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SEPTEMBER 2022

FLOCK NEWS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, ANDHERI WEST, MUMBAI 400053



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



OSHIWARA LOKHANDWALA CITIZENS FOUNDATION (OLCF)



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From the Pastor's Desk

POST PANDEMIC CHURCH

With the easing of restrictions, as we slowly came out of lockdown mode. The parish gradually slipped into activity from Feb.2022. With the celebration of the Parish feast, World Marriage day, SCC meetings & activities, meetings of associations, the rink football tournament, lent and the Holy week services went off well with good attendance. The breakfast stalls - a new feature, with the purpose of getting parishioners to mingle with one another and make friends, instead of rushing home soon after mass. Then there was Parents & Grandparents Day and Vianney Sunday, And more recently the flag hoisting on Independence day, which saw a good turn out and the Zone wise Tele-games which went under the title of 'Monsoon Madness'. This was again a new feature that was well executed by the youth and will now be a yearly feature.

Attendance at masses have improved. But there are still many who are not making it to church, as they are still following the online mass, which is very convenient. I would like to point out that the online masses were only a stop gap arrangement because of the lockdown in place. It is no more the norm. And parishioners should attend mass in Church in person. Also with attending mass in Church, you receive the Sacrament of the Body of Christ which is the most powerful source of our strength. So please do not miss out on this.

The attendance at the novenas for the Nativity of our Mother Mary and the participation was commendable. The people of Mumbai have a special place in their hearts for Mother Mary.

Through her intercession we have been kept safe during the pandemic. May she continue to be our guide on earth and our advocate in Heaven.

Happy Feast to one and all!!!!

FR. ANIL REGO

Parish Priest

SHEPHERD'S VOICE – INSPIRATION

- "Mary, give me your Heart: so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate; your heart so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life and love him as you love him and serve him in the distressing guise of the poor."

-- **Blessed Mother Teresa**

- "In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you

shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal."

-- **Saint Bernard of Clairvaux**

- If you invoke the Blessed Virgin when you are tempted, she will come at once to your help, and Satan will leave you."

-- **Saint John Vianney**

- "Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence."

-- **Saint Francis de Sales**

- "To serve the Queen of Heaven is already to reign there, and to live under her commands is more than to govern."

-- **Saint John Vianney**



Let us learn from the Virgin Mary how to be bolder in obeying the word of God.

— *Pope Francis* —

FLOCK BLEAT - NEWS

Celebration of World Marriage Day 13th February '22

Our Good Shepherd Parish celebrated the "World Marriage Day" on 13th Feb'22.

To prepare our parish families for this celebration, for 8 days before the World Marriage Day, our family cell sent to the communities on-line, a short video, a paper for family reflection and the prayer to the Holy Family by Pope Francis.

This was to refresh our families on Marriage as Sacrament, how to keep it alive and enriched, and how to successfully handle the challenges in the family – all through the experience of love, intimacy with Jesus, in family prayer and in daily living-out our Catholic faith in the family and Community.

The Parish 10 am con-celebration of the Eucharist by our Parish Priest Fr. Anil Rego and our Spiritual Director Fr. Savio Lobo, along with Deacon Inacin was indeed a wonderful celebration of the World Marriage Day. The Parish was just beginning resumption of regular Sunday Masses and all of us were so excited and looking forward to coming together again in Church as Community.

This Mass was specially celebrated for all Married Couples. Our Family Cell enthusiastically participated in the Liturgy with the readings and prayers, in the choir and singing and the renewal of marriage vows. Couples who completed 50 married years and more along with others who completed 40 years, 30 years and 25 years were specially seated in the front pews. Fr. Anil, in his humorous yet powerful homily,



enlightened everyone on how Married Life can be enriched with complete selflessness, total acceptance and true love.

The renewal of marriage vows helped us, married couples to recall and revive our commitment of love through the grace received from our Lord Jesus. The Eucharistic celebration ended with the Family Anthem, the video song by "Seekers" I'll Never Find Another You, the whole congregation joined in singing this very heart-rending song, a lot of couples had tears in their eyes.

Many couples and families shared their feelings with me, that the Eucharist was a very heart-warming, joyful and loving celebration of the World Marriage Day.

- Francis Rodrigues

GRANDPARENTS AND PARENTS DAY CELEBRATION

Love is a verb !

God gave us grandparents and parents on Earth to share his Fatherly love with us. The love shared between the parent and the child are two hearts entwined by God forever. The depth of this love can never be explained by the parent, nor can it be repaid by the child. But then again Love is a verb !

Every Sunday we see this love in action at the Children's Mass, when our dear parents and grandparents get their little ones to Church. Though the Sunday morning journey from home to Church might not always be a smooth ride for them, but all is done with the desire to see their child grow in faith and fall in love with the God, who brought each of them into each other's life.

On the occasion of Grandparents and Parents Day,
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Good Shepherd Sunday School teachers wanted to do something special for them. Armed with our secret weapon "the children" we put up a touching skit by the secondary section on "Hannah" the devoted





mother from the Bible, who very much represents our dear parents and grandparents of today. The drama emphasized to build the foundation of faith in the life of a child, which will prepare them for the unknown future ahead, alongside a God who was, who is and who will be the same yesterday, today and forever.

It was a proud moment for all parents and grandparents, as they received their special cards made by the children with a bonus of a hug and a

kiss. Many parishioners present were also touched by the cards read by the children during the mass.

As the children's choir sang their final hymn, our primary children put up an action song talking about Jesus's love for us.

And though they may have missed the beat or forgotten the steps, they know that No matter what... No matter when... No matter where... their Parents and Grandparents will always love them !

- Joan D'souza

GOLDEN HEART'S ROSARY AT THE GROTTO

The Rosary is recited daily at the Grotto in our parish. But the last day of the Marian month, 31st May is very special as the Golden Heart's conduct the Rosary.

The Grotto was beautifully decorated with lights and potted plants and Peace lilies were all in bloom! This made the Grotto look majestic. The old and the young of the parish all joined in singing English and Konkani hymns, while the devotees walked in procession offering red roses which were put in three pots placed on a table in front of the Grotto.

Gladys Noronha conducted the rosary and began by interceding for various intentions of our parishioners. It was really nice to see everyone devoutly reciting the Rosary and joining in the hymns sung after each decade.

After the Rosary snacks were served to everyone. As it was after a gap of two years (lockdown) most of the people stayed back to interact with each other. This close fellowship helped to build up relations. We are very grateful to Fr. Savio Lobo, who that day, made it possible to come down and join us.

The Golden Heart's Rosary was surely a grand success



as all the chairs were occupied and a few extra chairs had to be added too.

Our President Mr. Xavier Almeida thanked all the committee members, the sponsors and the donors for the grand success of the Rosary at the Grotto.

Let us all try to be like Mama Mary and learn to love, care and appreciate others as God's Children. May Mother Mary bless us and our families.

- Iona Goudinho

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Breaking News



"May your constant love be with us Lord as we put our hope in you." Ps: 33:22

31 st July 2022 was a red-letter day for the Sisters of the Good Shepherd Convent as the long awaited day finally arrived when the foundation stone for the Sarita Hostel, for working women of lower income group was laid.

Fr. Anil Rego, Parish Priest, blessed the foundation stone and the entire construction site. Sr. Pushpa Louis our province leader laid the foundation stone and Sr. Mary Jose Superior of GSC placed the timecapsule.

The occasion commenced with a prayer service led by Fr. Anil and all who came participated in the prayer. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd have labored with zeal in planning out the hostel building. The love and concern for women coming from other states encouraged the sisters to follow the vision.

It was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who stated "Life's

most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others? Indeed the Sisters are striving to do justice to this question.

Fr. James, Fr. Savio, Sisters of St. Louis convent, Good Shepherd Sisters from Virar, Karjat, the Architect, Mrs. Aparna Garud, Province consultant engineer Mr. Benjamin, Our Mission Partners, well-wishers and few hostelites were present to grace this auspicious occasion. Sr. Mary Jose thanked the guests for their love, concern and support to the Good Shepherd Convent. This memorable day, concluded on a happy note as all invitees dispersed with joy and smiles on their faces.

"Lord your love is eternal, Complete the work that you have begun." Ps:138:8

- Sisters of the Good Shepherd,
Four Bungalows, Andheri West.

SVP - INDEPENDENCE DAY



This year, St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) held the Independence Day flag-raising ceremony after the 7.00am konkanimass. The SVP's adopted families were also invited. Their faces were lit up with a broad smile. Flag pins were distributed to the parishioners.

Our main chief guest was Rakesh Coelho, and there was a considerable crowd in attendance. Joan D'Souza & Reynolds P Roy served as the event's comperes. Our parish priest Fr. Anil Rego & Rakesh Coelho hoisted the flag. Fr. Anil and a few other members talked after the flag was raised and we then served refreshments to our parishioners.

- NimiaDcosta& Angelica Mascarenhas

THE BOMBAY CATHOLIC SABHA

30th AGM on 24th JULY, 2022.

The Bombay Catholic Sabha of Good Shepherd Church Unit had their 30th AGM on 24th July, 2022. The AGM was attended by our Sabha members, committee members, Fr. Anil Rego, our Spiritual Director and Dr. Lawrence Fernandes, Vice President - Bombay Catholic Sabha. Items on the agenda were discussed. Elections were held to form new office bearers and committee members for the year 2022 - 2025. Dr. Lawrence Fernandes conducted the Election process.

Our BCS is now led by Dora Martis-Chairperson, Wilfred Pinto and R.P. Roy as Vice Chairmen, Milan Andrade-Hon. Secretary, Jasmine Nair-Jt. Secretary, David Chandy-Hon-Treasurer, Walter Pereira-Jt. Treasurer and Six Executive Committee Members.

Dr. Lawrence Fernandes explained the need to increase our membership drive. He also explained the various activities conducted by the Centre and its incentives. Fr. Anil appreciated the work being done by the Executive Committee, their participation and interactive discussions. He also spoke on the occasion of being actively involved in the activities of the Sabha and encouraged more members to come forward. Dora Martis said the 'Help-Desk' will commence shortly and will be having a membership drive along with the voter ID and Aadhar card drive. She thanked Fr. Anil for his support and guidance. She also thanked the past committee and welcomed the new committee.

The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the Vice Chairman - Mr. Wilfred Pinto. Snacks and Tea were served to all and ended with a group Photo.

We call upon our parishioners to come forward and enrol as BCS members. Forms are available at the 'Help Desk' set up after every mass on Sundays.

SAVE AAREY - WORLD ADIVASI DAY

On 09th August, Dora Martis and Milan Andrade represented our unit parish to attend the 'World Adivasi Day' at Aarey Colony Market to express the

solidarity to the tribal community of India and the World. We also showed our concern by walking 1km along with the Adivasi Communities holding banners and placards to protest against the construction of metro car shed by the Government of Maharashtra.

REFLECTIONS ON INDIA@75

On 15th August, a few of our Unit members attended a programme on 'Reflections on India@75' at St. Michael's Auditorium at Mahim. Around 170 members from the Archdiocese of Mumbai attended the programme. We had excellent speakers, Adv. Sudha Bharadwaj, Sr. Adv. Mihir Desai and Fr. S.M. Michael who gave their inspirational, personal and powerful sharing of their thoughts.

NEW WEBSITE

A new website address www.bcsabha.org was inaugurated on 19th August, 2022 in the presence of Executive Committee Members at Sabha Office, Mahim.

GOVT. MINORITY SCHOLARSHIPS 2022 TRAINING

On 31st August, two of our Unit members attended the Govt. Minority Scholarships 2022 training programme at the Sabha Office at Mahim. The participants of this interactive session were trained to guide students in the process of claiming a scholarship.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

A Free Dental Camp is organized on 18th September, 2022 from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the Community Centre. Please avail of the services. A talk on Eye Care and Free Eye Camp to be held in October. Also, an Organ Donation Awareness Program will be held. Drawing Competition for Children will be held in November.

We thank God for His many blessings and may our Parish Unit continue its journey towards creating 'A Better Tomorrow, Today'

- Milan Andrade



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MINISTRY OF MIGRANTS

The Archdiocesan Migrants Commission (AMC) was launched by His Eminence Cardinal Gracias on 26th September, 2021 and appointed Fr. Glasten Gonsalves as Secretary to the Commission. Within a short span of time, the AMC took the initiative to work in close collaboration with Sahara (Navi Mumbai), Navjeet Community Centre (Bandra), Dev Kripa Mandal (Mahim), Asha Kiran (Vakola), Urban Community Development Centre (Bandra), Good Shepherd Convent (Andheri), Pahunch (Chembur) and Our Lady of Rosary Church, (Mazgaon), etc., to attend to the spiritual needs, Eucharistic celebration, cultural programs and empowerment of the migrants.

When we speak of migration, it is linked with unskilled, illiterate people of the rural areas, wanting to make a living in the cities in the absence of any specific skills. Even if they have some skills, they come to the cities to pay off their debts or alleviate their poverty situations. They have migrated from various states of India especially from Orissa, Chattisgarh and Chhota Nagpur. The Covid-19 pandemic sharply brought

into focus the myriad injustices faced by the migrant population in our country especially in the city of Mumbai. Looking back in hindsight, we now realise how indispensable the migrant workforce is in the development and maintenance of life in our big city.

Pope Francis gave us four keywords with respect to migrants and refugees — Welcome, Protect, Promote, Integrate. We must uphold their human rights and dignity and ensure social and economic justice. Keeping this in mind, the AMC collaborated to launch an e-Shram card awareness; conducted a session on “Stress Management Post Covid”; had a Human Rights Day on the topic of “Reducing Inequalities, Advancing Human Rights”. There was also a Mass Wedding which was a true celebration of Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, Reconciliation, Confirmation & Matrimony. The harvest or Karam festival was celebrated too and picnics held. Mass is celebrated in Hindi at various units on Sundays followed by an empowerment program. A general census is also being carried out which will assist the Archdiocese in taking a call on certain matters. The Good Shepherd unit has collaborated well with the AMC on various empowerment programs including attending to the spiritual needs of the migrants.

To maintain the cultural identity of the migrants, the AMC in collaboration with all the units recently celebrated St. Monica’s Day (at the Diocesan level) with mass and a cultural dance competition only for girls and women. The venue was the Church and School Hall of St. Theresa, Bandra West. The Eucharistic celebration began at 4 pm and this was followed by the Cultural Dance Competition. The cultural program began with a Prayer Dance by young girls, followed by 10 dance performances from the various units. The 3 judges used the criteria of costume, presentation, harmony and synchronization to declare the 3 winners. The remaining 7 dance groups were awarded a Participation Prize. Fr. Glasten

played a short video to give an insight into the work and activities being done by the various units. It was a pleasure and joy to have Bishop John Rodrigues who gave away the prizes. Special thanks to Fr. Glasten and Fr. Cosmos of UCDC who laboured to make this event a success.



VIANNEY SUNDAY

A French Priest, Fr. Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney, was renowned for his supernatural powers. In 1925, Pope Pius XI, canonised him as St. John Marie Vianney - The Patron Saint of Parish Priests; August 04th - his death day, is celebrated as his Feast Day. The Church celebrates this feast on the first Sunday after August 04th. Thus, we celebrated the feast day on 07th August 2022, in our Good Shepherd Church. This is the day when our lay faithful get an opportunity to express our appreciation, affection and gratitude to our priests.

The PPC members and Coordinators organised a celebration for our Priests - Fr. Anil Rego, Fr. James

D'Costa, Fr. Savio Lobo and Deacon Inacin Fernandes. The celebration was held after the 10am Mass, in the Church extension.

Clarence Pereira spoke on the significance of Vianney Sunday. One family member of our Priests and Deacon's families, were also invited and introduced; this indeed was a beautiful, pleasant surprise to Fr. Anil, Fr. James, Fr. Savio and Deacon Inacin. On behalf of the PPC and Coordinators a few members spoke about our priests and then we felicitated them with a token of gratitude and love.

We had a cake cutting celebration by our Priests & Deacon, followed by a round of snacks and soft drink. A short, lively and a hilarious skit written by Jasmine Nair was put up by the Coordinators & PPC members. Fr Anil thanked the PPC and Coordinators, for their continuous work and support in helping the parish to grow. Then, we had a couple of games of fun & frolic, in which everyone took part.

The event was well compered by Dora Martis, vote of thanks by KamlaDesouza, prayer and grace by Francis Rodrigues, followed by a sumptuous lunch buffet. We ended the celebrations with happy farewells to our special guests. All in all, it was a memorable Vianney Sunday.

- Patricia Rodrigues



SCC BLEAT

ZONE II - UNIT 1, ST. LOUIS

The St. Louis Community celebrated the feast of St. Louis on Sunday, 19th June 2022 at 7pm at St. Louis Convent Hall. This event was held after a long gap of 2 years. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Sunil. All the sisters of St. Louis Convent and most of the families of St. Louis Community attended.

After Mass, we had delicious snacks along with some juice. This was followed by games which the Coordinator and the Animators had planned and was carried out so effortlessly with the help of everyone. Children showcased their talents and this was enjoyed by all. Finger-licking chicken biryani that tantalized our taste buds was served, accompanied by a mixture of tingling raita.

To keep the momentum of the Feast Spirit, there were spot prizes which was entertaining and enjoyable by all. Everyone came together as one happy family to celebrate the feast. To be honest, this was certainly an evening to remember since we had such a fantastic family gathering after a long time. It was truly amazing to see that the Community was full of fun and frolic with no age barrier and not to forget our Convent Sisters who were the limelight as they participated in all the activities.

Kudos to the entire Community. We recommend



having more of such family gatherings like this soon. We're already seeing a vast improvement in efficiency. Thanks to the committee members and the sisters of St. Louis Convent. We are confident that things will run smoothly as the community continues to grow. The St. Louis Community would like to thank all the families for all the wonderful contributions and support for this feast celebration.

It was indeed a great effort by the entire team.

- Cynthiya Pasha

LITTLE FLOWER COMMUNITY – ZONE 3 – UNIT 3

Visit to Elderly home - JIVAN ASHA

Our Visit to Jivan Asha an old age home at Veera Desai Road on 22nd July 2022 was a day to remember. We met 41 elderly residents that are taken care of by Sr. Sarita and her team members. When we animators reached there the seniors were overwhelmed and greeted us with a Namaste, were smiling and happy to see us visit them. They looked like a big family staying together but through their life stories we knew how much pain they had gone thru. So to cheer the elderly, we had a warm interaction with them by giving snacks, singing along with them, clicked pictures, listened to their stories, encouraged them, prayed along and for them. One of the inmates Mrs. D'silva sang old hindi songs and Bhajans and took us down her memory lane letting

us know of the time she came to Jivan Asha and that before coming in, she lived at Bhramavar in Mangalore. She was so enthusiastic and inspired us even in all her difficult circumstances. Each one's life stories touched our hearts with compassion and empathy.

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To watch the seniors be happy and enjoy with us was so fulfilling and gratifying and we felt a sense of satisfaction and purpose reaching out to the elderly that are so helpless and vulnerable. Lesson learned - Elderly only ask for our time, care, love and affection that can be given with our willingness to love and to be of service.

COMMUNITY - PICNIC

After a very long gap that we the members decided to go for a Picnic on the 20th of May 2022 to Velankanni Villa at Madh Island. We were so excited going together and enjoyed our day, full of masti. The weather was pleasant and we travelled by car and ferry to reach Madh. We settled at the villa and after a while had a healthy breakfast which was so filling and tasty. Then all of us played cards after which we relaxed a bit. Mid way we formed teams to play dog and the bone and were so thrilled, we walked to the beach had coconut water and came to have a tempting and delicious lunch spread of Fried fish, Rice



Rotis, Chicken curry, mixed vegetable, Rice and salad which was so yummy and well prepared by a local of the village. After a heavy lunch all of us wanted to go easy, so we sang songs, played housie and enjoyed joking. We had high tea which was the highlight of the evening with hot onion and potato bhajyas . We danced to jive music and melodies. What a fun time we had with lovely memories to live on, which were captured in the photos that were clicked. Thanks to our coordinator for organising this picnic and to all members present that we could have a good time of interaction, togetherness and bonding.

ROSARY – CELEBRATION for MONTH OF MAY

We prayed as a family together the Rosary at most member homes for the entire month and also had a lovely time of bonding as a community. On the 31st of May 2022, we celebrated the community Rosary at Gross gate Lokhandwala. This celebration year

saw a good number of forty five members come to fellowship and pray together as a unit .We started with the rosary at 7pm which was followed by a get-together of snacks and cold drinks that were sponsored. The game of Quiz and housie were well conducted and we made sure that there was full participation and interaction from seniors to the young of our community. Prizes were distributed to the winners .New members were introduced and welcomed by the community. We had lovely music playing while the dinner was getting ready to be served with delicious Briyani, Kulfi and a wide variety of spread.Everyone had a great time of bonding and praying together as a big family unit. It was really a good time of a lively community gathering and a great response from our unit. Thanks to our members for sponsoring and for a well organisedcommunity prayer together.

- Joan Rodrigues

ST. AMBROSE COMMUNITY ZONE V UNIT II



Every year our community conducts the rosary to our Blessed Mother all through the month of May. This

year the rosary was held on May 30, 2022 at 8:00 pm after a two year break. To make it convenient for all

to attend, the members gathered for the community rosary at one of our member's home on the ground floor. We prayed the rosary with great devotion.

Sincere appreciation to Daniella Alphonso for leading us in singing the Marian hymns throughout the rosary. Thanks to Esther Henriques for presiding so gracefully and powerfully. There was a sizable turnout. Everyone was given snack boxes following the rosary

and everyone was ecstatic to see one another. It was a great success and we were happy that many of the members were present. We look forward to seeing more people attending in large numbers. May Our Lady always lead, protect, and bless each and every family in the St. Ambrose Community.

- NIMIA DCOSTA

ZONE 1 - UNITS 1, 2 AND 3

THE NOISY PARROTS - 'MONSOON MANIA'

Good Shepherd kicked off the inaugural 'Monsoon Mania' on the 21st of August for all age groups. For our Zone, that is Zone I - Units 1, 2 and 3 - Mrs. Flavia D'Sa coordinated the entire event from communicating with the participants from all the three units and bringing them together, naming the team and arranging the parrot outfit for our Mascot - Aaron D'Souza.

Our members charged up in green outfit assembled at 06:30pm at church extension. The atmosphere was full of excitement at the lawns with the happy bunch of participants and cheering fellow parishioners. Before the games commenced, we captured a few happy faces on camera and in our memories.

The event started with a prayer by Fr. Anil followed by an energetic Flag March in all its splendour, then a peppy pledge by Mrs. Betty. All together we had 5 games for adults and 3 games for children below 10. The Youth Group did a mock dance and our green parrots were not shy to tap their feet while enjoying



ourselves to the fullest.

Eventually, we did win the second prize which was a real icing on the cake. It was a happy and eventful evening which lasted for couple of hours but it has etched its memories in our minds for a lifetime. Our Units in Zone 1 were buzzing and united for the cause. We thank the Good Shepherd Youth Group to organize something so beautiful and standing for our mission to build a vibrant community.

- Animators, Zone I

ZONE 2 - UNIT 5 : ST. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY

BREAKFAST STALL 07th AUGUST, 2022

We began our preparations for the breakfast stall with a lot of trepidation; what if the items are not sold, what if the items we ordered be delivered late, will we make a success of it? With all these questions in our heads, we found that all of a sudden, our four animators - Blanche Nand, Dora Martis, Julie D'Souza and myself Vilma Kantharia were catapulted and transformed into entrepreneurs. Two meetings, one after another and frenzied phone calls later, the stage was set. Menu card with the prices were firmed up; samosas, vada pav, chicken patties, sausage rolls, potato chops, tea, coffee were on the list.

07th August, 2022, dawned bright with a slight drizzle of rain. Dora and members of Julie's family set up the stall and held fort there while the rest of us including Anette Lobo scrambled to collect our orders. Everything had to be fresh and on time !!!

After the 7am mass, parishioners started trickling in.



We held our breath, the vada pavs, chicken patties and coffee began as hot favourites. By the end of the 8.30am mass, rest of the items were being lapped up. With each sale the smile on our face was getting wider and wider. After the 10am mass very little was left unsold. We had made it !!!!

This experience left us wanting more. We learnt to plan, source, price, sell and above all bond with each other. Thank you, Fr. Anil Rego it was indeed a great learning experience.

- Vilma Kantharia, Coordinator

ZONE 3 UNIT 7 : HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY

Visit to Mahad

It had been two tough years due to the covid pandemic and a lot of restrictions for everyone. Though we had our meetings regularly, it was via Zoom and somehow, we missed that personal touch. We also did a lot of outreach work but there were a lot of restrictions. So, we decided that during the season of Lent we would do some mission work and what better place than visit the church in Mahad.

We coordinated with the priest-in-charge, Fr. Pravin D'Souza of St. Francis Xavier Church, Mahad and he gave us a list of things we could bring to help the villagers around. We were welcomed with a scrumptious breakfast. Fr. Pravin and Br. Ivan showed us around the church premises and explained the activities of the Jankalyan trust run by the church. The brother and the animators visit various villages and with the help of the social workers, they provide them with their various needs. Fr. Pravin, Br. Ivan and an animator accompanied us to a village 'SapeAdiwasiwadi'. It

was a very humbling experience for us to see the way these people lived, their malnourished children and their small mud houses. We were quite amazed as there was a wedding ceremony and they were very happy to meet us. This village visit was a very touching experience for us. After this, we went back to the church and had a wonderful meal with Fr. Pravin and Br. Ivan.

Then Fr. Pravin took us to the farm maintained by the church where we met Fr. Sunil Munis. They took us around the farm and showed us the vegetable and fruit trees and plants on their farm, also animals and a dairy in the premises. It was so amazing to see how they have maintained the entire farm area.

Finally as we bid adieu and returned, we came back with our hearts filled with love and empathy, thanking the Lord for all He has done for us.

Thanks to Fr. Pravin and his team for this wonderful experience.

- Rita, Blessy, Lydia & Priya



SYNOD 2022

On October 10, 2021 Pope Francis convened the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, whose theme is "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission." His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay, inaugurated the diocesan phase of the Synod at the Holy Name Cathedral, Mumbai on Sunday October 17, 2021 and also released a book for the Synod: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission".

From January 2022 to May 2022, we have had various Synod consultations across the Archdiocese of Bombay – online, hybrid and in person. These have happened in parishes, ministries and other ecclesial groups. And so, through numerous consultations across the archdiocese, we have listened; we have listened to the voices of the marginalised, those on the periphery, those whose voices were never heard before. We have even listened to children! And in this listening process, a great healing process has simultaneously taken place.

As we gave people a chance to experience lived synodality, we gathered the fruits of what the Holy Spirit was saying to us through the people of God. A huge amount of data has been collected and after evaluation of this data, the following four themes have emerged:

- An Inclusive Church
- A Collaborative Church
- A Faith-filled Church
- A Church relevant to the times

While there are numerous and varied suggestions in the Synod Report for our Archdiocese (published in the Handbook given at the Diocesan Synod on 2-3 June, 2022 at St Pius X College), here are some more suggestions that came up at the Diocesan Synod.

Theme 1: An Inclusive Church

A. This needs a mindset for:

- Accepting trained lay persons / single parents
- Desire to address brokenness of our people
- Passion to connect with those on the peripheries, those struggling to get an identity, those struggling to find life meaningful, those struggling to get their voices heard

B. Groups:

- Differently oriented people (Pastoral

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support)

- Migrants & Tribals (more Hindi Masses / prayer services)
- Broken marriages / dysfunctional families
- To connect with special children (Better catechesis)
- Young working adults (Avoid judging)
- Senior citizens and the lonely
- Breakaway groups
- Language groups
- Economically poor sections

C. Methodology:

- Parish Councils or SCCs should take up one such target group and by consistent action programs make a difference in their lives
- Gather such groups and in the process of listening, they discover their meaningful solutions
- Take the help of Confirmation students, youth, well settled parents, willing seniors to get into the action of including one or two neglected groups as part of their pastoral work
- Accompanying young couples to make them Christ centered
- Proper escalation system for addressing issues
- Inclusion of other faiths in our programs.

Theme 2: A Collaborative Church

A. A Need for:

- Delegating to laity so that the priest is primarily a pastor
- Building trust, maintaining cordial relationships with all so that collaboration happens, with barriers / prejudices if any, broken
- Massive awareness at all levels that 'all hands on deck' if a changing church has to emerge
- Decision making opportunities with laity and allowing them to take up responsibilities of decisions taken
- To be not an inward looking but an outward

looking church, a church in the midst of a turbulent society

- Care for the earth.

B. Methodology:

- Majority stated that the use of social media can be used in a big way to facilitate collaboration
- Systematic harnessing of talents of the laity and utilizing these to achieve efficiency in most pastoral matters
- Have interface sessions, for example, with youth & parents, working youth & business people, Clergy & laity, etc.
- Utilise the power of women and religious sisters who may not be very much included in parish functioning
- Appreciate any work done so as to motivate parishioners towards greater involvement, thus building up their confidence and engaging them in the parish and societal activities
- Get more youth / people involved for catechesis; if possible, pay a nominal amount to Sunday school teachers
- More involvement of youth in the PPC, liturgy, etc
- Better management of Church properties.

Theme 3: A Faith-filled Church

- Need for effective catechism
- Being open to change and learning from others
- Witnessing through faith experiences
- Listening to the voice of the voiceless
- Well prepared homilies
- Faith formation after confirmation especially for 15yrs-35yrs age group
- Proclaim Christ through ones actions
- Need to bring in more people on a local level into various associations / rotate leadership
- Honest moral guidance needed
- All could utilize their talents for some service in the Church every week
- More faith formation programs
- Liturgy should be relevant and vibrant
- Encouraging family & personal prayer

- Need to accompany converts & those on the periphery on their faith journey
- Need for married deacons
- More lay persons should be involved in Church
- Being non judgmental
- Retreats for laity

Theme 4: A Church relevant to the times

- Be a testament to our faith, to those around
- Schools to be more relevant for those who go to 'other schools /boards'
- 'Take Charge' program should be more advertised
- Alumni associations should be more vibrant
- Laity & the clergy taking collaborative decisions
- A Church 'in the world' and yet not 'of the world'
- Scripture should be made relevant to our times
- Have a townhall meeting in the parish to address issues
- Listening committees in all parishes
- The charism of religious orders / associations needs to be relooked at
- Talk about issues rather than push them aside
- Use social media platforms
- All those in Church leadership (clergy & laity) have to have proper formation
- Need to relook at the type of education our schools / institutes are providing
- Have portals for job opportunities
- Use of experts or trained persons in parishes for the betterment of the local church
- Language groups need to be focused on
- Mentoring & listening skills needed
- Cater to needs of the parish
- Listen to the cries of the earth & act on it
- Discerning church where we listen and dialogue effectively with various groups
- Catholics should be involved in political & civic spheres.

YOUTH CORNER

Church Feast

The Good Shepherd Youth Group put up game stalls. There was a total of four games, the first one was football penalty shootout. People of all ages really enjoyed this game. The second game was bouncing the ping pong ball and aiming it in the cup kept on the table. It was a fun game for kids and their parents too. The third game was the dice game. This game was for all the age group people, there were many youngsters and enthusiastic elders playing this game and they enjoyed this game a lot. There was also a raffle conducted, one by one the Parishioners jumped



on the bandwagon wherein they had a prospect to win a cake if they had guessed the weight of the same correct. Many couldn't win it by a hair's breadth but Anaika Pereira won! Along with the game stalls the youth put up a dance and a medley of songs! Not forgetting talented elders for their performances that lit up the audience.

Summer Club

After 2 years of staying in our homes all summer.... The youth group held the much awaited "MARVEL SUMMER BASH" from the 2nd of May 2022 to the 13th of May 2022 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. We had 120 kids join us this year! Each day had something new! We had tele games, indoor games, outdoor games, tournaments, dance workshop movie day and water day. Here's what some of the kids had to say!

"We had a great time at the summer camp. We played lots of games and danced every day. One day we also watched a movie "Raya and the lost dragon".



We used to get different treats like chips, chocolates, lollipop, ice cream and ice gola. My favourite day was the water day when we played water games like balloon relay, water sponge and many more and ate ice gola. The volunteers were very kind and helpful. This was the best summer camp that we attended at Good Shepherd Church!"

-Megan & Dylan

"Because of the summer camp happening before my Sunday school started, I got to know a few names of the people I'd be going to class with. Also, mama wanted me to have some sort of physical activity during my summer vacation so I got that too, it was really fun! "

-Anayzah

Every year I eagerly look forward to Summer Club, and this year was one of the best. I thoroughly enjoyed Water Day, the games were well organised and fun. The Treasure Hunt was very interesting as well, I enjoyed all the challenges. Overall, I had a great time and look forward to next year.

- Caeden

"I had the best time of my life at the summer club. I played my favourite sport cricket, football and so many other games too. The volunteers also would play with us."

-Xander

Rink Football

Football is one in all the foremost celebrated sports across the globe. It's moreover one in every of the oldest games. It's a contest of power and endurance. The zonal rink football tournament held from 10th to the 12th of June was one of our hit events. All the zones competing against each other head-to-head, we had an amazing turnout of teams and each zone has ALOT of supporters to cheer them on. In the Men's category, the "GUNNERZ" team won for the 3rd time in a row! For the Women's category, the team "FOOTIES" won! And in our veteran's category, "SUPER STRIKERS" took the win!



Cyclathon

On Independence Day, we organised a Cyclathon to Juhu beach. After the flag hoisting ceremony, we ate some cake, hopped on our cycles and started our journey with adrenaline pumping in our bodies. As our journey went on, the cool morning breeze and each of us one behind the other made us feel euphoric. Once we reached the beach, we interlocked our cycles and took a walk on the not so crowded beach just



Youth Trek

The youth trek was held on 23rd of July 2022 by the youth group along with trek partner @tripdrip. We started the journey at 6am from the church vicinity and reached the base village by 9am. After a delicious breakfast we started with our trek towards the fort. We started the trek from the old Neral railway tracks route, the most thrilling path started 45 minutes after



enjoying the moment. We got some pictures taken, saw a beautiful sand sculpture that was created there and then then headed off to fill our hungry stomachs at Fresco bakery. We also enjoyed some hot tea and coffee which gave us a serotonin boost and added to our incredible experience.



Monsoon Mania

With the offset of monsoon approaching, the parish wanted to organise an event for all our parishioners. And what better way than with some fun tele games for all zones! The Monsoon Mania was held on the 21st of August from 7pm on the church lawns. This event brought all zones together to form teams which got them to know each other and play in good team spirit. There were fun filled tele games for all ages. It was our most colourful event! Even after all the competition between zones, this day ended with all of us together as one! Here's what 2 of our team captains had to say!

"Monsoon Mania presented us with a unique experience of enjoying tele games with combination of brains, wit, laughter and fun. The cloth and ball game taught us coordination...the balloon game tested our lungs. So engrossed were we in the game that we forgot all about the rains. This event provided

the tracks. The steep mountain edges and the scenic views around us were breath-taking. We had such an amazing experience. After a long and tiring trek, around 6pm we returned to the base village around 6pm, had some mouth-watering lunch got refreshed and started our journey back home!



us with an opportunity to bond, to laugh and connect with people from our zones as well as other zones too. It helped us de-stress ourself. All the youth kept us entertained throughout. It was a wonderful experience to see so many of our parishioners get together. We need to keep having more such activities in the future."

-Milton D'cruz (Zone 4)

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together and that's what our youth group proved us. Monsoon mania was very well planned and executed. Our youth completed a mammoth task while demonstrating a thorough concern for all the areas involved, no matter how small. We enjoyed the event and if you see the videos being circulated you know I am not lying. Thank you so much GSYG for making Monsoon Mania happen."

-Allwyn Fernandes (Zone 1)

YOUTH RETREAT

A youth retreat, titled 'Dare To Be Different' , was conducted on the 27th and 28th of August '22.

A retreat, where the questions and struggles of today's youth were openly spoken about in the presence of our Lord.

Through this experience, us youth were exposed to the inspiring testimonies of the young adults that instantly touched the hearts of many due to the amount of similarities found in their life stories.

The engaging praise and powerful talks were not only very well delivered but also knowledgeable and appealing to today's youth and their beliefs.

The retreat team was very well equipped with dance, music, joy and an ever willing patience to sit through these two days and answer each and every question and doubt we had in our mind relating to God and the Holy Spirit.

After being asked about the personal experiences of the youth that were present for the retreat, all of the feedback received was positive. 'Eye opening', 'Game changing' and 'Remarkable', were some among the many words of positivity directed through this experience of finding and accepting God.

Another personal feedback received, said, "This retreat helped me get rid of most of my suppressed feelings which made me feel 10 pounds lighter. It helped me come to terms with my repressed feelings and helped me face most of them."

The testimonies helped build an atmosphere of comfort and made the hours spent all the more relatable as many of us could relate to the crew's

struggles which in turn helped us come to terms with ours.

Mark 6:31 - And he said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."

This retreat was eye opening and the team and all the teachers put in their best to make this as unique and special as a spiritual journey can be. We contemplated our reasonings, motives and worked together on finding inner peace and forgiveness, not just for ourselves but for others well.

-Eva Joseph and Yshmaera Patel

(Confirmation students)



I'M STILL YOUR MOM

When you no longer listen or care what I say...I'm still your Mom

When you decide I'm old fashioned and want to go your own way...I'm still your Mom

When you talk back, complain and argue...I'm still your Mom

When you figure you know more than I do...I'm still your Mom

When you move away and take a piece of my heart with you... I'm still your Mom

And I will love you still as much as the first day I held you in my arms...I'm still your Mom

And I will pray for you and make sure your wings are strong enough to soar...I'm still your Mom

I'll want what's best and will sacrifice my plans for yours...I'm still your Mom

I'll always have room for you and a hug to welcome you...I'm still your Mom

And until my last breath, I'll keep carrying your love with me.

I thank God every day for the privilege and joy it's been to be called - your Mom

- Dora Martis



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"Reach the Gates of Heaven"

GREENER PASTURES – FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School Activities

Sunday School Activities and dates of various events as discussed in the recent Parish Council meeting.

1. Faith Formation of the Andheri Deanery shall be held for students of 05th and 06thstd on 21st Aug 2022 at St. Blaise church, for 07th and 08th std students on 04th Dec 2022 and for 09thstd students on 06th Nov 2022.
2. Vacation Bible Joy (VBJ) shall be held between 23rd Oct to 13th Nov 2022. Dates are from 08th to 12th Nov 2022. The VBJ material will follow in a separate mail. There shall be a quiz competition on the last day of VBJ.
3. Recollection for all Catechists of the Andheri Deanery shall be held on 27th Nov 2022 and 12th Mar 2023.
4. There shall be a Christmas Choir competition of the Andheri Deanery on 18th Dec 2022. Venue shall be informed later on.
5. Psalm recital shall be held for students from 01st to 09thstd at Good Shepherd church on 25th Sep 2022. This year Psalm recital shall be held at the parish level only and not on 18th September as discussed earlier.

The next program to be conducted by the Sunday School Catechists is the feast day on 8th September 2022. Please give your views and suggestions for this important day.

MISSION SUNDAY – MISSION MELA

Mission Sunday will be celebrated on the 23rd October'22. There will be a Mission Mela in the Church compound of food stalls and stalls useful stuff. These stalls will be run by the zones and Associations from 8.00 am to 12.30 pm. The proceeds will go to the Missions. There will also be a housie at 11.45 am

CHRIST THE KING FEAST AND SCC RALLY

Christ the King feast will be celebrated on Sunday, 20th Nov.'22 with Adoration beginning at 10.45 am to 5.00 pm, procession, sermon at 5.30 pm followed by Benediction. Then we proceed to the Lawns for the SCC Rally. A Variety Entertainment put up by the Communities.

MILESTONES

BAPTISMS

Date of Baptism	Date of Birth	Name	Parents
15-05-2022	29-03-2022	GARIANNA	EDREI AND RENETE MIRANDA
07-08-2022	24-06-2022	MIKHAIL	KIRK AND TANYA SALDANHA
21-08-2022	17-12-2021	JOSHUA LUKE	JOHN AND CAROLINE

MARRIAGES

Date	Name
23-05-2022	PRATHAMESHCHACHAD AND SUSANNE BLOSSOMD'SOUZA
21-08-2022	BONNIE D'SOUZA AND JESSICA LASRADO

DEATHS

Date	Name	Age	Address
30-3-2022	ANJELINE VICTOR D'SOUZA	89 YRS	C/14 SAI APARTMENT, BON BON LANE, SEVEN BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 400053
31-3-2022	ANTONY FERNANDES	81 YRS	BLDG NO. 22, PLAT NO 303 SHREE GANESH CHS, AZAD NAGAR, J.P. ROAD, BEHIND APNA BAZAR, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 400053
14-4-2022	JOSEPH FREDERIC PEREIRA	76 YRS	FLAT NO C/112, BLDG NO 42, SHREE PRAMUKHKRUPA CHS, MANISH NAGAR, 4 BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 53
01-5-2022	DORIS PHILOMENA D'SOUZA	88 YRS	A-602, SHRI HARI CHS, R.T.O. ROAD, FOUR BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (WEST), MUMBAI - 400053
09-05-2022	JOSEPH WILLIAMS PUTHAMPADATH	59 YRS	RH-4, N-3, SECTOR 7 VASHI NAVI MUMBAI 400703
02-06-2022	KARL JOSEPH FERNANDES	74 YRS	604, VIKRAMADITYA APTS., 4 BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI WEST
04-06-2022	TERESA PETER FERNANDES	89 YRS	A-104, VERSOVA GURUDNSH, MHADA, S.V.P. NAGAR, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI
06-06-2022	RANDOLPH AUGUSTUS VAZ	72 YRS	PARAS CHS FLAT NO. 8 2ND FLOOR, BON BON LANE, OFF J.P. ROAD, NEAR URBAN TADKA, 7 BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI
19-06-2022	WULFRAN WILLIAM MIRANDA	80 YRS	44/302, PARAMOUNT, A-WING, LOKHANDWALA COMPLEX, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI
01-07-2022	STELLA ROSARIO ALVA	77 YRS	21, RITU APARTMENT, JUHU VERSOVA LINK ROAD, RAJIV GANDHI COLLEGE, ANDHERI (W),
02-08-2022	MANOEL JOSEPH D'SOUZA	93 YRS	'SEEMA' FLAT 2/18, N. DUTTA MARG, FOUR BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 53
14-08-2022	CHRISTOPHER RONALD	60 YRS	104 SEA PEARL APARTMENTS, ABOVE GREATER BANK, OPP. PRATAP SOCIETY, OFF J.P. ROAD, 7 BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 400053
26-08-2022	VINCENT FRANCIS GREGORY ATHAIDE	82 YRS	POPULAR APARTMENTS A/7, CONVENT AVENUE, 4 BUNGALOWS, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI
27-08-2022	ARZELIA VIEIRA	87 YRS	2, ANURAG CHS, MODEL TOWN, 7 BUNGALOWS, OPP. BON BON, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 400053
01-09-2022	CHACKALA MATHAI MATHEWS	88 YRS	2902/2903, METROPOLIS CHS LTD, J.P. ROAD, OPP. GURUDWARA, ANDHERI (W), MUMBAI - 400053



*God changes
Caterpillars into Butterflies.
Sand into Pearls,
and Coal into Diamonds.
Using Time and Pressure,
He's Working on You too!*