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DECEMBER 2023

# FLOCK NEWS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, ANDHERI WEST, MUMBAI 400053



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




# OSHIWARA LOKHANDWALA CITIZENS FOUNDATION (OLCF)



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*From the Pastor's Desk*

## THE PEACE OF CHRISTMAS

The angels proclaimed 'Peace on earth and good will to all'. That is the message of Christmas. But the reality we face today is exactly the opposite. Ironically there is an intense bloody battle going on in the very place where our Lord was born and grew up till he died. Not a day passes without a terrorist attack somewhere in the world, murders, rapes, destruction of places of worship and a continual destruction of the environment. WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE HUMAN RACE????? Have we lost our humanity???

What has happened to the Peace that Christ came to bring???

The answer is in the Gospel - John 1:11-13 'He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.' If peace begins in the heart. We can only have peace if we welcome the Prince of Peace into our hearts. If we reject him then there can never be peace whether in our hearts or the world around us. The world is increasingly turning their backs to God. In Europe that was the Motherland of Christianity, they are celebrating this season as the Holiday season. They don't like to call it Christmas anymore. So the motifs of Santa Claus, mistletoe, snowmen, etc. take center stage. And the Christ child is totally missing. The result is for all of us to see. In the last few years there are so many breakdowns in marriage, the growing epidemic of drug addiction and addiction to sleeping pills, their economies are on a decline and violence increasing. It is predicted that in 10 yrs the demography of Europe will drastically change. They will be dominated by people from other cultures and religions.

We in our Small Christian Communities have put up cribs and stars in our neighborhoods. Thus we have done our bit to put Christ back into Christmas and to spread His message of Peace and harmony. May we welcome the Prince of Peace in our hearts. And thus become channels of peace in the world. Spreading love where there is hatred, consolation where there is injury. So that this Christmas we may not merely be sharers of peace, but architects of peace in our troubled and war torn world.

Wish you all a Joyous & Peace filled Christmas.

- FR. ANIL REGO  
Parish Priest

## SHEPHERD'S VOICE -Inspiration

What is Christmas? It is the tenderness of the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future.

– Agnes M. Pahro

Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.

– Winston Churchill

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

– Norman Vincent Peale

Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.

– Ruth Carter Stapleton

From home to home, and heart to heart, from one place to another. The warmth and joy of Christmas, brings us closer to each other.

– Emily Matthews

Christmas is forever, not for just one day. For loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away.

– Norman Wesley Brooks

## Wishing you a Joyous & Peace filled Christmas.

From: *Dcn Inacin Fernandes, Frs. Frankie Crasto, James D'costa and Anil Rego*

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

#### CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS WILL BE ON

Monday, 18th Dec. 6.00 P.M – 7.00 P.M. 7.30 PM. – 8.30 P.M

Tuesday, 19th Dec. 6.00 P.M – 7.00 P.M. 7.30 PM. – 8.30 P.M

#### CHRISTMAS MASSES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Sunday, 24th Dec.: NO EVENING MASS, 10.00 P.M. SOLEMN CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS on the lawns (Church and Sarita)

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

THERE WILL BE NO EVENING MASS.

THURSDAY, 28TH Dec. : FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS – BLESSING OF CHILDREN AT THE 7.00 P.M. MASS

SUNDAY, 31ST DEC. 11.00 PM.: THANKSGIVING SERVICE/HOLY HOUR

12.00 MIDNIGHT : NEW YEAR MASS IN THE CHURCH

NEW YEAR, MONDAY, 1st Jan. 2024 : 7.00 AM (KONKANNI), 8.30 AM & 10.00 AM AND 7.00 PM



### BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Sing: O come all ye Faithful

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. We make this prayer through the same Christ our Lord.

(SPRINKLE HOLY WATER)

Sing: Come to the Manger

## SUNDAY SCHOOL - Building Faith Today for a Better Future Tomorrow



Another year of knowing Jesus, getting Immersed in the Word of God and Strengthening Faith. Sunday school began in full swing with an array of engaging activities for the children. We had 3 new catechists join us this year, making our total strength of 15 dedicated & enthusiastic catechists. The Children's mass has become more participatory, since it is led by the children with guidance from their teachers and encouragement from their parents. No matter how young in age, children have come forward to offer their talents and time as altar servers, choir members and lectors.

Grandparents & Parents day celebration helped shed light on the roles of the family in building the faith of the children.

Romans 10:17 says : "Faith comes from hearing the word of God". The Psalm Festival and Vacation Bible Joy did just that ! Children from standard 1st and 2nd were thrilled to come dressed as their favorite Biblical Hero for the Fancy dress competition and rest of the children from the Primary and Secondary section recited Psalms of thanksgiving and of trusting God. This gave us all a perspective of how grateful and thankful we need to be towards God our Father and that no matter what life throws at

us, we need to Trust God. Vacation Bible Joy (VBJ), had 46 children journeying in faith along with the patriarchs of the Bible from the Old testament and the apostles of Jesus from the New testament. The theme of VBJ this year was "Journeying in Faith" it definitely helped children know that, God is always by their side and eager to help no matter who or what they do.

A series of Faith Celebration sessions was organized by the Andheri West Deanery for the Secondary section of Sunday School under guidance of Fr. Nazli Reporter (Priest in charge-Andheri West Sunday School ). Children from four parishes in Andheri west participated in these sessions, ie Good Shepherd, Christ the King, Our Lady of Good Health and St Blaise. Our parish hosted the Faith formation celebration for the 5th and 6th std students on the 20th of August, the theme was "Bible Heroes" children from all the four parishes participated along with their catechists.

For Std 9 & 10 students, faith celebration took place at Our Lady of Good Health Parish Versova on 19th Nov 2023. Only three parishes participated in this session. The theme of the Faith Celebration was 'Vocation'. Personal experiences of the vocation journey as religious and as a lay persons were shared, Sr. Vinaya D'souza RGS (Religious of the Good Shepherd) was one of the speakers who gave an inspiring testimony of her journey as a religious sister . These experiences were an eye opener for the children, who got a glimpse of their everyday life and witnessed how God was in control and helped the speakers continue with the vocation they had chosen. We hope Sunday School continues to mold our children's understanding of God, and that we all need to let Him take the driver's seat and have faith in Him, for Faith can and will move mountains for us..



- Ruvina Fernandes

# CENTRE FOR SOCIAL ACTION (CSA) MISSION AT GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH



Bombay, as part of their mission outreach initiative, works in Raigad with the tribal community, especially with women self-help groups (SHGs) for supporting sustainable livelihoods.

These SHGs are well trained to make nutritious and healthy food products from locally sourced raw materials. Women follow the ownership model.

These products are made at designated production centres in good, hygienic, and supervised environments. Production Centres have the required FSSAI licence.

Navjivan Social Enterprise Foundation, a sister concern of CSA headed by Mrs Pauline Serrao and her team organised a sale of food products made by the tribals of Raigad in our Church on November 18th & 19th, 2023.

Assisted by a few parishioners, they had a very good sale in our Parish and were grateful to Fr Anil Rego for encouraging and supporting them and to all those who patronised the stalls generously.

The sale helps in providing sustainable livelihood to the tribal community, and the proceeds are sent directly to SHGs bank accounts through NEFT.

The Missions indeed commit to proclaiming and bearing witness to the Gospel. As Pope Francis said "In Christ, our life itself is a mission! We are a mission, because we are God's love poured out, God's holiness created in his own image."

- SHARLET REGO

Mission work encompasses a diverse range of activities undertaken by individuals and groups who are driven by their faith and a genuine desire to make a positive impact on the world. Missionaries serve communities through spiritual guidance, humanitarian aid, education, healthcare and empowering initiatives. Their work extends on holistic development, social advocacy and fostering sustainable change. They aim to uplift communities and improve the quality of life for those in need.

Empowering the locals and fostering self-sustainability is one of their priorities.

Centre For Social Action (CSA) of the Archdiocese of

## SENIOR CITIZENS

### A Trip To The Basilica Of Mount Mary's Church Bandra

The Senior Citizens 'Golden Hearts' of Good Shepherd Church organized a trip to the Basilica of Mount Mary's Church, to attend a mass offered for the aged and the sick by BASCA, on the 11th of September 2023 for all the members of Golden Hearts. An amount of Rs. 100/- was collected from each member

to defray the cost.

A 50-seater bus was arranged for this trip. We left at 9 am and on the way, stopped to have Breakfast at Juhu outside Citizen Hotel. Chicken Pattie and Chicken Mayo Sandwich was served as snacks along with a sizzling hot coffee, to all present on the bus



by the Golden Hearts Committee members. We then proceeded on our journey to the Basilica of Mount Mary.

A special Mass was offered for the Sick and senior citizens of parishes all over Mumbai. Many buses with senior citizens and sick arrived at the Basilica and all seats were filled and everyone attended the mass. The mass was celebrated by the Bishop and the parish priests of all churches in Mumbai who came along with their parishioners.

We had our spiritual director, Fr. Anil Rego who came with us. Fr. Anil Rego represented our Good Shepherd Church along with other parish priests who celebrated the Mass on that day.

After the Mass, snacks were distributed to all present. Blessed candles were distributed to all during the Mass.

After the Mass, we were all asked to assemble outside the church near the cross. Our special bus which was there to pick us up came, and we all took our seats and came home safely and got off outside our Parish.

A very well-organized trip by the Golden Hearts team for our senior citizens. Cheers to them all. Thank you, Fr. Anil Rego, Mr. Xavier Almeida, the President of Golden Hearts and the committee members for the wonderful trip. God bless.

- Rosie Braganza

## WORLD ELDERS NITE



The young-at-heart senior citizens "Golden Hearts" of Good Shepherd Church, Andheri West, celebrated World Elders Nite on 3rd December at Good Shepherd Convent lawns.

The lawns were transformed into a mini fairyland by Tressa D'Mello and her vibrant team. Roy's Roxy Band kept playing delightful tunes which built up the tempo for the night and kept the 240 senior citizens on their toes.

Piping hot soup was served as soon as the guests arrived. Mr. Xavier Almeida the president of Golden Hearts welcomed the people and, in his speech explained why World Elders Day is celebrated. Our parish priest, Father Anil Rego, spiritual director of the Golden Hearts, thanked the Golden Hearts for arranging activities for seniors and felt that the Golden Hearts was indeed one of the most active associations in the parish. He encouraged all senior citizens, to join the Golden Hearts and put life into their lives!

Our dynamic Mcee Sarita Mascarenhas managed



to get practically the whole crowd to join in the grand march. The talented band played enchanting music which kept the people enthralled to the beat dancing non-stop. Temptation Caterers served some very tasty mouth-watering snacks, while spot prizes kept flowing one after another. The air was charged with fun and frolic, which kept everyone in high spirits.

A few talented senior ladies then entertained us with some lively line dancing and many from the crowd got tempted and joined them. The highlight of the evening was the Golden Hearts favorite - A game of Housie, which was sponsored by our very generous caterer Tressa D'Mello.

A sumptuous dinner was spread out to satisfy our gastronomic needs but the band kept playing all the old favorites and this kept the people on the floor till the very end. Margaret Tavares said the 'Grace Before Meals' thanking God and reminded us of the less fortunate who did not have even simple food to eat.

Myself, Iona Godinho gave the 'Vote of Thanks', thanking all, Fr. Anil Rego, Sr. Usha and the sisters of Good Shepherd Convent, the band, the Mcee, the caterers, Mr. Xavier the President, committee members. Also, benefactors and well-wishers, who helped, sponsored, and encouraged in making the evening 'One Of A Kind' for the memory books!

- Iona Godinho





# Sisters of the Good Shepherd and it's Partners-in-Mission

In the reflective glow of the closing year, amidst the myriad challenges that besiege our

world, there emerges a beacon of hope embodied by the unwavering dedication of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to transform the lives of underprivileged children, women and communities in need. In the face of a dwindling number of vocations, the mantle of advancing this noble mission falls upon the shoulders of dedicated lay partners who collaborate seamlessly with the sisters.

A recent session, led by Ms. Sashi Natarajan, the Province Partner-in-Mission Convener,

Under scored the profound commitment of these lay partners. Ms. Natarajan, a devout Hindu, epitomizes the universality of the mission's ethos, reminding everyone that they are not partners by chance but rather, chosen with purpose. The heartening stories shared during the session reinforced the notion that each partner has a unique journey, affirming their role in this collective endeavour. Many extend their voluntary services towards the academic upliftment of children in nearby communities and illustrating a commitment to their holistic development.

The Parish community includes a good number of migrants from regions like Jharkhand,

Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, and Orissa. The sisters channel their efforts towards the empowerment of these marginalized individual by

illuminating them about their rights offering skill development programs, and providing crucial social support. The observance of their festivals together fosters a profound sense of acknowledgment among the migrant community. A recent example of this communal spirit was evident during the Adivasi Day Karam Festival, serving as a poignant testament to the inclusive and supportive atmosphere cultivated within the Parish. We feel privileged to work in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Migrant Commission.

Our Hostel for Low-Income Working Women, provides a safe haven and an environment for young women from lower-income backgrounds to pursue their dreams and careers. It's a Home away from Home'. The demand for this service has been growing and the setting up of a new Hostel building was imminent, helping to accommodate many more women.

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, the collaboration between the sisters and their Partners-in-Mission serves as an inspiring testament to the transformative power of collective action. In a world often overshadowed by challenges, the Good Shepherd mission stands tall, proving that through compassion, collaboration, and unwavering dedication, we can indeed forge a path towards a brighter, more equitable future.

- Sr. Vinaya D'souza



# WOMEN'S CELL - Nurturing Relationships in the Family



The Archdiocese of Bombay Women's Commission held a session at St. John the Evangelist Church, Marol on 'Nurturing Relationships in Family' on 19th November, 2023.

The Executive Secretary welcomed the gathering. She stated that the event of the Archdiocesan Women's Commission is not a celebration, but a reminder for breaking barriers of violence. It is about violence in the four walls of our homes. When children are exposed to violence they become perpetrators of abused experience, anxiety and trauma. As it is rightly said by Lord Tennyson 'More things are wrought by prayer than the world dreams of', the participants were then led in prayer.

Sr. Annie Joseph, CCBI Western Regional Secretary, National Women's Commission, addressed the

gathering... 'In the sanctuary of our home, we aspire to create a haven of peace, love and respect'. She stressed on standing united in our commitment to building a violence-free family where every member feels safe, valued and cherished. She stated that a healthy family is a foundation to a healthy basic unit of human society, the cradle of human values, the first home of every human being. Family relationships are the corner stone of our lives providing a strong foundation. A family is the greatest wealth one could ever experience, consisting of individuals connected by blood, marriage, adoption. There are nuclear, extended, blended, single parent, childless, foster or adoptive families.

Some of the benefits of strong family relationships are emotional support, increased happiness and better conflict resolutions. Communication in family should be open and honest and should include non-verbal communication, empathy, resolving conflicts constructively and active listening. Spending quality time together is also essential. Sr. Annie stressed on 'Trust' which is the foundation of strong family relationship and can be strengthened by practicing openness, transparency which can help in supporting the growth and well-being of each member and also in times of trouble.

Fr. Anthony, mentioned that 'Behind every successful man there is a surprised mother-in-law and behind every successful woman there are two men trying to pull her down.' He gave some tips in the selection of a Life Partner. Take the Lord in your decision. If a boy is hot-tempered, dominating, has addictions, is a Narcist (one who thinks... 'I am the best') he should be rejected. He should be Catholic and humble as humility is the hallmark of Christians.

Today the Church stands for Zero Violence. Aristotle once said 'Doing the same things again and again and expecting different results is foolish'. Together, let us create a violence-free family where love prevails, and each member can thrive in an environment of Peace and Security.

- Kamla N. DeSouza



## MOTHER THERESA COMMUNITY - Zone I Unit 3



### Mission Sunday

Our community celebrated 'Mission Sunday' by having a breakfast stall on Sunday, October 23, 2023. Goodies made by the community was sold and the proceeds were sent to the missions. Our caption for the missions was 'Life is a Mission not an Intermission' which also won us the first place in the Mission caption contest.

### October Rosary

Also, being the month of the rosary, our unit gathered on October 31, 2023 to pray the rosary at the Good Shepherd Convent Grotto. It was a lovely evening with prayer, fellowship, biblical Housie and yummy snacks.

### World Poor Day

On the occasion of World Poor Day, our unit members celebrated "Children's Day" with the children from the slums in the nearby vicinity at the Good Shepherd



Convent with yummy snacks, games and gifts.

- Simone Gonsalves

## ST. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY - Zone II Unit 5

### October Rosary

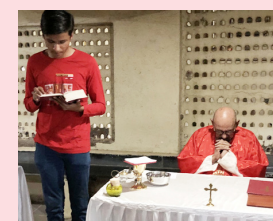
October month is dedicated for Rosary of Our Lady of Fatima. Mother Mary visited us in Model Town in our respective homes in rotation every day to recite the Rosary. Many families invited their near and dear ones, neighbours, animators and said the Rosary together as one family. Beautiful altars were decorated with flowers and lights for Mother Mary's visitation. On the last day, after the rosary, we bonded and shared in the snacks that were served.

### Feast Day

On 30th November, we celebrated the feast of St. Andrew, Patron Saint of our unit. Fr. James, Spiritual Head of our unit, celebrated the Eucharist in Gloria Building in Model Town at 7.00pm, which had a lively gathering of around 40 people in attendance.

Thanks to Gabrielle for singing the hymns... a beautiful voice. After Mass, we had a get-together and fellowship with delicious snacks and a warm-up game. We also had our iconic Housie conducted by Glen, followed by a wonderful buffet dinner. Many thanks to Anette, Vilma and Dora... we enjoyed a good evening of bonding with our community members. We need to have more such family gatherings and the entire community coming together as one family.

- Clifford Mendonca



# EPIPHANY COMMUNITY - Zone II Unit 6

## October: Month of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

October is the month traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Remembering the mysteries of Christ's life and Our Lady's life, we repeat Hail Mary after Hail Mary. Indeed, the mysteries of the Holy Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous - are the mysteries of our own lives as well. As we pray the Rosary, we ask Our Lady to draw us closer to Jesus who is our Light.

We remember seeing our parents and grandparents so often praying their rosaries, 'telling their beads' as some referred to this devotion. For many saints, the rosary was an indispensable part of their daily prayer. The month of October each year was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives to the church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

The statue of Our Lady was circulated to the homes of our unit whereby many members and animators gathered to pray the rosary as one family. There was much excitement in each family as this devotion means a lot to everyone. The statue of Mama Mary is taken from house to house, accompanied by the singing of hymns and reciting the rosary. At the end of the rosary, refreshments were served by the



family. On the last day, fellowship was held with a game of 'Housie' at St. Mary's High School lawns.

- Sabina Braganza

# ST. ALPHONSA COMMUNITY - Zone II Unit 7

## Celebrating Girl Child

The month of September is celebrated for the Girl Child. Keeping this in mind, our unit went on 24th September to Bal Bhavan, an orphanage at Andheri taking care of the orphan girls. Our members planned a beautiful evening program for them. We mingled and played with the children and our children interacted with them. The orphan girls sang a welcome song for us which made us feel so welcome. We then played passing the parcel and danced with them.

We arranged dinner for the children, which was contributed by our members. Children from our unit

eagerly served the children. The children enjoyed the meal and the entertainment program planned for them. We too were touched and enriched with their interaction with us and returned teary eyed overwhelmed with happiness and satisfaction.

## World Day of the Poor

Our Unit celebrated World Day of the Poor on 19th November, 2023. On 29th November, our unit members visited the Street Children outside Nana Nani Park and distributed Study material and a box of snacks to all of them. We had a small interaction





response, we got from both the outreach programmes.

### **Celebrating Life:**

It was the 90th birthday of one of our oldest members in our unit. We had a small get-together to celebrate his life and make his day special. We went in the evening to his house, cut a cake, presented a birthday card made by us, shared some snacks and played a game of Housie which is his favourite game. He was very happy to see all of us visiting together. The twinkle in his smile and the happy moments shared truly made his day special. We all left feeling so happy that we celebrated a milestone with our own uncle from our unit.

with them by conversing with them. It was a very heartening experience.

Our unit members are overwhelmed with the

## **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COMMUNITY - Zone III Unit 2**

### **Community Rosary**

Come October every year and our homes are ringing with the sounds of community prayer and singing! This is the time of year when our community with their families, get together, open their homes and hearts, Rosary beads in hand to celebrate in prayer and thanks to our beautiful Mother Mary. This year was very special for all of us. It was extra special for me and my family because I had the blessed and happy privilege to celebrate the very first community Rosary at my home on 2nd October 2023. Our community families were very happy to be together again. We shared our little stories of the year gone by, shared our joys and some sadness, prayed for each other and hugged each other's grief with love and prayer. Mother Mary must have smiled upon us and our homes while we her children sang hymns to her in unison.

Life takes on a totally different vibe and the energy around us is spiritually charged when families from our community get together to pray. Worries disappear and the heart feels lighter. The touch and feel of loving caring hands is so comforting. I have to mention, this year in particular was a double blessing for me when it was decided to have the last

day of the Rosary on 31st October at my home again. My happiness and gratitude multiplied and I was pleased that this time we could pray at the grotto on my terrace. The rest of the evening was spent playing a game, chatting & snacking as boxes filled with scrumptious delights & refreshments were served. The air was filled with love, laughter & warmth. I know that Mama Mary smiled upon us again she must surely have nudged her precious son Jesus and whispered to him, "Son, these families, your children are deserving of your love and may your blessings be upon them and their loved ones." Amen.

Thanks to our Animators who work unstintedly to organize various activities in our community, specially the Rosary every October.

- Charmaine Ferns



## ST. SEBASTIAN'S COMMUNITY - Zone III Unit 4



Members of our Community rallied together, in a compassionate effort to assist our less fortunate brethren in Manipur during their trying times, in the month of July. Various provisions, including gently used clothing, sarees, bedsheets, kitchenware, grains, pulses, cooking oil, detergents, soaps, biscuits, dental kits, and more, were generously donated by our community members. The dedicated sisters of Sneha Sagar coordinated the collection of these contributions, arranging for a van to transport the collected materials. On 20th July, 2023, these provisions were efficiently dispatched to Manipur via Gauhati. The sisters conveyed their heartfelt appreciation to all those who wholeheartedly supported this noble cause, demonstrating the strength of our compassionate Community.

During the month of July and August in 2023, our Animators visited members of our community who were unwell, confined to their homes, or elderly. These visits were characterized by expressions of care and concern, as well as shared prayers with the individuals we visited. We also dedicated time to listen to their needs and were ready to provide assistance whenever it was required.

On 24th September, we visited Sneha Sadan Orphanage at Amboli. Our visit had the noble objective of providing quality time to underprivileged children aged 5 to 15 years. We were fortunate to have one of our dear non-Catholic friends generously



sponsor a meal for the children. In addition to this heartwarming gesture, we organized games, including Housie, which the children adore and the gifts were thoughtfully sponsored by one of our Animators. The children relished a delightful non-vegetarian meal, followed by a dessert. During the event, some incredibly talented children graced us with their songs, and one child delivered a beautifully recited poem, a testament to the excellent training provided by their teacher. We even taught them the Birdie dance, which they enthusiastically enjoyed dancing to the music. A few boys expressed their gratitude in their own endearing ways. The Sisters of Sneha Sadan extended their heartfelt appreciation to the community for dedicating their time to organize such a wonderful evening, one that undoubtedly brought joy, smiles, and happiness to these little children who yearn for the love of their families.

The Rosary recital took place monthly during the third quarter of 2023, from July to September. These gatherings were graciously hosted by community members at their homes, with the primary goal of coming together as a community to offer prayers for various intentions, as we sought the intercession of Our Lady. These gatherings also aimed to



nurture fellowship and fortify the bonds within our community.

October was the month dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. The blessed statue of Our Lady embarked on a reverent journey visiting our Community Homes. Together, we meditated on the mysteries that our beloved Mama Mary contemplated in her heart, using the Rosary prayer to connect with Jesus and Mary through these profound mysteries, followed by a fellowship that fostered a spirit of bonding and allowed us to better know our community members. On October 30, the closing day of the Rosary, Mass was organized in addition to the Rosary, celebrated by our Spiritual Director, Fr. Anil Rego. He delivered a beautiful homily centered on fostering a vibrant community and working together for the glory of God and humanity. This was followed by a gathering featuring games, a quiz about the life of Mother



Mary, Housie, music, and snack counters, making the evening filled with fun, excitement, and wonder.

October 1, our community organized a Sunday breakfast stall following each mass, resulting in a collection of Rs. 5,090/-. We sincerely thank all those who generously contributed their valuable time and effort to ensure the success of this event. The funds will be utilized for community activities.

October 22, Mission Sunday, our community hosted a breakfast stall after both morning and evening masses. We successfully gathered a collection of Rs. 8,200/-, including Rs. 3,000/- from donors, which was deposited to the Parish Office for transmission to the Archdiocese of Bombay. We express our gratitude to all those who worked hard to set up the stalls and to the donors for their generosity.

November 18, our community visited the Clergy

Home in Bandra. Sister Veronica warmly welcomed us, expressing gratitude for our time with the aged priest. Observing our senior priest savour every moment was heartening. From sing-song sessions to dancing to old melodies and masala, the atmosphere exuded warmth. We also joined the St. Nicholous Community from Sacred Heart Church, Vashi, in singing Christmas carols, with the participation of our senior priests enhancing the festive spirit. Throughout the visit, we partook in a lively game of Housie, with our community members assisting the aged priests who needed help. Gifts, sponsored by a member, were presented, amplifying the joyous occasion. One of our members danced to the delight of our dear priests, adding an exciting and personalized touch to the event. Lastly, heartfelt gratitude to all who attended the Clergy Home, alongwith the love offerings they shared. We extend sincere thanks to the generous community members who, though unable to attend, sent their contributions of various kinds. Our appreciation goes out to everyone who supported and contributed, enabling us to express gratitude for the selfless service rendered by our old and aged priests throughout their tenure of priesthood.

- Aloma Fernandes , Co-ordinator

# EXCEL ENTERPRISES

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## ST. JUDE'S COMMUNITY - Zone III Unit 5



### World Day of the Poor

In a heartening display of compassion and community support, members of St. Jude's Community brought smiles to the faces of underprivileged children as they were treated to a nourishing meal.

These children regularly attend honorary coaching classes conducted by volunteers from Spark A Change Foundation. 150 of these kids were given lunch (consisting of Puri bhaji and a Frooti) on 5th December by members of our community, who wholeheartedly contributed to the cause.

As the children left the event with smiles on their faces and hearts full of gratitude, it was a reminder that a simple act of kindness, like providing a meal, can have a profound impact on the lives of those less



fortunate. The charity event not only addressed a basic need but also sowed the seeds of community solidarity.

- Franchelle Raj

## HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY - Zone III Unit 7

"Praying the Rosary allows us to encounter Mary and to enter the mysteries of Jesus Christ. From His Incarnation, to the Cross, to the Resurrection, we come to understand that God has revealed Himself and Saved us."

We, the members of Holy Family Community conducted the daily Rosary in the month of October. Every family honoured Our Lady Mother Mary's statue by reciting the Rosary with their family and other community members. This was followed by fellowship and mingling with one another. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary continue to inspire us to a life of discipleship.

During the same month, on 15th October, our Community members spent a wonderful day with the children

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### *Finding Christ in serving others*







of Sneha Sadan, comprising of 26 children, all girls in the age group 4 to 16 years. We played games, had spot prizes, sang songs and had a wonderful lunch with them. It was a lovely experience for all of us and both parties enjoyed themselves. Truly a day well spent and a lifetime memory to be treasured.

- Silvia Babar

## MARIA GORETTI COMMUNITY - Zone IV Unit 1

Mary, Our Mother binding us in Love and Prayer

The month of October, as we all know is the month of the Holy Rosary and is dedicated to Mother Mary. As in previous years, the Rosary was recited at the homes of our community members with the statue of Mother Mary. It was very heartening to see a large number of families actively participating in the Rosary. The daily Rosary was followed by a small fellowship encouraging and giving the members an opportunity to give their view points in making our community more vibrant – the motto of the SCC. This also gave an opportunity to mingle and know each other better. This year, we saw more families participating in the Rosary which was a welcome change for the better.

The 'FINALE' was held on 31st October, 2023 at the home of our SCC coordinator - James Dsouza. The statue of Mother Mary which was kept with reverence, was beautifully decorated with flowers. The service began with the Rosary followed by Special Prayers. One of our Parishioner - Henry Machado, gave an

eye-opening talk on the life of Mother Mary since she was a little kid. It was truly enlightening. God bless him for this wonderful session. We then had a small session of fellowship and entertainment. One of the members played beautiful music on the guitar for a sing song session. We had a games session too. Finally, we had a good sumptuous snack box. One of our community members presented a small memento of Mother Mary (a plastic statue with a small inbuilt bulb) to all community members as a gift of thanksgiving to Mother Mary for all the blessings received.

This year, the event was truly memorable with the large crowd and families joining to honour Mary, our Mother. We thank the PPC coordinator, SCC coordinator and the animators who are trying their best to make the community more active and vibrant through various initiatives. I truly felt proud and happy to be a part of this big family.

- Sheila Swamy

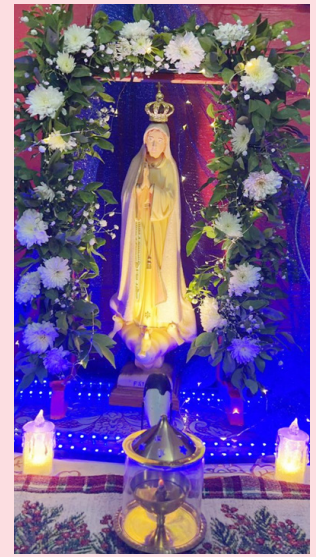


## ST. CHRISTOPHER COMMUNITY - Zone IV Unit 2

According to Acts 2 Verse 44... 'and all who believed were together and had all things in common'. Our community got together in the month of October to pray the rosary in the houses of the members. The statue of Mother Mary in these homes was beautifully decorated and lit up by the families. Many children, youth and elders participated in the rosary with prayerful devotion and heartfelt singing.

This was followed by a time of fellowship.

Our community members took part in the adoration on 26th November, on Christ the King Feast and joined in the procession in the evening. Some of our members visited the old and the elderly of our community, assuring them of our prayers and support.



## THE HOLY TRINITY COMMUNITY - Zone V Unit 1

**In the month of October, we had the following activities:**

1) Community Rosary was held on 29th October 2023 on the grounds of Bldg No. 11. The program included-

- Community Rosary
- Talk by Henry Machado on Our Lady
- Snacks & Refreshments

Organizers – Joan, Andrea, Archana & Maria

2) Mission Sunday – Everyone from our community had a chance to contribute in their own little way –

- Contributions in Cash/Kind
- Selling newspapers & donating the proceeds
- White Elephant Sale – we collected old items in good usable condition like clothes, crockery, books etc.
- Patronizing our community's food stalls – included bakery items, kheema pav & popcorn

Food Stall Organizers – Archana, Angel, Natasha, Joan, Rose & Finiya



All the proceeds collected from the above-mentioned activities were donated for the Missions under our unit's name. The total sum of the proceeds amounted to INR 19,200/-

**In the month of November, we had the following activities:**

1) Christ the King Feast –

- Cheryl from our unit participated in our community wise adoration
- Our community members joined the procession in large numbers

2) Holy Trinity Community completed their





Silver Jubilee on 29th November 2023. The Trinitarians offered the evening mass for their community.

- Bombay Catholic Sabha Signature Campaign- many community members came forward to sign & show their support to this signature campaign

Co-Ordinator - Finiya Thomas

## ST. AMBROSE COMMUNITY - Zone V Unit 2

Silver Jubilee Celebrations: 7th December 1998 - 2023

On December 7, 2023, we celebrated the feast of our patron saint - St. Ambrose. It was exactly twenty-five years ago, under the guidance of the late Fr. Rumao & Fr. Richard that the St. Ambrose Community was established.

There was a gathering of the community members after the feast mass. Many thanks to Caroline Almeida for the opening prayer. Antonette Braganza presented a vote of thanks and gave a brief overview of the community's founding, honoring past organizers, animators and spiritual members until the present. Also remembered and prayed for deceased members of our community. We are grateful to Joslyn Pereira for hosting the celebrations. There was lots of fun &

frolic with games and spot prizes. Everyone danced to the tunes of the melodious music.

We were truly blessed and thanked three well-wishers for their love offering. Santa Claus (Joe Dcosta) astonished everyone by appearing and entertaining the gathering since it was the advent season, ending the evening with a cheery joyful Christmas ambiance.

The celebration came to an end with a closing prayer led by Barbara Pereira. After that, each person received a delectable snack box. Our heartfelt gratitude to our spiritual director, co-ordinator, animators and energetic community members for making the evening enjoyable and lively. It was a day that one will cherish and ever remember.

- Elvis Fernandes



# GLORIA TIFFINS

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# Christmas Joy



DIRECTIONS: Fill in the crossword grid with the provided words.

**4 Letter Words**

- BELL
- SNOW

**5 Letter Words**

- ANGEL
- COCOA
- ELVES
- HOLLY

**6 Letter Words**

- LIGHTS
- SLEIGH
- TINGEL
- WINTER
- WREATH

**7 Letter Words**

- CHIMNEY
- GARLAND
- PAGEANT
- RUDOLPH
- SNOWMAN

**8 Letter Words**

- CAROLING
- DECEMBER
- EXCHANGE
- ORNAMENT
- PRESENTS
- REINDEER
- WRAPPING

**9 Letter Words**

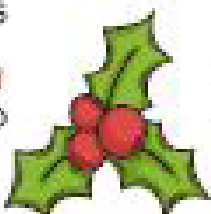
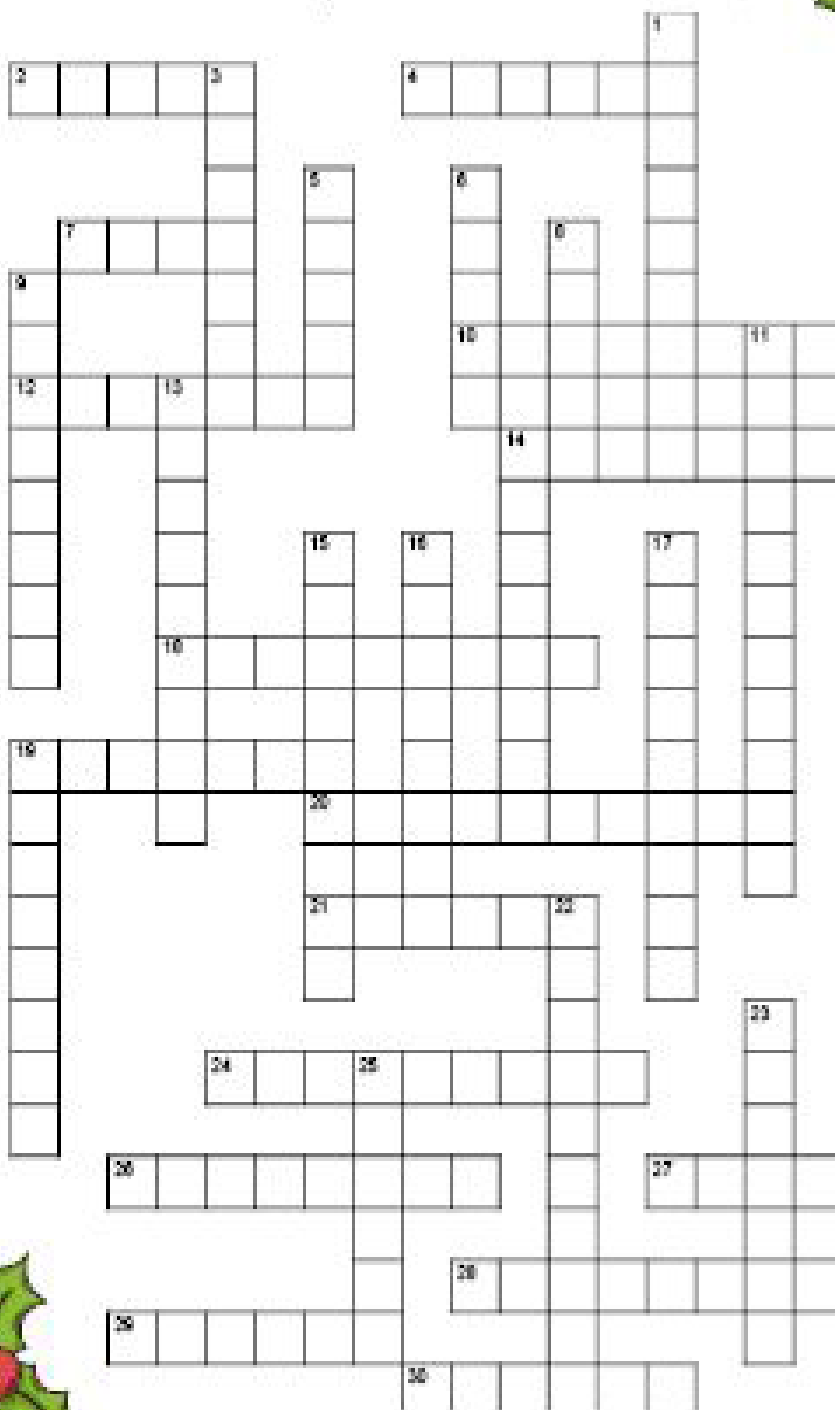
- CHESTNUTS
- CHRISTMAS
- EVERGREEN
- FRUITCAKE
- MISTLETOE
- NORTH POLE

**10 Letter Words**

- POINSETTIA
- SANTA CLAUS

**11 Letter Word**

- GINGERBREAD



# MILESTONES

## BAPTISMS

Date of Baptism	Date of Birth	Name	Parents
24-09-2023	24-09-2009	ANGELINA VINCENT FRANKLIN	VINCENT AND SHALINI FRANKLIN
24-09-2023	17-06-2014	KHUSHI SANDEEP RAI	SANDEEP AND SUJATA RAI
01-10-2023	10-05-2014	MAHIKA SHASTRI	AMITESH AND MALINI SHASTRI
29-10-2023	12-09-2023	KIARA D'SOUZA	WALTER AND VALENTIN D'SOUZA
29-10-2023	02-10-2023	RINISHA RAJESH	RAJESH AND NISHA RAJESH

## MARRIAGES

Date	Name
06-10-2023	JAMES EDWARD PASSANAH AND ELIZABETH JUDITH BOCARRO
19-11-2023	RONALD BRAGANZA AND MARY YALAMUTHU
23-11-2023	PATRICK YUHANNA AND SUJATHA VISWANATHAN
09-12-2023	MARSHALL D'SILVA AND VANESSA FERNANDES
16-12-2023	ALTAMASH JALEEL AND SIMONE PINTO
16-12-2023	ANDREW NUNES BARACHO AND ATHENA PRERNA D'SOUZA

## DEATHS

Date	Name	Age	Address
24-09-2023	JOAQUIM THOMAS A. DIAS	89 YRS	A/44. 4TH FLOOR, SAI APTS, OPP. PRATAP SOC, J.P. ROAD, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 400053

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