FLOCKNEWS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, ANDHERI WEST, MUMBAI 400053



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



OSHIWARA LOKHANDWALA CITIZENS FOUNDATION (OLCF)



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THE DEATH OF DEATH 04

HOLY WEEK PROGRAM

PARISH BLEAT NEWS

SCC BLEAT NEWS

MILESTONES

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Preparing To Vote For A Govt That Will Give Us Security

A Zoom meeting was convened on 15th March 2024; the subject of which was 'Preparing the people for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections'.

The objective of this meeting was to reach out to all voters, make them aware of their right and whomsoever they vote for, it should be a 'conscience vote'.

The people should think of what they would like in the future; events of the recent past and what they would like as better alternative, given what they are facing in the current times.

Fr. Fraser was the moderator and spoke in brief to the group elaborating that it was not to propose any particular party / group and that a similar exercise carried out in Karnataka, Bengaluru city, to be specific, where positive results were seen where a number of voters were not inclined to vote. These were first-time voters whose voter IDs were not registered and they faced a lot of frustration with the voter ID registration. He would introduce us to a person who would guide how to go about the process and requested volunteers to help with this. The second action would be to help voters who wanted some corrections with their IDs and were finding it difficult going about the activity. The third action would be to assist the marginalized who felt victimized and were afraid to come out and vote in the elections. Reaching out to them and making them understand that their vote would count and go a long way with the election of the new government.

The entire conversation was in English and then Fr. Fraser handed over to Teesta Setalvad; a very well-known civil rights activist who has been fighting for democracy and for the victims of the 2002 Gujarat riots and getting justice. She updated all on the call how to go about the activity, and reach out to members of other communities. We could

all fight as one united group or we could each reach out to our respective community members and apprise them on the importance of their vote. She answered queries of the members of other communities in Hindi and clarified their doubts related to voter registration and voter ID corrections and how to go about the activity.

She then invited Mrs. Shama Iyer, a retired person from IIT Mumbai and senior citizen who had taken up the initiative and felt strongly about selective targeting and communal polarization which would have to end. She went about meeting people including those on the streets and in hutments. This was commendable given her qualifications and position. The objective would be to empower the voter so that they could come together and vote as per their conscience. This would ensure that whichever government be elected in the future, they would be more cautious when the people have awakened and good governance would be the norm.

There were about 50 members who attended this online meeting including members from Good Shepherd parish. These members are in constant touch with the group sharing messages which would be then be shared with the Parish Council. The Parish council would in turn direct the members to share it in their respective communities.

There are several such groups in and around Mumbai and Maharashtra. This group of about 40 - 60 who attended out of the 70 plus registered are not isolated in their endeavour to ensure that democracy stays alive and is not defeated. There would be another session and those interested in poll booth training would be trained a week before the elections so that they could monitor as independent observers during the elections.

> - Cary Tavares April 2024 - FLOCK NEWS • 3



From the Pastor's Desk

THE DEATH OF DEATH

The reason why the empty tomb is so important is because Jesus, who did nothing wrong, conquered death. It's the death of death. Jesus murdered death finally. You and I are mortal, but if we put our faith and trust in Jesus we take on Jesus' immortality. You and I have corruption in our hearts, but as we believe in Jesus we take on his incorruption. We hit that point where it says, listen, "O death, where is your sting? Hell, where is the victory?" You know what? They lose. It's over.. We have the victory through Christ Jesus our Lord.

That's what Resurrection Sunday is all about. It's about the victory that Jesus won by conquering the grave. All he asks of you or anyone is that you would simply believe in his victory, that you would trust him. Then the Holy Spirit takes up residence inside you, and you begin to lean into that victory in your own life. If you're mortal, you want immortality. If you have corruption, you want incorruption to be gifted to you. All you have to do is believe in Jesus. The choice is yours.

This Holy week as we celebrate the Paschal Mystery May we celebrate the true victory of Our Lord Jesus. WISH YOU ALL A JOYOUS EASTER..

- FR. ANIL REGO Parish Priest

The Holy week Program

28TH Mar. 2024, Maundy Thursday:

- Mass FOR THE SICK & AGED in Konkani at 05:30 pm in the church.
- Solemn service of THE LORD'S SUPPER at 07:30 pm on the church lawns.
- Holy Hour service at the Altar of Repose at 11:00 pm in the church.

29th Mar. 2024 Good Friday:

- Way of the cross in Konkani at 07:30 am.
- Way of the cross by the youth in English at 08:30 am.
- 3 hours agony service at 10:00 am.
- Evening service of the Lord's passion is at 06:30 pm on the church lawns.

Holy Saturday, 30th Mar.,

- Solemn Easter Vigil 08:00 pm. On the lawns
- Easter Sunday, masses 07:00 am-Konkani,
- In English at 08:30 am and 10:00 am.
- 4.00 pm- Hindi Mass.

Parking in Sarita Lawns on Maundy Thursday & for Easter Vigil only. There will be NO PARKING ARRANGEMENS FOR GOOD FRIDAY. PLEASE USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Easter House Blessing Prayer

Head: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Peace to this house and all who live here.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.. R/- Who made heaven & earth

1 Prayer:

Head: Almighty God and Loving Father of us all, together as a family, we ask you to bless our home so that all our actions, conversations and attitudes towards one another may always be inspired by you and that our home may be protected from all kinds of danger and evil. May your blessings continue to pour down upon this home and upon all who are gathered here; that our home may be enriched with love, memories, grace and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

2. Gospel by a Family member

A Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (20: 19-22)

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Head: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he has said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. (A brief Pause.)

3. Intercessions:

Response: LORD BLESS OUR HOME AND OUR FAMILY.

 Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the blessings you have given us during the past year. We look up to you for protection and care in the days to come. R/-

- Lord, often we have hurt each other in this home by our thoughtlessness and selfishness.
 We ask for your grace so that we may be a little more concerned about the good of all present here. R/-
- Lord, be our comfort in our sadness, heal us when we are hurt and be by our side when we feel lonely and rejected. R/-
- Lord, with the power of the Holy Spirit, you filled the house where the disciples were gathered; send the same Spirit upon us with the gifts of peace and joy. R/-

(The Head of the family invites each member to offer a prayerful intention. Prayers are also to be offered for the parish community and the deceased family members).

5. Prayer of Blessing

Head: Let us now pray that the Lord will enter our home and bless it with his presence. May the Lord always be here among us, deepen our love for each other, share in our joys, and comfort us in our sorrows. May our home be a place of love, filled with the goodness of the Lord.

(By making a Sign of the Cross says):

We bless this house + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

(The Head now sprinkles Holy Water on the Altar, on all present & all over the house).

While s/he is doing it, an appropriate hymn can be sung. ('I have decided to follow Jesus' or 'Showers of blessing')

(After Blessing the Home)

Head: Now let us invoke the Blessings of God upon us.

(Either the Head of the Family blesses each family member with the Sign of the Cross on the forehead, or all the members of the family bless themselves with the Sign of the Cross saying): + In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Hymn: Bind us together (holding hands)

Confirmation Retreat - Dare to be Different

The Dare to be Different confirmation retreat held on January 27th & 28th at St. Louis Convent, was truly a unique and special experience for all of us. For most of us, it was our first time attending a retreat and the experience was so good that I'm sure it motivated us all to attend many such retreats.

The retreat was a very spiritual experience where I got to learn about a different form of prayer and understand the true meaning of being connected with God. It helped in strengthening my relationship with God and developing trust in the Holy Spirit. It taught me that no matter what, at the end of the day we are never alone. God is always there to guide us. Along with the action songs and the beautiful shared testimonies, we also had an inner healing session

which impacted all of us very deeply. It was the first time I had opened up about my struggles and I felt a weight lifted off my shoulders.

All in all, brother Leon's team did a wonderful job with the retreat. They made us feel extremely comfortable and taught us so much. The band was extremely talented and they succeeded in involving all of us in their praise and worship. It also led to a lot of us being more involved in prayer meetings and worship and had a lasting impact on all of us. Hence, I would say that the retreat was a huge success and I look forward to attending more retreats like this one. We thank our animators and the parish fathers for arranging this retreat for us.

By Emily Desouza



Confirmation Lenten Outreach - Visit to Balbhavan

We often don't realize how privileged we are to have a family to belong to and a roof over our heads.

As our Sunday morning started on a holy note, with god's grace and blessings after our Sunday mass, as part of our Confirmation mission, the confirmation batch for 2024 visited the Bal Bhawan - Helpers of Mary run by sisters along with a visit to the oldage

home in the same vicinity. It is an orphanage for girls till the age of 18, established in 1972.

We were greeted by sister who has been associated with the Bal Bhavan and taking care of kids ages 4-17 years for quite a few years now. This place has 138 children at present. These children come from different walks of life and dynamics - few



who's parents passed away when they were young, children of convicts, separated parents, and more such instances. Many of these children and young women are either orphans, unwanted, or belonging to dysfunctional families. We got emotional knowing some of these girls already had so many hardships at our age. But all we were greeted was with smiling faces and the most cherishable laughs, each and every child we interacted with had a smile on their face and glitters in their eyes - they had the utmost discipline and loving nature. We were welcomed by bright smiling faces singing a welcome song for us in their sweet voices. It came across very clearly that the sisters of Bal Bhavan have done a very beautiful deed and with the blessings from Jesus and Mother Mary have been able to nurture these children in the best way possible!

We donated groceries to them and kept them engaged with games organized by our Catechists. During the games bonded with these children on a whole new level. Talking to them made me realize despite their burdens, they had bright smiles that lit up their eyes and a refreshing energy. We were supposed to guide them making sure they played the games by the rules, but we enjoyed as well.

The games that we played with the children, that along with a fun element also had a learning curve for them and their complete participation helped this visit to end on a very delightful and memorable note. We ended our visit with a thoughtful prayer made by Father Frankie where he prayed and blessed the children and sisters and all of us present.

The home also offers nursing, computer and tailoring courses too for underprivileged girls.

Opposite Bal Bhavan, we visited an old age home called Society of helpers of Mary, and met the sister who has been posted here since the past 2-3 years and has been taking care of older women from all walks of life. We got a chance to interact with them and speak to them about their daily lives and experience and shared a few laughs. No words can express what it was like to be in the presence of these elders and know their stories. Some of them could not speak but their eyes spoke a thousand words. Some were cheerful while others were in such a state that it brought tears to our eyes.

Bidding adieu to them was a hard goodbye but it did motivate and inspire all of us in our hearts to take some time off from our lives and come and cheer them up and spread more smile and laughs in their life. This effort would have not been as joyful if it were not for our supportive animators and with the blessings of Father Frankie who guided us throughout the experience.

Our visit to Bal Bhavan and the Old Age Home made us realise that we as children do not express gratitude towards our parents for all we receive. We do not appreciate our elderly enough. By God's grace we have loving supportive families that guide us throughout our lives. This was truly a memorable eye opening experience for us.

By Samitha Coutinho & Fleur Lobo

Confirmation

We on behalf of all the Confirmandis have come to say a few words about this amazing journey that we embarked on this year and also want to express our gratitude to the people who made this journey a memorable one .Our experience of this journey was truly magical and has definitely had a transformation and huge impact on us.

Firstly, we would like to extend a big thank you to his Lordship Bishop Dominic Savio for celebrating this mass and confirming us.

Our first step onto this journey was in June. From the very first to the very last month, we Confirmadis could definitely agree that each class had something so unique but special enough to remember to this very day. We had many learned people who came to talk to us and share their views on topics that were related to our faith and otherwise. to name a few, Fr. KT Emmanuel, Malcolm and Mariette, Dr Angelica, Subash sir and Br. Victor. We are very grateful for their time and for sharing their knowledge.

This journey was also filled with games and creativity sessions organized by Amit Sir. All of us attended a 2 day retreat "Dare to be different" conducted by Br. Leon and his team from the Cornerstone Ministry. The confirmation retreat was truly a unique and special experience for all of us. It was a very spiritual experience where I got to learn about a different form of prayer and understand the true meaning of being connected with God. For me, personally this journey molded me into a better person and has made my relationship with Christ much much stronger.

This beautiful journey of 8 months would not have been possible without the support of, love and effort of our dear animators. Not only did they sacrifice their Sundays to teach us and enlighten us about our faith but also strengthened our faith and for giving us deeper knowledge about the word of god. Let's give a round of applause to our spiritual director Fr. Frankie Crasto and our animators Ms Belinda, Ms Esther, Sir Amit, Sir Francis and Ms Priya. Thank you



father and teachers we truly appreciate all your hard work.

This day would not have been a success without our first teachers of faith, thanking the confirmandis parents for encouraging us to come and learn about our faith and are one of the main pillars behind us. We would like to thank Fr Frankie, our confirmation in charge, Deacon Inacen and our parish priest Fr Anil Rego. Thank you for being the driving force behind us and for helping us stand where we are today. We

thank the sisters of st louise convent for giving us their premises for our classes and retreat and for their support. We would also like to thank fr brian and fr anthony who helped us with the sacrament of reconciliation.

Lastly, my dear fellow confirmandis, always remember, look back and thank God, look forward and trust God, he closes doors no man can open, he opens doors no man can close.

By Riah Castellino & Emily Desouza

Crispy Easter Celebration & Culinary Delights ORDER FESTIVE EASTER DECORATIONS:



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Way of the Cross Senior Citizens - Golden Hearts

Golden Hearts (Senior Citizens) organized the Way of the Cross on Thursday the 29th of February 2024, at Our Lady of Health church Versova open ground. It was attended by 48 parishioners from our Good Shepherd parish. It started a little after 4:30 pm.

The Cross was carried by Mr. Oscar Mendes, and various people prayed two stations each. Intermittently we sang hymns as we walked the way of the Cross. It was a very prayerful experience and at the end, we entered the church and had a moment of

silent prayer and Oscar blessed us with the cross. At the end, refreshments were served to all participants with coffee and snacks.

This was our third time and first post covid that we organized the Way of the Cross at Versova church. We pray for blessings on all our parishioners and thank them for attending. We hope you will continue to join us every year. We also thank Oscar for carrying the Cross throughout. God bless you all.

- Bella Correa





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Recollection at Atma Darshan

At 7 a.m. on 12th March 2024, 35 parishioners boarded the bus for Atma Darshan to spend a day in prayer and Lenten Recollection, organized by the Senior Citizens - "Golden Hearts".

On our arrival, we were warmly welcomed by Fr. Tony Menezes, director of Atma Darshan. The day began with a hearty breakfast painstakingly prepared especially for seniors. After breakfast, Fr. Tony briefly apprised us of the timetable for the day. The first session began with Fr. Jos, teaching us the technique of meditating upon the things in nature. The message conveyed was "Creation is the primary book of God's Revelation".

Fr. Tony then took over at 11 a.m. and enlightened us on how LENT was a season of LIGHT. He explained how LENT could be, Light to self; Light to the world; and a Reflection of God's Light. This light-heartedness or liberation could only be achieved through a good Confession. Thus, after a sumptuous lunch, four priests heard confessions from 1:45 to 2:30 p.m.

The afternoon session began with 'The Way of The Cross' led by Iona and Joyce. This was followed by a session by Fr. George who spoke on "How to discover Leadership Skills in ourselves". Explicit examples were given of Jesus as a Problem Solver. An important point put forth was "Service is the rent you pay for the place you occupy in this world".

The day ended on a high note with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Tony Menezes. Tea and snacks were offered after Mass.

We got on the bus at 5:30 p.m. feeling very relaxed and light-hearted both in mind and spirit.

- Nancy Ferns





Women's Day Celebration

On 10th March, 2024, we had double celebration i.e. Retreat for the Migrants & The International Women's Day. A retreat was conducted for the migrants of the Hindi group, by the Good Shepherd Sisters, Andheri Unit. The preacher was Fr. Sanjay Minj. It was a good

spiritual experience for all the migrants present for the retreat. The theme for the retreat was Sin, Forgiveness and Love. The praise and worship made the people very emotional, enthusiastic and created a deep longing for God's experience. This was followed

by the way of the cross, confessions and concluded with the Holy Eucharist. Delicious lunch was served to everyone present for the retreat. The Holy Mass was concelebrated by Frs. Glasten Gonsalves and Sanjay Minj who delivered an inspiring and insightful homily. After the Holy Mass, the congregation was invited to gather at the Sarita Lawns of the Good Shepherd Convent, where International Women's Day was celebrated. Nearly 200 people were present

for this event.

A traditional tribal welcome dance with colourful umbrellas and showers of flowers which gave a festive feeling was extended to Fr. Glasten Gonsalves – Director for AMC, Fr. Sanjay Minj – Preacher for the Retreat, Sr. Deodita – Social Worker for AMC & Mrs. Goretti – The Resource Person who graced the event. Sr. Vinaya – Unit Leader gave an arousing welcome for all the priests, chief guest and the migrants present for the occasion. It began with a song and token of love to the priests and the chief guest. Throughout the evening, women, and men

delighted the audience with captivating dance and singing performances that provided a glimpse of their life. Sr. Deodita had organized some games for the women to have fun. As the day's celebrations drew to a close, everyone was treated to a delicious snack and a refreshing juice, concluding the event with a sense of fulfilment, excitement, gratitude & belonging. A special thanks to Fr. Glasten who graced the occasion, inspite of his busy schedule which gave all of us a 'wow' feeling. All dispersed on a happy note it was a 'Day to remember'.

- **Sr. Vinaya D'souza**For Good Shepherd Convent

Andheri Deanery Rally-25th February 2024

The Andheri Deanery of the archdiocese organised a SCC rally which was held on 25th Feb'24 at Holy Family school grounds, Chakala, Andheri (E) from 6 pm onwards.

11 parishes from the Deanery participated.

47 Animators from our parish attended the rally. Fr. John Lopes, the dean of Andheri deanery and Fr. Felix were the chief guests.

The evening focussed on the SCC Theme-' NO ONE IN WANT'

Fr. John Lopes inspired us with his words of encouragement.

Mr. Vincent D'Souza from Sacred Heart Parish, Andheri East was the compere for the evening keeping the audience engaged and lively throughout the event.

The programme commenced with Mr. Vincent











D'Souza introducing all the SCC COORDINATORS of the participating parishes.

There after we had an opening prayer service, prayer dance by the junior sisters from Canossa Convent, Skit by the Youth of St. John the Evangelist, Marol was very captivating and thought provoking. The dance put up by the children of the Jesus Fan Club (JFC) - Sunday School children of Holy Family Church Chakala and ended it beautifully by giving a rose flower to all present.

The highlight of the evening was the interactive talk show moderated by Fr. Felix D'Souza, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church Santacruz who has been a pioneer in building SCC's in our Archdiocese.

Testimonies from Animators and Parishioners-a Video presentation from the different parishes on how the SCC's have brought about a change in their lives.

2 of our parishioners both from Zone 3, Unit 7-Holy Family community won spot prizes-Mrs. Priya Pereira -life journey in different parishes.

Mr. Valerian DSouza aged 83 won for being the oldest active animator!!! Truly inspiring...

The host parish- Holy Family took care of all the arrangements from the sound system to the refreshments and the entire coordination on the ground etc.

Fr. Gerard proposed the vote of thanks while encouraging us to visit at least 1 needy family once a month with a surprise and praying for our families especially those who are sick and homebound. Indeed there should be no one in want !!!

A big heartfelt 'Thank You' to Fr. Gerard and his team and to all parish coordinators for the efforts, hard work, initiative for making this rally a success.

- Jasmine Nair

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

Mr.

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

SUNDAY APRIL 7TH 2024

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

NOVENA SCHEDULE

MARCH 29TH GOOD FRIDAY AFTER 3 HOURS AGONY
MARCH 30TH HOLY SATURDAY 9.00 AM
MARCH 31ST EASTER SUNDAY AFTER 10.00 AM MASS
APRIL 1ST - 6TH WEEKDAYS AFTER 7.00 AM & 7.00PM MASSES

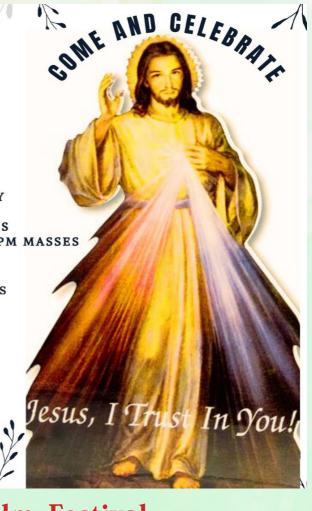
TRIDIUM

APRIL 4TH TO APRIL 6TH DURING 7.00PM MASSES

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
APRIL 7TH, 2024
FEAST MASS 10.00AM
FOLLOWED
BY HOLY HOUR & FELLOWSHIP

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THE HOLY HOUR THE HOUR OF MERCY

MARIA JANARDHAN & DIVINE MERCY TEAM



Sunday School - Psalm Festival

The Psalm Festival brought together children from all around,

Their voices filled the air with a melodious sound. With hearts full of joy and spirits high,

They sang the Psalms, reaching the sky.

The children's harmonies were a delight to hear,

Their passion for singing was crystal clear.

Each verse they sang, with reverence and grace,

Filling the festival with a sacred embrace.

The Diocesan Catechetical Center and The Sunday School coordinators of Andheri (W) Deanery organized The Psalm Festival, which took place at of Our Lady of Health Church on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 630 p.m. 50 Sunday School Children in all, representing the four parishes i.e Christ the King, Good Shepherd, Our Lady of Health and St. Blaise Parish in the Deanery, took part in this Festival.

This Festival's main aim was to impart to students the importance of the Psalms, and it served splendidly. In doing so they learned and practiced the verses via song and music, fostering an admiration for God's Word. Sr Carolina Terese, Chief Guest from House of Charity, Versova, led a solemn procession with all the Sunday School teachers, lit the Samai, and enthroned the Bible, with Joan D'Souza our Sunday School coordinator reading Psalm 1 from the Bible. The Good Shepherd children sang Psalms 18, 75 and 122 under the guidance of their Sunday School choir incharge Bella and Mabel teacher. Fr. Frankie applauded all the participants and their choir masters for the efforts they put in training their children. All the choirs at the end joined together on stage to sing Psalm 89, "I will sing of the Mercies," it was the cherry on top. A certificate was given to

each participant for their participation in the event. Fr. Nasli's vote of thanks marked the end of the Psalm Festival. We express our gratitude to Fr. Anil and Fr. Frankie for their unwavering support



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given to our choir children. We would especially want to thank the parents of the Good Shepherd Church Children's Choir for their dedication in bringing their children regularly for the practices. The Diocesan Catechetical Center praised and hailed

the Psalm Festival as an innovative platform to help the children in developing and interest in the Psalm. It was a fantastic way to begin the year 2024.

> - Mabel M. Fernandes (Sunday School Teacher)

Knowing God through the Bible

When we read God's word, it gives us access to Him. He gives us a piece of Him. We get to know His Heart, Mind and Spirit. Each Sunday the children are being introduced to the Bible at Sunday school and are getting to know who God is and the Catholic Church. Their curiosity and questions about who and why is being explained using the analogies from the Word of God. To further reinforce an interest in reading the Bible.. the Sunday School Bible Quiz competition was conducted in January 2024 for all the students. Questions were presented in unique ways such as guessing the beatitude/ parable through an image. Odd man out and true/ false with a twist, the

competition indirectly also encouraged the children to develop critical thinking and problem solving abilities. Moreover, for some children who haven't been a part of any competition before at school level. This opportunity gave them an exposure to such competitive activities and boosted their confidence level, which was appreciated by parents who showed their enthusiasm by cheering the children at the event.

As 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All scriptures is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking errors, correcting faults, and giving instructions for right living. So that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of Good deed". At Sunday School we teachers will continue to use the Word of God not only to equip our children for tomorrow but to help them know God, as a friend and develop a close relationship with Him.

- **Ruvina Dias** (Sunday School Teacher)



WISHING YOU A JOYOUS EASTER



MAY THE RISEN LORD
FILL YOUR HEARTS
& HOMES WITH HIS
UNDYING JOY & LOVE
THAT WILL DISPEL ALL
DESPAIR & PAIN

From: Fr. Anil Rego

Holy Trinity Community - Zone V - Unit I

&

December 2023 Highlights:

In the spirit of Christmas & to get ready to spread the light of our Lord's arrival, our community decided to participate in the Star Competition. As a community, we were successfully able to put up two different Stars across separate locations to symbolize the 'Star of Bethlehem.' Community members who graciously helped us with their time & efforts for this exercise are Goldie, Joan, Archana.



Charlotte Finiya.

To spread the the word of Lord and to beautifully depict the nativity scenes the before birthday of our Baby Jesus. Andrea and her students made a beautiful &



unique crib as a part of the Crib Competition.

This not only helped us find more eco-friendly ways of depicting the nativity scene, but we also forged a partnership with the enthusiastic young students while fortifying the belief that 'Peace is Goodwill in Action.' The thought and theme design were well loved by the panel of jury members which helped us win the second prize rolling trophy in this competition. Congratulations to Andrea & her students!

Additionally, our community members also decided to spread the cheer and with their angelic voices by participating in the Christmas Carols – a heartfelt callout to Joan, Archana, Finiya, Simral & Shane for their participation.

Two of our community members, Joan & Andrea, also put-up wonderful food/decorations articles at

their respective stalls during the Christmas Bazaar. While looking at the enthusiastic crowd at their stalls we are sure this was a huge hit amongst the visitors as well!

In the spirit of Advent and to give back to the community by assisting some of our fellow brothers and sisters many of the community members also donated food grains/items to the church.

The animators also used this time to distribute the Good Shepherd Church calendars for 2024 along with the December 2023 Flock News copies.

January 2024 Highlights: -

The church & our priests have always made themselves available to us in all our challenges and difficulties to guide us in the right direction and they are always at the front to appreciate the efforts that we do in driving the vision of the church in our communities. The animators of the Holy Trinity Community were greatly touched by the celebrations at the Appreciation Day. The acknowledgement & gratitude helped us renew our commitment and endeavor to serve the community members in a more effective way.

Maria's daughter's (Saviola Janardhan) wedding was another beautiful opportunity for most of our community members to get together, interact & have an enjoyable time.

February 2024 Highlights:

One of our community young adults, Leroy D'Souza, received the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation in February 2024. The eight community members (Maria, Marie, David, Philomena, Finiya, Mrs. D'Souza & others) who met as a group to give their blessings to Leroy were happy to see him reinstate his faith in the Catholic Church and gave him a small gift.

Two of our animators, Joan & Andrea, enthusiastically participated in the Deanery SSC rally. We appreciate their willing contribution for this event.

A big thank you to Priscilla for conducting the Konkani

Stations of the Cross in church for our unit. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Priscilla for securing the second prize in the Media Cell Christmas Activity for solo carol singing.



- **Finiya Thomas** (Co-ordinator, Holy Trinity Community)

St. Sebastian's Community, Zone 3 Unit 4

Our heartfelt appreciation to our community members for their active participation in the Caroling Night and Christmas Bazaar organized by the Parish on 17th December, 2023. Despite busy festive schedules, the majority of Zone 3 participants were from our community, actively engaging in practices for singing three carols. Their enthusiasm brought the Christmas spirit and conveyed the message of Christ.

On 18th December, 2024, we also experienced a wonderful fellowship as a community, during the caroling night on the lawns of a building within our community which was so well illuminated and decorated with a Christmas tree, bringing in the spirit of Christmas. The evening brimmed with fun, dancing, and entertainment. After the carol singing, snacks were graciously served by some community members. Such gatherings foster harmony, joy, and camaraderie, uplifting the Christmas spirit.

On December 27, 2023, in the festive Christmas spirit, members of our community, both young and old, actively contributed their creative ideas for constructing the crib and star representing our community in a competition. The Star & Crib were strategically placed in a prominent location, visible to onlookers on the road and passing vehicles. Families & friends from within and outside the community

were invited to appreciate the festive installations and reflect on the displayed theme - "PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO ALL." We extend our heartfelt thanks to community members and some of our non-Christian brethren who contributed to making this event possible. Special appreciation goes to the office bearers and helpers of Tarapore Towers Society, who generously provided the space and venue thru kind favour of Capt. Rakesh. To our delight, our community won the 3rd Prize in the Star Competition on 2ndFebruary, 2024, with the message "JESUS... PRINCE OF PEACE, BORN TO SAVE THE WORLD." The joy & wonder of coming together as a team to spread the message of Christ Jesus, and working together is something the world can't give. Sincere gratitude to our community families for their unwavering love & support.

In December 2023, one of our community members participated in a solo singing performance of two Christmas carols, and the video was posted on the GS Social Media platform. To our delight, he clinched the 3rd Prize on 25th February, 2024, bringing joy to our community.

During the season of Lent, the Cross of Christ is currently visiting our community homes. This is a wonderful time where every family come together

and participate in the way of the cross & Lenten prayers. We hope that by the end of the Lenten period, all families in our community will have had the privilege of hosting the Cross in their respective homes. We pray that the Crucifixion & Sacrifice of our LORD JESUS CHRIST* on the CROSS remind us of the immense HUMILITY, LOVE, KINDNESS, FAITH

and FORGIVENESS of GOD.

The Appreciation Day organized on January 21st, 2024, was attended by some of our community members who are grateful to the Parish for hosting a beautiful evening as a token of appreciation for the service rendered by Parish individuals. It was indeed a fun-filled evening with good music, games, and plenty of gifts followed by a sumptuous dinner.

On 20th January, 2024, St. Sebastian's Community joyously observed the feast of our patron Saint. Instead of a traditional party due to various events happening, we opted to express our gratitude through a Thanksgiving Mass in the evening and shared a meal with the underprivileged orphan girls at Sneha Sadan in Behram Bagh. The afternoon was filled with heartwarming moments as we engaged in a melodious sing-along session and organized two entertaining games for the girls, providing them with a joyful







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experience. Following the games, we served them a hearty lunch, followed by a lively round of Housie with prizes. The girls, brimming with happiness, even presented a dance item. Concluding the event, Sister extended a heartfelt vote of thanks, including prayers for everyone present and special acknowledgment for the lunch & gifts sponsors. It was truly a rewarding experience to share this time with those less fortunate. In line with the Parish directive for hosting preconfirmation prayer service unit-wise, for candidates receiving the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation, our community organsied a prayer service for our sole candidate, Ms. Thea Coelho at their residence on February 16th where together with the presence of Thea's parents, grand-parents, God parents and community members, a profound sense of spiritual warmth to the event was strongly felt.

A special thanks to Geredette D'Souza for conducting the service with grace and orderliness. It was heartening to see Thea and her parents actively engage in the prayers and readings, adding to the beauty of the service. Together, we lifted Thea in prayer as she prepared for her upcoming sacrament of confirmation on February 21st. The presence of so many attendees, undoubtedly enhanced this sacred moment for our community and for our one and only Thea.

The Animators of our community graciously devoted their time and support to the SCC Andheri Deanery Rally on February 25th, 2024, through their presence. The experience, from traveling by metro to participating in the rally, was fantastic. We all gained valuable insights from the evening and are motivated to continue our mission of 'NO ONE IN WANT'. We eagerly anticipate carrying these lessons back to our community. One video recording features a testimony by a sister from Sneha Sadan Orphanage, Amboli West, Mumbai, expressing appreciation for the charity services provided by our community, which were highlighted during the rally based on our mission theme.

Our community organized a Women's Day celebration on March 9th, 2024, to honor the incredible women in our community who enthusiastically participated in the event. We extend thanks to some of the men as well who attended, adding to the lively atmosphere. The ladies were welcomed with beautiful roses. It was a delightful day spent enjoying a sumptuous seafood lunch at a cozy restaurant with a wonderful ambiance in Malwani Kalwani. Versova. Andheri West. The ladies engaged in a quiz contest focusing on the achievements of women globally. Congratulations to Renu Pereira for clinching the first prize, and applause to all the ladies who performed admirably. Exciting spot prizes were won by nearly everyone present, followed by a lively game of housie that added to the excitement and brought forth numerous gifts for the winners. As the event came to a close, we vowed to organize more such engaging gatherings to foster fellowship and harmony within our community. It was indeed a fun-filled day.

- Aloma Fernandes, Coordinator

Zone 3 Unit 7 – Holy Family Community

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. Thanksgiving mass: We had our community thanksgiving mass on 21st January on the 1st floor church extension. We had a very meaningful and spiritual celebration of Mass by Fr. Frankie. This was followed by an entertainment session of some unique and fun filled group games. We all had an enjoyable time together with laughter alongwith some competitive banter as well. Finally after the grace we had dinner together. We truly felt like one big family gathered together.

Community Blessings: One of our community member is expecting her first child. So many members gathered at her house and prayed over her. We also blessed her with holy water and every member anointed her with holy oil. We pray that she has a safe delivery and are excited to welcome a new member to our community.

<mark>W</mark>e al<mark>so had a prayer se</mark>rvice held for a student

appearing for his 10th Board exams. We blessed him few days prior to the beginning of the SSC board exams. We prayed over him and every member blessed him with holy water and holy oil. We pray for the success of all the students.

Nasik Trip: On the 18th of February, our community members went to visit Infant Jesus Shrine, Nasik. We were all very excited as it as our first visit after the pandemic. We had a lot of fun and frolic on our bus journey. We reached well in time for the Holy mass. It was a very nice Eucharistic celebration and we all spent a little time in personal prayer. We enjoyed the food served at the shrine. We also did a little bit of vegetables and fruits shopping on the way back home at the Nasik market. The energy level was still charged on our way back with songs and fun in the bus.

Stations of the Cross: We took the cross from the church and had the stations of the cross in our members house





twice a week. Each family kept the cross for 3-4 days with daily prayers and stations with family and one day with the community.

Lenten outreach: As our Lenten outreach, we visited the House of Charity in Versova on 17th March. We had carried the items which were specified by them. We met the sisters and the inmates there. We prayed with them in the chapel. After that we helped them in some of their chores like folding clothes, drying the clothes from the





laundry, cleaning and cutting fruits and vegetables, feeding some of them and washing the utensils. We interacted with them and spent some quality time with them. It was a very enriching and fulfilling experience.

As truly said by Pope Framcis "People must live and experience the Christian

community in order to have a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ

St Ambrose Community - Zone V Unit Ii

On February 13, 2024, at 8:00 p.m. held a prayer service at Allan's residence for two of our community's confirmation students - Alan Fernandes and Nathan D'Penha, on behalf of St. Ambrose Community.

Present were the Confirmandees, their family members and animators. Esther Henriques led a prayer service and we all prayed for them collectively. They received a holy oil blessing.

The Way of The Cross - ZONE V

- Holy Trinity Community Unit I
- St Ambrose Community Unit II &
- Infant Jesus Community Unit III

Bravo to each and every person who thoughtfully and significantly contributed to the Jesus Passion in Zone V: Stations of the Cross in their own special way.

Beautiful images, an intricate and engaging powerpoint presentation. The choir was amazing, and the

performance by all those engaged was excellent.

The performers who played different parts did a fantastic job. The actors in the various roles, particularly the heartbroken Mother Mary (Finiya Thomas) and Jesus (Joe Dcosta) brought us to tears.

We would especially want to thank Esther for writing



the beautiful script and directing the skit. Also special thanks to Esther year after year, thoughtfully organizing snacks & soft drinks after the Stations.

It was incredibly successful and appreciated by all! This served as an excellent example of how everyone of us may represent the Lord and make use of our unique gifts in order to encourage the church and to spread the message of Jesus.

- Nimia Dcosta - Zone V





St. Francis Xavier Community (Zone 2 – Unit 4)



26th Annual Community Feast Celebration

We celebrated the Feast of Our Patron St. Francis Xavier on 2nd December, 2023. A thanksgiving mass was offered in the church by our community members. Many of our families attended it, which was followed by a fellowship. We had Games, Snacks, Dancing Session & Housie followed by Dinner. Young & Old all took part in it. We gave away Spot Prizes & Prizes for every game. It was a day to cherish & remember.

Rosary with the Sick & Home Bound

The Animators visited the sick & prayed the Rosary with them. The homebound felt lively & were very happy to say the Rosary & sing hymns with us.

Prayer service for Confirmation Candidates

We brought the families of 2 of our Confirmation candidates together. We had a short prayer service for Fleur Lobo & Jockim Fernandes and blessed them few days before they received the Sacrament of Confirmation. The animators, community members & parents of both the candidates got together and prayed over them.

- Bernadette Goes





Epiphany Community Zone 2 Unit 6

Our community conducted a prayer service for Jessica Paul and Nancy Khalkho who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on 21st February 2024. Prayer service was held in Jessica's House. Nancy, her mother and Animators gathered for Prayer Service. Introductory Hymn to Mother Mary BE WITH US MARYwas sung. Jessica and Nancy brought their favourite Marian object- THE ROSARY- They said as to why the Rosary is important in their life and that Mama Mary is always with them with her maternal care, love, concern etc. Passage from Luke: 10:1-11 was read and reflected upon. Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary was prayed. Parents and Animators prayed spontaneously for the intentions of Jessica & Nancy. The Prayer Service ended with a closing prayer and Hymn - God's Spirit is in My Heart. This was followed by refreshments.



Epiphany community celebrated the Epiphany Feast on Sunday 7th Jan 2024 in Good Shepherd Church by attending the 5.30 pm mass and taking up the liturgy.



The mass was offered by the Epiphany community followed by a get together which included playing games and dancing. Fr. Anil and Deacon Inacin also attended and spent time with the community members. Games like house, musical chair and bombing the city were played and prizes were distributed. Souvenir was also given per family as a token of appreciation for being such a vibrant community throughout the year. Dinner boxes were served towards the end and every one left with a smiling face that resembled fun, unity and an evening spent well.

Winners of the 'Christmas Carols' activities held by Media Cell of Good Shepherd church were given prizes by Fr. Anil on 25th February 2024. 1st prize was awarded to Mr.Derrick n Mrs.Eunice Alexander from our Epiphany community. The couple made an amazingly creative video of Christmas carol sung "long time ago in Bethlehem" while beautifully playing the guitar. The same was featured on Good Shepherd social page!

- Remita Fernandes, Community Coordinator

Little flower community zone 3 unit 3

On the occasion of World day of the poor, we had an outreach program for the children at good shepherd convent who come to study. We had received contributions in cash and kind from our members and we were able to give snacks and lentils to them. We also fed the beggars on the streets of four bungalows, link road and Millat nagar. We are thankful to our community members who are always willing to reach out whenever we ask for contribution.

We went Carol singing to the homebound in our community and gave them a small gift. All of them were

very happy and sang along with us. We participated in the crib and star competition. Our theme was based on the problems faced in the birthplace of Jesus. Everything was destroyed and only the skeleton left. Our star was a skeleton and crib without a roof.

We had conducted a prayer service for 2 students who received confirmation this year Emily and Jordan. Parents and animators prayed for them welcoming the holy spirit in our midst.

During Lent, Many families welcomed the cross in their homes and they had the way of the cross with





family and friends. We also had stations online every Friday. A community way of the cross was conducted for all our members too. Wishing everyone a happy

Easter and may the holy spirit continue guiding us in all that we do.

- Genevieve Soares, Little flower community

St. Jude's Community - Zone 3 Unit 5

Come December and St Jude's community embraced the festive spirit by channelling their creativity into the special star making competition. They collaborated to craft a dazzling star for Christmas, symbolizing peace, which was the topic of the competition. Their collective efforts culminated in a stunning display that adorned the neighbourhood, captivating the hearts of all who passed by. Their dedication and ingenuity did not

go unnoticed, as St Jude's community was honoured with the first prize.

As the new year unfolded, the community of St Jude remained steadfast in their devotion to faith and fellowship. On the 27th of February 2024, they gathered together at the residence of Celina D'Souza, to observe the stations of the cross. Guided by faith and reflection, members embarked on a spiritual journey, commemorating the sacrifices of Jesus Christ and drawing strength from their shared beliefs.

These moments of creativity and spirituality shine brightly, illuminating the path towards a brighter and more connected future.

- Franchelle Raj, Animator – St. Jude's Community



Community Way of The Cross Zone 3, Unit 2-St Vincent De Paul.

The animators of St. Vincent de Paul community-Zone 3, Unit 2 conducted the 'Way of the Cross' for the community members on 17th Mar'24 at 6 pm. It was held at one of the member's residence.

It was a prayerful evening as everyone journeyed with our Lord through His Passion and Death on the Cross. Thereafter we all had a meaningful fellowship connecting with one another as we shared our thoughts and discussed the Lenten season and

forthcoming events in the community.

- Jasmine Nair





Zone 1, unit 3, Mother Theresa





Our Zone 1, unit 3, Mother Theresa community as their lenten mission visited 'House of Charity' Versova on March 10, 2024. The community took household items and groceries. It was a lovely

evening interacting with the sisters and the residents. We also spent some time in prayer at their beautiful chapel.

Further, our unit was felicitated in the Mission caption contest on February 25, 2024 by our Parish Priest Fr. Anil Rego.

On behalf of the animators and the community, we wish you and your family a Happy Easter! God bless.

- Simone

SHEPHERD'S VOICE -INSPIRATION







Training Programme For Scc Animators

On February 14, 2016, many of us may have been celebrating Valentine's Day with our loved ones, but on the other side, all roads were leading to Marol, Andheri (East). Reason - A training program on 'Creativity' and a beautiful talk on 'Jesus is the face of the Father's Mercy' was held at St. John the Evangelist Church Andheri (East) for all SCC Animators of Andheri Deanery. Around 160 SCC Animators including 17 from our parish attended this enriching training program.

The first session 'Creativity in SCCs' was conducted by Fr. Felix D'souza. Creativity means generating interest by using different methods / ways. He enlightened us on how to bring about various methods of Creativity in our SCC meetings. One of the interesting topic was on Gospel Sharing using the 'Look' 'Listen' 'Love' method which he explained in detail. 'Look' at a situation or an experience 'Listen' to the Word of God and Act in 'Love'. Overall it was a wonderful session with a small interactive exercise.

The second session 'Jesus is the Face of the Father's Mercy' was conducted by Fr. Beniz Gomes. He presented a beautiful video clipping to explain the 'Extra Ordinary Jubilee of Mercy'. The 'Year of Mercy' is a remarkable occasion during which the entire Catholic Church, under the humble leadership of Pope Francis, opens wide the doors to the saving mercy of Christ. It is a

year that emphasizes the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament vital for the forgiveness of sins. It is celebrated from December 08, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception to the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 20, 2016. The tradition dates back to the year 1300, when Pope Boniface VIII called the very first Jubilee and celebrated as a special time of joy and pardon. In our Archdiocese, the main doors of Holy Name Church in Colaba and Mount Mary Church in Bandra have been declared 'Holy Doors of Mercy'. These doors will now become pilgrimage sites for Catholics to walk through, asking for grace, purification and forgiveness from sins.

After both these enlightening sessions, Fr. Beniz celebrated the Holy Eucharist with a beautiful homily saying each one of us are special and quoting Isaiah 49:16 'I have written your name on the palms of my hands'. Mass was followed by lunch. We thank God for providing us this opportunity of learning. We thank Rev. Fr. Ivan and Rev. Fr. Pravin for giving us the opportunity to attend this wonderful training which was an enriching experience for each one of us. And thank you Pamela for all the efforts towards getting us all together. There was truly a feeling of participation, fellowship and inter-action with other parish animato rs.

- Dora Martis

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BAPTISMS

Date of Baptism	Date of Birth	Name	Parents
24-12-2023	01-11-2023	ELTON BRITTO	KELWIN AND BETSY BRITTO
07-01-2024	17-10-2023	RENISHCA D'SOUZA	JOHANNES AND ROCHELLE D'SOUZA
28-01-2024	19-11-2023	EVAAN D'SOUZA	MAURICE AND ADITI D'SOUZA
27-02-2024	02-02-2024	ARIANA SEN GUPTA	SAURABH AND PISON NATASHA SEN GUPTA
29-10-2023	02-10-2023	RINISHA RAJESH	RAJESH AND NISHA RAJESH

MARRIAGES

Date	Name		
22-12-2023	TAPAN SHASHANK KARNIK AND NICOLE CARVALHO		
06-01-2024	ROSCOE MELRICK LOBO AND REBECCA MARTINA FERNANDES		
20-01-2024	CLINTON NELSON ANTONIO D'SOUZA AND SAVIOLA JANARDHAN		
24-01-2024	24 SHIVENDRA SANJEEV DIKSHIT AND MELISSA REEMA FERNANDES		
06-02-2024	ARJUN MADHAVJI AND NERISSA ANNE PEARL PEREIRA		

DEATHS

Date	Name	Age	Address
17-12-2023	PETER DENIS RODRIGUES	85	C/104 Ratan Nagar, Bldg No. 7, 4 Bungalows, Andheri
20 10 0000		YRS	(W), Mumbai - 53
23-12-2023	JOSEPHINE CARVALHO	87	B/102 Sai Sadan, Ratan Nagar, 4 Bungalows,
		YRS	Andheri West, Mumbai - 53
24-12-2023	IAN WATTS	68	B2/3 Indra Darshan Chs, St. Louis Convent Lane,
		YRS	4 Bungalows, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 400053
24-12-2023	PETER ANTHONY CARVALHO	85	602 Silver Sands, Shri Kripa Chs, Plot No 39,
		YRS	Versova Link Road, Andheri (W), Mumbai - 53
31-12-2023	JULIET SAXENA	69	Swapna Purti 65/D5, Mhada, Four Bungalows,
		YRS	Andheri West, Mumbai - 53
02-01-2024	LAWRENCE ANTHONY NORONHA	78	101, 1ST Floor, Kalpan Bldg, Near Kantwadi Road,
		YRS	Bandra West, Mumbai - 50
03-01-2024	ALLEN JOSEPH FERNANDES	55	B-5 Gita Prakash, J.P. Road, Four Bungalows,
		YRS	Andheri West, Mumbai - 400053
14-01-2024	RAYNAH JULIANA PETERS	77	33 Trishul 3rd Cross Lane, Opp. High Point Hotel,
		YRS	Andheri West, Mumbai - 53
18-01-2024	DOREEN CRECENCIA FERNANDES	68	C-905, Western Hights, J.P. Road, Four Bungalows,
4		YRS	Andheri West, Mumbai - 400053
22-01-2024	MARCELLA MARIA FERNANDES	87	F-4, Daswani CHS, Andheri West, Mumbai -
		YRS	400053
24-01-2024	MANUEL FRANCIS COUTINHO	92	A/32, Krystal Avenue CHS, Lokhandwala Complex,
		YRS	Andheri West, Mumbai - 400053
28-01-2024	SONI BALKRUSHAN PUJARI	64	b-305, Mercury Apts, 4th Cross Lane,
		YRS	Lokhandwala, Andheri West, Mumbai - 53
18-02-2024	BENEDICTA RICHARD RODRIGUES	66	1/606, Kamgar Nagar CHS, Nav Kiran Marg, Four
		YRS	Bungalows, Andheri West, Mumbai – 400053
27-02-2024	ANTHONY NORONHA	81	Flat No 602, 6th Floor, Bldg No 3, Krishna Chs, DN
		YRS	Nagar, Andheri West, Mumbai - 400053
29-02-2024	KAUSER MICHAEL D'SOUZA	67	A/501 Versova Concord, 347 Shree Swamy
		YRS	Samarth Nagar, Cross Rd 2, Opp. Rajput Diary,
			Lokhandwala Cplx, Andheri West, Mumbai – 53
08-03-2024	WILSON FERNANDES	69	Manish Lotus Chs, Bldg No 30, 4A, J.P. Road,
		YRS	Manish Nagar, Andheri West, Mumbai - 400053
16-03-2024	MARIA COUTINHO	84	Flat No 402, Awing Woodrose Chs, Lokhandwala
			Complex, Andheri West, Mumbai - 400053





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