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MARCH 2026



FLOCK NEWS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, ANDHERI WEST, MUMBAI 400 053.



RISEN LORD, RENEW OUR PARISH



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FOR APPOINTMENTS: 9892309856

CONSULTANTS	DESIGNATION	DAY	TIMINGS
Dr. Sheela Vadakepat MBBS	Family Physician	Mon, Tue Thu, Fri, Sat	} 9 am to 1 pm 10:15 am to 1 pm
		Wed	
		Mon, Wed Thur, Sat	} 7 pm to 9 pm 6:30 pm to 8 pm
		Tue, Fri	
Dr. Farhan Ansari MBBS, MD, DM Neurology (NIMHANS)	Neurologist and Movement Disorder Specialist	Tue	2 pm to 4 pm
Dr. Pratik Patil MBBS, MS (Orthopaedics), FRJR	Orthopedic and Robotic Joint Replacement Surgeon	Thur Sat	3 pm to 4 pm
Dr. Ashish Castellino MBBS, DNB (ENT), MNAMS, FIO	ENT	Wed	8:30 am to 10 am
Dr. Ajay Puri MBBS, MS (Orthopaedics), FRJR, FISS (Mumbai)	Joint Replacement & Spine Surgeon (Slip Disc)	Tue, Fri	8 pm to 9 pm
Dr. Nileshkumar Rai MBBS, MD (Medicine)	General Medicine	Wed	4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Dr. Nikhil Rao MBBS, MD, DM Nephrology (KEMH)	Kidney Specialist and Transplant Physician	Fri	4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Dr. Amala Jose MBBS, DNB (Obstetrics & Gynaecology)	Obstetrician and Gynaecologist	Mon, Thur	4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Congratulations

The following parishioners received scholarships for outstanding performances in academics in the year 2024-25.

JENNIFER D'MELLO

Std. X ICSE

CHRIZELLE D'SILVA

Std. X CBSE

NATHAN PINTO

Std. X CBSE

EMILY DESOUZA

Std. HSC (Arts)

AYANNA RAJ

HSC (Arts)

SANTINHO CARDOZO

HSC (Comm)

SHANIA GONSALVES

HSC (CBSE)

GLENN JOHNSON

BSC (Hosp. Studies)

ROHAN JOJI MATHEW

C.A.

VIOLET MORIS

LL.B.

*The Clergy Team
wishes you all*



FLOCK NEWS

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Fr Anil Rego

Editorial Team:

Fr Reuben Tellis

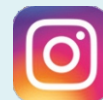
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EDITORIAL

RISEN LORD, RENEW OUR PARISH

Easter is not simply the commemoration of an event that happened two thousand years ago; it is the living proclamation that Jesus Christ is risen and remains present among His people. The Resurrection is God's decisive victory over sin and death, despair and darkness. For us at Good Shepherd Church, Andheri, Easter is an invitation to renew the way we live our faith – personally, in our families, and as one parish community.

The empty tomb is not an ending; it is a beginning. The risen Lord sends us back into daily life with courage and hope. Every Eucharist we celebrate is an encounter with the living Christ. Every prayer offered in faith becomes a testimony that death does not have the last word. As a parish, we are called not only to believe in the Resurrection but to reflect it in the way we worship, serve, forgive, and journey together.

Over the past year, our parish life has beautifully expressed this shared faith. During Christmas, the Crib and Star Contest reflected the creativity and devotion of our parishioners. The messages accompanying the cribs reminded us that Christ must be born not only in Bethlehem, but in the manger of our hearts. Such initiatives reveal that our parish is not merely a place we attend, but a family that lives the liturgical seasons with meaning and imagination.

During Lent, many gathered faithfully for the Stations of the Cross, walking spiritually with the Lord through His suffering. Those evenings of prayer, silence, and reflection reminded us that the path to Resurrection always passes through the Cross. The discipline of fasting, almsgiving, and repentance prepared our hearts to receive anew the joy of Easter morning.

Our spiritual life has always been complemented by vibrant community participation. The Triduum in preparation for our Parish Feast was marked by

prayerful preaching, reconciliation, and renewal. These sacred days deepened our understanding of what it means to belong to Christ and to one another. The feast itself then blossomed into a celebration of togetherness – karaoke, dancing, stalls, delicious food, and joyful fellowship on the lawns. What began in prayer overflowed into celebration, showing that faith and festivity are not opposites but companions.

Easter now gathers all these experiences into one radiant truth: Christ is alive among us. The risen Lord strengthens our priests and religious in their ministry, renewing their zeal to shepherd God's people with compassion and wisdom. He blesses our families, calling them to be domestic churches where forgiveness, patience, and love flourish. He inspires our children and youth to grow in faith, courage, and joyful service. He consoles our elders, the sick, and the homebound, assuring them that their suffering is united to His victory. He blesses our initiatives to care for the creation he has inspired us to steward.

To live the Resurrection in our parish means more than attending Mass; it means building relationships rooted in Christ. It means gathering for prayer, supporting parish initiatives, encouraging one another in times of struggle, and celebrating together in times of joy. It means seeing in every parishioner – from the youngest child to the most senior member – a reflection of the risen Lord.

As we celebrate this Easter season, may Good Shepherd Church continue to be a living witness of hope in Andheri. May our worship be vibrant, our fellowship sincere, and our service generous. And may the presence and power of the risen Christ guide us forward, so that in all we do – spiritually, culturally, and socially – we proclaim with our lives: The Lord is truly risen, and He lives among us.

- Fr Reuben Tellis

Field-Trip: Sunday School

It was 'Time spent with Nature' for the Sunday School children on 8th February from 9:45 am onwards. As part of the 'Go Green' initiative, green cell team members conducted the field trip in the parish premises. 43 children along with the SS coordinator and the respective teachers also joined in.

Children were briefly explained on the importance of plants in our day to day living, the awareness about plants thus caring for God's creation. During the trip, children were introduced to various plants-fruits, flowers, trees etc in the parish,



It was wonderful and amazing to see the enthusiasm, participation, vibrancy and high energy of the children.

On completion, a sapling was given to the children. A demo was shown to them on the method and ways to water plants.

- Jasmine Nair

THE JOY OF GIVING

The Joy of Giving to others is a profound, lasting reward, often greater than the pleasure of Receiving. Giving without expecting anything in return is a core competent of this profound joy. Jesus also said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive". Our lives are fulfilling when we give and share with others, creating positive feelings, stronger relationships and a greater sense of fulfillment. When we do good to others, we receive great happiness.



donated generously by our parishioners, were distributed and given to the poor and needy families of our parish on 23rd December. The smiles on their faces said it all. As part of 'Care for Creation' drive in the church, the needy persons receiving the food grains got their own cloth bags from home.

Celebrating Advent Season - Advent is an important time of the year. It leads to Christmas and the remembrance of the birth of Jesus. December 2025 -



our parishioners came forward donating generously with food grains like rice, wheat, tea, sugar and different types of pulses and dals. All these were put in different labelled bins kept inside the church and a beautiful Christmas tree was lit up at its side.

Christmas Hamper of food grains, pork and chicken

In addition, clothes and other items which had remained from the white elephant stall were given to Fr Jerome SVD in Bandra who made arrangements to send it to the missionaries and the needy people in Jharkhand and other places. All of them have thanked our parish and YOU dear parishioners. Our parish has proved once again that 'No one should be left in want'. The entire process was handled by the Community Welfare Committee members, under the guidance of our parish priest, Fr Anil Rego.



Real gift-giving is unconditional. It doesn't come with a specific value. The gifts of patience, wisdom, compassion, tolerance and caring are worth more than anything money can buy. Give it freely and daily! We thank God for His many blessings to us and our families and may our parish continue its journey of Giving and Sharing.

- Dora Martis



The Stone That Moved

A little boy once asked his teacher, "Why did they roll the stone away from Jesus' tomb?"

The teacher replied, "Not to let Jesus out-but to let us in."

Easter is not just about Jesus rising. It is about us discovering that death, fear, and darkness no longer have the final word.



GRANDMOM: WE CARE

Simran Kaur, 78, was admitted to a private hospital with acute breathlessness and placed on a ventilator. As days passed, the hospital bills mounted. Her son, Ranjeet Singh, 55, already burdened by heavy debts and losses in his struggling trading business, grew increasingly anxious.

After several days, Ranjeet approached Dr Nagpal to ask about his mother's condition and how long she would require ventilator support. The doctor replied cautiously, "At this stage, we cannot predict anything. We must wait and watch." The next day, Ranjeet returned and spoke openly about his financial distress. "Doctor, the bills are piling up. I cannot afford this," he said. Then, in a lowered voice, he offered twenty-five lakhs to disconnect his mother's ventilator. Dr Nagpal was stunned. "She is your mother! How can you think this way?" he exclaimed.

Ranjeet replied coldly, "She may not recover soon. It will only cost more money. I need her property and savings to clear my debts and revive my business." Furious, Dr Nagpal refused. "I will not accept blood money. What you are asking violates every ethical oath I have taken. Leave immediately, or I will call security."

The following day, Dr Nagpal discreetly informed Aakash Singh, Simran's 21-year-old grandson, about his father's plot. Horrified, Aakash agreed his grandmother must be moved to safety. Though hospital protocol required the father's consent, Dr Nagpal devised a plan.

Late that night, an ambulance was arranged. With trusted assistance, Simran was quietly shifted through a basement exit and admitted to another private hospital fifteen kilometers away. By morning, ICU staff discovered her absence. Hospital management alerted Ranjeet, and a frantic search began.

Meanwhile, Aakash contacted a lawyer, Mr Banerjee. He narrated everything and expressed his wish to legally separate himself from his father. Soon, Ranjeet received a legal notice from his son and another from the hospital demanding payment of eighteen lakhs in pending bills.

A month later, the trial began. Both the attempted conspiracy case and the legal separation petition were heard together. For nearly a year, cross-examinations continued. Throughout this period, Aakash balanced

his mechanical engineering studies with court appearances while caring for his grandmother at a rented house, alongside his mother, Gurmeet Kaur, who had left her husband.

In the final stage of the trial, the judge asked Aakash to state the true reason for his petition. Under oath, before a packed courtroom, he testified that his father had attempted to bribe the doctor to kill his grandmother.

Simran, seated in the front row beside Gurmeet, broke down in disbelief. Dr Nagpal then confirmed under oath that Ranjeet had offered him twenty-five lakhs to eliminate his own mother.

Standing firm, Aakash declared, "I feel only shame that he is my father. Today, with a clear conscience, I reject his actions."

With permission, he added, "The younger generation must show what it means to honour parents and grandparents. Those who abandon them must remember — such actions destroy lives. The courtroom fell silent.

Overcome with guilt, Ranjeet bowed his head and folded his hands toward his mother. "Forgive me, Maa. I was blinded by debt. I confess my guilt." The judge addressed him sternly. "As her only son, everything would eventually be yours. Why such urgency? You have lost your family, honour, and self-respect. Wealth cannot replace these."

Clarifying the law, the judge explained that complete disownment was not legally possible, but protective separation could be granted. Aakash chose that option. The court ordered Ranjeet to vacate the family home and settle the hospital dues within three months. The final verdict followed: guilty of attempt to murder under Section 307 IPC and criminal conspiracy under Section 120B IPC—ten years' imprisonment.

As police led Ranjeet away in handcuffs, Aakash embraced his grandmother. "From today, I am your grandson and your son," he said. Simran kissed his forehead. Gurmeet held him close, saying, "I am proud of you." In that solemn courtroom, justice was served — not only by law, but by conscience.

- Alphonso Fernandes

A Modern Day Tribute!

The basilica of Mount Mary has been visited by many devotees over the years, many from other faiths. While faith comes in believing, for those from different religious backgrounds, having a place that narrates the history of how it all began helps in better understanding and thereby trickling down to a stronger devotion. Pranam Mariyam, has done just that and is a modern day tribute to a woman, a mother, an intercessor and many roles Mother Mary has been playing in our lives.

It takes you through the journey of man from the creation of Adam to the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, the formation of the new Church under the apostles at Pentecost. The life-sized statues with almost human-like characteristics, the artifacts, scenic layouts along with the sounds and light effects work perfectly to recreate the historical scenes, bringing the biblical stories to life.

The GSC Sunday school has been keen to create opportunities for our children to explore the various mediums introduced by the Catholic Church to educate and deepen our faith. This visit to the exhibit was one such way to draw attention to the role of Mary who continues to be the witness for Jesus's mission in today's world. The anticipation was high among the children as they entered the dark room through the mosaic tiled doors. After a quiet interval, suddenly the room lit up with a vision of space and a deep voice introducing them to what they would be witnessing.

The journey then took them through various stages in the Bible, whispers could be heard among the children



repeating names, incidents from the Bible. They saw each major event leading from the old testament to the new testament that would seal what was to happen to Jesus on the cross. And finally understand the linkage and the background behind the Salvation story.

The lifesize image of Jesus scourged, the heavy cross He carried and the nails engulfing His meek face were images that make you want to look away. The curious hands of the children were eager to touch the cross and feel the thorns, giving them a sensation of the weight of the sin He carried despite being innocent. Some also questioned the nails on his wrist instead of the hands as depicted in most churches. Interestingly, plenty of questions were raised on and off which were answered by the catechists who were accompanying the children.

The Ascension scene made the atmosphere cheerful again, it also gave a glimpse into what the apostles may have witnessed knowing Jesus will be back again in more glory. The final chapters of the pentecost and assumptions of our Mother reiterated the fact that She is most cherished by God, to be taken body and soul to heaven, a privilege no man has even received.

The Sunday School teachers and children are happy to have visited Pranam Mariyam and we do hope Mother Mary guides our team and children, as we continue on our journey of teaching, learning and faith building to become witnesses like Her in our families, communities, parish and in the world.

- Ruvina Dias



Confirmation Thanksgiving

Representing all the Confirmandi, with grateful hearts we reflect on our transformative Confirmation journey this year.

Confirmation, this special sacrament which we eagerly awaited, has been a beautiful path of faith, growth, friendship, and discovery. It has inspired us to become better human beings, strengthening our relationship with God and it has left lasting blessings on our hearts.

We thank everyone who shaped this unforgettable experience. First, we praise Almighty God for blessing us with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament and to His Son Jesus whose Good News we received and the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are also grateful to our



parents and family for their continuous guidance and support.

Our journey began in June. It was filled with fun quizzes, joyful moments, and meaningful lessons that

brought bright smiles and valuable insights each session. We gratefully acknowledge our inspiring speakers. Deacon Ivan's interactive sessions and hilarious jokes were highlights. Dr Angelica shared profound wisdom. Fr Reuben Tellis led a memorable retreat with eye-opening sessions, games and heartfelt answers, alongside life-coach Karen D'Lima and our youth leaders, deepening our encounter with God through prayer and fellowship.

Fr K. T. Emmanuel's session on marriage was cherished, while Fr Melroy's inner healing service and Reconciliation prepared our hearts perfectly.

Our teachers deserve special thanks - Deacon Fredrick, Ms Belinda, Ms Esther, Ms Priya, Sir Francis and Sir Amit, who sacrificed their Sundays to teach, mentor and reveal insights in the faith with love and commitment.

We thank our parish team — Fr Anil Rego, Fr Reuben Tellis and Fr Joseph Mathew for their guidance. The Sisters of St Louis Convent welcomed us warmly, fostering growth. Our heartfelt thanks to His Lordship Bishop Barthol Baretto for celebrating Holy Mass and confirming us—an immense honour.

We are grateful to the youth choir for their melodious singing at our Confirmation mass, the altar servers and Trevor, our sacristan.

As we embrace this new chapter, may the Holy Spirit guide our journey.

- Eva Pereira & Rishon Fernandes



The Butterfly

A child watched a caterpillar struggle inside a cocoon. Wanting to help, he gently broke it open. But the butterfly that emerged could not fly.

The struggle was necessary for its wings to grow strong.

Just as Jesus passed through suffering to Resurrection, our struggles can lead to new life and strength.

7G Spirituality

Hi everyone. It's me once again, doing what I most enjoy doing i.e. writing another article on our Fr Reuben Tellis, in our Flock News about the 7G Spirituality "Workshop" as he called it, conducted by him on 26th January 2026, famous as he is, with all the parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish.



I had infact done a little homework from Google on 7G Spirituality, so that I would know what to expect. And



my goodness, what we learned from Fr Reuben's class, outdid all my expectations. Believe you me, there were many and he fulfilled them all.



He made it so awesome and interesting that I wish I had recorded it. Don't know which part I enjoyed the most, as everything he said made sense and exploded in my minds eye, connecting the dots with my own personal life. It so resonated. To know if we are on the right track, is what we need and a reassurance from someone like Fr Reuben says it all.



Thank you ever so much Fr Reuben for all your efforts and commitment. We are truly a Blessed Parish to have you pastor us. God in His Great Mercy, sent you to us, to satisfy our Spiritual hunger, of which we are so deprived especially in these "modern times".

The 7 points of the 7G Spirituality exercise given to us, made us excited. First to think, then to write and then

to share with our small groups, into which we were already indoctrinated. So it was an animated discussion every step of the way, in the midst of hearty anecdotes from Fr Reuben, resulting in pure unadulterated joy and laughter sessions too, as Father lead us into each section as to what was required of us.



It opened us up, to look into ourselves, our lives and where we are at the moment, with Lent round the corner. It made us want to grow Spiritually in every respect with the 7G points for discussion with relevant scripture passages for reference and possible homework i.e.

- Gifts
- Generosity
- Growth
- Glow
- Gentleness
- Gratitude
- Good News

And his last takeaway of,

"An attitude of gratitude makes your life a beatitude." - was the icing on the cake together with the last two quotes from scripture. Not producing it here as would like you to look it up in The Bible, which should be our



"Go to" for every need and doubt.

Isaiah 52:7

Romans 10:15

What more can I say, 7G Spirituality left us wanting more as usual, so Fr Reuben, when is the next session?? Am sure everyone is waiting with bated breath, like me.

As mentioned in my last article, we have been so inspired, motivated and also educated in and through



the Word of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Feast we celebrated on 25th January 2026.

Thank you Fr Reuben and kudos as usual to all that you undertake under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May He continue to inspire and use you.

We are truly, a Blessed set of privileged Parishioners, who got to taste, once again, the fruits of the Spirit, as our God provides for our needs as the scripture verse says in Philippians 4:19 - 'But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.'

- Natalia, Olivia and Genevive D'Sa

A Visit to Home for the Aged

As a part of Advent Outreach program, 9 members of the Golden Hearts committee visited Home For The Aged run by The Little Sisters of the Poor, Andheri. It was indeed a heartwarming experience. The Home all painted in white, with a beautifully manicured garden and spotlessly clean interiors was a sight to behold!

On arrival, we were warmly welcomed by Sister Stella who proudly showed us around. We observed that each person had his/her own self-contained room with a little balcony overlooking the garden. The ladies occupied the first floor while the men were housed on the second floor. All the residents were already seated in the spacious airy dining halls ready for their medication and dinner

The Home wore a festive look with Christmas decorations already adorning the halls and corridors. There was even a Crib and Star competition and a few men were excited to show us what they had prepared. They all seemed so excited to have visitors with whom they could talk and share their stories.

We handed over to the Sisters the medicines they had requested for as well as festive dress materials for the ladies as Christmas gifts. We also personally distributed biscuit packets and hand towels to each one present.

Hats off to the 12 sisters who took such superb care of these 50 men and women! We left the place in a thoughtful mood wondering whether we should add our names to their waiting list.

- Joan D'Souza



The Broken Cross

After a storm, a wooden cross outside a church fell and broke. People thought it should be thrown away.

Instead, someone repaired it and placed it inside the church.

It became more meaningful than before.

The Cross, once a sign of defeat, became the greatest sign of hope.

God transforms what is broken into something beautiful.



Easter Blessing of the Home

Hymn: We are gathering together

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. It is Christ, risen from the dead, who is our source of hope, joy, and comfort. May all who enter this home find Christ's **light and love.**

Reader: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians (3: 12-17)

Preferably to be read from the family Bible

“You are God's chosen race, his saints; He loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; And never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

The word of the Lord... *(short pause for reflection)*

Leader: The Son of God, Lord of heaven and earth, made his home among us. With thankfulness and gladness let us call upon him, saying:

R. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

- (1) Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our head. We pray: **R...**
- (2) Lord Jesus Christ, through you every dwelling is a temple of holiness: build those who live in this house into the dwelling place of God in the Holy Spirit. We pray: **R...**
- (3) Lord Jesus Christ, you taught your followers to build their houses upon solid rock: grant that the members of this family may live their lives in firm obedience to your teachings. We pray: **R...**
- (4) Lord Jesus Christ, the disciples recognized you in the breaking of the bread: grant that the members of this family may be open always to the presence of Christ in word and sacrament. We pray: **R...**
- (5) Lord Jesus Christ, you appeared to the frightened apostles and said, "Peace be with you": grant that your abiding peace may remain with the members of this family. We pray: **R...**
- (6) We now pray in silence for the members of our family, who have gone before us marked with a sign of faith...(pause for a moments and if possible the family can name those who have died)... Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual shine upon them. May their souls rest in peace. Amen

Our Father . . .Hail Mary... Glory Be

Leader: Lord, we rejoice in the victory of your Son over death: by rising from the tomb to new life he gives us new hope and promise. Bless all the members of this family and surround them with your protection, that they may find comfort and peace in Jesus Christ, the paschal lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(The family members now greet each other with a sign of peace and bless each other on the forehead with the sign of the cross as they sing the final hymn. The head of the family may sprinkle those present and the home with holy water)

Hymn: I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever or any other hymn the family knows.

Senior Citizens Nite – An Evening Woven with Joy & Togetherness

Senior Citizens Nite was held on 18th January 2026 on the church lawns and was a delightful celebration of life, laughter and community. Organized by the Golden Hearts, the event brought together nearly 175 senior citizens for an evening filled with warmth and fellowship. The beautifully decorated lawns, illuminated with soft lights and elegant décor, created a magical, fairy-tale ambience under the stars.



The program began with the compere, Fr Reuben Tellis, welcoming the gathering and inviting Mr Xavier Almeida, President of the Association, to address the audience. Mr Almeida warmly greeted the members



and expressed gratitude for their continued enthusiasm. The evening was spiritually enriched by Fr Anil Rego, Spiritual Director of Golden Hearts, who invoked God's blessings. The presence of the parish

priest further encouraged and affirmed the organizers' efforts.

A spirited march past led by President Xavier Almeida and Vice President Nancy Ferns symbolized unity and vitality. An energetic action song and lively dance session followed, complete with a surprise spot prize that heightened the excitement. Afterward, delicious



snacks were served, offering time for conversation and camaraderie.

Games and quizzes added to the enjoyment, including a trivia challenge featuring familiar Andheri landmarks and an innovative newspaper game that tested teamwork and wit. Winning tables were rewarded with prizes, much to everyone's delight.

Music by DJ Noel Dsouza filled the air with nostalgic golden hits and Konkani favourites. A game of housie, with complimentary tickets and prizes for five winners, along with lucky-dip hampers, brought further cheer. The evening concluded with a sumptuous dinner and a heartfelt vote of thanks by Secretary Iona Godinho.

Indeed, Senior Citizens Nite was a beautiful reminder that joy deepens when shared, leaving hearts grateful and memories cherished.

- Flory D'Souza



The Dark Room

A child was afraid of the dark and asked his father,
"Is Jesus in the dark too?"

The father said, "Yes, Jesus is there."

The child replied, "Then it's not dark anymore."

Easter reminds us that Christ's light overcomes every darkness.

A Detour to HOPE !

On the Feast of the Holy Innocents and Family Day, about 32 children from Sunday School along with their teachers took a detour from the seasons festivities for an *Outreach program at Bal Bhavan in Veera Desai*. The rendezvous with 120 young girls of the home included some fun games to some Bollywood hit numbers, and a melodious antakshari with a wholesome meal together.

Our children got a glimpse into the lives of the girls who live away from their home and are grateful with the bare necessities they have, but still showed exuberance to life. A food for thought for all present were the privileges we have received from our families in love and kind. Besides the interactions with the girls, it was good to see our children leave their phones aside, enjoying simple swing/slide rides in the Home garden or just strolling amidst nature around.

The 'thank you' song sung by the girls at the end echoed the lines of *"thankfulness for the time and love shared with them"*, these lines seemed to pierce the hearts of our children who were awestruck to see the girls, thanking them for a mere couple of hours spent together. We Sunday School teachers will be capturing the experiences of the children in the coming days to share with you all, do look out for the next bulletin to see the articles. We know this detour has impacted our children somehow to see this virtue of *HOPE in practice even in the LITTLE it surely makes Life not a burden but a wonderful ride.*

- Ruvina Dias



Feast of our Lady of Lourdes & World Day of the Sick and Elderly

The Mass for the Sick and Elderly was held on the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes on Wednesday - 11th February 2026 at 5.00 pm near the grotto. Around 250 parishioners were present. The feedback from the elderly and homebound is particularly poignant. The elderly and the sick come for healing and blessing with great faith. They expressed deep gratitude to Fr Reuben for his enriching homily. The elderly were very happy and grateful to know they are still a part of the parish and are dearly remembered though they are unable to regularly come to church due to their health reasons. They are thankful to Fr Reuben for being calm, his easy delivery of words and slow repetition for all of those who may be struggling with focus or hearing.

- Celine Saldanha



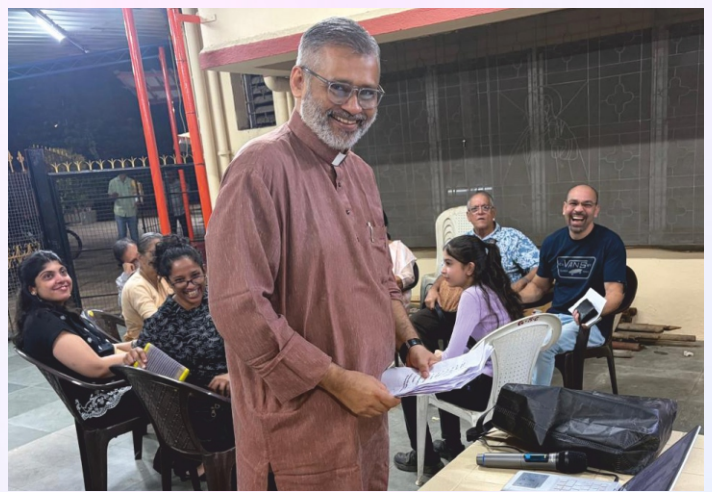
A fellowship for the Liturgical Ministers

Fr Reuben Tellis invited all the liturgical ministers for a session on prayer and fellowship at the Carlo Centre on 8th February 2026, from 6.45 pm to 9 pm. It was an evening of learning through prayer, interaction, games and refreshments. We were around 70 of us from various parish ministries - choirs, musicians, altar servers, media cell, lectors and Eucharist ministers, of which he is the Spiritual Director.

We started with a prayer and he spoke to us as to why we were invited during this season of Lent. He explained to us that “these days are LENT to us to be PAID with INTEREST”. They are gifted to us for our spiritual renewal. Since all of us invited belonged to the liturgical team of the Church, it was important that we focussed on the Lenten commitment during this season. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 says, “Be faithful stewards of God's Mysteries”

Fr Reuben further took us through a 6-point explanation:

1. Lent is a call to deeper commitment, wherein the liturgical ministry is a vocation to live from the heart, shaped by prayer, humility and fidelity.
2. Ministry before the Sanctuary: what we do publicly must be rooted in a sincere life from within. In this regard, he gave us the 4 Ps – Prayer, Preparation, Punctuality and Presence.
3. Serving, not being served - he emphasized that the Liturgical Ministry is not about being visible, but allowing Christ to be seen through us.
4. Lent and our specific Ministry - We were told that whatever our ministry, be it the lectors, choir, altar servers, extraordinary Ministers or the Media Cell, each of our role matters and every act is worship.
5. A Lenten Examination of Ministry – We, as Liturgical ministers are called to examine our conscience. When we are preparing spiritually for our ministry, if there is a lacuna in us, we should find out, what changes we could bring about in ourselves during this season of Lent.





6. A simple Lenten Resolution - he requested us to commit ourself to allowing our services to lead us closer to Christ.

We were then divided into groups where we played games and interacted with one another. Not forgetting the box of wholesome and yummy snacks which we enjoyed along with soft drinks.

Yes indeed, A grateful heart is a magnet for miracles. A big thank you to Fr Reuben, who took a lot of interest and effort to prepare us for the season of Lent. We felt enriched at the end of the session. We, the Liturgical Ministers will surely follow the path that he took us through, to bring ourselves and others we encounter closer to Christ.

- **Caroline Britto**



Eucharistic Fellowship

Those involved in the liturgical ministries of the parish has a unique fellowship organised by Fr Reuben at the Carlo Acutis Centre. Beginning with a session on how we as members of the liturgical ministries in the parish can celebrate the Season of Lent, there were some unique games organised which tickled our brain cells and encouraged team work. There was also an interesting game of housie with some great prizes. The snacks offered were sumptuous. It was nice to have the parishioners gather together in fellowship.

- **Sheldon Aranjó**



Community Carolling- bringing in the Christmas Cheer 2025

We went carolling and it was a truly joyful experience! It was a wonderful way to spread cheer and get others in the festive spirit. As Alphonsaites, we believe in spreading love, peace, and joy, and carolling was the perfect way to do just that. We visited all the homebound in our unit too and gave them Christmas presents through our Santa.

We sang popular carols like 'Jingle Bells', 'Silent Night', 'Deck the Halls', 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer', and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'. What made it even more special was when people of other faiths joined in, and a small boy sang along with us - it was truly a moment to cherish! We dressed our kids as Mary and Joseph to make our carolling more meaningful.

Carolling allowed us to connect with our neighbours, spread holiday greetings and bring joy to those around us, including the homebound. It was a fun and interactive way to share the Christmas message and create lasting memories. We ended the evening with a get-together, prayer session and more singing . It was a beautiful way to bond with our unit members and remember the departed.

- Priscilla DSouza



PARISH

Good Shepherd Parish Feast was celebrated on 15th February 2026. To prepare for the Feast spiritually we had a Triduum preached by Fr Reuben Tellis, during which he proposed unique ways of making the parish vibrant. On Saturday, 14th February, there was a special Mass for couples, with prayers and blessings for widowers and widows as well.

The Feast mass on Sunday 15th February was celebrated by Rev Fr Reuben Tellis. At all masses that weekend there was a blessing of all families, especially the couples.

The Feast celebrations on the church lawns had a variety of activities: the White Elephant sale was a blast which had tons of hidden gems and surprises. Thanks to everyone who donated and participated. A big shoutout to the teams behind the stalls for adding a tasty touch to the event with their mouth-watering delicacies. The Youth kept us busy with their games of skill, while Vrinda had faces painted to excite the feast spirit. The Sisters of Good Shepherd had a unique stall which consisted of ayurvedic medicines and herbs offering natural wellness solutions.



FEAST

The anchor for the evening was our very own Bianca who kept things smooth, engaging and fun, with help from a dynamic team of organisers. A festive cake was cut by Fr Anil and Fr Reuben sang the parish anthem. The children entertained us with some lovely dance moves and received prizes. There were dance competition in pairs judged by professional dancers and prizes were given. The spot prizes were eagerly looked forward to. The karaoke performances showcased the talents of many parishioners, young and old and there never was a dull moment. Scholarships were awarded to our outstanding students in various academic fields and the communities received their trophies and cash prizes for the Christmas Crib and Star Competition 2025.

The parishioners enjoyed the dance session to the hilt and didn't want to leave the dance floor. The evening was memorable and full of excitement as parishioners made it a point to join in the festivities, in spite of other events and programmes coinciding. Good Shepherd, lead us on!

- Peter Gerhart





Stepping into Lenten Season

The Lenten season nudges us to step back from the noise of everyday life, disconnect from distractions and reconnect with our faith. This year was no different.

A recollection was organized by the Andheri East and West Deanery for Seniors. Seventeen enthused Seniors from our parish boarded the bus and headed to Atma Darshan, a centre for counselling and spirituality in Andheri East. The moment we stepped out of the bus, the sight of the lush green surrounding, the open spaces and the soft rustle of trees seemed a perfect setting, almost like a gentle invitation to pause and step into something deeper.

After a warm welcome by Fr Tony Menezes (Director of Atma Darshan) and Fr John Mascarenhas we were invited for a hot cuppa chai and biscuits. Soon after we headed to the chapel.

Our keynote speaker Fr Tony began the recollection by leading us into a 'Centering Exercise' using our five senses. This helped us get in touch with our inner selves subtly creating an awareness on the importance of mindfulness. He then touched upon "Affirming our Faith in God" as he invited us to sing "He is my everything".

Lent, he said should be a happy time not a sad period as he expanded and explained giving us the analogy of Springtime. "Lent is the springtime of the soul" he said. This struck me to be so contrary to the belief I held thus far that Lent is a time of mourning, groaning, sackcloth and ashes.

Moving on he touched in detail on the three pillars of Lent - ALMSGIVING PRAYER and FASTING.

ALMSGIVING can be sharing a smile, giving of our time or just listening.

Giving more than taking should be our attitude as giving is Divine. God gave his only Son to die for us. By giving we become witnesses.

PRAYER should be a constant beneath the noise. It is our direct connection to God. Prayer helps us to forget our hurt, to let go of the negative and grudges.

And FASTING ? It isn't about giving up things rather giving space to what's essential. We are called to look after our spirit and tame our desires. Man does not live by bread alone, we need to feed our spiritual nature, ie. Mind, Body and Soul.

Fr Tony concluded the recollection by wishing us "A Spring-time for our Soul" during this season of Lent.

The second hour was conducted by Fr John and was spent in sharing our feelings. He encouraged those wishing to give their testimony to come out and share. Surprisingly many came out and spoke about their life experiences and how prayers alone helped them overcome their suffering and problems. Every testimony was interspersed by singing "Thank you, thank you Jesus". Three of our Parishioners shared their testimonies too.

Two hours flew by, short enough but just perfect for us Seniors to stay awake and be attentive holding on to every word that was spoken. The evening ended with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and devotional singing.

There was a shift, like a weight being lifted. The world still had its chaos but my soul seemed quieter and lighter. I kept thinking, why didn't more Seniors want to experience this transformation? For me it was a gift, I wished everyone could receive.

- Vera Correia



Day of Consecrated Life 2026

On 2nd February, 2026, the religious sisters of Good Shepherd Convent and St Louis Convent received very special blessings as it is celebrated as a Day of Consecrated Life. Fr Reuben Tellis was the main celebrant at the Eucharist at 7.00 pm. He included a special blessing prayer for all of us and Deacon Frederick. It was heartwarming to receive the wishes of our parishioners as well.

After the Eucharist, we were treated in the Fathers' Refectory with games, gifts and fellowship, that gave each one of us the feeling of being appreciated and encouraged in our work as religious. We are grateful to the Clergy Team for making us feel extra special!

- Sr Saumya



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Triduum - Preparation of our Parish Feast

The Parish Triduum in preparation for the Parish Feast was held on 12th, 13th and 14th February at 7.00 pm and was conducted by Fr Reuben Tellis. Each day carried a unique theme and drew large numbers of parishioners to the church, creating an atmosphere of prayer, reflection and joyful learning.

On the first day, the theme was “And the award for the best parishioner goes to...” This sparked curiosity among everyone present. Fr Reuben preached a lively and humorous homily, presenting amusing “awards” such as the “Best Music Award” for the person whose phone keeps ringing during Mass, the “Best Singer Award” for someone who sings loudly without realizing it, and even the “Emraan Hashmi Award” for those who kiss every statue in church. Through these humorous examples, he highlighted how people sometimes perform empty rituals without understanding the true meaning and reverence of the Mass. The laughter-filled session also encouraged parishioners to reflect on their participation in worship. The highlight of the homily was how he made us aware that there are no real awards, but rather responsibilities we have in our faith expression in Church.

The second day's theme was “Bitter or Better.” Fr Reuben invited everyone to write down their bitter feelings on a piece of paper and place them in an urn before the altar. He spoke about how unresolved bitterness can shape our attitudes and relationships. Through prayer and forgiveness, he explained, bitterness can be transformed into something better.

He shared a humorous yet meaningful real-life story of a priest in Mangalore who was frustrated that some parishioners always stood outside the church during Mass despite there being space inside. When one of these men later asked the priest to bless his house, the priest blessed it only from outside, explaining that the blessing would be the same whether given inside or outside—just like attending Mass. The message struck the man deeply, and he thereafter began sitting inside the church. Fr Reuben concluded the session by burning the papers containing people's bitter experiences while offering prayers for inner healing. Many left that evening feeling spiritually lighter, as if their bitterness had gone up in smoke.

On the final day, the theme was “Called to be Lovers and Healers...Celebrating World Marriage Day.” Couples were invited to sit together as Fr Reuben spoke about love, commitment, fidelity and tolerance in married life. He emphasized keeping Jesus at the centre of every relationship and encouraged prayers for couples facing separation, as well as for widows and widowers. He also reminded the congregation that priests and religious are united with Christ in a special way through their vocation. The evening concluded with a blessing of couples and the entire congregation with holy water.

The Triduum proved to be a spiritually enriching and joyful experience that brought parishioners closer to the Good Shepherd.

- Priya Pereira

Dear Parishioners,

As many of you prepare to travel for your holidays, we wish you a safe and refreshing time.

Before you leave, kindly remember a few important checks:

- Switch off all electrical appliances**
- Close gas connections**
- Ensure all water taps are tightly shut**
- Secure doors and windows properly**
- Keep valuables in safe places, and**
- Inform a trusted neighbour if possible**
- Carry essential documents, medicines and emergency contacts with you.**

May your journey be blessed, your time restful, and your return joyful. We look forward to welcoming you back safely.

God bless and safe travels!

Visit to Vimala Dermatological Centre

Our Church Confirmation group, including students and catechists, recently went on an outreach visit to the Vimala Dermatological Center. We spent time interacting with patients who were receiving treatment for various skin and eye conditions. The visit offered moments of reflection, compassion and joy.

We were warmly welcomed by Sr Shanta and introduced to Sr Berthila, who greeted us cheerfully. She shared inspiring stories from her 56 years of religious life and entertained everyone with her sense



of humour. She also showed us her innovation centre, filled with creative projects and kindly gave each of us small gifts, including rosaries, which made the visit even more memorable.

Sister Evangeline then guided us around the centre where we met several patients. They spoke gratefully about the care they received. The centre serves people suffering from various conditions, including skin diseases, leprosy, and cataracts.

We also spent time with 32 girls aged 7 to 14 years. They delighted everyone with lively dance performances they had learned from YouTube. Our students organized fun games and the room was filled with laughter. Before we left, the girls offered a heartfelt prayer for us.

The visit reminded us that outreach builds meaningful connections and leaves both visitors and those served with a sense of joy and gratitude.

- Amit Furtado

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Appreciation Day 2026



Appreciation Day 2026 was joyfully celebrated on 25th January 2026 at Good Shepherd Church. The program hosted by Joan and Dora, began with a warm welcome highlighting the value of gratitude and service within the parish community.



A meaningful reflection by our Parish Priest Fr Anil Rego emphasized that appreciation strengthens unity and encourages humble and a joyful service. Fr Joseph Mathew also expressed heartfelt thanks to the many parish groups and individuals – both visible leaders and behind-the-scenes contributors who sustain the church's activities.



The evening featured fun games, a lively Q&A session, fellowship over snacks, a special blessing and vibrant dancing that brought together parishioners of all ages. The celebration concluded with a closing prayer, leaving everyone reminded that gratitude deepens faith, builds relationships and nurtures a strong parish family.



- Remita Fernandes

Lenten Missions 2026: Stones, Crosses and Transfiguration

Fr Reuben Tellis conducted the Lenten Missions in our parish from 26th to 28th February 2026. These three evenings helped many parishioners reflect on their faith and grow closer to God during the season of Lent. The talks were simple, practical and based on the Bible and everyday life experiences. The action songs he taught had the congregation tapping their feet. Many people attended and found the sessions very meaningful.

Day One: Stones That Build or Destroy



The first evening focused on the symbol of the “stone.” Fr Reuben spoke about how our words and actions can either hurt others or help build people up. He referred to the Gospel story of the woman caught in adultery, where people wanted to stone her. Jesus said, “Let the one without sin cast the first stone.” One by one, they walked away. Fr Reuben explained that sometimes our gossip, anger and harsh words can become stones that hurt others. We can however also choose to use our words to encourage and support people.

Day Two: Way of the Cross—Sharing Our Burdens

The second evening was a very touching Way of the Cross. Parishioners were asked to write their personal struggles or crosses on small pieces of paper and place them in an urn. As the stations were prayed, we reflected on the suffering of Jesus and connected it with our own struggles in life. At the end, the papers were burned as a sign of giving our problems to God. Many people were deeply moved and prayed silently



as the smoke rose from the urn.

Day Three: The Transfiguration – From Struggle to Glory

The final evening reflected on the Transfiguration of Jesus. Fr Reuben explained that just as Jesus revealed His glory on the mountain, our own struggles can also lead us closer to God. Through prayer, faith and trust,



we can allow God's light to shine through our lives. The evening ended with joyful action songs that helped reinforce the message.

Overall, the Lenten Missions were a beautiful time of prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal for our parish community.

- Sr Saumya

St Alphonsa Community



St Christopher Community

Crib & Star Competition 2025:

We participated in a crib and star competition, and it was a fantastic way to involve our community and neighbours in the festive spirit! As Alphonsaites, we themed our crib and star around 'Jesus is born in the manger of our hearts', and it was a truly creative and bonding experience.



We made a star and crib using recycled materials, with tiny hearts containing all our members' names in the manger. Our Joseph and Mary were crafted from recycled materials, adding a special touch. The best part was utilizing everyone's skills - carpentry, stitching, ideas, and more came together to make it a success!

We're thrilled to have won 2nd prize for the crib and 3rd prize for the star. We're already looking forward to next year's competition and being more innovative! This experience was truly enriching for our community!

- Priscilla DSouza

Members of the community got together and participated in Zonal adoration on 23rd November 2025.



Animators assisted in confessions for the sick and the home bound of the community in preparation for Christmas.

Members gathered for prayer service with the pilgrim cross.



Animators prayed and attended the Blessing mass on 10th December for first communicant Ms. Valina

Members collectively put up the crib and star for the community and took part in the star and crib competition.

Members put up a food stall for Christmas Bazaar on 21st December 2025.

Members attended the 7G spirituality program organized by Fr Reuben.

- Paul Rodrigues

St Andrew Community



Little Flower Community

Our annual Thanksgiving Mass is a cherished tradition, gathering families and neighbours to pause, reflect and offer gratitude for God's blessings. This heartwarming, joyful service highlights community unity, featuring special prayers and thanksgiving offerings. It strengthens bonds and fosters a spirit of giving before the Lenten season.



Keeping this in mind, we celebrated our Annual Eucharistic Mass on Thursday - 5th February 2026 at 'Gloria' building, Model Town. We had a lively gathering of around 35 members participating

in the Eucharistic celebration. Fr Joseph Mathew, our Spiritual Director, in his homily stressed the need for community participation and to make time to attend the meetings.



It was followed by fellowship, refreshments and community bonding with children and adults, specially senior citizens participating in special ways. The highlight of the evening were the various games played by us all, especially the group games and housie. We enjoyed the evening which was made possible with the united efforts of our animators, Blanche Nand, Dora Martis, Julie D'Souza and Glen D'Penha.

This event is more than a tradition; it is a vital time to renew our shared faith and celebrate our unity as one family, thanking God for His goodness. Mathew 18:20 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

- Glen D'Penha

Christmas Bazaar - 21st December 2025:

On 21st December, we set up a stall at the Christmas Bazaar. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the community fund while engaging with members of the community in a festive spirit.

We are delighted that the stall was a tremendous success, with all items selling out in less than an hour. The enthusiastic response and support from everyone who visited our stall was truly heartwarming.



Christmas Celebrations - 26th December 2025:

On 26th December 2025, the animators embarked on a joyful carolling visit. We had the privilege of visiting our seniors and homebound members, spreading festive cheer and the true spirit of Christmas. The smiles on their faces were deeply rewarding, and their repeated requests for "one more" carol made our visit even more meaningful and memorable.



We also presented them with a small token of love, which they always receive with great affection. This is a time we eagerly look forward to each year, just as they await our visit. Moments like these truly capture the joy of giving and the warmth of community.

- Celine Saldanha



St Sebastian Community

December 2025 – February 2026: These months were a time of grace, joy, and togetherness for St Sebastian Community. Rooted in faith and strengthened by unity, our community came together through prayer, celebration, creativity, and service - living out the spirit of fellowship that binds us as one family in Christ.

Parish Crib & Star Competition: In keeping with parish guidelines and care for creation, the crib and



star were made using eco-friendly and recycled materials sourced from within the community. The artistic detailing, enhanced through acrylic painting by our talented members,

added depth and warmth to the display. Every family contributed heart-shaped messages to Jesus, symbolising the inner manger we prepare for Him. The enthusiastic involvement of members, including our non-Christian brethren, beautifully reflected harmony, inclusiveness,



and fellowship. The crib and star were also placed in a location visible to the general public, intentionally sharing our Christ-centric message beyond our community, in line with the spirit of evangelisation and inclusion.

Our community was blessed with a remarkable double victory, winning **First Prize for both, the Crib and the Star** for the second consecutive year. Guided by the theme “**Jesus, Born in the Manger of Our Hearts,**” from conceptualisation to execution, it



was a collective offering of love, prayer and dedication. The recognition we received reflects the sincerity, originality, sustainability, and the displays were thoughtfully planned to reflect a Christ-centred



message rooted in **Faith, Humility and Generosity,** the three gifts/virtues carried by the Wise Men. The prizes received have been retained in the community fund to offset expenses incurred and to support future community activities, charitable outreach, and needs that arise from time to time.

Community Christmas Prayer & Carol Evening:

On 27th December, our community gathered in prayer around the beautifully prepared crib, thanking God for the year's blessings and the harmony of our Christmas celebrations. We prayed for the sick, elderly, homebound, and lonely, asking for peace and strength. Grateful for our planet, we renewed our commitment to care for it. The evening ended with joyful carol singing and warm fellowship, a truly grace-filled gathering.

Initiation Ceremony for First Holy Communicants:

The Second Initiation Ceremony was held during the 7:00 pm mass on 10th December 2025. On behalf of St Sebastian Community, our sole candidate,



Ayden Amil Thomas was represented with love and prayer by a community member.

Launch of Monthly Rosary Devotion: In response to members' desire, St Sebastian



Community began a Monthly Rosary Devotion, inviting families to host it. The first gathering on 28th January



2026 entrusted our community, our priests and religious, the sick, departed loved ones, and world peace to Mary's intercession. Members shared food and fellowship, strengthening unity. May our Blessed Mother continue to guide and strengthen our families as we journey together in faith.

Feast Celebration of Our Patron - Saint Sebastian:

On 6th February 2026, the community celebrated our patron's feast with rosary and Thanksgiving Mass by our Spiritual Director, Fr Anil Rego. Centred on "St Sebastian - Our Strength in Faith," his homily reminded us to remain steadfast in trials. The evening continued with joyful fellowship, music and refreshments. The spirit of unity and warmth was deeply felt as families gathered together in faith and



friendship. We thank our Spiritual Director, animators, sponsors and members whose support made the celebration meaningful and memorable.



Gratitude and Looking Ahead: As we reflect on these months, we thank God for the spirit of unity, cooperation and enthusiasm that continues to strengthen our community. These activities were not merely events, but expressions of faith in action - bringing hearts together and Christ to the centre of all we do. May we continue to journey forward as one community, building not only cribs and stars, but stronger bonds, deeper faith and hearts ever open to Christ, with gratitude and in the spirit of unity.

- Aloma Fernandes



Holy Trinity Community

Zonal Carol Singing & Christmas Fiesta

The Zonal Carol Singing and Christmas Fiesta was a joyful and memorable celebration for our community.



The evening was filled with melodious carols, lively music, dance, delicious food, and exciting games such as the White Elephant exchange and line dance. Our unit was represented by Finiya, Joan, Andrea, Archana and Adele, who participated enthusiastically in the zonal carol singing. It was heartwarming to see community members come together in unity and joy, celebrating the true spirit of Christmas – love, fellowship and togetherness.

Christmas Community Star - Appreciation

With grateful hearts this Christmas season, we would like to sincerely appreciate Mr Goldie Singh for creating the Christmas Community Star. Goldie



voluntarily stepped forward and worked tirelessly to bring this beautiful initiative to life, truly reflecting the spirit of service and giving. A special note of thanks to Archana for her wonderful support

and assistance throughout – her contribution made a meaningful difference. Thank you both for shining God's light through your dedication and selfless efforts. May this Christmas bring you abundant joy, peace, and blessings!

Christmas Community Crib – A Celebration of Faith & Togetherness

With grateful hearts, we would like to acknowledge and appreciate the many hands and hearts that came



together to create our Christmas Community Crib. The main builders and architects of this beautiful project were Andrea, Archana and Finiya whose dedication, creativity and tireless efforts brought the crib to life.

We also extend our thanks to Cynthia and Marie for their valuable short-term assistance, and to Maria for thoughtfully arranging snacks and refreshments for everyone involved.



We are deeply appreciative of Building No. 11 for generously providing the space to set up the crib.

What made this experience truly special was that, even when we initially had very little help, people from all faiths came together in the most touching way. The Sikh brothers from the nearby Gurudwara helped us hang the Christmas star and arranged large tables for the setup. A Muslim and a Hindu fruit seller stepped in

to help tie the backdrop, and a Hindu electrician generously assisted us as well.



It truly felt as though Jesus Himself guided this crib into being, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas — love, unity, humility and coming together beyond differences.

Active & Joyful Parish Participation

Our community members actively participated in several significant parish initiatives, reflecting our commitment to faith, fellowship and service.

Senior Citizens Nite was a heartfelt celebration dedicated to honoring the elders of our parish. It was a beautiful occasion filled with gratitude, joy, and respect for those who faithfully guided and supported our parish community over the years.

The Appreciation Day celebration was a reminder that every act of service, big or small, contributed to the growth and strength of our parish family.

The enriching 7G Spirituality session conducted by Fr Reuben was another meaningful experience. Our members participated whole-heartedly, reflecting deeply on faith formation and Christian living. The session inspired us to renew our commitment to prayer, gratitude, generosity and Gospel values.

The Good Shepherd Fiesta was celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm. Our community members actively took part in the liturgical celebrations and

festive programs, adding to the vibrant and joyful spirit of the parish feast.

Through these various activities, our community continues to remain intricately connected with parish life—serving with dedication, celebrating with joy and growing together in faith.

In January, the Pilgrim Cross was circulated in our community, with around 25 families welcoming it into their homes. Each visit was a moment of prayer and grace, strengthening faith and unity among our parish families.

Community Lenten Initiatives

This Lent, our community journeyed together in prayer, service, and reflection.

1. Lenten Action Calendar:

Families are prayerfully following the daily Lenten Action Calendar, committing themselves to prayer, small sacrifices, and acts of charity.

2. Circulation of the Lenten Cross:

The Lenten Cross is prayerfully taken from house to house, creating moments of family prayer and quiet reflection on Christ's love. The Lenten Prayer Book by Fr Reuben was also presented to every family that welcomed the Lenten Cross into their homes, encouraging deeper spiritual preparation during the Lenten season.

3. Visit to the Clergy Home – Bandra:

Members will be visiting the clergy home in Bandra, to share joyful moments with the elderly priests and to express their heartfelt appreciation for their years of service. Through these initiatives, we hope to experience a spiritually enriching and united Lenten season.

- Finiya Thomas



The Empty Tomb

A woman visited the tomb of her loved one every day, crying. One day a friend told her, "You keep looking where life is not." That made her reflect deeply.

Like Mary Magdalene at the tomb, we sometimes search for life in the wrong places. Easter invites us to look where new life truly is—where Christ is alive.



Mother Teresa Community

Community Crib Competition:



We are happy to share that our unit participated in the community crib competition. The members worked tirelessly to create a beautiful crib that reflected our unit's theme and spirit. The creativity, talent and dedication of our community members were truly inspiring. We were excited to see so many parishioners and

non-parishioners visiting our crib and learning about the true meaning of Christmas. It was a wonderful opportunity for evangelization, sharing the love and



message of Jesus with our community. Through this event, we not only celebrated the birth of Jesus but also spread joy, hope and faith to those around us. Let's continue to be shining lights in our world, spreading the good news and making Jesus known and loved. We are proud to have represented our unit and participated in this lovely event.

Visit to Confirmation Children of our unit: A Blessing and Joy

Our animators in the month of January visited the homes of our 3 confirmands spreading joy and blessings as they prepared to receive the sacrament of confirmation. It was a wonderful opportunity to pray with the children



and their families and to encourage them on their faith journey. A small token of our love was given to mark their milestone and show support for their spiritual journey.



We are grateful for the warmth and love we received from the families and let's continue to support and pray for them.

Community Visits: A time of Connection and Prayer

In the month of January and February our animators visited 15 families of our community. These visits have been a heart-warming experience allowing us to connect with one another and pray together. We bonded and had the opportunity to share in the joys and challenges of our brothers and sisters and to offer support and encouragement. We will continue our mission to visit the families of our community and build strong relationships and support one another as we journey together in faith.

Snacks for the Children at Good Shepherd Convent:





As part of our community activities, in the month of January, our animators served snacks to the children at the convent. It was a lovely gesture that brought joy to the



kids. The smiles on their faces were priceless and the kids really appreciated and enjoyed themselves. The act of sharing and caring is truly special.

Community Newspaper Drive:

In the first week of February, we conducted a community newspaper drive which was a success. Collecting newspapers is a great way to contribute to a good cause and we appreciate everyone for their contribution and efforts.

- Simone Gonsalves

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"Reach the Gates of Heaven"



Christmas Season 2025

Christmas season weaves its timeless charm. Our Good Shepherd Parish Christmas Bazaar held on 20th December 2025, embodied it beautifully as it does each year. Meticulous planning yields delightful Christmas delicacies alongside spicy sheek kebabs and tandoori favourites that tantalize our taste buds. Glittering Christmas tree lights ignited evening skies while soulful carols resounded through the church backyard, creating magical festive ambience. Our enthusiastic youth brigade organized exciting games adding vibrant energy, while the White Elephant stall showcased parishioners' benevolence — offering attractive items at affordable prices for the needy, perfectly capturing Christmas charity, kindness and community spirit that defines our parish family.

- Percy Pereira



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH ANDHERI

PASTORAL & SPIRITUAL PROGRAMMES

(Lent - Easter 2026)

DATE	PROGRAMME
Wednesdays in Lent 25th Feb, 4th Mar, 11th Mar, 18th Mar, 25th Mar, 1st Apr	STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN KONKANI at 6.15 pm - 6.45 pm
Fridays in Lent 20th Feb, 6th Mar, 13th Mar, 20th Mar, 27th Mar	STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN ENGLISH at 7.30 pm - 8.00 pm
Sat. 21st Mar. 2026	DIVINE MERCY RECOLLECTION & HOLY HOUR in Church (10.00 am to 12.00 noon)
Mon. 23rd Mar. 2026	CONFESSIONS - 5.00 pm to 8.30 pm with break for 7.00 pm Mass
Tue. 24th Mar. 2026	CONFESSIONS - 5.00 pm to 8.30 pm with break for 7.00 pm Mass
Sun. 29th Mar. 2026	PALM SUNDAY - Blessing of palms in the lawns at 8.10 am followed by procession & Mass at 8.30 - Masses at 7.00 am (Konkani), 8.30 am, 10.00 am, 4.00 pm (Hindi), 5.30 pm
Thu. 2nd Apr. 2026	MAUNDY THURSDAY - Mass in Konkani and for people with special needs at 5.30 pm in Church - Solemn Service of the LORD'S SUPPER at 7.30 pm on the Church Lawns - Vigil Service at the Altar of Repose at 11.00 pm in the Church
Fri. 3rd Apr. 2026	GOOD FRIDAY - Way of the Cross (Konkani) at 7.30 am - Way of the Cross (English) by Youth at 8.30 am - 3 Hours Agony Service at 10.00 am - Divine Mercy Novena after Three Hours Agony - LORD'S PASSION at 6.30 pm on the Church Lawns
Sat. 4th Apr. 2026	HOLY SATURDAY - Divine Mercy Novena at 9.00 am - Solemn Easter Vigil at 8.00 pm on the Church Lawns Please carry your own candle for the service of light
Sun. 5th Apr. 2026	EASTER SUNDAY - Masses at 7.00 am (Konkani), 8.30 am, 10.00 am, 4.00 pm (Hindi) NO EVENING MASS IN ENGLISH - Divine Mercy Novena after the 10.00 am Mass
Mon. 6th - Wed. 8th Apr. 2026	ZONAL MASSES with Easter blessing of parishioners and water for your house blessing at 7.00 PM SIMULTANEOUSLY IN CHURCH AND AT THE CARLO CENTRE Please carry your own bottle of water to be blessed.
Mon. 6th - Sat. 11th Apr. 2026	Divine Mercy Novena after the 7.00 am & before 7.00 pm Mass
Thu. 9th - Sat. 11th Apr. 2026	DIVINE MERCY TRIDUUM at 7.00 pm
Sun. 12th Apr. 2026	DIVINE MERCY - Masses at 7.00 am (Konkani), 8.30 am, 10.00 am (FEAST MASS) , 4.00 pm (Hindi), 5.30 pm



MILESTONES

BAPTISMS

Date of Baptism	Date of Birth	Name	Parents
21-12-2025	15-10-2025	Michelle Jane Lobo	Jude Yoric & Macdaline Lobo
31-01-2026	22-09-2004	Divya David Toppo	David Nirdoshi & Sunita Toppo
31-01-2026	01-01-2007	Amit David Toppo	David Nirdoshi & Sunita Toppo

MARRIAGES

Date	Name
13-12-2025	Raegan Charles Noronha & Danielle Lourdes D'Souza
13-12-2025	Lennox D'almeida & Ramona Fernandes
14-12-2025	Tanishq Gond & Rhea Roxanne Menezes
20-12-2025	Ankit Narasimhan Chari & Alisha Anna Rodrigues
13-02-2026	Harish Rajman Patel & Marita Savina Fernandez
14-02-2026	Shreyas Kamath & Vanessa Patange

DEATHS

Date	Name	Age	Address
18-12-2025	Vita De Jesus Maria Monteiro	97	C/106, Satellita Park, Jogeshwari (E).
13-01-2026	Dorothy Genevieve D'souza	69	102/A, Winchester, Lokhandwala, Andheri (W).
15-01-2026	Joyce Nazareth Kanade	75	1002, 5/A, Versova Heights CHS, Andheri (W).
22-01-2026	Carmon Anacleco Braganza	82	203, Jupiter II, 4 Bungalows, Andheri (W).
08-02-2026	Edwin Maurice D'souza	63	13, Panorama Tower, Lokhandwala, Andheri (W).
11-02-2026	Anand Savio Udipikar	40	A/33, Sagar Sameep, 4 Bungalows, Andheri (W).
20-02-2026	Elize Castelino	93	1704, C/1, Madhuwan Tower, Indian Oil Nagar, Andheri (W).
09-03-2026	John Xavier D'mello	65	B/802, Mantri Our Home, Shakar Nagar, Apna Bazar, Andheri (W).

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