



Assumption Link



Parish Vision : TO BUILD A VIBRANT UNITED CHRISTIAN PARISH SHARING AND CARING FOR EACH OTHER SELFLESSLY

FEW LINES.....

From the Parish Priest's Desk....

St Paul tells us 'One thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal....' (Phil. 3:13-14). All of us have been called to leave all negative things of the past and strive for a future filled with hope.

Can we give up anger and hatred? Jesus is Love and we are called to be like Him. One of the ways we could do this is by giving an extra dose of love to our family members every day. In that way our family will become the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The Lord teaches us that we should not judge and we will not be judged. If we try to give up judging and strive to do away with gossiping, we will please the Lord. Pope Francis says gossiping is one of the greatest sin. Our Lord is loving and forgives our faults and failings, we are called to do the same.

Jesus has a plan for each and every one of us. Talking to Jesus in prayer will reveal His plan for us as we will be guided and directed by the Lord. We should not feel discouraged but must cling on to Jesus who is the Way and our All. There are many opportunities waiting for us if we look around and keep our eyes opened.

We spend much of our time in complaining because we are dissatisfied. We long for more happiness, more money, a better house etc. Being happy within ourselves and with all we have will make us more joyful than all the things we long for. It is in Jesus that our joy is complete!

It is always good to forgive others as in doing that Jesus himself forgives us. The past hurt memories may keep giving us sleepless nights but it is Jesus who heals. He even today carries the cross of our sins that is why we all must let go all the old hurt memories and walk with Jesus, Our Lord and Master.

St Paul tells that he lived in Christ, moved in Christ and existed in Christ. (Acts 17:28)

We are called to become the image of Jesus through our lives.

God Bless you all.

- Fr. Elias D'Cunha





Our Lady of the Assumption Novena and Feast celebrations

In this Novena we pay tribute to the Blessed Virgin Mary in asking for her assistance. Through this Novena, Our Lady has provided strength, comfort and even miracles to the faithful for centuries.

The 2014 Novena to Our Lady of the Assumption was one of the most beautiful and well attended in the history of our parish. Every year during the month of August, our parish gets together to celebrate nine days of prayer (Novena) in the presence of the statue of Our Lady of the Assumption, which has a long and colourful history (this wooden statue was found drifting in the river which flows alongside the church and was installed in the then church structure). This statue is placed in our present church structure in our sanctuary all the days of the year. Each year the Novena has a particular theme which is then developed in nine homilies over the nine days. The theme this year was – ‘The Eucharist’. In exploring this theme the preachers during the nine days proclaimed the gospel values, focusing on the importance of the Eucharist in various aspects of our life. The highlights of the Novena began with a personal invitation to all parishioners from our Parish Priest which made a significant impact on the parishioners. The homilies during the nine days were explored in practical ways and the true meaning of the Eucharist for us Christians was beautifully explained. This helped us to identify values and brought meaning to life. The message was summed up in simple words that the Eucharist is a sign of new life to come for all who live with hope. While we live amidst the difficulties of life today, there is hope tomorrow. The choir led by Fr. Byron Mendonça was beautifully planned in English, Hindi, Marathi and Konkani.

On the feast day the church was beautifully decorated and the main celebrant was Bishop Bosco Penha. This mass was special in a way because his Lordship during the sermon brought out the 13 blessings he thought all of us had ignored in our parish -

- Two Priests
- One Seminarian
- Three Religious Sisters
- The Parish School
- The Parish Pastoral Council
- The Finance Committee
- The SCCs (Small Christian Communities)
- The ten active Associations
- The four choir groups in various languages
- The Eucharistic Ministers

He emphasized on the message of Community building, and love for one and other. He passed a very strong message saying to Love and Serve is not easy, we have to pray every day for at least half an hour. The entire service was beautifully organized meaningfully, with the choir singing with gusto and the whole parish participating with fervor. The decorations were aesthetically placed and blended well with the church façade.

The solemnity of the service was beautifully balanced with the celebrations after the mass. A brass band from Bandra was in attendance and as soon as the final hymn was sung the band played various celebratory tunes mostly in Marathi, English and Hindi and the parishioners danced with gaiety for nearly 40 minutes till the Tamil mass began. It was really fun to see everyone dressed in festive finery swirling and twirling to the brass band beats, among them being Fr. Byron and Br. Rocky (their gracious moves and grooves would put any Bollywood dancers to shame). To add to the celebratory mood, coffee and cake was served to all the parishioners. This celebration continued in the evening with a cultural variety entertainment programme, a fusion featuring East Indian, Manglorean and Goan skits and songs. The hall was packed to capacity as all enjoyed the wonderful evening.

Our Lady must have definitely had a smile on her benevolent face as she watched her children celebrate the feast of her Assumption into Heaven with such solemnity combined with gaiety.

Parish Liturgy Team



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Annual Cross Feast – Comm 1 – Sts Peter & Paul | Co-ordinator - Selwyn Miranda

Our Community has four crosses, three of which are located in private properties. The fourth one (which was built nearly a century ago) is on Meurin Street. This cross was in the middle of the road and was shifted by the residents to a more secure spot alongside about two decades ago. Rosaries and prayers are offered at all the crosses but it is during the month of May that the rosary is recited daily at the Meurin Street cross. This year too was no different, except that the celebration was a week earlier i.e. May 25th.

Few members from the community took the lead in organizing the celebration. A sound system with mikes was arranged for the choir, seating for the sick and the old and a few volunteers to steer the vehicles passing by. It was heartwarming to see most two wheeler riders getting off their bikes and walking with it and bowing before the cross as they passed by.

Frs. Gerry and Byron and Br. Leander were present; the Intercessory Rosary being beautifully conducted by Fr. Byron with the choir joining in at intervals to add to the solemnity. After the final song “Let us mingle together” was sung, we all moved to the compound of Marie Villa where the Entertainment Committee and the Catering Committee along with the help of the youth did full justice to filling our stomachs with snacks, coolers and dinner and an enjoyable evening by the village pond, with a lot of fun games and laughter. The Community presented Fr. Gerry with a farewell gift after a short speech.

Even though the music was switched off at 10.15 pm we all continued to chat and make merry till the clock struck 12. Another year, another Cross feast, another occasion for community sharing ... till the next year!

Harold Mendes

Community Feast – Comm 12 - Holy Trinity | Co-ordinator - Neeta Kanchan

Don't wait for opportunities to serve but find them because the peace and contentment received is invaluable”.

With these heartfelt words the co-ordinator and animators of our community started the preparation of our community feast on June 15th. It was indeed a day of festivity, as the members of Holy Trinity community celebrated a day of joy. The Eucharistic celebration at 6.30 p.m. created the right mood with a very meaningful message delivered by Fr. Byron Mendonça, who in his homily explained the Holy Trinity and its mystery - water in 3 states - Liquid, Solid, and Gaseous - but the same water; and beautifully connected it to the concept of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in the Holy Trinity as three persons in one God. The guests of the day's programme, Fr. Byron and Br. Rocky in their address praised and congratulated all the members of SCC and encouraged them to work with more determination and devotion. The vibrant and creative games, the jokes, and the old and the young singing and dancing together and the meal shared together filled the community members with a feeling of oneness. The programme was compered beautifully by Pravin Pereira. A touching vote of thanks was delivered by Neeta Kanchan. It was indeed a memorable evening.

Troy Monteiro



Parents' Day Celebration

The Parents' Day celebration organized by the youth was held on Sunday, 27th July 2014 in the Parish Hall. It began with a thanksgiving mass at 6:30 pm in the church followed by a grand celebration, and was attended by nearly 200 parents.

This year's theme was "Parents: Our Great Wall". The program commenced with the inaugural lamp being lit by Fr. Elias, Fr. Byron, Sr. Catherine and Br. Rocky and was followed by a beautiful prayer dance by the Bandarpakhadi children and youth to invoke God's blessings. The Youth put up a musical that showcased the theme and brought tears to the eyes of many parents. This musical brought to light the ever growing issue of the upbringing of children and challenges us parents to take a step to help our children chase their dreams and guide them along the right path. The comperes did a brilliant job. The ambience, sound, special effects, costumes and the seating arranged was spot on. The backdrop was fairly good. The lovely food added to the enjoyment and the spot prizes and the games added to the fun quotient. The active involvement and the growing number of the youth taking part made this event a grand success.

This year, particularly there have been many events hosted by the Assumption Youth. I am proud that I encouraged my daughter to be a part of the Youth Council.

Looking forward to an increasing number of youth working in union not only at the parish level but at their community level and NYG level as well.

Joanita D'Costa

Vianney Sunday Celebrations

The feast of St. Jean Marie Vianney on August 4, was celebrated on August 10 as Vianney Sunday in the Archdiocese, and the PPC felicitated the priests and the religious of our parish. During the Parish Novena Mass, the Vice President of the PPC, on behalf of all the parishioners, wished Fr. Elias, Fr. Byron, Br. Rocky and Fr. Mario Mendes – the celebrant and preacher at the mass. The entire congregation joined the choir in singing a Happy Feast to them. The PPC councilors on behalf of the parishioners, presented each of them with a shawl.

A get together was also held in the evening and the members of the PPC, heads of associations/cells and community animators attended the function. The priests, brother and nuns were welcomed by pinning of flowers and "aarti" by the parishioners of Bunderpakhadi. This was followed by cutting of a cake by the chief guests and a welcome speech. Group singing, a dance by the Bunderpakhadi parishioners, games for all and music for dancing were the highlights of the celebration. Light refreshments were served in between.

Fr. Elias expressed his gratitude to the PPC, the Associations of the parish and all Parishioners for felicitating him and his team on their feast day and for their support in helping him achieve his plans for the parish. He also expressed his appreciation for the efforts being put by Fr. Byron and Br. Rocky. Fr. Byron briefly listed the qualities of Fr. Elias. The function concluded with Fr. Byron saying the grace. The organizers are grateful to the youth for compering the function and for their help and support in making the function a memorable one.

Selwyn Miranda



Relationship with God

When it comes to value our lives, it is of immense importance to allow the Holy Spirit to transform us into new creations. Actions, which flow from a heart in tune with the Holy Spirit, will have great worth to God. And when we see our Lord face to face in heaven, we will hear these words, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” (Mt 25:21, 23).

God wants us to have a Relationship with Him now and for all Eternity. The heart of the matter for a real Christian, is not to let a single day go by in vain, without putting it to good use for eternity. Jesus said “The Holy Spirit will guide you and that He will Glorify Me, because He will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (Jn 16:14).

It is absolutely essential for anyone seeking God, or who has encountered God at a Retreat, or has been touched by God’s Holy Spirit at any point in their life to keep this fire continuously burning or it may be extinguished by the ways of the world around us. The best way to do this is to get attached to a Prayer Group.

At Assumption Church under the patronage of our Parish Fathers, we have the DIVINE LIGHT PRAYER GROUP that will fulfill this need. We meet regularly every Thursday at 7:30 pm after the evening Mass in the Church. We Thank, Praise and Worship our God with beautiful music, Glorifying Him in song. This is followed by teaching from Holy Scripture by renowned guest preachers on God’s Word and on how to apply it in our lives. We also pray over all the Petitions that are put in the Petition Box. We end by around 9pm.

Every Tuesdays and Saturdays after the evening Mass we have Intercession in the Chapel where the needs of the Church and its people are prayed for. All are welcome.

Every fourth Thursday of the month we have a Special Eucharistic Healing Service where Praise, Thanksgiving, Worship, Teaching and Praying over the sick is included along with the Mass. Anyone and everyone is Welcome to participate and receive God’s Blessings. Come and experience God’s Mercy, His Grace and Love and be blessed, you and your family.

We guarantee, that you will grow in your Relationship with God if you remain faithful to Him.

Divine Light Prayer Group

Add Life To Your Years, Not Years To Your Life

A meeting was held at 5.30 pm on Saturday, 12th July 2014, in the church to discuss the formation of a Senior Citizen group as per the guidelines of the Bombay Archdiocesan Senior Citizen Association (BASCA). The meeting was attended by Fr. Elias D’Cunha and Fr. Byron Mendonça. We had two guest coordinators, Rui Dias and Xavier Lucas from the BASCA core team, Deanery of Borivali, to guide and supervise the formation. A Senior Citizen Association is now active in our parish and our first job is to elect a core committee of 5 to 10 committed Senior Citizens, i.e. President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer and Joint Treasurer, to take care of the smooth operation of the association and to study the needs of members, as per ‘objectives’ given in the B.A.S.C.A. Constitution. We also have to plan the meetings and programmes for the year by preparing a yearly planner. The next meeting is on Saturday, 20th September at 5.30 pm. We request Senior Citizens of our parish to come and join the Association.

John Lucas
Senior Citizen Association



My Pre-Baptism Course Experience

The excitement and happiness was at its zenith and it was then I informed our Parish Priest about the good news that we were welcoming a new life among us. He congratulated us and then at the very next moment asked us to attend the Pre-Baptism course. I asked “one more course”. Anyhow I registered myself for the course and arrived with Sheetal on the said day. I was all along wondering as to what all would be included in the course and who would be conducting it.

The warm welcome received by us was enough to put us to ease. The warmth extended by the team of Stanny, Hemla, Ursala & Fatima was wonderful. All the four sessions were wonderfully spread out each explaining the various aspects right from conception to baptism. The special session given by Ms. Shanti Priya on nursing and breast feeding was excellent, well received and understood.

The role of God Parents was very effectively explained. God parents today are not just called to stand during baptism but they have to play a very important role in the spiritual upbringing of the child. The rites during the baptism in church were also explained in detail. The prayers, the activities done during the course brought out the actual parents in us. It made us feel the presence of the new life among us. The team gave us their own testimonies where in we could experience their joy and happiness and relate the same to us.

It was really an enriching experience that we gained during the four sessions and benefitted immensely from it.

Sheetal & Santosh D’souza | Christ the King Church, Borivali (East)

Experiences of a Confirmation Student during the Rite of Acceptance

Our Confirmation classes began in the month of June. We attended the meeting that was held in our community, with the animators, the co-ordinator and community members present. It began with the Angelus followed by the Rosary and a hymn. Various community and parish events were discussed. The confirmation students were given instructions about their duties and responsibilities towards the community. Snacks were then served and the prayer service for the Rite of Acceptance began. It was the first time that I had attended a community meeting and I felt really nice to be a part of this meeting and get an insight into all the developments and happenings of our community and the parish. It was truly a great experience.

Joelle Fernandes | Community no 15

ASSOCIATION DAY

All the members of our Parish Associations are invited for a get-together and dinner on Sunday 5th October at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. Association heads please confirm the number of members attending at our Parish Office latest by Monday 29th September.

The Parish Fathers, Bro. Rocky and the Sisters wish all our Parishioners a Happy Feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother.



PARISH YOUTH COUNCIL 2014-15

The Assumption Youth Movement (AYM) is divided into 7 NYGs(Neighborhood Youth Groups) according to proximity of communities. The following are the NYGs and their respective SCCs.

NYG 1

Comm. 1 (Peter & Paul), 2 (Assumption) & 3 (Infant Jesus)

NYG 2

Comm. 4 (Little Flower), 5 (St. Joseph), 6 (Mariam) & 7 (O.L Perp Succour)

NYG 3

Comm. 9 (Rosarian), 10 (Jesus & Mary) & 11 (St. Francis Xavier)

NYG 4

Comm. 12 (Holy Trinity), 13 (Shield of Faith), 14 (St. Jude) & 15 (Imm Heart of Mary)

NYG 5

Comm. 16 (Don Bosco), 17 (St. Anthony) & 19 (Emmanuel)

NYG 6

Comm. 18 (Mary Help of Christians), 20 (Divine Mercy) & 21 (Sacred Heart of Jesus)

NYG 7

Comm. 8 (Holy Cross)

OFFICE BEARERS

Vice President..... Thomson Fernandes

Asst. Vice President Carol Fernandes

SecretaryFlavian Vaz

Jt. Secretary.....Scarlett Rodrigues

Nominated Deanery representative Johann Baretto

Youth Co-ordinators of the NYGs are as follows.

NYG 1		
Flavian Vaz	Nerissa Lopes	Alashka Barretto

NYG 3		
Virginia Dias	Vijaytha Ail	Pushpa Nadar

NYG 5		
Natasha Raut	Mercy Kovilpillai	Roy Patrick

NYG 2		
Gillian Saldanha	Johann Baretto	Anaida D'souza

NYG 4		
Swedel D'souza	Maria D'souza	Elvis D'souza

NYG 6	
Zech Dilon	Angela Roy

NYG 7
Yvette D'souza

P Y A T E A M	NYGs	COMMUNITIES	PYAT In-Charge
	1	1, 2, 3	Snedden Ferreira
	2	4, 5, 6, 7	Ivan D'silva
	3	9, 10, 11	Bibiana Estiberio
	4	12, 13, 14, 15	Connie D'souza
	5	16, 17, 19	Basil Martyres
	6	18, 20, 21	Connie D'souza
	7	8	Br. Rocky Fernandes



Vianney Sunday Felicitation at 9 am Novena Mass



Feast Day Mass Celebration - Bishop Bosco Penha



Parish Youth Council (AYM)



Vianney Sunday Celebration



Community No. 12 - Feast Celebration

All community articles and reports of associations to be printed in our newsletter can be send to our new email id.: assumptionlink@gmail.com. Please note the last date to submit articles for printing is Sep 20, 2014.

Published by : Rev. Fr. Elias D’Cunha, Parish Priest - Our Lady of Assumption Church, Kandivli (West), Mumbai 40067
Tel : 28056708/28060042 Email : assumptionlink@gmail.com

Media Team

Editor - Fr. Byron Mendonça | Sub Editors : Harold Mendes, Troy Monteiro & Delphine Estibeiro
Co-ordinator & Public Relations : Joe Kuriakose | Photography - Roy Michael Patrick & Crystal Fernandes
Designing - Royden L. Gomes, John D’Souza & Rupert Sequeira | Website Designing - Basil Martyres

www.assumptionchurch.in

THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ARTICLES AS PER EDITORIAL POLICY. | FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.