

Assumption Link

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

I GIVE UP!!



Do we give in or do we give up? Lent traditionally is a time to give up something....! We generally relate Lent to self-denial, fasting and penitence. However, there is no agreement on how it should be kept. Many Christians try to give up something: for instance it could be something you like the most..... chocolates, Facebook networking or television. It could be something that you find difficult to do away with. It's even become a period to try and break bad habits. But do these things actually prepare us for the Cross? Maybe! But what if we could give up our time, talents, and treasures not only or for the sake of denying ourselves of material things per se, but to turn them into transformational acts that reflect God's own generosity in sending Jesus to save us. Because, first and foremost, Lent is about the Gospel making its way deeper into our lives. Lent is about living out our union with, and identity in, Jesus.

In this way, Lent becomes a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is this very preparation and repentance that gives us a deep and powerful longing for the resurrection - the joy of Easter. As a parish, we focus on the theme "Growing in Faith". So below you will find 40 things to do daily during Lent. These are merely suggestions, perhaps you can think of more creative ways to engage Lent.

- Day 1:** Commit to spend 30 minutes before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Day 2:** Pray for your enemies.
- Day 3:** Visit a lonely or sick friend.
- Day 4:** Give something in charity.

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- Day 5:** Create a generosity jar (i.e., save money to give away).
- Day 6:** Pray a Rosary for unbelievers.
- Day 7:** Call an old friend.
- Day 8:** Forgive someone.

- Day 9:** Cook a meal for a beggar / homeless while you skip yours.
- Day 10:** Keep some extra clothes for charity.

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- Day 11:** Pay a few sincere compliments to your spouse or family member.
- Day 12:** Pray for your enemies.
- Day 13:** Pray Psalm 51.
- Day 14:** Make a list and thank god for everything you are grateful for.
- Day 15:** Make a list and pray to be freed from every vice that troubles you.
- Day 16:** Read through a Gospel in one sitting.

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- Day 17:** Pray for the Priests and Sisters of the parish.
- Day 18:** Make a private Station of the Cross in your prayer time.
- Day 19:** Fast from all gadgets that you could be attached to - have a gadget free day!
- Day 20:** Pray for your family members - offering some time in prayer for each.

- Day 21:** Continuously pray today "Abba Father, purify me with the Holy Blood of Jesus"
- Day 22:** Do a good deed which you would otherwise not necessarily do.

Day 23: No complaining day.

Day 24: Choose an act of service after reading Mathew Ch. 25.

Day 25: Pray for vocations this day.

Day 26: Identify one negative thing in your life to work upon.

Day 27: Day of sacrifice from everything dear to you.

Day 28: Pray for the broken places in your life to be transformed.

Day 35: Pray this day for government leaders.

Day 36: Gift a Bible to a person of another faith.

Day 37: Spend generous time on each Station of the Cross and being part of it.

Day 29: Prepare for confession by making a list of what you want to confess.

Day 30: Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Day 31: Continuously praise and thank god for everything in your life.

Day 32: Pray for the dead in the family.

Day 33: Tell the Jesus story to a person of another faith.

Day 34: Reflect on the Sunday readings.

Day 38: Offer a Rosary for the souls in purgatory.

Day 39: Pray today that you will be a transformed person.

Day 40: Give thanks for this Lenten season which made a difference to you.

Hope we can make this Lent meaningful, lest it pass off without a change of heart..... and so ...Give Up what you should and don't give up on what you *shouldn't!!!*

- Fr. Byron Mendonça

* Orders are taken for per kgs

Starters :-
 Paneer Potato Chops
 Mince Potato Chops
 Kababs
 Fish Cutlets
 Mince Pan Rolls
 Stuffed Chicken

Rice :-
 Veg Pulao
 Tomato Pualo
 Zeera Rice
 Prawn Pulao



Maria's Kitchen

Good home made food

Pork :-
 Pork Vindaloo
 Sorpotel
 Manglorean Pork
 Pork Chilly

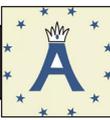
Beef :-
 Beef Steak
 Beef Chilly Fry
 Mince
 Beef Curry

Biryani :-
 Chicken Biryani
 Veg Biryani

Curries :-
 Malwani Chicken Curry
 Manglorean Chicken Curry
 East Indian Chicken Curry
 Mutton Curry
 Mutton Suka Dry

Maria Monteiro
9930088253

**133/23 Sukhsagar CHS, Sector- 1, Charkop,
 Kandivali (West),
 Mumbai - 400 067**



Our Assumption Family seems to be very busy and active ... in the last seven months I have experienced how vibrant this family is. Yes, vibrant with many activities, many cells, many programs, etc. But activities are no guarantee that this Family is closer to Jesus.

We all strive to create activities, create a vibrant parish. But what type of vibrancy are we after? Our calendar dates are full; many a times we say we have no time for ourselves because of the parish activities. But what are we doing to evangelize and catechize our children, our youth and our elders? How can we make more than 90% of the parishioners as active as we are? How and in what way can our parish bear fruits of love, unity, forgiveness, charity etc? You as the representatives of the people - what is your role in getting people back to Jesus?

I personally feel that we must unify our parish life so that our spiritual growth becomes clear and we meet Jesus in each and every person of this Assumption Family. All our activities should lead us to Jesus so that we can become like Jesus in our activities.

Let each and every member of the Assumption Family focus their activities in such a way that Jesus takes first place.

1] From February to April 2015

we will focus on **Faith and Growth**

How can we deepen our relationship with Jesus?

How can we increase our knowledge about the teachings of the Church?



LENT - A GRACE FILLED SEASON

We've just finished putting away our Christmas decorations so it's difficult to believe that Lent is right around the corner. Lent is a season of introspection and so it offers lots of opportunities for looking at the spiritual life, taking up new spiritual practices, and asking ourselves how we can make this season more meaningful. This season is a moment of grace for all of us to make a pilgrimage into our interior life, where we encounter the Lord and open our hearts to His transforming love. During Lent, we have another great opportunity to immerse both ourselves and our Assumption Family into the heart of the season and get ourselves thinking with the mind of the Church. We have such a gift in the 40 days of Lent and the Parish Team along with

How can we reach out to each and every family of our parish and encourage them to read the Bible and say prayers daily?

Can we have a one day book stall?

Can we keep a day of prayer for the priests and the sisters of our parish?

Can we plan some sessions on how to meditate on the Word of God in keeping with the teachings of Jesus and how we can forgive and forget the hurt feelings of the past?

What type of outreach programs can we have for the Assumption Family?

What about our youth? Their faith formation, their future, their education, drug addictions etc., what can we do for them?

My Dear parishioners, to sustain and enrich the faith of our Assumption Family through prayer, liturgy and education, many Lenten programs have been planned in our parish. Please refer to the Lenten program in the Link. In this Lenten season, let us ask Our Lady of the Assumption to enlighten and direct us to the areas of our lives which need the healing and merciful presence of the Lord. May the coming feast of Easter, the journey's end of the season of Lent, renew within us our baptismal promise to walk in the light of the Lord.

- Fr. Elias D'Cunha

the Parish Liturgy Team and PPC have planned to provide us the necessary weapons in order for us to experience the grace of this season and come closer to God and the Assumption Family. So I appeal to each one of you let us give of ourselves; a time to reflect and meditate on the Word of God and convert to the Lord with great sincerity so that God will give us the grace and courage to change our interior life. Let us walk this Lenten-time together with Christ as we participate in various activities planned for us and make Easter more meaningful.

- Troy Monteiro,
Parish Liturgy Team



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Community No 10 - Jesus and Mary | Co-ordinator - Anita Nandoskar

Annual Feast Day celebrations

Every year our community celebrates its feast with a lot of festivity, and this year was no different. Over 100 members from all age group gathered along with Fr Elias and Br Rocky at the Church Hall on 04th January to be part of this dynamic fanfare.

The youth organised interesting games that suited everyone's palate. The young and old were grooving to the scintillating music.

Such celebrations are opportunities for each one of us, as we get time to catch up with each other over our mundane schedule.

- Bhagyapriya Easwaran

Community No 13 - Shield of Faith | Co-ordinator - Fausta D'souza

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas preparations began in full swing in community no. 13 with carol singing conducted by the youth and animators. The melodious voices of the singers brought peace and happiness to each home they visited. Filled with this joy and enthusiasm to welcome our Lord, the youth of our community put up the community crib at Navalai CHS. It represented the nativity scene beautifully. Impeccable creativity teamed with sheer hard-work put in by the youth truly paid off. Moreover, it was also heart warming to see children belonging to other faiths lovingly extending a helping hand towards building the crib. On Christmas day, there was a small party organized for the children with Santa Claus distributing sweets to all the elderly people in the neighbourhood. The rosary was also recited at the crib.

- Rebecca Correia

Community No 15 - Immaculate Heart of Mary | Co-ordinator - Leena Fernandes

Ushering in 2015...

As the calendar turned to 2015, many of our parishioners attended church to start the year on a note of prayer. It is only befitting that we thank the Lord on the last day of the year for the wonderful times he blessed us with during the past year and to do that we had Fr. Byron lead us in prayer and thanksgiving through the holy hour, back tracking our journey during the past year, of How God has walked with us. He made us recall the times when we could not see his hand as clearly as we wanted to and led us in Praise and Thanksgiving for Good times and Bad.

The Altar as always was beautifully decorated with flowers successfully put aside, special prayers for various intentions and the carefully selected

hymns made the holy hour so much more meaningful. Father along with the entire parish also recalled and prayed for the numerous baptisms and the members of the parish who retired from this world which in the true sense made us feel connected. The Midnight mass was followed with a beautiful sermon by Fr. Elias that bound the Assumption Family with hope and fortitude for the New Year.

The Holy Hour and the New Year Mass indeed made us feel that though we may have not felt God's presence as tangibly as we wanted to in the past year, we need to say goodbye to 2014 with gratitude, confident of a better 2015."

- Laura & Jovita Andrade

Community No 18 - Mary Help of Christians | Co-ordinator - Edward D'Cunha

Carol Singing

The members of our community went house to house singing carols and were warmly welcomed by all. The little ones kept repeating Ho Ho Ho with gusto after each carol. Each family was given a card with another family's name and they were told to pray for that family during Christmas. We even had a Christmas party which brought a lot of joy and cheer among us all.

- Edward D'Cunha



Community No 20 - Divine Mercy | Co-ordinator - Espe Dias

Carol Singing

Christmas is incomplete without carol singing and forms a big part of Christmas celebrations. Carols remind people that it is time for them to celebrate and 'jingle all the way'..... that it is a Silent Night Indeed....We went door-to-door and walked around the neighbourhood singing the traditional Christmas carols. Many children of other faith joined us in singing. The Jolly man in red, the Santa Claus, shook hands and distributed sweets to whoever he came across mostly our non Catholic brethren. It was an evening of joy and togetherness. Since Christmas is eagerly awaited by all of us and mostly the little ones, we welcomed our community children for the Christmas party to which 25 children attended this celebration. Christmas tree decorated, lights illuminated and Santa Claus entertained the children with whistles and sweets. We had exciting games for the children followed by snacks and Santa parted with the gifts to the children. The Children went home overwhelmed.

- Especiosa Dias

Community No 21 - Sacred Heart of Jesus | Co-ordinator - Sheila Mathias

Christmas Celebrations and Ringing in the New Year - 2015

The members of our Sector, went around carolling on Monday, and Tuesday 22nd and 23rd December, from building to building trying to cover most of the families in our community. Being a cosmopolitan area, the people of other communities were thrilled to see the little children dressed in Santa caps and all in red outfits portraying the 'Christmas Spirit' and singing Christmas Carols. The people of Sector 08, were given the message, loud and clear. It was Jesus, the reason for this Season!

That was not all, to ring in the New Year, our Parish Councillor and Animators also organised a very enjoyable evening for our community on the 04th of Jan. We enjoyed taking part in the fulfilled games planned for different age groups. "Our shouts and screams during the games displayed our enthusiasm" As soon as the Santa made an entry it was wonderful to see our youngsters so happy and joyful, all having fun intermingling.

Rev. Fr. Elias D'chuna and Bro Rocky made it a point to drop by and be with us, "We were very happy to see them" they both interacted with all community members which gave a real festive spirit to the evening" Fr. Elias encouraged the community members to work together and also Congratulated the Coordinator and animators for their efforts.

Thank you Mrs. Sheila Mathias, our Parish Councillor, our animators and all those who helped to make this day so special for all the families. We really had a wonderful time and hope to see some more community celebrations in future. This Christmas endeavour brought the entire community together, as one family.

- Anil

The Mass for the Old, Sick and Homebound will be held on 14th Feb at 5pm at the Holy Cross Chapel, Bunderpakhadi. Parishioners willing to volunteer their services and vehicles to ferry the sick are requested to give in their names and contact numbers at the parish office.



For the first time we had a "Couples Day" in the parish. When Fr. Elias announced it, I was intrigued as to what the program would consist of and am sure the others were too. Fr. Elias had all bases covered when he announced that couples having children below the age group of 5 could bring them along and he would have them looked after by a separate team so that the couples could be together, and also the spouses of those who were at work outstation or abroad were also welcome.

It commenced with the mass, which included the renewal of vows. The homily was interesting when Fr. Elias mentioned that he wanted to open his heart to us as the head of the Assumption family. He provided us couples with 9 valuable inputs for our reflections which are as follows:

- **Create belonging in your family**
- **Take everyone in confidence**
- **Be honest**
- **Spend time with children**
- **Be the People of prayer**
- **Belong to the Community**
- **Mind your language**
- **Be ready to forgive and forget**
- **Do not watch blue films**

The best part of the mass was when we had to look into our spouses eyes and say "I love You", renew our vows while holding hands and facing each other. Having the option of wishing our spouse with peace, either by bowing with folded hands, shaking hand or hugging, made the mass very meaningful and personal to each and every couple attending.

After the mass everyone was provided with a snack and cold drinks. We then proceeded to the ground where we were introduced to a wonderful charismatic couple Ian & Rita D'souza. Ian and Rita conduct the "Love & Respect" Couples Outreach

program. They enlightened us with some basic facts about the men and women, and how we take things for granted in our lives which then makes us grow apart. They also drew our attention to the fact that it was God who had a plan for marriage and informed us on the related passages in the Bible and what instructions are there for the couples in them. Especially the fact that man is ordered to love the woman and woman is ordered to respect the man ... both unconditionally and under all circumstances (Eph 5:33). Also how conflict in marriage can be expressed in terms of the "Crazy Cycle". This was a very meaningful, insightful and a much required session for all of us. For me personally this was the highlight of the event.

The talk was followed by an entertainment programme, which was on the lines of the "Wedding Reception", ably compered by Troy & Iris. It commenced with the grand march, where almost everyone participated, followed by the waltzes & the masala. This was followed by dinner which was very good and tasty.

As Fr. Elias was in a good mood as he put it, each couple received a free book on "101 tips for a Happier Marriage" along with the copy of the sermon and the talk by Ian & Rita. Bibles were also on sale at a discounted price of Rs.200/-.

All in all it was a fabulous evening where we relived our wedding and I think this time around in a more meaningful way.

And as mentioned in my vote of thanks I would once again take this opportunity on behalf of all the couples who attended, to say a very big Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to Fr. Elias, Fr. Byron, Bro. Rocky and the team that did the arrangements of Couples Day and taking care of the kids. Looking forward for the Couples Day next year...

- Prashanth Pereira

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"

Advertising rates for Assumption Link w.e.f. from November 2014

	Color	B/W
Full	2500	1500
Half	1500	1200
Quarter	1000	800



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

(Some memorable thoughts/quotes by some of the 36 children who received Jesus for the very first time)

- 28th December is a red letter day in my spiritual life. With a lot of curiosity and excitement I started my learning.

- I have started a remarkable transformation in my life to prepare myself to receive the Lord Jesus at the Holy Sacrament of Communion.

- The journey started in June 2014 when our teachers Fatima and Ursula prepared me to receive our Lord. It was not easy for them. They took up the challenge to teach me true Christian values.

- I specially remember an instance when my teachers narrated the story of Prakash to make me understand that I must not count my deeds. I liked this story so much that I narrated this to my cousins as well.

- I relish the teachings of Jesus, that I should forgive my enemies, love my neighbors and above all respect my parents who are God's special gift to me.

- My teachers taught me to use my talents for Jesus who has given it to me in the first place. They taught me many lessons about Jesus. They taught me many prayers. They even taught me how to make my

confession. I made my first confession on the 26th of December'2014 which was a wonderful experience.

- I was taught not only to pray for myself but for every one who needs my prayers.

- My teachers taught me songs, the Ten Commandments and the main thing is when I receive Holy Communion I should keep my heart clean.

- My teachers are like my parents. Whenever they shout at me I don't feel bad because they love me. In my Sun Cat classes there are many children from different schools. But my teachers treated us equally with love and that's why I learnt to make new friends... I retain special indelible memories of the choir singing competition. My teachers Fatima and Judy took special care to prepare us for this event.

- I thank both my teachers for giving me the knowledge of God. And for taking the trouble and having patience with me and training me to be a good Christian.

Thank you Jesus, parents and teachers. I love you all.

- Ursula Miranda

FRIENDS OF THE MISSION

14th
February

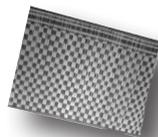
*"I was hungry and you gave me to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me to drink,
I was naked and you clothed me."*

21st
February

Mathew 25:35



Lifebuoy Soaps



Sleeping Mats



Parachute Oil 200 ml



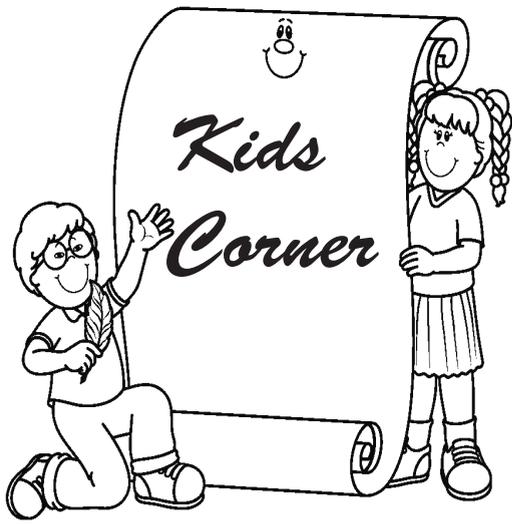
RIN Soaps



Flip Flop Slippers

**CLOTHES: SHIRTS, TROUSERS, SAREES, SALWAR KAMEEZ ONLY
YOU CAN DONATE IN CASH/CHEQUE AT THE PARISH OFFICE**

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers/sisters, that you do unto me"



Fish for Lent - a poor Joe joke!

Joe Glucose was the only Protestant to move into a large Catholic neighborhood. On the first Friday of Lent, Joe was outside grilling a big juicy steak on his grill. Meanwhile, all of his neighbors were eating cold tuna fish for supper. This went on each Friday of Lent. On the last Friday of Lent, the neighborhood men got together and decided that something had to be done about Joe Glucose. He was tempting them to eat meat each Friday of Lent, and they couldn't take it anymore. They decided to try and convert Joe to become a Catholic. They went over and talked to him and were so

happy that he decided to join all of his neighbors and become a Catholic. They took him to Church, and the Priest sprinkled some water over him, and said, "You were born a Baptist, you were raised a Baptist, and now you are Catholic." The men were so relieved, now their biggest Lenten temptation was resolved.

The next year's Lenten season rolled around. The first Friday of Lent came, and just at supper time, when the neighborhood was setting down to their tuna fish dinner, came the wafting smell of steak cooking on a grill. The neighborhood men could not believe their noses! WHAT WAS GOING ON? They called each other up and decided to meet over in Joe's yard to see if he had forgotten it was the first Friday of Lent. The group arrived just in time to see Joe Glucose standing over his grill with a small pitcher of water. He was sprinkling some water over his steak on the grill, saying, "You were born a cow, you were raised a cow, and now you are a fish."

ONE LINERS

**It's hard to stumble when you're
down on your knees.**

**Christians, keep the faith...but not from
others!**

**What part of "Thou Shalt Not"
don't you understand?**

**Satan subtracts and divides.
God adds and multiplies.**

**A clear conscience makes a soft pil-
low.**

To belittle is to be little.

**The wages of sin is death.
Repent before payday.**

**Don't let the littleness in others
bring out the littleness in you.**

**Never give the devil a ride.
He will always want to drive.**

God answers knee-mail.

Forbidden fruit creates many jams.

**Try Jesus. If you don't like Him,
the devil will always take you back.**

This Lent, go back to where you truly belong.

OPEN SECRET
PRESENTS

THE JOURNEY HOME

SEASON 3

A CONCERT
INSPIRED BY THE
WAY OF THE CROSS



**Our Lady of the
Assumption, KANDIVALI**

Sat, Feb 21, 2015

7pm-10pm

Entry FREE.

To know more about Open Secret or
The Journey Home, visit and LIKE
[facebook.com/opensecretofficialpage](https://www.facebook.com/opensecretofficialpage)

DATE	TIME	LENTEN PROGRAMME - 2015
18th FEB		ASH WEDNESDAY
	6:30 AM	Mass In English
	7:30 AM	Mass In English
	6:30 PM	Mass In English
	7:30 PM	Mass In English
	8:30 PM	Mass In English and Marathi (Holy Cross Chapel)
PRAYER CARDS FOR LENT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT ALL MASSES		
ALL SUNDAYS IN LENT		
There will be Special Sermons explaining the 'SEVEN SACRAMENTS' during all Sundays of Lent		
21st FEB	8.00 PM	OPEN SECRET BAND - Preparation for Lent
21st and 22nd FEB		St. Paul Book Stall - After All Masses
WAY OF THE CROSS		
	6:30 PM	Way of the Cross in Konkani - (Every Wednesday followed by Mass)
	7:00 PM	Way of the Cross in English - (Every Friday followed by Mass)
	7:15 PM	Way of the Cross in Marathi – (Every Friday at Holy Cross Chapel)
	7:30 PM	Way of the Cross in Tamil – (Every Wednesday at St. James School)
	10:30 AM	Way of the Cross in Malayalam – (Every Sunday at Holy Cross Chapel)
28th FEB	7.30 PM	Taizé prayer presented by Youth of Vox Anima Choir at Holy Cross Chapel, Bunderpakhadi
COLORS OF FAITH SESSION & FELLOWSHIP FOR THE WORKING YOUTH		
6th MAR	5:30 PM	Speaker Royston Braganza (VP -APC) - Parish Hall
LENTEN MISSION (MARATHI) - HOLY CROSS CHAPEL, BUNDERPAKHADI		
12th,13th & 14th MAR	7:00 PM	Lenten Mission for All in Marathi - Fr. Donald Rodrigues
19th, 20th & 21st MAR	7:00 PM	Lenten Mission for Youth in Marathi – Fr. Donald Rodrigues
LENTEN MISSION (ENGLISH) - CHURCH		
23rd, 24th & 25th MAR	7:00 PM	Lenten Mission for All in English – Fr. Allwyn Misquitta

**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 February 20th, 2015**



Christmas 2014



New Year - Holy Hour



First Holy Communion



Couples Day



Couples Day



Community No. 18 - Carol Singing



**Community No. 21 -
Christmas and New Year Celebrations**



Community 20 - Carol Singing

Ideal Banquet For
Christenings, Holy
Communion
Wedding and all kinds
of Events

Have a Great Party /
Wedding with Great
Food, Drinks & Music
Music Permitted till 12.15

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Decoration & Ambience !!

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