EDITORIAL

After our well celebrated novena and feast festivities we are rejuvenated once again to continue praising and glorifying God in all our works.

The month of September we remember our Blessed Mother and continue to seek her maternal blessings and prayers. Mary has been always drawing crowds not only among Catholics but people of other faiths. She continues to draw them to Jesus. We pray that she will protect and bless all our pilgrims. We also remember all our teachers this month, both retired and working teachers for molding and shaping the minds and lives of children. We place on record a warm tribute to all our teachers.

Life is exciting if we channelize our resources accordingly, God has made us all unique and special. Let us not brood over our fears, worries and anxieties but focus on our blessings and God given talents to use them and channelize them for the better. Jesus said (Jn: 10:10) “I have come that you may have life and life in abundance.” May we continue living out abundant, joyful and happy lives.

For our reflection and food for thought, we will go through this story and see what message it gives us personally in our lives.

Once there was a king who received a gift of two magnificent falcons from Arabia. He gave the precious birds to his head falconer to get them trained. Months passed and one day the head falconer informed the king....that though one of the falcons was flying majestically, soaring high in the sky, the other bird had not moved from its branch since the day it had arrived.

The King summoned healers and sorcerers from all the land to tend to the falcon, but no one could make the bird fly. He presented the task to the member of his court, but the next day the King saw through the palace window that the bird had still not moved from its branch. Having tried everything else, the King thought to himself... “Maybe I need someone more familiar with the countryside to understand the nature of this problem.” So he cried out to his court, “Go and get a farmer.”

In the morning, the king was thrilled to see the falcon soaring high above the palace gardens. He said to his court, “Bring me the doer of this miracle.” The court quickly located the farmer, who came and stood before the King. The King asked him, “How did you make the falcon fly?”

With his head bowed, the farmer said to the King, “It was very easy, your highness....I simply cut the branch where the bird was sitting.”

We are all made to fly.... to realise our incredible potential as human beings...But at times we sit in our branches, clinging to the things that our familiar to us. The possibilities are endless but for most of us, they remain undiscovered.

We confess to the familiar, ‘comfort zone’, so most part of our lives are mediocre...instead of being exciting, thrilling and fulfilling...

So let us learn to destroy the branch of laziness or fear we cling to and free ourselves to the glory of flight!! Celebrate life!!

God bless all our works! Jn10:10 Jesus said “I have come that you may have life and life in abundance”.

- Fr Byron Mendonça
PARISH FEAST CELEBRATIONS

Come 15th August, it’s a dual celebrations for us Indians – we attained freedom from the bondage of British rule and celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven, patroness of our parish.

Every year, our church is beautifully decorated and this year was no different. The festive mood was enhanced colourful lightings, white and blue drapes, and flowers. Fr Byron Mendonca left no stone unturned to ensure that the parishioners could feel and experience the atmosphere of a grand feast.

Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes was the Main Celebrant, and Fr Dominic Alves, Fr Byron Mendonca, Fr Predheep svd, Fr Edward Dsouza and Fr Sandip Koshav ofm cap concelebrated the Feast Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Dominic Savio explained about how God gave us his Spirit. He went on to say that the Spirit has provided mankind with intelligence to think, decide and to love, this makes us different from rest of the creation. He reminded the parishioners about the 7 cardinal sins during the novenas and said that God created man in his image and likeness. Moreover, Mother Mary was conceived without sin and lived sinless all her life. We should learn from our Beloved Mother Mary how to live a sinless life. His inspirational homily touched the hearts and enlightened the minds of all parishioners present. Thus, making the Mass very meaningful and solemn.

The well prepared commentary read by Hazel Alphonso took us through the entire sequence of events during Mass. The Choir spearheaded by Richard Mitra ensured that all parishioners participated wholeheartedly in the Eucharistic celebration with their melodious voices and music.

On behalf of the PPC, Ivan D’silva proposed the vote of thanks. Thereafter, Bishop Dominic Savio was felicitated with a bouquet of flowers by Ms Samantha – a representative of the PPC.

After a Spirit filled Eucharist, it was fellowship & celebration time. All our parishioners were treated with a hot cup of coffee and a slice of cake. Everyone stayed back to greet each other and partake in the lively music presented by a brass band, who ensured that the parishioners danced to their tune.

The celebrations was not only restricted to Mass and Brass band Music, the evening for a musical treat conducted by Tony Martins and his team. A fantastic combination of East Indian, Goan and Manglorean music and skits which enthralled the parishioners. The event was well co-ordinated by the ACT, with a host of lucky draw prizes and auction of the cake announced by Joylan Andrade.

The curtains came down with parishioners singing and tapping their feet to the super hit song of the evening “Taka Taka Dum”.

- Praveen Pereira

THE BOMBAY CATHOLIC SABHA “ESSAY COMPETITION 2015”

The response to the Essay Competition hosted by the BCS Team on “What can I do to improve my Locality” was just awesome. The idea was to bring about awareness of the lack of civic amenities that plague our localities and how as individuals we could be instrumental in bringing about a change. The response we got was amazing and we would like to say a big thank you to our parishioners for participating.

We thank the teachers for evaluating the essays and helping us choose a winner in all four categories. The winners were Tanya Cabral, Ancia Pereira, Neomi Raj, Sonal D’souza, Adrian D’cunha, Riana Lobo, Suvarna Amulraj (Marathi) and Nikita Fernandez. Congratulations to all the winners!!!

- BCS Team

IMPORTANT!

The National Eucharistic Congress will be held in our Archdiocese from 12th to 15th November 2015 at St Pius X College, Goregaon. Since it is a national celebration, there will be delegates from all over India for this mega event as the Archdiocese will be hosting this event. Please pray for the success of it. The Holy Father will be sending a video message from Rome. Further information for the theme song & prayer can be taken from www.nationaleucharisticcongress.in
1. Give us an idea about your family and background

I am from a place called Kolar Gold Field (K.G.F), Karnataka. I have an elder sister who is a nun and a younger brother who is married with two little kids. Thus, together with my parents, we’re 8 of us in the family.

2. What were your previous assignments?

I am a newly ordained SVD priest, and this is my first assignment at Our Lady of Assumption parish, Kandivli.

3. How has your stay here been, this past month?

Very enriching and inspiring! I would say that this parish exemplifies “unity in diversity,” with people of different languages and cultural backgrounds living together as one parish family.

4. What is your plan or vision for this parish for this one year that you will be here?

My plan is to promote spiritual welfare through pastoral care.

The Assumption family extends a warm welcome to you, Fr. Predheep, and we wish you the very best during your stay with us!

GETTING TO KNOW BR. REXON MICHAEL

In the rite of ordination of priests the bishop questions the candidates about their intention to serve in the ministerial priesthood. The rite highlights the fact that the life of a priest is intimately linked to the people he serves: guiding, teaching, sanctifying, challenging, healing, struggling with, caring for and praying with them.

Hence, the formation of priests must include this fundamental dimension. Each year the seminarian is exposed to a different type of pastoral activity.

As a seminarian for the Diocese of Simla-Chandigarh (Punjab), I come from Kottar Diocese, a Diocese in the southern part of India. I am doing my theological studies at St. Pius X College, Goregaon.

As a second year theologian, I am sent to this parish for youth ministry on weekends. Though youth ministry is my charism, I do attend other meetings and activities happening in the parish.

I take this opportunity to thank the whole Assumption family for accepting me, and making me feel at home. Especially I thank the priests for their love and support in my formation.

- Br Rexon Michael

OUR MOTHER DOWN THE YEARS

The church was filled with the members of the Assumption Family once again for a spiritual preparation of 9 days to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Assumption more meaningfully. This year our themes were on the 7 Cardinal/Capital/Deadly sins of the Catholic Church and we had 9 guest priests from different parishes preaching in three languages. Our choir comprised of all age groups: children, youth, young adults and senior adults. The highlight of this year were the singing in three languages viz. Marathi, Konkani and English by the same choir. The regular practices sharpened our singing and helped us glorify God. The musicians Bryce, Alex and Joel also helped in adding to the joyful singing. Every day the church resounded with the echoes of ‘Ave Clemens’. May Mother Mary help us to one day truly say, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.’

- Hazel Alphonso
In our Parish, Parent’s Day was celebrated on the 26th of July, 2015. At all the masses, congregations viewed a special video on parents, and special prayers were offered for the parents of our parish, emphasizing the important role parents play in our lives.

The 6 pm mass, was a Eucharistic Celebration that focused on ‘PARENTS - OUR UNIVERSE.’ The theme was beautifully brought out right from the start. Our parish priest, Fr. Dom gave a very inspiring homily. He rightfully observed that the fourth of the Ten Commandments, “Honor thy father and thy mother.” is significant. He stressed the fact that it’s important that children treat their parents well and equally important for parents to treat their children well, too, and spend quality time with them, including family prayer and rosary. To make the homily even more meaningful, Father sang the beautiful song ‘Mother of mine.’ To the same tune, Fr. Dom had composed a song for parents, which he sang at the end of the mass. It was so fabulous that it got everyone tapping their feet!

The Youth did a splendid job with the Liturgy. The selection of hymns and Prayers of the Faithful expressed their happiness and thanked the parents for everything they have done. This Eucharistic celebration was definitely one of a kind and also special as it brought both parents and children together.

On behalf of all the Parents of the Assumption Family a BIG ‘Thank You!’ to the Assumption Youth for such a beautiful, warm, and meaningful Eucharistic Celebration.

- Sharon D'Souza

The programme conducted by the youth for us parents was in every way beautiful (where the small children were concerned) and thought-provoking (where the youth were concerned).

The dances by the kids indeed made few of us parents realize how we have forgotten to brush up our kid’s inert potential under the heavy burden of books and homework leaving them with very little time to pursue their hobbies.

The skit ‘A Mid- Monsoon Day Dream’ was a take on how, ‘Until death do us part’ seems to no longer exist between husband and wife and the priorities of bonding (in good times and in bad – again marriage vows) that no longer seems to exist in most families given the materialistic interests that seem to be of more importance than the basic virtues of love, and mutual respect between parents and children.

The icing on the cake was however the Karaoke Sing – a - long time. County Roads, By the Riv-ers of Babylon, Brown Girl in The Ring and many more, brought back old memories. Here I must highlight my appreciation of Johann Barretto and his team for their persistence in getting many of us parents who normally would not have taken the trouble to travel down memory lane, to sing along to many of the old songs with enthusiasm and gusto. In fact even those who could not walk came forward to sing.

Time flew quickly and it was soon time for Fr Byron to say the grace, a vote of thanks by the youth and a delicious dinner brought a delightful evening to a close.

A line of appreciation to the comperes and all the youth for the wonderful time of joy and togetherness.

- Joe Kuriakose.

REMINDER!!!

We have a Bible study session every Wednesday after the evening mass. The guest speaker is Mrs. Rowena Luis. The session is based on the Gospel of Luke. Kindly bring your Bibles along.
I wish to share a beautiful experience of God’s grace in my life. I resigned from my job last year and was on the lookout for another job. I gave many interviews but things just didn’t seem to work out. I used to get frustrated and angry at little things and an “addiction” became a part of my life. I went for a retreat to Tabor Ashram and at the inner healing session, Fr. Francis mentioned that any addiction stops God’s graces from flowing into your life. I returned home firmly resolving to put an end to my addiction. I continued to have regular prayer time as well as began reading the Word of God. I kept reciting a verse – Habakkuk 3:17-18 (for those in need of a job) with utmost faith. Gradually, everything fell into place; I got a job at a better position and with a higher salary.

This experience taught me:

1. The Bible teaches us to give a tenth of our earnings to God. I put this into practice. My friends helped me generously. I realised that God provides for your needs when you give what’s due to him.

2. God allows problems in our lives for a reason, either to discipline us (as a good parent does) or to give us something which is better and beyond our expectations.

3. Never force your desires on God. Though these desires might provide temporary satisfaction, it will not achieve its purpose as that’s not what God wants for you. Allow him to work his plan out in your life.

4. Always support your loved ones especially when a family member is going through a difficult time.

5. Never lose faith no matter how hard your troubles seem. God will never give you more than you can handle.

6. Always read and meditate on the Word of God. It is ALIVE and ACTIVE (Heb. 4:12).

7. As much as we require support from the family, prayer support helps us immensely to overcome any difficult situation.

- Binoy Joseph, Divine Light Prayer Group
FARE THEE WELL... FR ELIAS

A farewell seems like a last goodbye unlike a fare thee well!

Yes, when the news of Fr Elias’s transfer to Mahad was confirmed, that all too well known sinking feeling was felt by all the members of the Assumption Family. The newly formed ACT decided to organize a low key farewell in the parish hall. But as we got down to the real task of coordinating the show we realized that there was an overwhelming need to have it on the parish grounds just to accommodate the Assumption Family members. Well, we just had a month or so to gear up and the ACT did manage to ACTivate and rope in more members and formed sub teams to take charges of various sections of the farewell programme. The outcome was there for all to see. The church and the compound was packed to overflowing for the farewell mass with Fr Elias delivering a simple yet heart touching homily which brought tears to the eyes of the Assumption family.

Expectedly, the parish grounds too were filled with a large turnout of nearly a 1000 parishioners to attend the function. The various items like the welcome song, the dance and skits by Norman’s troupe and the members of the Kandivli Village, Assumption Village and Bandarpakhadi communities were a treat to behold; as were the tributes by the various Associations representatives including the St Joseph High School headmistress Ms Fatima Pereira.

A special song was performed to welcome our new parish priest Fr Dominic Alves along with a bouquet of flowers. Fr Elias made it a point to wish, thank and embrace each participant/speaker after their respective performance/speech. The highlight of the function was the tree planting ceremony of a Mango tree by Fr Elias in the compound. The programme ended with Fr Elias calling all the Assumption Family children on stage to cut a huge farewell cake.

Fare thee well Fr Elias... may your mission work in Mahad be as fruitful as it was in your short span with your Assumption Family.

- Harold Mendes

Due to lack of space, the above article could not be published in the previous issue.

-Editor

WANT TO ADVERTISE IN THE ASSUMPTION LINK?

In order to defray our expenses, we are accepting advertisements for the Assumption Link.

You may send the Ads. on assumptionlink@gmail.com and payment to be made in advance by cheque only to our Parish Office in favour of “Our Lady of Assumption Church”

The revised advertisement rates from July 2015 are as follows:

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MILESTONES

BAPTISED IN CHRIST

1. 19-04-2015  JORDAN D’SOUZA CHILD /O SYDNEY & GISELLE D’SOUZA
   (COMM NO: 6)
2. 05-04-2015  NILUFER LOBO D/O DADY & MEHROO ELAVIA –ADULT BAPTISM
   (COMM NO: 4)
3. 05-04-2015  ARTI PARMAR D/O LALITBHAI & NIRMALA SOLANKI – ADULT BAPTISM
   (COMM NO: 16)
4. 05-04-2015  LATIKA CARVALHO D/O MOTIRAM & SUNANDA SALVE- ADULT BAPTISM
   (COMM NO: 19)
5. 05-04-2015  SANGITA FALERA D/O SHIVRAM & SARITA MAINGADE- ADULT BAPTISM
   (COMM NO: 13)
6. 03-05-2015  ZAYNE PICADO CHILD OF SHELDON & SHARON PICARDO
   (COMM NO: 14)
7. 03-05-2015  OLIVIA RODRIGUEZ CHILD OF FE-NON & NESLENE RODRIGUEZ
   (COMM NO: 20)
8. 03-05-2015  RENITA KARIKKASSERY CHILD OF ROYAL & ROCHELLE KARIKKASSERY
   (COMM NO: 16)
9. 10-05-2015  GABE SILVEIRA CHILD OF NEIL & PRIYA SILVEIRA
   (COMM NO: 3)
10. 24-05-2015  VIKRANT SYLVESTER PEREIRA CHILD OF PRASHANT & ANITA PEREIRA
    (COMM NO: 12)
11. 21-06-2015  GALAXIAH FERNANDES CHILD OF NICHOLAS & SAMIRA FERNANDES
    (COMM NO: 16)
12. 21-06-2015  GLENN DILIMA CHILD OF FREDY & NIRMALA DILIMA
    (COMM NO: 8)
13. 26-07-2015  SETH VIR CHILD OF RYAN & THERE- SA CARVALHO
    (COMM NO:15)

MARRIED IN CHRIST

1. 17-05-2015  SACHIN SHAMBHARKAR TO FLAVIA GONSALVES
2. 30-05-2015  MANUEL J. MASCARENHAS TO VANDANA L. KHANDANGALE
3. 31-05-2015  LAWRENCE CASTELINO TO DIVYA PATEL

RESTED IN CHRIST

1. 17-04-2015  CASMIR LOBO – 80YRS - DHANU-KARWADI
   (COMM NO: 5)
2. 09-05-2015  CLEMENT ANDREW ATHIPOZHI – 78YRS – SHIVAJI ROAD
   (COMM NO : 2)
3. 11-05-2015  CATHERINE PEREIRA – 59YRS – CHARKOP GAON
   (COMM NO : 14)
   (COMM NO : 18)
   (COMM NO : 4)
   (COMM NO : 15)
7. 11-06-2015  ROMUALD D’COSTA – 88YRS – CHARKOP, SEC 1
   (COMM NO : 13)
8. 28-06-2015  JOHN D’SOUZA – 59YRS – LALJI PADA,
   (COMM NO : 3)
   (COMM NO : 16)
It has been three months since we started the Prayer Tower in our chapel on every last Thursday of the month with the Blessed Sacrament exposed from 6:15 pm and concluding with Holy Mass.

I’ve been very overjoyed by the response which I did not know would be so overwhelming that the chapel cannot contain the people. I know for sure, it has been very fruitful and beneficial to the parishioners as I see it by the response that inspire it being a working day, people leave their offices early or make sure that they don’t take other commitments on the last Thursday. God bless all of you on the completion of three months of blessed, anointed and spirit filled services.

It all began when one of our parishioners Leena Fernandes once mentioned in the previous and at the present Parish Council and at other times too, “Father why don’t we have special healing service every first Friday like Fr Allwyn Misquitta does at Don Bosco, Borivli”. I did not say a complete ‘yes’ because of modalities at that time but the Lord provided the right moment and made it possible in His time. Eventually Fr Allwyn got a transfer and many of our parishioners then did not know where to go. Meanwhile I started a mass with special prayers for healing at the parish prayer group once a month on a Thursday but due to lack of time could not precede it with a healing service. As I said, God provides the right moment and it so happened that we had our newly renovated chapel ready. The ambience at the chapel being so beautiful for such a prayer service made it better and the Holy Mass could be preceded with the prayer service. My team members from our Archdiocesan Lay Association known as International Charismatic Missisionaries of the Fellowship of the Burning Bush - Sanctuary Intercessors were ready to assist me in the monthly services here in our parish. Thanks to Dawson and Joan Gomes and a few others who come month after month assisting me in this special ministry. And as I say, if it is God’s work, He will provide! Ms. Reena from St Francis Xavier Parish at Vile Parle, readily said “yes” to my request and she said “Father I am ready to do God’s work anytime” and with that we now have an on the spot translation in Marathi for the benefit of the people every month.

Thanks to Mr Richard Mitra who also helps in the music arrangements and keeps the last Thursday free to help us in the melodious singing assisted by Joan Gomes.

“I am the God who healeth thee” Ex. 15:26

May the Lord the ‘healer’ continue bless and heal us so that we may always live the way God wants us! Jesus says to us all “Your faith has saved you” Your faith has healed you”! (Lk 7:50/Mk10:52/ Mt9:22/Lk 18:42/Mk 5:34/Lk8:48) Praise the Lord!

- Fr Byron Mendonça

I have received a lot of encouraging messages from many about these services. Some of the people’s messages/excerpts received on completion of three months:

Praise the Lord! Blessed to have you as our Pastor. Please continue to be a blessing as we assure you of our prayers – Hilda Fernandes

Super Great Father! God bless! – Joylan Andrade

No matter about availability of space. The crowd will increase. Parishioners support will strengthen your efforts. Our support and prayers will back you. God bless your efforts – Aurelius Pereira

Thank you for all you are doing – Teaching and helping us to come close to Jesus. God bless you with good health to continue your ministry bringing more and more hearts to Jesus – Genevieve D’Souza

Thank you Jesus for electing, selecting and anointing Fr Byron for a higher call though our Prayer Tower. Lord bless every desire of his heart to bring every sheep not only in our parish but all over the ends of the world and thereby fulfil your call upon his life. Jesus we cover Fr Byron with your protective layer of precious blood and claim perfect anointing in every putreach and Eucharistic celebration. Use him powerfully for your glory... Alleluia - Melvyn Monteiro

We praise and thank God for giving us a truly Anointed and blessed Pastor like you. May God continue to use you to shepherd his flock – Glenn Saldanha

Thank you Father Byron for introducing the monthly Prayer Tower. The healing service has given me peace within and brought me closer to God. The preparation for the Eucharist was also meaningful. May the good Lord bless you and your team – Niramala Sequeira
The history of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount dates back to the 16th century. In 1570, Jesuit priests from Portugal brought the current statue of Our Lady of the Mount to Bandra and constructed the first edifice of Mount Mary’s Church there. This immediately began to attract a large number of devotees.

In 1700, Bandra was invaded by a pirate army of the Muscat Arabs who, hoping to find treasure, attempted to ransack the Shrine. Disappointed at not finding much, they cut off the right forearm of the statue, thinking it was made of gold. They also intended to set fire to the church, but a huge swarm of bees attacked them and they were forced to abandon their evil intentions and leave.

Thereafter, the statue was replaced with a statue of Our Lady of Navigators from the nearby St. Andrew’s Church. Regarding this statue, legend has it that a Koli fisherman had dreamt he would find a statue in the sea. And right enough, between 1700 and 1760, a statue was found floating in the sea. In 1761, however, the original statue of Our Lady of the Mount was renovated and a detachable Child Jesus was placed on it; this renovated statue was returned to the Church and is the statue that is currently placed there.

The current church structure was built in 1904. It received an “independent” status, with its own a rector, in 1943. Two Popes have graced the Basilica, Pope Paul VI in 1964 and Pope John Paul II in 1986.

While some suggest that Bandra Fair was started to celebrate the miracle of the statue being found, floating in the sea, the Fair has been linked to the Shrine almost since its inception.

Bandra Fair refers to the celebrations of the annual Feast of Our Lady of the Mount on 8th September, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Throngs of devotees of all faiths flock to the Shrine to ask of favours and offer thanksgiving for favours received.

The official Feast is celebrated over an ‘octave’, i.e., an eight-day period, from the Sunday after 8th September to the next Sunday. The octave is preceded by a novena, making the Bandra Feast last a total of 17 days! In addition to the variety of stalls with items ranging from religious articles to local delicacies and toys, the thrilling rides at September garden (Mount Carmel Church compound) and visits to friends and relatives complete the celebration of the Feast of our Blessed Mother.

Identify these churches from around the world. Pick from the names provided below.

Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount, Mumbai; Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris; Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni; Church Of The Nativity, Bethlehem; St. Peter’s Basilica, Rome; Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem
FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Prayer Tower - Healing Service and Mass at the Chapel
CULTURAL PROGRAMME