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FLOCK NEWS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, ANDHERI WEST, MUMBAI 400053

DECEMBER 2021



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

PUTTING CHRIST BACK INTO CHRISTMAS

Some years back, in the first year of my priesthood, on my visit home, my Mum handed me a package. The package contained the old statues of our family crib.

She told me to give it to some poor parishioner who would find good use for it.

When I reached my room in the parish, I opened the package and all the statues of shepherds, sheep, camel, kings, angel, Joseph, Mary & the child Jesus tumbled out. And with it, memories of the many Christmases spent at home flooded my mind in a flash. Memories of bringing out the statues from the loft, wiping the statues together and setting up the crib together on Christmas eve every year. Not to forget praying before the crib as one family every morning & night before going to bed during the Christmas octave.

Those were the days when, with all the trappings of Christmas, Christ was most central to the season. I must confess that I just was not ready to part with the statues that embodied the very best memories of Christmas. I was tempted to retain them and make a crib in my room with them. But constraints for space in my room compelled me to retain only the child Jesus, which I kept in a prominent place in my room and prayed before it in the morning & night without fail during the Christmas octave, in keeping with my family tradition. It is something that I follow religiously every Christmas.

When I became Principal of a school, in my interaction with the juniors at school, I would ask them as Christmas approaches, what Christmas means to them. And invariably the responses were (surprisingly from even a few catholic kids as well): 'Santa Claus, Snow men, gifts, parties, sweets,'...etc. Where is the Christ child???? - THE REAL REASON FOR THE SEASON. These children of course cannot be blamed for such a perception. Because these are the motifs that are dominantly prevalent all around them... in the malls, shops and at all parties & Christmas galas.

The time is come for us Christians to start a concerted campaign to put Christ back into Christmas against the onslaught of the campaign of the business and the commercial world that seeks only to derive maximum profit from the season.

HOW TO PUT CHRIST BACK INTO CHRISTMAS (some practical steps):

1. **BUYING CHRISTMAS CARDS ONLY WITH THE CHRIST CHILD OR NATIVITY SCENE AS THE THEME:** You will notice that most of the cards sold before Christmas in the stores are with motifs that are far removed from the Christ child – Santa Claus, Christmas Trees, bells, snowmen, candles, sceneries of snow, etc. You have to literally go searching for a card that has the theme of Christ. As Christians when we shop for cards, we could insist that we buy only cards that depict the Nativity scene. This will force the distributors to convey this to the suppliers who in turn will be compelled to settle for a change in emphasis.
2. **PUT UP A CRIB IN A PROMINENT PLACE IN THE HOUSE:** While the trend today is to give the Christmas tree a prominent place in the House, it would be only proper if this place was given to the crib. The crib should be the focal point during the Christmas season and also the focus of all our devotions & prayers during the season.
3. **PUT UP A STAR (WITH A CHRISTIAN THEME) & A CRIB IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD:** This

is a powerful way of sharing the true message of Christmas with our brothers & sister of other faiths. At the Parish – level an inter-community star & crib competition could be held to foster this.

4. REVIVE THE GOOD TRADITION OF GOING ROUND CAROLING: This again can be organized at the small Christian community level where each community organizes a group and covers the areas in their respective localities. Once again the carols should be Christ-centric and the true message of Christmas could be conveyed in creative ways e.g. with a live tableau accompanying the carols or placards with meaningful messages.
5. READ THE BIBLE (LUKE CH.2): The Infancy narrative on Christmas eve & on Christmas day. Read it out loud to your entire family. Have everybody REFLECT ON what was read. And pray over it.
6. GIVE GIFTS: to the needy, and be charitable to other people. Do this in the gift giving spirit OF GOD WHO GAVE HIS ONLY SON AT CHRISTMAS and as the 3 kings set for our example.
7. Be sure to sing Christ orientated songs and play Christian Christmas CDs. Leave out the silly Christmas songs and listen to songs about Jesus Christ & his birth. Let us all resolve to make CHRIST THE CENTRAL FOCUS in our celebration of Christmas this year. While we may indulge in all the other frills that go with the season, may we never lose sight of the real focus i.e. the Christ – child. The true presence of Christmas is found in Jesus. Let the celebration of His birth touch our hearts in a new way this year.

Finally I would like to conclude with the words of a song 'Let's Put Christ Back Into Christmas (This Year)' by Tammy Wynette:

*Unto you is born this day a Saviour
A baby boy was found there in a manger
The blessed truth of Christmas let us hear
Let's put Christ back into Christmas this year*

*Christmas is the birthday of our King
The greatest gift of all he came to bring
He's the Prince of Peace, let's show him that we care
Let's put Christ back into Christmas this year*

*On this day three wise men saw a star
They followed it with gifts and travelled far
And praised the baby Jesus lyin' there
So let's put Christ back into Christmas this year*



*Let within your heart his praises ring
And celebrate the day our Saviour came
May peace on earth at Christmas time appear
Let's put Christ back into Christmas this year
Let's put Christ back into Christmas this year*

FR. ANIL REGO
Parish Priest

BLESSING OF THE CRIB

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

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

FIRST READING: The mother of the family reads:

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

All answer: Thanks be to God.

Mother: The Word was made flesh, Alleluia.

All: And dwells among us, Alleluia.

SECOND READING

One of the children reads:

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:



At that time the shepherds were saying to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event that has come to pass which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste, and

found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in the manger. And when they had seen, they understood what had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard marveled at the things told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept in mind all these words pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken to them. Each member of the family kisses the Gospel text.

FINAL PRAYER

Father: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come unto Thee.

Father: The Lord be with you.

All: And with you also.

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

SING : AWAY IN THE MANGER OR JOY TO THE WORLD

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CHRISTMAS – THE BIRTH OF JESUS

*Jesus our saviour born in Bethlehem was sent by
Father God from above,*

*Through Mary His Mother, a virgin pure as a dove,
Dreaded not of the consequences, she gave birth to
the child in the world,*

*Honouring the Word of God through an Angel, as it
was foretold.*

*Mary shivering sat on a donkey that strode through
rough terrain,*

*Joseph by her side, though tensed, never felt to
refrain,*

*The Angel led them to a hay stacked stable to rest,
Both tired of travel assumed it was a Heavenly test.*

*Nearing the time for Birth of Jesus, Joseph laid Mary
gently down,*

*And brightest rays declared the Birth of Jesus, with
glorious trumpets sound,*

The stars shone that night with greatest grandeur,

*And the entire surrounding was filled with sweetest
fragrant and blissful splendour.*

*Mary held the child high above to Father
God with praises Divine,
Singing, "Hosanna, Hosanna to the Highest,
To bless Him and through Him let the world shine".*

*The Star of Bethlehem led the three Wisemen from
King Herod, knew his game of slaughter,
Finding New Born Child, hallowed and radiant as
ever, were heartfelt gladden, looked at each other.*

*Kneeling at His feet, they worshipped, glorified and
adored Him with exuberant gifts,*

*Overjoyed seeing the Lord, they bolted away not to
Herod, but by different cliffs.*

*Christmas the Birth of Jesus is approaching fast,
Commence the preparation to welcome the Lord
and await not till last,*

*Remember the needy, extend your help and let them
not fend,*

*Blessings of the New Born Child will be showered on
you till the end.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

By Maria Janardan
Zone 5, Unit 1

FLOCK BLEAT – NEWS

Good Shepherd's Got Talent

The 2021 edition of Good Shepherd's Got Talent saw a staggering participation of over 40+ parishioners across various age groups and talent categories such as dancing, singing, magic, mimicry, karaoke, instrument playing and many more.

Owing to the large number of participants, an elimination round was declared, and judged by none other than our very own, Fr. Anil and Fr. Savio. Seven of the best performers in each category went on to the final round, amongst some incredibly tough competition. The judges for our final round were Mrs. Maria Goretti and Mr. Mario Andrade, two incredibly talented and creative personalities, excelling in their respective fields.

After a gruelling week of judging and tabulating scores, the results were announced on the 8th of September, at the Nativity feast mass. The top 2 in every category received certificates from our parish priests and cash prizes from our sponsor, Hindustan Petroleum.

The following are the names of our winners in each category:

Age group 8-12

1st Place: Chrizelle Dsilva

2nd Place: Aurelle Rodrigues & Megan Menezes

Age group 13-17

1st Place: Chloe Joseph

2nd Place: Fleur Lobo

Age group 18-25

1st Place: Althea Miranda

2nd place: Salome Fernandes, Chriselle D'souza & Aaron

Age group 25+

1st Place: Emmanuel Fernandes

2nd Place: Tony Peters

Heart congratulations to all of our winners and participants, our parish is incredibly lucky to have such talented folk. Thus, GSGT came to an end, but it once again reminded us of the importance of honing talent and awarding it and what better way than Good Shepherd's Got Talent.

- Caelean Tavares

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THE GSGT WINNERS

SUNDAY SCHOOL FANCY DRESS AND PSALM RECITALCOMPETITION

Our Sunday School Children of the Primary graced the day by performing at the Biblical Fancy Dress Competition and the Psalm Recital Competition.

It was a great success with arty costumes and well recited monologues bringing our faith alive,out to the audience.



Fancy Dress Psalms & Recited

The Psalms were recited with actions and expressions and each child showed great memory skills and efficient delivery.

We're thankful to the Teachers whose belief made this event possible.

Hoping to see greater participation in Sunday School events conducted in the future.

May God Bless each one of us.

FAMILY CELL

"DEVELOPING ENABLING RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE FAMILY"

The Family Cell of our Good Shepherd parish in coordination with the Andheri Deanery organized a session on 4th Dec '21 on "Developing enabling relationship within the family". This session was conducted on zoom and open to all families.

This session was given by Marietta Monteiro from our Parish. Marietta is a counsellor, she and her husband Malcolm are actively involved with the Marriage Encounter program. Marietta has been a counsellor with two international schools for 10 years.

This topic was chosen considering the diverse challenges facing everyone within our families - like internal conflicts, fear and the loss of a hopeful future, the lack of sharing and caring for one another, the inability to pray together and understand each other, leading to difficulties in accepting and loving each other within the family and home.

The session started with an opening prayer and introduction of Marietta to all. Marietta started by reminding us of how simple life can be if we stay simple and humble, how in a good family, values of

love, forgiveness, sharing and caring are imparted by parents to children, how these values can be practiced all the time by living a life of love, by making "love a decision and not just a feeling"

She made us aware of how our natural responses to the members of our family can affect our relationships, the need to think, pause and choose the way we respond. The importanceand the manner of communicating mutually, with love, within the family rather than seeking support by complaining to outsiders.

By giving simple examples Marietta showed us the impact "words" can have in our lives, how our words can leave lasting impressions, how they can repair relationships, acknowledge the other, express humility and forgiveness where and when in matters most, how all these require us to seek God and His grace in our life.

Marietta spoke how couples, within the sacrament of marriage today, find it difficult to live their vocation of love due to petty reasons, putting their individual pride and ego above their love and commitment to each other, how very often it is important to look inwards, to forgive each other and renew our love as husband and wife. The importance to act out our love towards our children rather than just speaking words.

Marietta explained with a short story how the Eucharistis the source of strength and the Rosary are

very essential family prayers. The wonderful presence of Jesus himself in the Eucharist, the importance of preparing ourselves before Mass and giving Jesus the top place within our lives and homes. She also explained how each one of us can pray "without ceasing" by praying "within the context of our lives" In the context of the pandemic, Marietta made us aware of the need to understand and share our resources with the helpless and the needy, by putting our feet in the shoes that bite. The need to be humble and thankful to God for the blessings and comforts he has given us in our homes, remembering that we "own nothing" but everything we have is given to us by God, we are only stewards. The awareness of others, the pandemic has brought in our lives and ask what we are doing about this.

In understanding one another, we look for each other's strengths not weaknesses, knowing that we do not "own anyone" but God has placed us on earth to enjoy each other's love, work with patience and enjoy our earthly relationships,

In sharing her testimony, Marietta told us how powerfully Mother Mary worked in her life and that none of us must ever give up praying. She shared her profound heartfelt experience while working with St. Mother Teresa in Calcutta, how the strength and dedication of Mother Teresa came from her "seeing Jesus" in each human being she served in her missionary journey.

She also explained the importance of sharing the work at home, of caring for our neighbours and community, of expressing our appreciation of others and of keeping our neighbourhood clean and green.

It was indeed a learning experience, of looking within ourselves deeply, enabling us to look outwards into each other with hearts of love and service, understanding and sharing and caring, seeing Jesus and seeking his grace and strength in developing enabling relationships within our families, and within our communities.

On behalf of the family cell of the Andheri Deanery Jacqueline thanked Marietta for the awareness she brought about in our lives. She thanked Fr. Savio our Spiritual Director, members of our family cells and all our families for actively participating in the program.

- Francis Rodrigues

GSYG TREASURE HUNT

On the 13th of November, a day full of mystery and excitement was laid out for the youth of our parish. Days before the event even started, we were already receiving clues which got our minds racing and ready



for what was about to unfold on the day of the Treasure Hunt. We were all exhilarated and couldn't wait for the actual day! On the day of the Hunt, 40 individual members of our youth gathered around in huddles trying to figure out strategies to win but much to our surprise we were randomly split into 4 teams (There went all the planning). Thereafter Fr. Anil Rego, our Parish Priest, prayed over all of us, and commenced the Treasure Hunt! Every team was running all over, some in church, some outside and a few running haywire with no sense of direction. But the clues were in no way a walk in the park. For instance, the first clue which took all the teams the most amount of time to figure out, was actually a note which was placed inside of a walnut, lying on the floor! Almost every team walked right past their walnuts and for that very reason, it took us ages to solve. On the other hand, some clues consisted of decoding hidden messages, acting out ads and games and all fun stuff which we were thrilled to participate in. Each team tried to be ahead of the other but we all ended up on the same level at the same time which made the treasure hunt nail biting to the very end. By the time we came to our last clue, every team was tired from all the running but still had a spark to not quit until they win. The final step, the much awaited 'Treasure' was hidden in the church in the form of a plant. All the teams carefully examined each plant, each leaf to make sure they didn't just walk past it. After all the searching, my eyes finally landed on a plant that was hidden behind the other bigger ones. And it was THE WANDERING JEW ! I ran to call my teammates and we passed the plant from one hand to the other and raced to show the animators. My team was declared the victors! At the end of the event, we were rewarded for our struggles and hard-work, but the true reward for us all was the fact that the Treasure Hunt got us all together after so long and we can't wait to see what our animators have next in store for us!

- Althea Miranda

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"AUTHENTIC DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, OUR MOTHER AND MODEL"

October being the month dedicated to Mary our Mother, the Family Cell of our Parish arranged a talk on the above theme on zoom. This talk was given by the charismatic and enthusiastic preacher Francis D'Souza, well known for his teaching and preaching, in India and countries abroad for more than 40 years. We started with an opening prayer by Ignatius and Natty Pereira of our family cell.

The talk on the rightly ordered devotion to Mary was based on "Marialis Cultus", the apostolic exhortation of Pope Paul VI. Francis explained in depth and clarity, these four Marian Dogmas, which we use so often in our Marian devotion.

Mary, is the "Mother of God" because of the two natures of her son Jesus Christ – true God and true Man, which Jesus never gave up since His Incarnation. It is because of this, that we stay confident that Jesus understands our human weakness and challenges when we pray to Him.

Mary is very unique, God "preserved her virginity" before, during and after the birth of Jesus. This clarified a lot of misconceptions put across, by "non-Catholic" denominations, some even quoting, or better mis-quoting scripture/s, about the brothers and sisters of Jesus and the "perpetual virginity of Mary".

The third dogma that was explained, was Mary's "Immaculate Conception". It was Almighty God who preserved Mary from the stain of original sin, from her conception in the womb of St. Anne (her mother), preparing in Mary, an un-stained dwelling place for Jesus.

Mary's body was not subject to decay because of her "Assumption to heaven, body and soul", this too has been debated among "non-Catholic" believers over the years, some even claiming the existence of Mary's tomb.

Thanks to Francis, for putting to rest our doubts and misunderstandings, making it possible for us Catholics to appreciate and celebrate more spiritually the Marian devotions and feasts associated with these four dogmas.

He went on to explain how each one of us can imitate Mary by practicing, like Mary, the outstanding virtues of Faith, Hope, Love in service and being courageously open to, and obedient in following the divine will of God. This she did, facing the challenges, all her life

from the 'Annunciation' to the foot of the 'Cross'.

At the wedding feast of Cana, we see the Mary's faith in Jesus, when, she said to the servants "do whatever He tells You". We see her loving service in the "Visitation", when she travels through the hill country, to be in loving service of her cousin Elizabeth. We see her hope at the foot of the cross, and before Pentecost.

Before we seek favours from Mother Mary, it is very important to imitate her virtues of Faith, Hope, Loving service and Obedience to God's will.

All devotions to Mary, like Novenas and Rosary, are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Francis explained the importance of praying the Rosary with its mysteries, the Rosary is scriptural and a compendium of the whole Gospel. The Rosary is a prayer of salvation, we take the name of Jesus 53 times. It is also our weapon to fight evil. As family prayer it keeps the family together, a strong family leads to strong society, strong nation and better world

Francis explained how the Word of God strengthens our faith, how the Sacraments edify us and give glory to God, made us aware of the difference between "praying" and 'saying prayers" and how the lack of prayer will lead us astray. As baptized Catholics we are called to be Holy as God is Holy. When we pray and seek the higher and eternal things in life, God takes care even of our material needs. Our lives are two dimensional, vertical towards God and horizontal towards service of others – we need to live in both dimensions to be pleasing to God.

A prayer to Mama Mary in song was played, for her intercession. Francis then prayed for the families, their needs and challenges. The participants could ask questions, seek clarifications and express their feedback on the talk.

On behalf of the Family cell, Nimia D'Costa, thanked our preacher Francis D'Souza, for his enlightening and heartening talk on Mother Mary and devotion to our Mother. Our thanks to Fr. Anil Rego, our Parish Priest, for his encouraging support to our Family cell and its activities, thanks to Fr. Savio Lobo our Spiritual Director, for his constant guidance, direction and correction to our Family cell, thanks to Fr. James D'Costa and Deacon Inacin for their support and thanks to all of You and your families for actively participating in the program.

- Francis Rodrigues

STAYING POSITIVE IN THE NEW NORMAL

On 23rd October '21 Good Shepherd's Media cell organised via zoom an exhilarating talk on 'Staying Positive in the New Normal' by Marietta Monteiro

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our Parishioner and a practising Counsellor. It was quite interesting in as much as it offered some simple techniques and tools to better ourselves in the present pandemic and its after effects on some of us. Lock downs and the covid appropriate behaviour could get quite tormenting and would end up in the feeling of depression along with anxiety if

not managed well and addressed at an early stage. She spoke about structuring one's time in the day, bonding together as a family, communicating with each other, learning new things, indulge in hobbies, various eating habits, kind of foods to consume that boosts our energy thus helping us stay positive and spread positivity to others. Last but not the least-Trust in the Lord always. It's perfectly OK to not be OK!!! Mental disorders and Psychological ailments are such which need to be handled with much more care as compared to pathological disorders. Fever, cold and cough could be settled by antibiotics and

home remedies. However depression, negativity, anxious behaviour etc need special understanding and hence the appropriate treatment in the form of counselling is necessary and essential. 25 parishioners participated and the session lasted for approximately 60 minutes after which there was a Q & A session of 15 minutes. On behalf of our parish media cell I would like to express our gratitude to Marietta for conducting this session for us. Thanks to Jasmine Nair for coordinating this informative program.

- Percy Pereira.

Zone-3, Unit 4- St. Sebastian community

SCC BLEAT - NEWS

LITTLE FLOWER COMMUNITY - ZONE 3 UNIT 3

24th Annual Thanksgiving Mass

We celebrated our Annual Feast Mass on 15th Oct, 2021 at 6.00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Church. Fr. Savio, our Spiritual Director, celebrated the Eucharist. We were happy to see that 70 members of our Community had graced us with their presence at the

Annual Mass. After Mass, all members gathered on the lawns for a short exchange of warm greetings and well wishes since this was the first time we had all met since the lockdown. This year, because of Covid restrictions, we did not have a celebration but decided to just distribute snack boxes to our members. We clicked a few memorable community photographs with Fr. Anil and Fr. Savio. It was a joyful feeling to come to church and meet our community members after a long time.



World Poor Day

Our community members contributed generously for the World Day of the Poor and Children's Day which was celebrated on 14th November. We invited 60 slum kids from the age group of 10-13 years for this occasion and had a fun filled evening at Swasthya Kendra Garden at Lokhandwala. We also distributed snack boxes and school bags to the children. The children enjoyed the games and winners were given gifts which were sponsored by some of our Community members. We also had a dance competition and were surprised to see the amazing talent present in the



young stars. The children enjoyed the evening and were overjoyed and excited with so much of fun and laughter. They expressed their love by greeting and thanking us. It was such a great feeling of happiness for us too to see the little children enjoy themselves and to see them so happy. Being with them and interacting with them, brought out the little child in us too. It was a feeling of contentment that in giving & sharing of ourselves with our time, love and care for these children and others there was fulfilment of happiness, peace and love received. As we all know, it is in giving that we all receive.

October - Rosary Month

During the month of October, Rosary was held thrice a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6.30 pm on Zoom.

On behalf of our Coordinator and Animators, we would like to thank our Community members for their support and helping us in making these activities a resounding success. We also look forward to your continued support in all our future endeavours.

- Joan Rodrigues

Communitarian Spirit

The Animators and few unit members of Mother Teresa's unit got together at the Good Shepherd Convent on 30th October 2021 to have an evening of prayer. Rosary of "Thanks Giving" was offered thanking our lady for the blessings showered on us during this Year. The Rosary was followed by a small fellow of grams, cake, sandwiches etc.

Few of our Animators also go together on 15th Nov to celebrate 'Children's Day' for the children of the Good Shepherd Convent. It was indeed a beautiful evening of games, dance, music and snacks. The efforts taken by the teachers and the sisters of Good Shepherd Convent left the children mesmerised with beautiful memories.

- Theresa D'Souza

(Coordinator of Mother Teresa's Unit), Zone 1, Unit3



JESUS the LIGHT of the WORLD

Diwali this year was not just another Indian festival enjoyed by our children with our wonderful Hindu neighbors and friends. It was a celebration much closer to the heart. It was that of love and light. Let me tell you about it through my community- St Vincent de Paul- Zone 3, Unit 2.

It's funny how the pandemic in its wake of fear, death, darkness and loss, has brought together our people, from every nook and cranny of this faceless world into a big group hug, regardless of our differences, our choices and our religious beliefs.

This was not just any Diwali that we were accustomed to, that of loud relentless crackers and the overwhelming sense of a heavy pollution build up in the air, instead it was one that nobody had ever experienced before.

I for one, was delighted to receive a special masked visitor at the door, on the eve of Diwali, bearing gifts from our beloved animators. Who was it? Jasmine one of our Animators! Really? Indeed! This was for real! She gently handed me a set of beautiful Diyas hand

painted blue, like the skies of a sparkly night, candle lights and a prayer to Jesus, the light of the world all scrolled up and tied in a pretty ribbon. Lovingly she asked that we the family, light up the Diyas at the break of the blessed festival of light with this beautiful prayer of solidarity, love, care and hope and a bonding of our lives, our spiritual wealth and our coming together in keeping with inculturation, united in spite of our differences and our religious practice, all in unison at that specific hour in deep prayer. A big Thank You to the animators of my community – Liza, Vera, Maria and Jasmine for spreading this festival of Light with so much of love and togetherness as one bonded family. This was what we desperately needed to know that Jesus Christ made no difference between HIS people. He asked all of us to love our neighbors as our brothers and in doing so we shared our inner light, we spread our warmth and we welcomed into our beings God's infinite power and love with arms wide open.

- Charmaine Ferns

Zone-3, Unit 2- St. Vincent de Paul community

Moving towards a Gig Economy

Every profession & trade knew their individual job role and worked extremely hard to deliver the desired output. In the past decade, there have been major upheavals within the job market. Earlier, a traditional "Job Economy" has slowly and steadily begun evolving to a "Gig Economy". The Job Economy had individuals focusing on a lifetime career, gig economy workers are those who work on a freelance, temporary or need basis. Incidentally, a crisis comes as a blessing in disguise for the gig ecosystem. The model had been around for years, the 2008 financial crisis in the US initiated the first push towards the Gig Ecosystem. As companies focussed on ensuring operations remained smooth, while trimming operational spends, freelance workers showed the way of lowering expenses via a greater cost-benefit ratio. The 2020 coronavirus pandemic has done likewise. Whereas gig work was gradually gathering momentum, COVID-19 compressed the process of years into weeks.

In a gig economy, the job market is marked by dominance of limited-period contracts rather than permanent jobs. So, instead of a regular wage, an individual gets paid for "gigs". Though proponents of the gig economy claim people can benefit from flexible hours, it has its fair share of detractors, who consider it a form of exploitation, with very little workplace protection

Technological advancements have made it possible for people to work remotely and independently while on the move through a cloud platform. The gig economy uses digital platforms to connect freelancers

with customers thereby providing short-term services. As per a BCG report, the gig economy has the potential to service up to 90 million jobs (roughly 30% of India's non-farm workforce), add up to 1.25% to India's GDP and create millions of new jobs across all sectors of India's economy. As per ASSOCHAM, India's gig sector is expected to increase to US\$455 billion at a CAGR of 17% by 2024 and has the potential to expand at least 2x the pre-pandemic estimates.

The future of gig work holds enormous potential because it can be more meaningful and rewarding in more than just the monetary aspect. Its main advantage lies in its integration with technology because, the future of India's start-ups and its gig economy lies in digital innovations. With time, more individuals will move into the gig economy due to benefits such as improved work-life balance and the convenience to work with who you want and when you want and from wherever you want. The evolution of 'Work from Home' to 'Work from Anywhere' is setting the ball rolling. Employees have stayed at their native places and made the most of their isolation with equal balance on productivity and health. The employers, on the other hand, can benefit from the reduced costs of not hiring a long-term employee who may not prove to be the right fit in the long-term and instead of hiring on-demand workforce based on skills for different projects. Undoubtedly, the gig economy is poised for unprecedented growth across specializations and multiple industry verticals.

- Ryan Rodrigues

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

CONFESSIONS

Monday, 20th Dec. 6.00 P.M – 7.00 P.M. 7.30 P.M. – 8.30 P.M

Tuesday, 21st Dec. 6.00 P.M – 7.00 P.M. 7.30 P.M. – 8.30 P.M

Friday, 24th Dec.: NO EVENING MASS,

10.00 P.M. SOLEMN CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS in the Church

Saturday, 25th Dec. - 7.00 A.M (KONKANNI), 9.00 & 10.00 A.M.

THERE WILL BE NO EVENING MASS

Friday, 31st Dec. NO EVENING MASS,

10.00 P.M – 11.00 PM : THANKSGIVING HOLY HOUR

11.00 P.M. SOLEMN NEW YEAR MASS

Saturday, 1st Jan,2020 : 7.00 A.M (KONKANNI), 9.00 & 10.00 A.M.

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



Christmas Symbolism



Star represents the bright star that shone the night Jesus was born. "Where is the new born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2



Candy cane represents the shepherd's staff. Christ is also called the Good Shepherd. And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Luke 2:8



Gifts represent the gold, frankincense and myrrh. ...And when they opened they had opened their treasures, they presented him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11



Evergreen tree represents the eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16



Christmas carollers represent the multitude of angels that sang on the night Jesus was born. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest..." Luke 2:13-14



Christmas candles and lights represent the light that Jesus has brought to the world. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:79



Holly Berries represent the blood that Christ shed for us. For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many remission of sins. Matthew 26:28



Nativity scene represents the scene in the manger where Jesus was born. And she brought for her firstborn son, and wrapped him swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. Luke 2:7



Christmas wreath represents the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head... John 19:2



Christmas Bells represent the call of mankind to worship the Lord. For the Son of man came to seek, and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10

Prepared by Allison Hall



Wishing You All A Joyous Christmas. May The Christ Child Fill Your Hearts And Homes With His Infinite Joy, Peace & Love This Season And In The New Year.



• FROM •

DEACON INACIN FERNANDES, FR. SAVIO LOBO, JAMES D'COSTA, & ANIL REGO

SHEPHERD'S VOICE- INSPIRATION

Poems and Quotes

A Christmas Message

I have a message for you,
And I do believe it's grand.
During this Christmas Season,
It's time to take a stand.

Remember the reason for Christmas,
And what it represents.
Jesus, loving and welcoming,
It's not just about presents.
So take this Christmas message,
And pass it far and wide.
Christmas is a time for caring,
Let's share this message, amplified.

- Julie Hebert

This season, keep your eyes and heart open for
unexpected ways that God will reveal to you the
hope of Christmas. - Jack Countryman

The holy magic that filled that lonely stable so long
ago still fills the air of Christmas today.

- Mary Hollingsworth

The spirit of Christmas is in every shared joy and in
every act of kindness during this wondrous time of
year. - Editors Of Adams Media, Christmas Stories
You'll Love

Christmas, my child, is love in action. Everytime we
love, every time we give, it's Christmas.

- Dale Evans

Let Christmas be a joyous time

Let Christmas be a relaxing and happy holiday

Let Christmas be sharing of your dimes

Let Christmas be love in many ways.

- Catherine Pulsifer



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ABOUT TAKE CHARGE MENTORSHIP

It all began in 2014, when a group of Catholics in Mumbai came together to create a Centre of Excellence within the Archdiocese of Bombay. They felt that many Catholic youth needed mentors to shine a light on their potential and guide them to achieve more than what they believed was possible to be accomplished. They strongly believed that senior professionals could help bring about changes in the hearts and minds of these youngsters simply by providing them with windows of opportunities.

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

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

The mentors who are carefully chosen for their professional and personal track record of excellence are from diverse fields. They take time out from their busy professional and personal lives to guide the young mentees they have been assigned.

The program eligibility is for Catholic youth from the Archdiocese of Mumbai from ages 16 to 24 years. The shortlisted mentee is paired with a successful mentor. Over a period of 18-24 months, the mentee is regularly in touch with the assigned mentor who acts as a trusted friend, guide and role model. The guidance is largely in the areas of All round personality development, Academics, Skill development and Career choices

From 2015 onwards, Take Charge has had 4 batches and over 500 youth have benefitted from the mentorship program.

MENTEE SPEAK

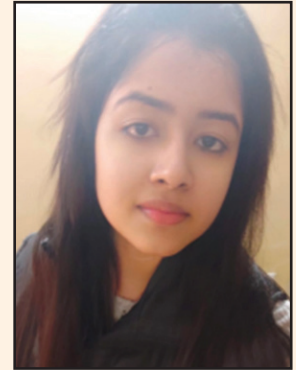


"Take Charge is an amazing platform where I have seen myself growing, becoming more confident about myself to be able to move towards my career and been more focused on it."

Steffi Mascarenhas

BSc in Information Technology,
Wilson College

Made one of the best decisions to have joined Take Charge as a mentee. Found a forever companion and coach in my mentor who has guided and supported me in my journey of life in the last 2 years. Overall I've become more confident and I believe I've changed the way I think by becoming more analytical in the way I approach challenges in my daily life.



Tresa Pothen

Computer Engineering, Fr Conceicao Rodrigues
College of Engineering

FIND OUT MORE

- Visit the website www.takecharge.in for details and lots of case studies
- Attend the Take Charge Mentorship Orientation program conducted for Confirmation and Youth Group scheduled in January 2022.
- Registrations are Open. Limited Seats. Online application form is live on the website. Last date for application - 23rd January 2022



Christmas Word Search

O T Z N M Q N R Z E O Y E L X Y I B P W
 Z R R K T V A U V L C C A N D L E S K F
 O M C Y D L E D D U H K N W N F X Q R V
 R P B M U E M O Y C R C A R D S M B X D
 U S D W D J H L Z O I W S A W G G T C F
 K Q O G S T O P D P S Z B W Z O D E C F
 W F H R A S M H P M T G C A P C P D P Q
 D L S S N J S T S J M I A Y V U V K S U
 W B Z U T A O R Y H A N T X R Y S G E Y
 R G Q H A W M E Q C S G X G P D T P A I
 E P I J L V Q E O V A E R B X U A B S X
 A V M K C W X A N R G R S K T N R A O Q
 T R V R C M W Z S T B B O S S V I U N L
 H C H I M N E Y E G S R Y L V D S Q E O
 N L V I V I Y U N F T E W B M E Z G P K
 L O A G T J M T Z O M A R E V E N V O F
 C S D O T N T E W H R D C L C A X D N M
 J V Q R T C B M R F F D E L H J K A U O
 H P E A J Q L L L R U N N S O J K T I M
 S D T P A G I F T O Y C G A F D D B B I



ANGEL
 MERRY
 SEASON
 WREATH
 RUDOLPH
 GINGERBREAD

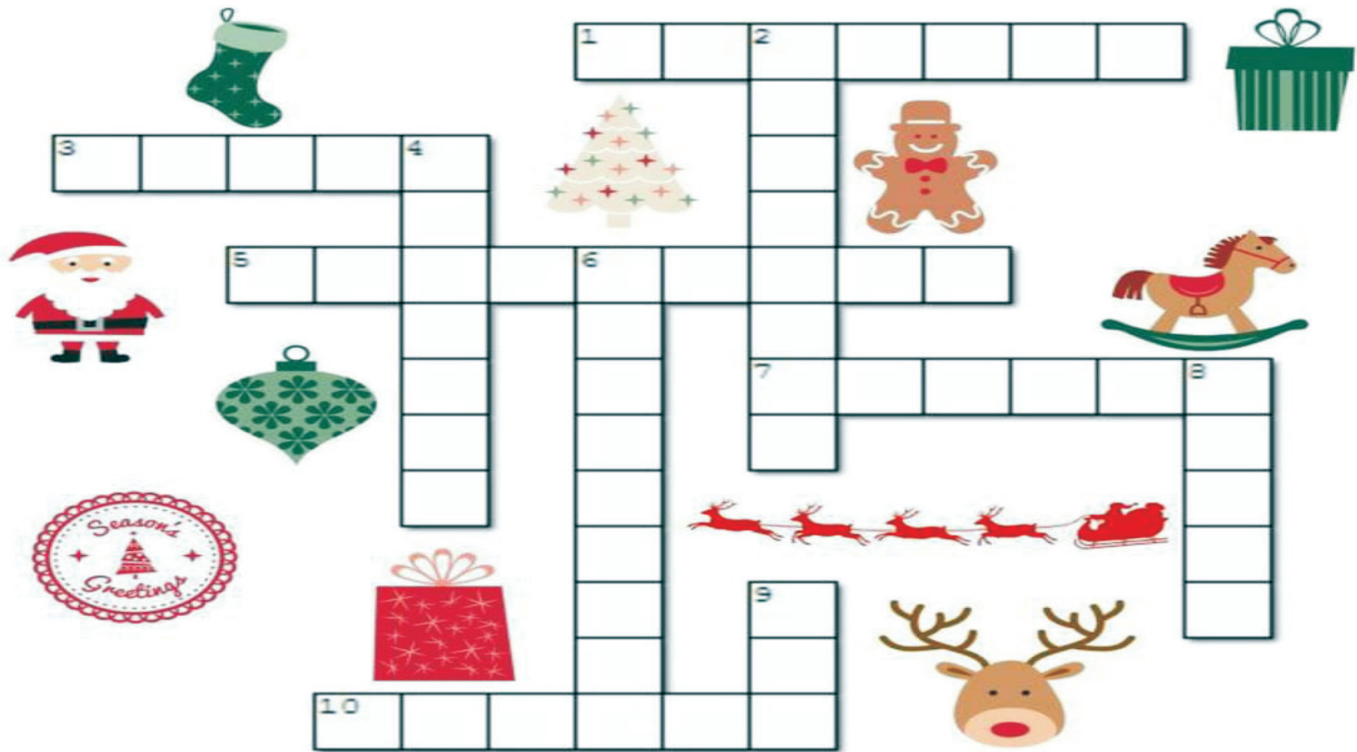
STAR
 BELLS
 CHIMNEY
 GIFT
 SANTA
 TREE

CHRISTMAS
 CANDLES
 ORNAMENTS
 CARDS
 ELVES
 CAROL



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Across

1. One of Santa's Reindeer
3. Santa's Helpers
5. December 25th is _____.
7. Christmas Drink
10. The name of a popular snowman.

Down

2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our _____.
9. _____ to the world!



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MILESTONES

BAPTISMS

Date of Baptism	Date of Birth	Name	Parents
25-9-2021	28-8-2021	NYEL	NOEL AND CHANTELE CONCEPTION D'SILVA
	09-03-2020	TABITHA ISABELLA	ALYQUE AND PREETIKA SEQUEIRA
10-10-2021	24-7-2021	ADRIAN	ALPHANSO AND AARTI D'SOUZA
17-10-2021	3-9-2021	KIARA	XAVIER AND JYOTI FERNANDES
31-10-2021	20-9-2021	DELICIA	DENNIS AND SANDRA SONI

MARRIAGES

Date	Name
28-11-2021	IAN D'SOUZA AND SHARON BALASUNDARAN
11-12-2021	NIGEL COOPER AND MICHELLE MENDES

DEATHS

Date	Name	Age	Address
19-8-2021	CELESTINE THOMAS DIAS	58 YRS	ROOM NO D/03, SO. NO 06, PRIYADARSHINI CHS, MAHDA 4 BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI
28-8-2021	SUSHILA DAS	91 YRS	502/B, HARMONY CHS, LOKHANDWALA COMPLEX, ANDHERI (W) MUMBAI – 53
3-9-2021	JUDITH FEROZE UNWALLA	80 YRS	1201, DLH KAILASH, SAHAKAR NAGAR, J.P. ROAD, ANDHERI (W) MUMBAI – 53
3-9-2021	ROGERS PERCY PEREIRA	50 YRS	85/16, SWAYAMBHU RAMESHWAR, SOC. S.V.P. NAGAR, NEAR JANKIDEVI SCHOOL ROAD, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI – 53
14-9-2021	MARIAO PATRICK FERNANDES	60 YRS	43/1718, D.N. NAGAR SHARMICK SOC., ANDHERI (W) MUMBAI – 400053
21-9-2021	LILY THERESA ALEXANDER	64 YRS	101, F WING, VALMIKI HEIGHTS, YASHWANT VIVA TOWNSHIP, VASAI-NALLASOPARA LINK ROAD, D-MART VASAI (EAST), PALGHAR, 401209
26-9-2021	EDMUND RUDOLF VALLES	83 YRS	BLDG. NO 17/31, AKASH GANGA, 5TH FLOOR, MANISH NAGAR, 4 BUNGALOWS, J.P. ROAD, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI – 53
4-10-2021	ANTHONY FEDELIS SEQUEIRA	72 YRS	B-304, PLOT NO- 23/24, KHERWADI CHS, RTO ROAD, OPP. SAGWAN HEIGHT, 4 BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI – 53
15-10-2021	MARY JANE ALPHONSO	76 YRS	G-2, JUPITER 3, OFF 4 BUNGALOWS, NAVKIRAN MARG, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI
23-10-2021	ROSY JOHN FERNANDES	74 YRS	NANWAR CHAWL, VITTALWADI, AZAD NAGAR, ANDHER (W) MUMBAI – 53
13-11-2021	MARY INTRU LOBO	87 YRS	ANDHERI MANISH GARDEN CHS, B-2/2/4, FLAT – 704, J.P. ROAD, ANDHERI (W) MUMBAI – 53
16-11-2021	OLIVIA MARIA AURORA MASCARENHAS	85 YRS	GURUNAGAR, BLDG. NO 1, 3RD. FLOOR, FLAT NO. 19, 4 BUNGALOWS, VERSOVA ROAD, ANDHERI (W) MUMBAI- 53
20-11-2021	VICTOR FRANCIS FERNANDES	69 YRS	ROOM NO. 2, BHARAT NAGAR, VERSOVA LINK ROAD, NR. VIKRAM PETROL PUMP, ANDHERI (W) MUMBAI – 53
29-11-2021	UBALD JOHN D'SOUZA	77 YRS	104, JUPITAR 3, NAVKIRAN MARG, 4 BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W) MUMBAI – 53

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