FLOCKNEWS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, ANDHERI WEST, MUMBAI 400053





OSHIWARA LOKHANDWALA CITIZENS FOUNDATION (OLCF)



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GOOD SHEPHERD

LOCK NEWS

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From the Pastor's Desk

GOD IN THE ORDINARY

In 2007, acclaimed violinist Joshua Bell was recruited by the Washington Post for an experiment: If Bell were to pose as a busker during rush hour in a busy Washington, D.C., Metro station, would anyone stop and listen? As it turned out, only seven people stopped during Bell's 45-minute performance.

Bell played the first movement of Bach's Violin Concerto for nearly 45 minutes while wearing a baseball cap. Only seven people stopped to listen to Bell, and one recognized him. Bell collected \$32.17 from 27 passers by.

The Washington Post columnist Gene Weingarten wrote about the experiment, and later won a Pulitzer Prize for his story. Bell played an encore performance at Washington's Union Station in 2014.

The experiment demonstrated that extraordinary talent in ordinary settings is often overlooked and undervalued.

When God chose to come down to earth he came in a very ordinary way. It was not in the capital of an empire but in an obscure town that Jesus Christ the Son of God chose to be born. Not in a palace, but in a place that housed animals.

That is why he was noticed by only a band of lowly shepherds. While the rich & powerful were busy with their own affairs & fun. God did this TO IDENTIFY Himself with every human being no matter how lowly & deprived.

As we celebrate Christmas, may we not be lost only in the trappings of it's commercial treats. And let us not lose sight of **Christ 'the true reason for the season'.** May Christ take centre stage in our homes. I humbly urge all of you **to put up a Christmas crib in your homes.** And make it the centre of focus during the season. So that this will indeed be a season of grace & blessing.

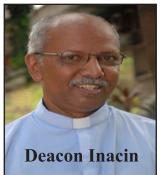
Wishing you all a Blessed & grace filled Christmas that will carry on in Year to come.

Your Pastor,

Fr. Anil Rego







Deacon Inacin, a beloved servant of God whose contributions have deeply touched the community and who has inspired many with his dedication and service for 9 long years at Good Shepherd Parish.

A sincere Thanks for your long and valuable service to our Parish.

And all the very best in your new assignment at Our Lady of Dolour's Church, Sonapur.

WELCOME

We are very pleased to welcome Deacon Fredrick to the Good Shepherd Parish Family. Deacon Fredrick Correa was born on 04th December. He had his primary education in Pernal and Shirva in Mangalore. He graduated from St. Joseph's College, Bangalore and did his Master's degree in Marketing Management, Mumbai University. He worked for Godrej and his last 9 years he spent in various countries of Africa with a base in Nairobi, Kenya.

He studied Philosophy and Theology for 6 years in St. Pius X Seminary, Goregaon East along with priestly candidates and was ordained as a Deacon on 25th March 2017 by His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias. Thereafter, he was posted in Our Lady of Nazareth Church, Bhayander West where he served for 7 years. He was the Spiritual Director of Legion of Mary, Mother Most Pure Curia, Bhayander.



We, the Flock wish You dear Deacon Fredrick, a happy and a fruitful ministry in our parish.

SHEPHERD'S VOICE - INSPIRATION

"Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day."
- Helen Steiner Rice.

"Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas."
- Peg Bracken.

"Christmas is a tonic for our souls. It moves us to think of others rather than of ourselves. It directs our thoughts to giving."

- B.C. Forbes

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."

- W. T. Ellis

"Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand."

- Dr. Seuss

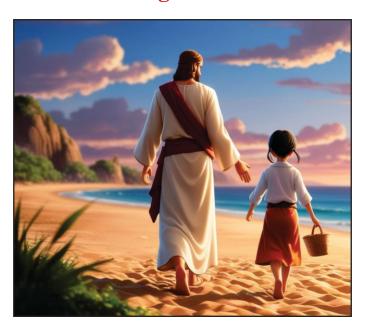
"There are three stages of man: He believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus."

- Bob Phillips

"The magic of Christmas never ends, and its greatest of gifts are family and friends."



Walking with Jesus



It all started with a dream...

I felt a gentle tap on my shoulder. Waking up and rubbing my eyes, I was stunned to see Jesus standing right in front of me! Jesus said, "I am sorry for waking you up, but since you're awake, would you like to go for a walk with me? I have to exercise anyway." I said, "Okay."

As we were walking, Jesus was telling me how much he loves me and that I should always try not to sin. He was telling me all the ways that I can be a follower of God. Jesus said that he would always be there to protect me and be my best friend.

When I woke up in the morning, I felt a sense of peace in knowing that Jesus would always be there by my side to protect me and love me throughout my life. Now I know that I truly want to be a better Christian.

- Izabela Aranjo First Holy Communion Student

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



Poem by Confirmation student

As we gather in this sacred space, With hearts open and souls embraced, New friends to meet, old friends to greet, In the warmth of faith our spirits complete.

> Each lesson learnt, each prayer we share, God's love surround us everywhere, Through scriptures' light, we find our way, Growing stronger in faith each day.

Together we'll laugh, together we'll pray, In this blessed class, we'll find our way, With new friends met, and old ones near, We'll walk in Christ, our path is clear.

- Yvette D'Souza



Family Cell...

(reaching out to families)

"Having somewhere to go is home.

Having someone to love is family"

The family is the first essential cell of human society. ... Pope John Paul XXIII

The family is the first and fundamental school of social living.

... Pope St John Paul II

The family is where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to one another.

... Pope Francis

A family includes children, teenagers, youth, engaged couples, married couples, unmarried singles, single parents, widow/widower/annulled, senior citizens living alone.

An ideal family is characterised by love, support, communication, trust and shared values. Having a strong family unit provides emotional support, a sense of belonging, stability and fosters the development of important life skills and values.

However challenges facing families are many and include abuse, addiction, communication issues, poverty, divorces, grief, anxiety, parenting, loneliness.

The Family Cell in our Good Shepherd Parish recognises that a Family is a little Church (with God at the centre of what we do) and hence strives to achieve the following within families.

- 1) Development of healthy family life through relevant educative programs that build awareness and encourages each family member to play their
- 2) Reaching out to families in distress, through relevant supportive interventions.

Our SCC (Small Christian Communities and Clusters) serve as a primary source of identifying family needs, encouraging participation in family related content talks, events and in providing constructive feedback.

Other Cells and Associations in our parish would be actively leveraged by Family Cell to help meet the needs of our families.

These **family needs** include covering:

- 1) Finding faith centered relationships (for single catholics)
- 2) Marriage Preparation (for engaged couples)
- 3) Marriage Enrichment (strengthen marital bonds)
- 4) Parenting Workshops
- 5) Care for the Elderly and Aged.
- 6) Family Gatherings
- 7) Family Counselling

Family Cell intends to strongly leverage our Media Cell (through Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, Parish Website) to bring you motivating and relevant content for different family members.

More recently, the Family Cell has introduced for families

- 1) A counselling service in our parish
- 2) A catholic matrimonial platform
- 3) Encouraging couples to enhance their married lives through participating in the Marriage Encounter weekend program (held on Nov 30th/Dec 1st) and there will be more such programs
- 4) Encouraging a family tradition of the Family Advent Wreath

Other activities planned include celebrating

- 1) Family Day on 29th Dec
- 2) World Marriage day on 16th Feb 2025
- 3) Wedding anniversaries of our parishioners.

Family Cell urges you to

- 1) Participate whole heartedly in these events /programs; read /listen to content circulated though our Media Cell
- 2) Provide constructive feedback as to what more we could do and if you feel that you could contribute towards a healthier family, do come and join this vibrant group.

Families are like branches of a tree, we grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.

As we prepare for the birth of Christ in this season of Advent, let us also prepare ourselves to welcome Christ into our hearts and to be reborn to our families.

- Malcolm Monteiro



SENIOR CITIZENS

TRIP TO THE MOUNT

On 16th September, Senior Citizens went on a faith filled trip to Mount Mary to attend mass for the sick and the aged organized by the Senior Citizens, "Golden Hearts."



The bus started at Good Shepherd Church at 7.30 am. It was a joyous group like a family. We prayed the Rosary & sang hymns.

Breakfast on the bus was a sumptuous one. It was more of a brunch than breakfast. The conversations were caring & sharing.

We arrived at the Mount. It was an open air mass. The altar was beautifully decorated. The sick came from various homes. The priests were lined up in wheelchairs in their spotless white cassocks. Hundreds were present

from all faiths, who came to be healed, from various nursing homes. The mass was celebrated by Bishop & many priests. The atmosphere was solemn & holy. After mass snacks were served to all the sick and home bound.

Our return journey was a joyous one. We felt so blessed to be able to be a part of journey. Believing that the healing power of Jesus & the intercession of Mother Mary were a source of joy on our return journey. We went praying & came back singing.

Faith requires action, even when the action seems, too ordinary to be effective.

Thank you, to Senior Citizens "Golden Hearts", who made this trip a blessed one.

Sheila Fernandez

WINTER TELE MANIA

For Senior Citizens.

There was an exciting event named Winter Tele Mania, held for Senior Citizens by the St. John The Evangelist Church, Marol, Andheri E. on 30th November 2024 from 10am to 12.30pm.

Thanks to the **Golden Hearts** group that some of us Senior Citizens of Good Shepherd Parish were very lucky and happy to have been invited for this event held among 7 Parishes of Andheri Deanery.

Our morning commenced with the 9 of us along with our leader & coordinator Nancy Ferns meeting at Versova Metro Station at 8.15 am. The Metro train quickly brought us to our destination venue at the appointed time of 9 am.

St Jake The Irrangelist Ownth Morel

Assance Stalement Presents

NIESTICLE MANIA

THE ALABASY DAGS

(NO. 1)

Participants: Nancy Ferns, Flavia, Sylvia, Steven, Adaline, Clarence, Richard, Priscilla and Percy.

We were all greeted by a hot cup of coffee and mince roll

at the venue to begin our day with what was to turn out to be an exciting day of well thought of competitive games





- 8 - in all to score our points to win the coveted Trophy.

Although we didn't win the trophy, it hardly mattered considering how much we all enjoyed in our participation, fellowship and the well organized sporting event.

Speaking of the games I must say they were well thought of and extremely well executed keeping in mind that the participants, were all Senior citizens from 58 years and above. The various games were planned in such a way, where each participant was well tested for his or her aging mind and hand and eye coordination and movements thus offering equal opportunity to each group to be completely involved and with absolute fairness.

Fr. Anthony, Parish Priest of the Church and his team of volunteers were all very friendly and coordinated the event well with plenty of enthusiasm and care.

The day ended with a virgin mojito drink, hot biryani and kulfi as dessert.

Finally, I must mention in the end Good Shepherd team was indeed announced as Winners, erroneously though, because of some confusion in calculation of the points scored by each team. Having said that I had to be honest and asked them to recalculate the points.

Our teams honesty was duly acknowledged and that was our true Trophy of Honesty that we eventually won and returned with.

Thanks to Fr. Anil for considering our participation at this event.

Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas!

- Percy Pereira

Dare to Be Different: Spiritual Retreat for Confirmation Students

On 12th & 13th October 2024, St. Louis Convent hosted a transformative spiritual retreat, 'Dare to Be Different,' for the Confirmation students and Good Shepherd Youth.

Though the setting was simple, the lessons we learned were of great spiritual importance.

The retreat, centered on spiritual healing, was led by Brother Leon Gonsalves, Savina Gonsalves, their team and Fr. Frankie, who guided participants through prayer, reflection, and group activities.

The day began with a prayer led by Brother Leon and his team of Cornerstone Ministries asking God to open our hearts and minds. They introduced the theme, encouraging us to embrace our individuality and live out our faith boldly, even in a world that often demands conformity.

Rev Fr. Frankie our confirmation group director led us in prayer and then he preached on various topics related to the theme of the retreat.





Brother Leon and his team then lead us through prayer and worship along with the choir headed by the other members of the team. We had a few action songs which we enjoyed a lot after which we took a breakfast break. We then started reflecting on the theme of the retreat and Brother Leon shared with us testimonies of people from various walks of life. He also shared his testimony of how he was drawn to the faith. After a brief introduction we were led into many more inspiring testimonies shared by other group members. This was followed by lunch. After lunch we grooved to some more action songs to keep up the energy and to get refreshed. This was followed by more preaching on topic such as problems faced by the youth. The reflections led us to a critical question: What does it mean to be different for Christ? For me, it

meant embracing kindness when it's easier to be indifferent, choosing honesty over shortcuts, and standing firm in my values even when others disagree.

By afternoon four o'clock the prayer group explained to us the process of healing and its benefits. It was followed by a session of healing and prayer led by Cornerstone Ministries members. We ended with tea and snacks and the day came to a close with a healing session.

All of us were eager for the second day of the retreat. The second day of retreat was more than inspiring. It further deepened our faith in God and our devotion to Jesus. The second day followed the same timings and same schedule. First breakfast and then preaching. On the second day the topic was different- A reflection on the Holy Spirit and the gifts. We started with testimonies given by various ministry members. Sister Sabina gave us a lot of insights on the topic. Later we were led to an infilling session of the Holy Spirit where we were to receive the Holy Spirit in all its fullness and power. The day ended

with adoration to the blessed sacrament.

The sessions encouraged attendees to embrace their uniqueness, deepen their faith, and find strength in their differences. Highlights included lively praise and worship, inspiring talks, moments of silent meditation, and a Eucharistic celebration. The retreat concluded with a heartfelt commitment to live authentically and boldly in faith.

This enriching experience left participants spiritually renewed and empowered to shine as lights in their communities.

- Kelly Carvalho & Cris Lobo





Farewell to Deacon Inacin: A Heartfelt Send-off





The parish came together for a heartfelt farewell to Deacon Inacin, a beloved servant of God whose contributions have deeply touched the community and who has inspired many with his dedication and service for 9 long years at Good Shepherd Parish.

Setting the tone for the evening the event began with an inspiring backdrop poem written by PPC Secretary-Terence Gonsalves. The host-Priya Pereira welcomed everyone with warmth and enthusiasm. The event was a beautiful blend of gratitude, humour, and camaraderie.

The celebration started with a cake-cutting ceremony, There after Fr. Anil delivered a touching speech about Deacon Inacin's service and presented him with a plant as a symbol of gratitude and growth. He also welcomed Deacon Fredrick Correa and gifted him a plant to signify hope and new beginnings.

Laughter filled the air with a humorous skit titled 'Ek Lakh' performed by the Konkani group showcasing the community's vibrant spirit. This was followed by moving tributes:- Malwin Fernandes shared heartfelt words in Konkani and Terence Gonsalves expressed his appreciation in English, reflecting on Deacon Inacin's unwavering commitment and compassion.

In his response, Deacon Inacin expressed heartfelt gratitude to the community cherishing the moments spent together. Paul and Meena presented him with a purse and a beautifully crafted card by Malwin as tokens of love and appreciation.

The evening was further enlivened by a fantastic live band performance by the youth demonstrating the energy and talent of the parish's younger generation.

PPC Vice President Percy Pereira gave a vote of thanks acknowledging the efforts of all who contributed to the success of the event. The program concluded with the distribution of snack boxes leaving everyone with hearts full of fond memories.

The farewell was a beautiful celebration of love, gratitude and blessings, wishing Deacon Inacin a bright and successful journey ahead in his ministry.

- Terence Gonsalves



The Meaning of Christmas Symbols

Candy Canes, Wreaths, Christmas Trees and More ...

Stars

The Christmas star symbolizes the star of Bethlehem, which according to the Biblical story, guided the three kings, or wise men, to the baby Jesus. The star is also the heavenly sign of a prophecy fulfilled long ago and the shining hope for humanity.

Candles

A candle, a mirror of starlight, is also a symbol representing the Star of Bethlehem. Before electric Christmas tree lights were invented, families would use candles to light up the tree. Also, during this season, two



other holidays share the significance of candles and light: Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, in Judaism; and Kwanzaa, a unity celebration of people displaced during the African diaspora, where one candle of the kinara candle holder is lit over seven nights.

Gifts With a Bow

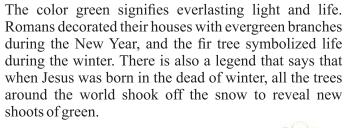
The men who brought their gifts to honor the birth of Jesus inspired the concept of giving gifts during the holiday. According to the Christian Bible's New Testament, Melchior, Balthazar, and Gaspar brought gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh to the newborn baby Jesus.



A ribbon is tied around a gift to represent how people should all be tied together in bonds of unity and goodwill during the holiday season.

Red and Green Colors

The color red is used at Christmas to represent the blood of Jesus when he died on the cross. It's also reflected in the color of holly berries, which also had pagan symbolism during the winter solstice celebrations in ancient Rome.



Bells

Bells are rung during Christmas to proclaim the arrival of the season and to announce the birth of Jesus. The ringing of bells can also be traced back to pagan winter celebrations used to drive out evil spirits.



This treat represents the shape of a shepherd's crook. Jesus, often referred to as the Good Shepherd, was born on Christmas. His birth was God's way to bring lost lambs back to the fold. The red stripe represents blood, Christ's sacrifice, and the white stands for his purity.

Wreaths

The wreath is a circular, never-ending symbol of eternal love and rebirth. Holly also stands for immortality and cedar for strength. Today, the wreath symbolizes generosity, giving and the gathering of family.



Mistletoe

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant, meaning it lives on the tree that it is attached to and, without it, the mistletoe would die. The plant has long been a symbol of love, and some believe that the Druids used mistletoe as a cure-all or some stories claim that it could promote fertility.

Tinsel and the Christmas Spider

If you have ever noticed a spider decoration on someone's tree, you might have thought that they had odd taste. This tradition comes from the Eastern European tale of the Christmas spider, which led to the reason for tinsel at Christmas.



A modern-day version of the story is that a woman immaculately cleaned her house for Christmas. The house spiders were swept to the farthest reaches. The spiders learned there was a beautiful Christmas tree in the room and wanted a closer look. They saw it, loved it so much, danced all



over it, and left their webs behind. Depending on the version, baby Jesus, Father Christmas, or Santa Claus then saw the beautiful webs and miraculously transformed them into silver and gold tinsel so the woman who worked hard to clean her house would not be dismayed. In honor of that tale, people hang tinsel on their Christmas trees. It has also become a custom to include a spider among the decorations.



WOMEN'S CELL

1. Visit to Clergy Home

On 18th August we Women Cell members of Good Shepherd Church visited the Clergy Home at Bandra (W). Our love offering of coffee-



tea, towels and bed sheets were given.

The place was quiet and spotless. Half way down the hall priests reclined in their chairs, watching TV. We greeted and communicated with them.

The bed ridden were visited. They were overjoyed to see us. One of the fathers spoke to us about the Holy



Spirit for almost 15 minutes, another father spoke on praying and proclamation of the Kingdom of God.

These anointed who have not let illness and helplessness in their lives to stop from doing what they did best for JESUS. The spirit never ages, it stays forever young and keeps the heart young. For us it was a happy moment to receive blessings in abundance

Should we dare to comment that these priests are part of a family of the church and community – so why not put their names up in every parish they worked, so as to be remembered by their parishioners whom they served also keeping pets in homes can be soothing to the inmates.

2. On 29th Sept. visit to Jevan Asha Womens Aged Home

We visited the home at 5.00 pm. The inmates were happy to see us. Our love offering was given, as we spread around listening to some of their rendering stories. We sang songs, Hindi hymns and they all were happy and clapping their hands as they sang we also gave rosaries and medals. Many care givers were up and about doing their job, as well as interacting with the inmates. A large picturesque garden faced the home and was a view to reckon with.

We left feeling blessed as the inmates prayed over us and hugged us.

We promised to visit them soon again.

September 2024: Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana

The Women and Child Development Department, Government of Maharashtra, launched the "Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana" scheme. This initiative provides economic freedom to women in the state between 21 and 65 years old, improving their health, nutrition, and decision-making role in the family. Eligible women will receive a financial benefit of ₹1,500/- through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). A help desk was put up to explain the benefits of the scheme and enrol the eligible parishioners.

October 2024: National Cancer Awareness Day

Our parish observed National Cancer Awareness Day on Sunday, October 27, after all Eucharistic celebrations. We



distributed 700 pink ribbons & 820 literature pamphlets to parishioners. This initiative aims to raise awareness about cancer prevention, treatment, and innovation.

November 2024: VFFD Programme and Visit to Ladies Old Age Home

Six members attended the VFFD programme at Sophia School, Borivali West, on Sunday, November 10. Dr. Vibhuti Patel, Managing Trustee for SATHI (Support for Advocacy & Training to Health Initiatives), delivered an insightful talk on health rights issues and advocacy.

Our members also visited the Ladies Old Age Home (Jeevan Asha), bringing joy and happiness to the inmates. We listened to their experiences and struggles and were inspired by their resilience.

Upcoming Events

- Mammography camp
- Talk by an Advocate on women-related issues

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PARENTS' & GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Let your LIGHT shine!

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:16

The **LIGHT** signifies so many things that bring positivity and life. Our Children represent this Light, when they flourish and do well in life, it brings great joy and contentment to their Parents and Grandparents. Thus witnessing the care and love they have received from their families. Every year, the Grandparents and Parents day has been a platform to let the children express their love through their talents no matter how big or small.



This year the event had a medley of performances from the Sunday School Children and the Youth group. Our young children from grade 1 and 2 put up a lyrical dance thanking their Parents for always being a strong foundation for them to build their life on. The children, part of the Vacation Bible Joy, put up a dance on the theme "Enter the Holy Door- It is the Year of the Lord's Favor" thanking God for His protection, providence, abundant love and mercy. These similar attributes are often seen in our Parents and Grandparents who are always willing to protect us, provide for us, love and forgive us. The children also received certificates and tokens for their participation in the program.





The First Holy Communicants did a rhythmic dance on the fathers. So many times the role of the father is undermined, but they have always been our **Silent Superheroes.** They are there to teach them, guide them and fight away things that bring them down. The dance also highlighted mother's being the **Best Friend** who love them unconditionally for who they are.

The night had only begun with talents galore and ended with the evening show stopper- "Annie" the musical play- the 1982 hit movie that was cherished by all. The children and youth came together to form a lovely ensemble and brought back the characters from 'Annie' into the twenty first century in our Good Shepherd Church. The singing and acting was full of vigour that the audience enjoyed. The hard work of the production and training team and the zeal of the children and youth, who practiced for long hours to get their lines perfect was rewarded with a standing ovation from those present. The children's act made their families proud. These opportunities are a wonderful way to let our talents speak about the encouragement and support we keep receiving from our Parents and Grandparents, all through these years. A talent put to good use ultimately Glorifies God. So let your Light/Talent shine, so you glorify your Parents and Grandparents here on earth and your heavenly Father in Heaven.

> - Ruvina Dias Sunday School





BAPTISMS						
DATE OF BAPTISM	DATE OF BIRTH	NAME	PARENTS			
07-09-2024	09-08-2024	ADONES	MACARIUS AND ELIZABETH GONSALVES			
30-11-2024	24-09-2024	JARID	JAKE AND ASTRID GONSALVES			

	D	EATHS	S
DATE	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS
31-08-2024	LILY D'SOUZA	73	22/23, Amarjyoti Apts, Four Bungalows.
01-09-2024	DIANA JOYCE BERNADETTE FERNANDES	66	A/201 Kingston, Shashtri Nagar
11-09-2024	AVIE VIVIANO DIAS	86	B/211/25/26 Manish Sunflower, 4 Bungalows
13-09-2024	TRESA MATHEW VALIYAVEETEL	92	E-50 Jyoti Apts, J.p. Road, 7 Bungalows
18-09-2024	ROSA MARINA BORTHWICK	85	1/F/3, Blue Arch Chs, Convent Avenue, 4 Bungalows
23-09-2024	TERENCE GEAR	51	A/301, Sunil Niwas Chs, Model Town, Lokhandwala Rd.
23-09-2024	DESMOND CYRIL DUNSTAN	76	D-1/4 Flat No 302, Yamuna Nagar, Oshiwara
06-10-2024	VALERIAN D'SOUZA	73	Krishna Kaveri D5/104, Yamuna Nagar
09-10-2024	FRANKLIN FERNANDES	70	203, Mahavir Apts. No 1, Seven Bungalows
14-10-2024	MARIA D'SOUZA	69	Sagar Chs, Flat No B/208, Swami Samarth Nagar
17-10-2024	ROSHAN GONSALVES	47	A/403, Mayfair Akshay, Lokhandwala Complex, Cross Lane 1
10-11-2024	MARGERET D'SOUZA	64	Mira Bldg., Sarad Chandra Road, Santacruz West

THE STORY OF THE CAROL 'SILENT NIGHT'



In 1818, a roving band of actors was performing in towns throughout the Austrian Alps. On December 23, they arrived at Oberndorf, a village near Salzburg, where they were to re-enact the story of Christ's birth in the small Church of St. Nicholas.

Unfortunately, the St. Nicholas' Church organ wasn't working and would not be repaired before Christmas. (*Note: some versions of the story point to mice as the problem; others say rust was the culprit*). Because the church organ was out of commission, the actors presented their Christmas drama in a private home. That Christmas presentation of the events in the first chapters of Matthew and Luke, put assistant pastor Josef Mohr in a meditative mood. Instead of walking straight home that night, Mohr took a longer way to his house. The longer path took him up on a hill overlooking the village.

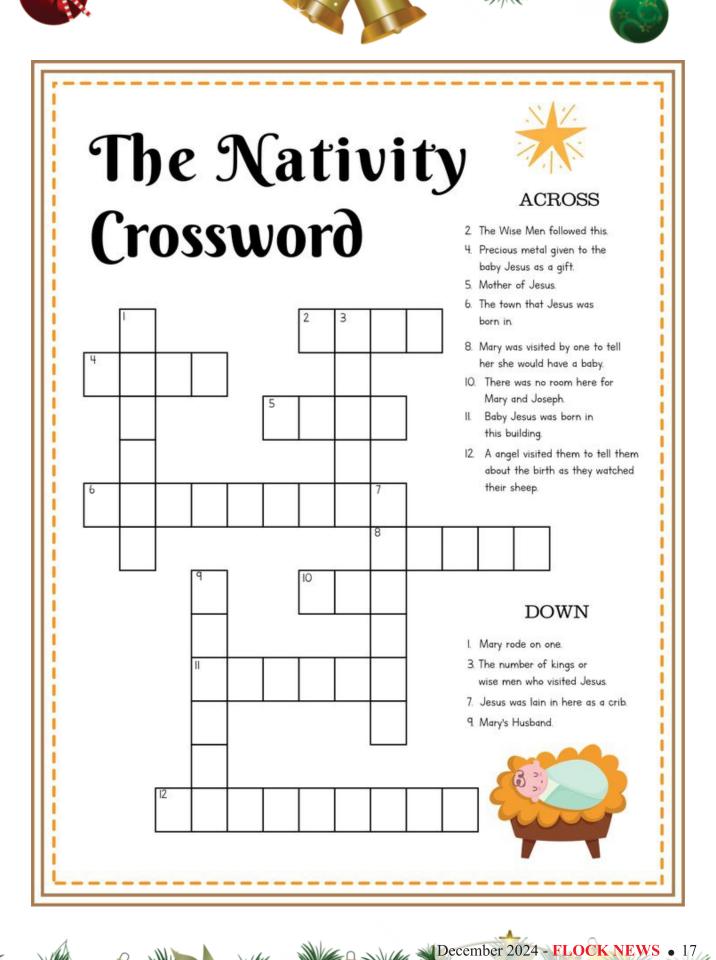
Joseph Mohr's poem and Franz Gruber's melody

From that hilltop, Mohr looked down on the peaceful snow-covered village. Reveling in the majestic silence of a wintry night, Mohr gazed down at the Christmas card-like scene. His thoughts about the Christmas play he had just watched brought to mind a poem he had written a couple of years before. That poem was about the night angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah to shepherds on a hillside.

Mohr decided those words might make a good carol for his congregation the following evening at their Christmas Eve service. The one problem was that he didn't have any music to which that poem could be sung. So, the next day, Mohr went to see the church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber. Gruber only had a few hours to compose a melody that could be played on a guitar. However, by that evening, Gruber had managed to compose a musical setting for the poem. That the church organ was inoperable no longer mattered to Mohr and Gruber. They now had a Christmas carol that could be sung without an organ.

On Christmas Eve, the small Oberndorf congregation heard Gruber and Mohr sing their new composition to the accompaniment of Gruber's guitar.

Weeks later, well-known organ builder Karl Mauracher arrived in Oberndorf to fix the organ in St. Nicholas Church. When Mauracher finished, he stepped back to let Gruber test the instrument. When Gruber sat down, his fingers began playing the simple melody he had written for Mohr's Christmas poem. Deeply impressed, Mauracher took copies of the music and words of "Silent Night" back to his own Alpine village, Kapfing. There, two well-known families of singers — the Rainers and the Strassers — heard it. Captivated by "Silent Night," both groups put the new song into their Christmas season repertoire.



Our Earth- A Common Place



O come all dear people Let us set an example. And together Preserve Nature. As in our own hands lies our Future.

> Let us now plant more trees, Increase homes for birds and bees Zero waste it should be, Look around you, surely you'll agree.

Wet waste came the question? Said I, have a suggestion Composting it every day Takes worries of garbage away.

> Wires, laptops and batteries Have been our regular deliveries. When they face injuries Disposing them are no more mysteries.

Met a fish with a troubled mindset Was crying with a tummy upset "I gobbled a small polythene", sadly said she, How I wish I could screen food meant for me!

> Nature said to me; 'I want to confess' Looking after me is a very long process Do your bit everyone All work together as ONE

- Jasmine Nair Green Cell

Finding Christ

I tried to find Christ, The man full of light. And began my search, As I entered the Church.

No matter how hard I tried, Only statues I could find. I went on my knees and started to pray, Oh Lord, I didn't see you today.

A gentle voice whispered, "That's not true, You didn't see me but I saw you. I was in the poor and the hungry, The old and the lonely, In the sick and in pain, The blind, the deaf and the lame."

I ended my prayer and walked down the Church stairs, And helped the ones who needed me, Now Christ in them I see.

> - Imara D'souza First Holy Communicant



WISHING YOU A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS.

MAY THE CHRIST CHILD FILL YOUR HEARTS & HOMES WITH HIS IMMENSE JOY, PEACE & LOVE DURING THE SEASON AND THROUGH THE NEW YEAR.



BEST WISHES



FROM: FRs. ANIL, FRANKIE, JOSEPH & DEACON FREDRICK



SCC BLEAT - SCC NEWS

St. Andrew's Community - Zone II Unit 5



Our Community celebrated the October month, with Our Lady visiting most homes. The love and devotion for our Mother could be seen in the decorations - beautiful altar full of flowers, garlands and candles. Many had invited people over for rosary so it was a good way to catch-up and mingle with coparishioners, neighbours, relatives and friends followed by snacks.

We had a small get together of around 19 members of our unit on 31st October at 'Gloria' building compound. It was heartening to see so many attend on a weekday. We recited the rosary, had snacks and played housie to bring to an end the beautiful month of rosary dedicated to our Mother Mary. A Big Thank You to everyone who invited Our Lady to their house this month and joined in the celebration.

- Anette Lobo

Epiphany Community - Zone II Unit 6

October, month of the Holy Rosary: To make it special this year, after the rosary on 2nd October 2024, one of our unit member, Jennifer Karkala, who works in the field of cybersecurity conducted a session for our community members on cyber frauds. The



session covered various different financial and social frauds and their modus operandi and explained how one can protect oneself from falling prey to such frauds.



On the last day, fellowship was held at St. Mary's High School lawns. May Mother Mary continue to bless us, protect us and guide us the Lord's way!

- Remita Fernandes, Coordinator

Immaculate Conception Community - **Zone III Unit 1**



Community Rosary: On October 13, 2024, we, the animators, organized a community rosary at the residence of one of our members - Mr. David, who graciously welcomed us into his home. Around 30 members gathered for this prayerful event. The rosary was led with great devotion by Nora, one of our animators guiding the prayer intentions before each decade. The atmosphere was filled with reverence and a sense of unity as we prayed together. After the rosary, we shared light refreshments including delicious snacks and refreshing masala chai. This



time of fellowship allowed everyone to connect, share stories, and strengthen bonds within the community. It was a beautiful and spiritually enriching evening that brought us closer to one another and to our faith. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors, animators, and especially Mr. David, for their support and hospitality. A sincere thanks to everyone who participated and made this event so meaningful.



Prayer Service for First Holy Communicants: In September, our community hosted a joyful Initiation Prayer Service and the Presentation of the Creed (December) for three of our young parishioners: Sarah Menezes, Karissa Braganza, and Samara D'Mello, who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion

on December 8. The ceremony was a heartfelt and uplifting experience, bringing immense joy to the children as they took this important step in their spiritual journey. Their excitement and radiant smiles reflected the significance of the occasion, as they eagerly embraced the blessings and grace of this sacred milestone. We prayed for Jesus to touch their hearts and for the Holy Spirit to guide them, drawing them closer to God Almighty as they begin a lifelong connection with their faith and the love of Christ.

Little Flower Community - Zone III Unit 3

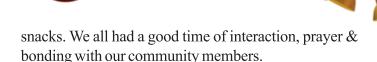


Annual Thanksgiving Mass - We celebrated our Annual Mass on 1st October 2024 at 6.30 pm at Cross Gate Community Hall. Our Spiritual Director- Fr. Frankie celebrated the Holy Eucharist. The homily was truly spirit filled, encouraging and enriching. We had a good response of 45 community members and were delighted to have them attend with us for



fellowship, prayer, singing, games & a delicious dinner. This always inspires us to do more for our community. It was a joyous occasion for our unit especially to seek the blessings of our Beloved Mother Mary and also a good start to the Rosary month of October. We thank all our sponsors for their generosity.

Community Rosary: As usual, the October month feels special, as we come together as a unit, to pray to Mama Mary and contemplate on the Mysteries of the Rosary. We prayed together for the well being and blessings of our community families. Rosary was conducted daily, during the whole month of October. We celebrated the Community Rosary on 31st October at 6 pm in the TT room with prayer, fellowship &



- Celine Saldanha

St. Sebastian's Community - Zone III Unit 4

Presentation on "Discerning the Synodal Pathway for Mission": On 2nd October 2024, our community gathered to reflect on the theme "Discerning the Synodal Pathway for Mission" as directed by our Parish and inspired by the FABC document. Held at a member's residence, the session began with an opening prayer followed by a presentation. One of our members made a beautiful prayer invoking the Holy Spirit, and concluded with a heartfelt prayer of thanksgiving. Guided by the story of the Magi, participants explored 9 priorities impacting our community and discerning pathways to address the unique challenges in our country. The insights and actionable suggestions from this session were compiled in a report forwarded to the CCBI through our Parish. We thank all participants for their contributions, embarking together on this missiondriven journey to inspire positive change.



Paper/E-Waste Drive: Our community participated in the Paper/E-Waste Drive organized by our parish. Members generously contributed materials, which were collected and coordinated at a member's residence. The drive was efficiently managed by the enthusiastic youth of our parish. We sincerely appreciate the support and participation of our community, which made a meaningful difference to this initiative.



Mission Sunday Celebration: On 20th October 2024, our community came together to celebrate Mission Sunday with heartfelt support and unity. After all the morning masses community members set up 2 vibrant stalls offering delicious homemade snacks. The proceeds from these efforts were dedicated to supporting the Mission reflecting our shared commitment to making a positive impact. We thank all those who participated and contributed to this meaningful cause. We are deeply thankful to everyone who supported this mission with such love and dedication. Special thanks to Percy, whose auction was a tremendous success further uplifting this noble cause.

A Gesture of Love and Solidarity: On 12th October, our community came together in a spirit of unity and compassion to offer solace to a grieving family following the passing of their loved one on 6th October. We gathered at their residence to recite the Rosary and prayed for the peaceful repose of the departed soul. In times of sorrow, the warmth of collective prayer and the comforting presence of the community become a beacon of hope and strength for the bereaved. This gathering was a profound reminder of the love and support that flourishes when we stand together as a family of faith.

Mass/Rosary Theme - "Together in Prayer, United for Peace": It has been a great joy to see so many of our community members open their homes and hearts to host Our Lady of the Rosary this October. Their generosity truly filled this month with love and togetherness. We are deeply grateful for the heartfelt support from our community at the rosary, mass and fellowship on October 30th 2024. Every rosary recital hosted by welcoming homes this month was a testament to our unity and love. A special thanks to Fr.

Anil Rego, whose inspiring mass brought our theme-"Together in Prayer, United for Peace," to life. We also thank everyone whose dedication made each gathering meaningful. The final celebration with music, dance, games and dinner was a beautiful culmination of our month together reflecting our strong community bonds. Though some couldn't join, they were close in our prayers. Let's carry this spirit forward, strengthening our connections through gatherings, service and shared faith.

Aloma Fernandes, Coordinator

The Holy Trinity Community - Zone V Unit 1



September 2024: We successfully conducted the Novena in honor of our Blessed Mother for the zone and collaborated with other units to perform a skit. Participants were Maria, Joan, Finiya & Cheryl. Community members also donated food items such as grams, moong, rawa, poha etc. in the spirit of spreading the goodness with other families. The newspaper drive by the youth saw a lot of participation and support from different community members.

Plenary Assembly was conducted in the church. The unit was represented by the co-ordinator - Finiya Thomas & PPC Member - Joan D'Souza. Later this activity was conducted in the core group committee & valuable views, suggestions and feedback from animators was taken and forwarded to the SCC committee.



October 2024 - Visits to Seniors of our Community:

It was an absolute delight for us to meet and engage with our senior citizen community members. Their optimism & infectious energy made it a wonderful opportunity for us to be able to imbibe some of their qualities. We appreciate Finiya, Maria and Rose for taking out the time to visit the elderly.



Mission Sunday: Our community successfully collected and contributed the highest amount of Rs. 20,900/- for Mission Sunday. We thank each and every community member for their contribution as well as their support. Special thanks to Maria for the amazing Chicken Xacutti, which was a crowd-pleaser and to Joan for providing us with bakery items. The support and efforts of Finiya, Rose, Philomena, Archana, Maria, Annebelle and Marie are truly and highly appreciated for managing the food stalls and customers.

Community Rosary: On 26th October 2024, 70 of our members gathered around to collectively pray as one family giving thanks to Mother Mary for her intercession. The rosary was held in building no. 11 and we thank the society for allowing us to use their premises. The rosary was well conducted by Cheryl, Dagmar & Archana - we thank them for their efforts. A heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Frankie and our sponsors



for gracing this event and to all our community members who participated in the rosary.

Parents & Grandparents Day, 'ANNIE': THE MUSICAL: Our members encouraged the young talent for the musical. Our PPC Member- Joan D'Souza brought in substantial sponsorship on-board for this event.

- Finiya Thomas, Coordinator

Maria Goretti Community - Zone IV Unit 1

A Devotional and Joyful Community Rosary Celebration: October, the month dedicated to our Lady was marked by a beautiful tradition in our community as the statue of Mother Mary traveled from house to house, bringing families together in prayer and unity. This devotional journey culminated on October 31st with a grand community rosary at Vithalwadi. Around 60 community members joined by a few non-catholics, gathered to pray the Rosary in a devout manner. Hymns in English and Konkani filled the air as the beautifully decorated statue of



Mother Mary adorned with flowers and lights stood at the center of the gathering. A petition box was thoughtfully placed for attendees to share their special intentions which were later prayed over with the laying of hands by the community.

Following the rosary, the evening transformed into a delightful celebration with fun music and fellowship. Sheila Swami captivated everyone with her singing and guitar performance followed by games. Delicious snacks were sponsored by community members followed by dinner.

The community members thanked and appreciated the efforts of PPC Member - Terence Gonsalves and SCC Coordinator - James D'Souza. The event ended with hearts full of gratitude to Our Blessed Mother for her blessings and a renewed anticipation for the Christmas season. This Rosary tradition not only deepened faith but also strengthened bonds of love and oneness within the community.

- Terence Gonsalves

St. Alphonsa Community - Zone II Unit 7

We gathered together at our unit members residences on various days in the evenings for the whole month of October. The gatherings promoted a prayerful fellowship and a meaningful interaction among unit members. The members sang beautiful hymns to Mother Mary. We ended our rosary with a recitation at the Grotto.





We celebrated Children's Day with the pre-primary and primary students at Good Shepherd Convent on 29th November 2024. The event was an interactive and fun-filled experience, featuring games, dance, and music enjoyed by all.

As a special treat we distributed doughnuts to all the children. Additionally each child received a gift bag and a water bottle. The joy and happiness on their faces were truly priceless and a heart warming reminder of the importance of spreading love and kindness.

St. Vincent de Paul-Zone 3 Unit 2



The month of October dedicated to Mother Mary and being the month of the rosary, the members took turns of reciting the rosary together as a community at their residences. On 30th Oct'24, praying the rosary together as one family concluded at Mount Mary.

Snacks were served after the rosary.



It was a wonderful month and morning spent together in prayer. May Mary our Mother continue to intercede for us and bless us.

- Jasmine Nair

Holy Family Community - Zone 3 Unit 7



Blessing of 1st Holy Communicant: We had 1 child receiving 1st holy communion. We met at her house on 31st August to pray over her and bless her on her journey to receive Jesus for the first time. We presented her with a card and flowers. The second prayer service was held on 5th December just few days before she received Jesus.



Visit to the Mount and Clergy Home:

On 26th September, we visited the Basilica of Mount Mary to seek Her Blessings and later spent a lovely afternoon with the retired priests at Clergy home.

Rosary: In the month of October which is dedicated to our Lady, we had Mama Mary visiting all our homes along



with the community rosary everyday with fellowship.

Mission Sunday: On 20th October, we put up a stall to sell delicious cakes and beautiful mementos. We collected a good profit and donated the same for the missions.

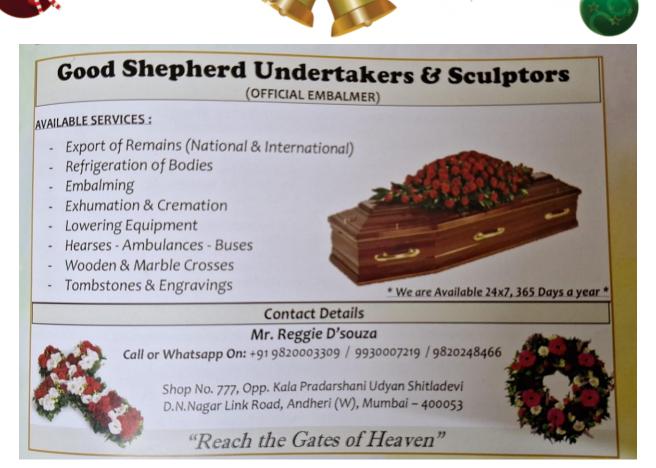




Children's day: We distributed snacks and gifts to the street children and spent some time with them. It was a beautiful experience. We also wished the children of our communities by sending videos and a collage. They were very happy.

- Rita Mendonca.







Fruit Cake

Christmas Plum Cake

Marzipan

Milk Cream

Nankaties

Date Rolls

Guava Cheese

Jujabs

Coconut Sweet

Thali Sweet (Per Thali)

Tartlets (Per Dozen)

Cul Culs

Coconut Ice

Milk Fudge

Cashew Fudge

Walnut Fudge

Cashew Macaroons

Bebinca (Half Bar, Made with Butter)

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Nahari (Beef/Chicken)

White Seekh Kabab Biryani

Breads: Goan Poee, Naan, Rice Roti

Snacks: Cutlets, Chicken Potato Chops, Beef Croquettes, Pan Rolls (Chicken/Beef), Pancakes, Russian Cutlets, Beef/Chicken Samosas, Arabian Kebabs, Veg Paneer

Cutlets

Sandwiches: Green Chutney, Chicken Green Masala, Beef Red Masala

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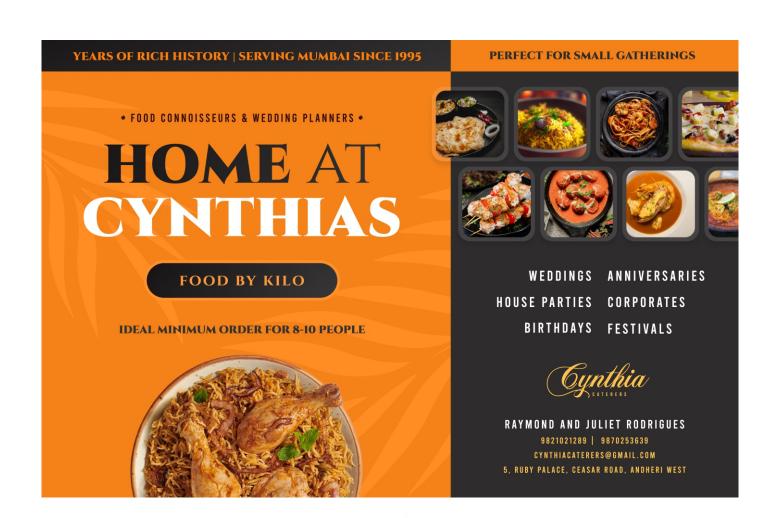


19th January 2025 Appreciation Day

2nd February 2025 Elder's Day

16th February 2024 World Marriage Day and Family Day

All these events will be on the Church lawns and start at 6.30 p.m. sharp and end at 10.00 p.m.



December 2024 - FLOCK NEWS • 2°

Prayer for Family for lighting the Christmas Candle on the wreath before the Christmas meal

Psalm 107:1 "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures."

Loving Creator, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the blessing of family. Thank You for each member, for the love, support, and joy they bring into our lives. This Christmas, help us to appreciate our family deeply, recognizing each person as a unique gift from You. Let our hearts overflow with thankfulness, cherishing the love we share, and remembering the incredible gift of Jesus. May we hold onto this gratitude and carry it into every day that follows. Amen.

Isaiah 40:29 "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

Almighty Healer, thank You for the strength You give us daily. This Christmas, we lift up our family to You, asking for good health and resilience. Strengthen us in body, mind, and spirit, and provide us with

energy and well-being to enjoy this season together. Let any illness or weakness be healed in Your name, and fill our hearts with gratitude for the gift of life. May we use our strength to honor You, supporting one another and rejoicing in the blessings of family health and wholeness. Amen.

Light the Candle in the centre while the hymn 'Christ be our light' is played or sung.





Rite of Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist

According to the rite, extraordinary ministers should be commissioned before assuming their duties. This should take place at a Sunday Liturgy. In line with this directive from CCBI, on 27th October 2024 the parishioners of Good Shepherd Church gathered in reverence for the Rite of Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist at the 8:30 am mass, presided by the Parish Priest- Fr. Anil Rego. The solemn ceremony witnessed 22 dedicated individuals stepping forward to accept their call to serve the church in this sacred ministry.

The Eucharistic Ministers were commissioned to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion during mass and to bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound, reflecting Christ's love and presence to all. The commissioning included a blessing from the presiding priest, as the ministers committed themselves to this holy service with humility and faith.

This significant occasion marked a moment of joy and gratitude for the parish, as these newly commissioned ministers pledged to deepen their devotion to the

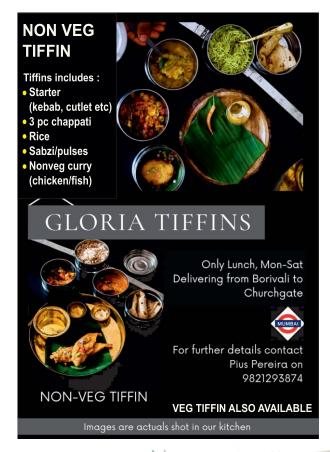


Eucharist and to serve the community with love and reverence.

All the arrangements were made by Terence Gonsalves – Coordinator of EMHC with assistance from his team members.

The ceremony concluded with the congregation offering their prayers and support reaffirming the spirit of service and unity within the parish.

- Terence Gonsalves







Unscramble these words



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WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE BECOMES A MEMORY, THAT MEMORY BECOMES A TREASURE.



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