Get together

On 2nd October all roads led to Good Shepherd convent for a well-deserved treat! 30 of us who had participated in the Monsoon Mania tele-games (where our zone placed second) and the Novena skit (entitled Humility) got together to have some fun.

The evening started with a prayer by Zone 1 coordinator Alwyn. He reminded us all that winning and losing is not important – participation is key and of course ALL glory goes toGod. We also prayed for the zone members and everyone who had contributed their time and effort to both activities. Prayer time over, it was time to kickstart the festivities!

Peggy got behind the keyboard and started belting out one party hit after another while Flavia set the dance floor on fire with her moves imploring us to join in as well. She just wouldn't take NO for an answer and one by one everyone got on their feet to shake a leg. Simone Gonsalves and Anita D'souza joined in the singing and got everyone swinging to their tunes.

As an ice breaker, two concentric circles were formed on the dance floor and we moved in opposite directions, stopping to chat and introduce ourselves to fellow zone members we had not met before.

Everyone enjoyed this game because of the camaraderie it generated and ensured fewer of us would return as strangers.

After a quick break to have some snacks and juice, it was time for musical chairs.

Although there were 50+ chairs lying around, we chose to use just 20 and create an unnecessary traffic jam! I was knocked off in the first round but Teacher







Tracy managed to secure her chair all the way till the end and won the game!

Another snack break and some live Konkani music courtesy Malaika Pereira

We were soon ready for the grand finale, which was a game of housie! Everyone took their seats and carefully accepted their tickets trying to pick the "lucky" one! Flavia took the hot seat as the announcer and official "shaker". Numbers were called, lots of oohs and aahs later, Yvette claimed the Jaldi 5, Teacher Tracy won the "beech-wala" line, Arthur won the top line, Yvette won the bottom line and Lydia D'souza took home the largest chocolate for a fully crossed out ticket.

Time to bid adieu, we all said our good byes and headed home with Cadbury Perks in our hand! Thanks to our co-ordinator Alwyn (All Win), Flavia, Charmaine and the sisters of Good Shepherd Convent for a wonderful time!

As a small gesture to mother earth and to reduce our carbon footprint, we ALL re-used our tissue paper the entire evening. Words by Sheldon with inputs & pics from Charmaine, Allwyn & property and the samp; Tracy

#### Zone II, Unit I, St.Louis Community.

The scoop of the day

The Mother of God rushes to be with us in haste ...

It is that time of the year when we prepare ourselves into welcoming the precious Mother of God into our homes and into our lives. But this year it is a little different than the last couple of years. We all are just coming out of a pandemic which has not been easy for a lot of people in more ways than one.

But what we as a community have realized, is that our dear Mother is just waiting to come visit us just like she did many ages ago and families within our community happily welcomed Our dearest Mother into their homes.



We are reminded of the story of Elizabeth & Zachariah. When Mother Mary heard from Angel Gabriel that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant, she left in haste to visit her.

And like she did centuries ago the visitation of our blessed Lady brings along with her graces and lots of blessings. It is said that if anyone follows Mary, he will not lose his way, if you pray to her, you will not despair, when you think of her you will not sin and when you reach out to her you will not fall.

Our dearest Mama Mary is standing right besides us and despite our many problems and inequities, she has happily walked into our homes and into our lives and has filled each one of us with happiness and joy.

- Telma Furtado

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

1. Funerals:- Procedure to be followed is as below:-

- In case of death of a parishioner, the family member or a representative of the family should contact any of the parish fathers, get the funeral mass timing confirmed and later contact the undertaker. If the concerned parishioner wants the death announcement to be circulated to the parishioners, the details should be sent / informed to the community coordinator/ animator/ PPC member/ community member. The animator/ coordinator/ PPC member/community member shall forward the information to the parish council secretary for circulation. Only the funeral mass timing should be mentioned.
- 2.Hall- Rates:- For parishioners, all community related gatherings eg..annual mass, community get together, any community fellowship program can be held on the 1st and 2nd floor halls.

ONE gathering is free, rest shall be payable.

For months mind and Anniversaries only it is chargeable. Please Note the tariffs

- 1st floor- (2 tables and 30 chairs will be provided free.0 Snack box distribution-Rs.500/- . Lunch or Dinner-Rs.1,000/-
- 2nd floor (2 tables and 50 chairs will be provided free.) Snack box- Rs.1000/- Lunch or Dinner-Rs. 2,000/-

Any additional requirements will be charged. The respective halls need to be booked in advance at the parish office.

# **Immaculate Conception**

In the month of October, every year we dedicate a day for the ROSARY in our community. Around 33 of us gathered together with great faith in Mary's powerful intercession. and celebrated the rosary on 16th October at 5pm in one of the society premises of our community. Everyone whole heartedly participated in reciting the prayers and singing the hymns led by Helengale, our very young and enthusiastic singer. Nora, our animator, prayed for the deceased members and also other petitions for all the people in our unit. Delicious cake and warm chanas sponsored by the

animators were served after the prayers!

Members took the opportunity of bonding and fellowship with one another while enjoying the snacks. Thanks to all the animators and members who altended the rosary and helped make it a success. Hoping to see a bigger gathering in future. May we too lead others to Jesus as Mother Mary did and be obedient to God's will. Mama Mary intercede for everyone!

- Susan Quadros

# **HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY ZONE 5 UNIT 1**

#### **Team Members**



#### October, The Month of Rosary

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotion. October includes the Feast of our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). The best way to celebrate the month is of course, to pray the Rosary.

# Our very own Community Statute of our Lady, donated by the late Mr. C.M. Mathews.

Rosary was conducted in the homes of various community members. Families made a lot of preparations for the rosary and prepared an altar at their residences where their statue of our Lady was kept. Families decorated their altar in different ways



Christmas 2022 - FLOCK NEWS • 15



with flowers, candles, etc. The community members along with the Good Shepherd Convent Sisters gathered at different houses as one-family to pray together. After saying the Rosary, prayers and hymns-the family members served snacks and refreshments and this also provided an opportunity for everyone to mingle and connect with their fellow community members.

We ended the Rosary Month, by organizing a Community Rosary on Sunday, 30th October at Building No. 11. Everyone congregated at the community statue to offer their prayers, post whichsnacks and refreshments were provided by our Sponsors & Organizers.

Our Lady of the Rosary, Pray for us! Team- Maria, Finiya, Joan, Nitin, Andrea.

#### Mission Sunday, October 23rd 2022

Community Members donated newspapers and clothes for the White Elephant Sale, which was collected by the animators and given to the church.

Team- Nitin and David.

We held a food stall to sell cakes, cookies, khari, toast and various other bakery items. Items were provided to us by Joan D'Souza at a discounted rate. Hence, we were able to sell more items at a cost-efficient pricing leading to a whooping sale amounting to Rs.10,000 /-Our unitmade the highest contribution to the Missions and we deeply appreciate the parishioner's patronage on the same.

Team- Nitin, Joan, Finiya.

# Christ the King Feast and Parish SSC Rally, 20th November 2022

Holy Hour adoration for all units of Zone 5 was conducted between 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm under Esther's guidance.

Team Representative from Holy Trinity Community-Cheryl, Saviola and Joan.

Across Zone 5, members came together wearing grey





clothes for Christ the King Procession from the church. For the Parish SSC Rally, Coordinator Finiya Thomas carried the Zonal Flag and Philomena Gonsalves carried the placard representing the unit.

Our unit sold 40 coupons for the SSC Rally, which was the highest number of coupons sold by a single unit. Special thanks to Maria Janardhan for her efforts.

All units of Zone 5, conducted this super-hit, engaging and humorous skit -"Who is the King of Kings" which is a short skit on Satan, who claims to be the King of Kings. He tempts the youth, a married couple and a nun. But in vain. The real King of Kings, Jesus appears and destroys Satan.

The play was appreciated and enjoyed by all present. Each actor played his/her part perfectly and we would like to thank them for their contributions.

- Written, directed and produced -Maria Janardhan.
- Jesus, King of Kings- Joe D'Costa.
- Angel- EmerlinPassanha
- Youths- Delina, Julie, Cyrus, Douglas and Saviola
- Couple- Cary Tavares and Sharlet Rego
- Nun-Esther Henriques
- Satan- Joan D'Souza
- Narrator- NimiaD'Costa
- On keyboard- Daniella Alphonso
- SSC Coordinators- Rose Banerjee and Philomena Gonsalves.





#### **Breakfast Stall, 27th November 2022**

Holy Trinity organized the breakfast stall on Sunday morning, 27th November 2022. We provided a huge variety of items which included: -

- Xacuti Chicken and Keema Pav by Maria
- Potato chops by Marie
- Chicken sandwich and Christmas cakes by Lila Joseph
- Bakery items by Joan
- Chicken Croquettes, chicken mayo sandwich and cupcakes by Celena and Celeste Browthwick
- Sanaas by Rose
- Tea by Philomena
- Coffee by Finiya

Compiled By: Finiya Thomas

# St. Jude's Community: Zone III - Unit 5

#### **Get Together**

Let us reflect on this day and give thanks to the Lord our God with the passage Psalm 100:4-5"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His court with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations"

To start with, we are really happy that the St. Jude community accepted us with warmth and love. October 29, 2022, on the blessed occasion of St. Jude's Feast, our vibrant community celebrated with a Mass and Fellowship.

The evening commenced with a Thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Fr. James for God's abundant gifts, particularly the gift of salvation. There was active participation by the community members during the Mass, and reading done by Carol, Bernard, Quintin and Anita.

The community gathering turned out to be an evening to remember, everyone was elated and opened up regardless of their age and joined the Happiness Drive. Franchelle compered the event keeping the entire community on their toes. Everyone seemed to be enjoying each other's company and were sharing laughter's and anecdotes from their lives. We almost engaged with everyone in the community and made new friends. My humble submission, the community leaders ensured every individual was engaged and taken care off.

The interactive conversations took a next notch as the Youth conducted the games, people moved away from their phones and were competing to win the exciting prizes. The Animators further ensured every family won something and felt cherished. Active participation from young parish members and especially the games organised by them caught the eye of all generations. Beyond the games, the spot prizes surprised everyone and spread a smile on everyone's face.

The music and dance filled the environment with new













energy and all eyes glittering. We are blessed to be a part of this community. To sum it up, it was fun and

engaging get-together.

- Gracy, Malishka and Arun Thankappan

# ST AMBROSE COMMUNITY - ZONE V UNIT II

In honour of Our Lady, the Rosary was recited throughout the month of October. Four times a month, we prayed the rosary together in buildings 40 through 48. The statue was also brought home by several of the members. Every rosary was followed by fellowship, which gave everyone the feeling that they were all members of a large family gathered under Mother Mary's care.Let us commit ourselves to continue to pray the ROSARY to our Mother Mary not only during months of May & October but DAILY.

Our Lady, Queen of the most Holy Rosary, pray for us!

- NIMIA DCOSTA





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

Month of October is dedicated to Mother Mary! After a gap of 2 years due to COVID pandemic, Rosary was prayed at the community members houses along with the Mother Mary veneration. The Mother Mary Statue was taken in procession to all homes within the community. The procession was accompanied with singing hymns, thanking Mother Mary for her maternal care at all times.

This time we also announced special prizes for best decoration for Mother Mary's arrival. Prizes were also announced for regular attendance. It was an amazing experience seeing families making efforts for unique decoration ideas and making time for praying the rosary regularly.

At the end of the month, the rosary was prayed at St. Mary's High School grotto dedicated for the well-being of our community followed by a small get together. Top three winners for best decoration were also announced at the get together. Special thanks to Zynidia Michael for accepting our invite to judge the decorations and shortlist the top three. Moreover,

it was remarkable to learn that six members won the prize for regular attendance.

All had a blessed experience and enjoyed the get together where we played housie, had snacks and sang songs together. May Mother Mary continue to shower her blessings on all of us!

This year being the Jubilee Year of Mother Mary's Apparition, in the month of October, we decided to take the statue of Mother Mary to every home in the Community and pray the Rosary. On the last day we had a fellowship with a large number of people who came together in spite of it being a working day. On the feast of Sts. Joaquim and Anne, our animators visited the elderly and grand-parents of our community and felicitated them with a token of gratitude by giving them roses and chocolates. The members of the community both youth and senior citizens also took active part in the indoor games conducted in the parish. Jennifer Karkala and Ciann Tauro won the womens doubles Carrom Tournament and made us proud.







# **Deanery Youth Day**

The Andheri deanery DYD was held on the 24th of September at Our Lady of Health, Versova. 30 youth from our parish attended this event which truly was a night to remember. This evening began with an introduction given by one of the youth directors followed by a talk and then we played a game. There were 5 performances from the different parishes out of which Good Shepherd Youth placed 3rd! The performances were judged based on the essence of the theme 'Brain Storm.' There was a talk by Shirley "It's ok not to be ok," helping the youth to understand the importance of mental health. We ended the night with a dance session and some good food. Overall



it was a fun evening and experience meeting youth from other parishes.

# Treasure Hunt

On the 22nd of October, we had our treasure hunt! A total of 30 youth were divided into 3 teams. Fr. Anil and Fr Savio gave us their wishes and this evening was off to a start! Without wasting any time, teams were working together to understand clues and get to the locations. The clues were really getting our minds twisted in a knot! But alas, after a good few rounds

of solving clues and teams going to far off locations,

the last clue got us all back to church. This was the final stretch, all of us looking for that one treasure. The winning team found the treasure and shared their victory with the other teams as well and in the end we all shared great memories. This is an event we all really look forward to every year and although we are one team, being against each other and wanting to win makes this event really fun!





# **Youth Picnic**

"A getaway we really needed."

On the 28th of October, we took an overnight trip to Karjat. We had been looking forward to this trip for months. All of us met at church and left in a yellow mini bus for the farm. We reached the farm at around 11am and we checked our rooms, kept our bags and got ready for the day. We played carrom, sat on swings, played football and had our lunch. We then took a good rest after which we jumped right into the pool and played water games. While we had our snacks, we enjoyed the lovely sunset. We ended the night with a few more games and a delectable meal. The next day we got ready with our bags, had a filling breakfast and left to come back. All of us got closer and understood each other better. We really needed this break and it left us refreshed!



# **Blessed Carlo Acutis Rally**

On 26th November, the Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis was brought to our parish from St. Blaise Church, Amboli, through a procession carried out by the youth and Parishioners of the church on bikes. Followed by a jeep in which the Relic was kept with our youth director, Fr. Savio and also the statue of Blessed Carlo. Youth were also at church, ready to welcome Blessed Carlo Acutis where we all wore red, to represent him. After reaching the church Fr. Savio placed the Relic at the altar and we had a short prayer.









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"Reach the Gates of Heaven"

# Guess the Carols/Songs

#### Guess the Christmas carols and songs from the pictures below!

Original by John Henson















































# **And Mary Said YES...**

Each year I find myself yearning increasingly to understand the true meaning of Christmas. More and more in my quest I've come to realize that, while focusing on baby Jesus, Mary's magnanimous role in the incarnation story takes second place. Mary, as a humble and faithful servant of God somehow loses our focus. Come to think of it, Mary, a poor girl from a remote country in Nazareth was actually the first one preparing for Christmas. Hence Mary becomes the first and true protagonist in the Christmas story.

We celebrate Christmas today because of Mary's 'Yes' to the life changing message of God. Jesus' very life depended on her response and cooperation. Mary trusted God when something seemed humanly impossible. She was the eternal believer. Mary's 'No' to God's request would mean 'No Jesus' therefore 'No Christmas'.

Luke and Matthew's infancy narratives talk about her Divine Maternity and her Virginal Conception. Imagine being told two impossible things like that and then saying YES. Mary's obedience to God's prompting gave us Christmas.

It can seem all to easy to forget Mary's role in the Christmas story in all the hustle and bustle and the preparations that take over the Christmas season. But while never losing focus on Baby Jesus who became man to save us from eternal damnation and bring us salvation, let us take time to let Mary's example of total surrender to God's promise inspire us and to embrace the inner stillness and confidence in God's guidance.

- Vera Correia

# SHEPHERD'S VOICE



"The smells of Christmas are the smells of childhood." - Richard Paul Evans

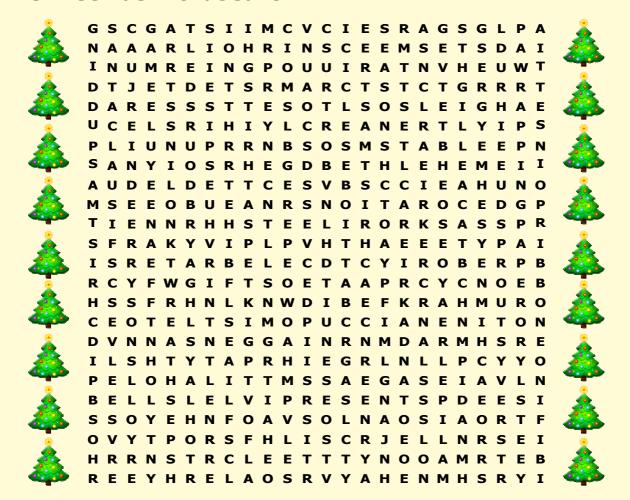
"The thing about Christmas is that it almost doesn't matter what mood you're in, or what kind of year you've had-it's a fresh start." - Kelly Clarkson

"It's true, Christmas can feel like a lot of work, particularly for mothers. But when you look back on all the Christmases in your life, you'll find you've created family traditions and lasting memories. Those memories, good and bad, are really what help to keep a family together over the long haul." - Caroline Kennedy

"The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much." – Henry David Thoreau

"Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day." – Helen Steiner Rice The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek ways to make life better for those around us." - Anonymous

#### Christmas wordsearch



**ADVENT ANGELS BELLS BETHLEHEM** CAKE CANDLES **CARDS CELEBRATE** CHIMNEY CHRISTMAS PUDDING CHRISTMAS TREE **CRANBERRY SAUCE DECORATIONS ELVES FATHER CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL GIFTS** 

**GREETINGS HOLIDAY** HOLLY HOLY **ICICLES** IVY **JESUS JOSEPH** LIGHTS MARY **MERRY** MINCE PIES **MISTLETOE** NATIVITY **NOEL** NORTH POLE PARTY

**POINSETTIA PRESENTS** REINDEER **RIBBON RUDOLPH** SANTA CLAUS **SEASON SLEIGH** SPROUTS **STABLE STAR STOCKINGS TINSEL** TURKEY WRAPPING PAPER **WREATH** YULE

# **GREENER PASTURES – FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

APPRECIATION DAY = SUNDAY. 22nd JAN. 2023 on the lawns at 6.30 pm.

CONFIRMATIONS: SATURDAY, 4 TH FEB. 2023 AT 6.00 PM

PARISH FEAST - SUNDAY, 19 TH Feb.. 2023 - Solemn Feast Mass: 5.30 pm followed by

Get together for the families of our Parish. An evening of games, fun, Entertainment and delicious snacks and food.

#### **BAPTISMS**

Date of Baptism	Date of Birth	Name	Parents
08-09-2022	15-01-1999	FIZA	IQBAL AND MARIELLA RIZVI
16-10-2022	15-06-2022	DANIEL MICHAEL	DANISH AND SAMANTHA MARWAHA
27-10-2022	25-08-2022	LUCA	NIKHIL AND MICHELLE

### **MARRIAGES**

Date	Name		
04-11-2022	CRAIG JOSEPH FRANCIS GONSALVES AND GAUTAMI SAGAR NARKAR		
05-11-2022	PRETHESE MANOHARAN AND CHRISTABEL SARAH D'SOUZA		
19-11-2022	WARREN JOHN CALISTO D'SOUZA AND NEHA KAUL		
30-11-2022	DANIEL GREGORY VAZ AND HEMALI JYOTINDRA BHATT		

### **DEATHS**

Date	Name	Age	Address
04-09-2022	KRISHNARANI CHHABRA	92 YRS	622, BLDG NO. 6, SAPTASSHRUNGI NEW EXTENSION LINK ROAD, JOGESHWARI (W), MUMBAI - 400102
10-09-2022	ANGELINA ALPHONSO	76 YRS	31/A WEST END APTS, FOUR BUNGALOWS ROAD, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 400053
12-09-2022	LEO BRAGANZA	82 YRS	K/1, FLAT NO 302, KISHORE DARSHAN, N. DUTTA MARG, FOUR BUNGLOWS, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 53
16-09-2022	AARON ASHLEY TORCATO	14 YRS	1A, 503 SAMARTH AANGAN, OSHIWARA, LOKHANDWALA, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI
18-09-2022	CYNTHIA MATHEW THOMAS	33 YRS	D3, PRIYADARSHINI CHS, PLOT NO CD-6 RSC-12, VERSO- VA, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 53
24-09-2022	ZENA PAI LYNCH	94	FLAT NO. 943, VISHAKA BLDG, OPP. LOTUS PETROL PUMP, ADARSH NAGAR, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 53
05-10-2022	FLORINE NOBERT COLACO	84 YRS	C/102, HRUSHIKESH, SWAMI SAMARTH NAGAR, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 400053
12-10-2022	ANNA KUTTY GEORGE	87 YRS	B/20, ANDHERI INDRA DARSHAN CHS LTD, 4 BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 53
20-10-2022	MERICIAN FRANCIS D'SOUZA	73 YRS	A-104 PREMA SADAN, RATAN NAGAR, 4 BUNGALOWS, AND- HERI (W), MUMBAI - 53
04-11-2022	ELIZABETH GOES	86 YRS	2-B/202 RATAN NAGAR, 4 BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI WEST MUMBAI - 400053

WISHING YOU ALL A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS. MAY THE CHRIST CHILD FILL YOUR HEARTS AND HOMES WITH HIS INFINITE JOY, PEACE & LOVE THIS SEASON AND IN THE NEW YEAR

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

# **Bringing JOY back into our Couple Relationship**

# (The Marriage Encounterway)

**Marietta :** Malcolm and I were courting for 3 years. Malcolm was in Bombay and I was in Kolkata. Our personalities are so very different and yet we loved each other so much. We would write letters to each other daily and number them (those days in the late 1970s, it was just the India Post) and eagerly look forward to receiving letters. We were longing for the day when we would be married and be together. If we felt so much of Romance when we were apart, what more when we were physically together.

**Malcolm:** ...and then we got married. It did not take us long to realize that marriage was not a bed of roses. We experienced many a challenge in diverse areas. My extensive travel made matters worse.

# Challenges to a fuller Couple Relationship

Time: Punctual/never on time; impulsive/Programmed
Money: My money/Your Money; thrifty saver/Big spender

In-Laws: Siding with them against spouse

Children: Disciplinarian/easy going approach. Taking child's side against spouse

Sex : Disinterest, Passive, Routine

Work/Travel: Workaholic (no time for each other)

Home: Museum/Home to live in?

Church: Involved as a couple?

Friends: Unite or divide us as a couple?

Pastime : Escape/ Unwind Values : Similar/Clashing

Mannerisms: Neat/Untidy. Polite/Rude.Gentle/Rough

Possessions: How much is enough?

**Malcolm:** from Romance during our courtship days, we were now going through disappointment and disillusionment. Clearly, whilst I was making progress in my career, I felt a void deep within me.

Marietta: Then Marushka, our daughter was born. What a blessing. I no longer felt solonely.

**Malcolm:** During our courtship years, Marietta and I were lovers. Once Marushka was born, we became parents and not lovers (focus of attention was on the child and not on our relationship. leading to a feeling of neglect/unloved). I never realized at that time, that the best thing a father can do for his child is to love their mother.

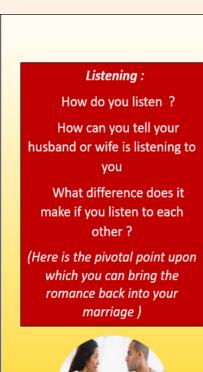
Marietta: We then adopted Minoshkaa few years later and that ignited a new spark into our family life.

Then a life changing event happened in our lives, for which we feel blessed and grateful. Malcolm and I did the Marriage Encounter Weekend.

**Malcolm:** Marriage Encounter did wonders for our couple relationship ...our children and others around could feel the difference. Whilst I had learnt the knowledge and skills to be a good engineer and manager, I was never taught how to be a good husband/father. Marriage Encounter provided me with those tools/skills.

We explored our personality styles and started appreciating our differences. We learnt Listening in a new way and Communicating intimately.







How we benefited

# Fighting:

Why do you fight? What do you fight about?

Would you like to

change this "-" into a "+" (You will find a different way to fight, one that will

change everything)

**Decision Making:** 

How do you go about making decisions?

Do you each make decisions in your own areas?

(You will consider what it is to make couple decisions)



What hurts you the most

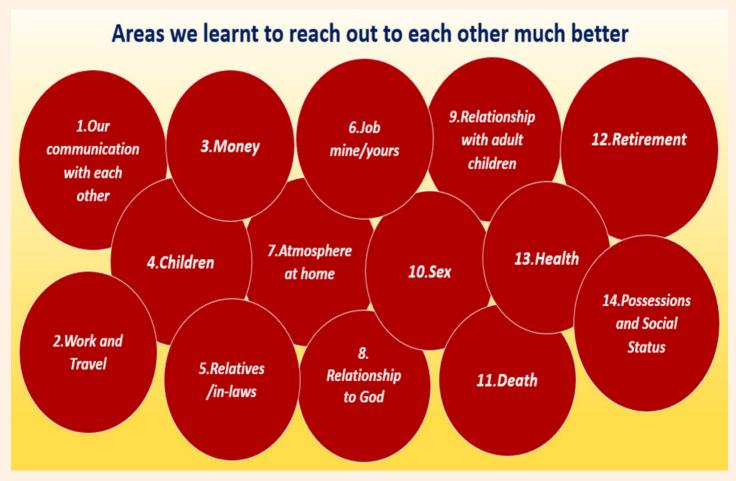
What happens to your relationship when either of you is hurt?

How does forgiveness play a part?

(You will discover that you have a capability for healing your spouse as no one else in the world has )



We were able to able to reach out to each other in difficult areas able to dscuss.



We became aware of the 4 basic emotional needs that needed to be fulfilled



#### 4 Basic emotional needs

- 1) Need to be Loved
- 2) Need a Sense of Worth





- 3) Need to Belong
- 4) Need to be Autonomous

**Marietta:** Marriage Encounter is a worldwide movement in nearly 100 countries. . over 5 million couples have benefited from it. In India since 1973.

#### Mission:

The mission of WWME is to proclaim the value of Marriage and Holy Orders in the Church and in the World.

#### For Whom is Marriage Encounter:

- . For good marriages who decide to be better
- . For great marriages who aspire to be greater
- . For married couples (newly weds to empty nesters )
- . For priests and religious

#### A Marriage Encounter is NOT:

- A couples' therapy
  - For counselling
    - A Retreat

. Married couples of any denomination, mixed-faith, or without religious affiliation are welcome!

9 in 10 couples who attend a Marriage Encounter recognize a long-lasting positive effect on their lives.

Improvements reported by couples

1- Intimacy

2- communication

3- sexual relationship

4- spirituality

5- respect for each other

The experience consists of presentations followed by private time between husband and wife. There is no group discussion.

So dear couples, Marriage is an extra ordinary vocation. We really do encourage you to experience the Marriage Encounter weekend. You will never regret making that paradigm shift to bring Jesus in as our 3rd Partner, weaving all the different coloured threads into HIS best fabric.

#### 2016

Special mass at Vatican – over 4000 Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples attended

#### 2016

"For all of you in Worldwide Marriage Encounter, I thank you for all the good you do to help families! Go forward!" - **Pope Francis** 

Thank you and God bless you all. Our love and Prayers,

- Malcolm & Marietta

(do reach us for further information on Marriage Encounter)

Christmas 2022 - FLOCK NEWS • 27



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