



Assumption Link

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

"BE COURAGEOUS, GO TO CONFESSION"

- POPE FRANCIS

"Everyone say to himself/herself: 'When was the last time I went to confession?' And if it has been a long time, don't lose another day! Go, the priest will be good. And Jesus, (will be) there, and Jesus is better than the priests - Jesus receives you. He will receive you with so much love! Be courageous, and go to confession," urged the Pope.

Why must we go to confession?

Reconciling of man to God is the purpose of Confession. When we sin, we deprive ourselves of God's grace. And by doing so, we make it even easier to sin some more. The only way out of this downward cycle is to acknowledge our sins, to repent of them, and to ask God's forgiveness. Then, in the Sacrament of Confession, grace can be restored to our souls, and we can once again resist sin.

Why Is Confession Necessary?

The sacrament of reconciliation is a sacrament of healing, "When we go to confession, it's for healing: healing the soul, healing the heart because of something that we did to make it unwell." While our forgiveness with God is not dependent on our confessing our sins to others and/or their forgiving us, God does call us to be honest and forthcoming with others regarding our failings, especially when our mistakes involve them.

When we have offended, hurt, or sinned against others, we should seek to offer a sincere apology and confession and ask for forgiveness. Whether the forgiveness is granted is up to those who were confessed to. Our responsibility is to genuinely repent, confess the sin, and ask for forgiveness.

Has confession become outmoded?

Yes acknowledging a popular objection to the sacrament, Pope Francis noted, "Someone can say, 'I confess my sins only to God.' Yes, you can say to God, 'forgive me,' and say your sins. But our sins are also against our brothers, against the Church.

This is why it is necessary to ask forgiveness of the Church and of our brothers, in the person of the priest."

Why should I go to confession?

Doesn't God already know that I'm sorry for my sins?

Certainly God knows when we are sorry for our sins. And since God's only relationship with us is one of unconditional love, whenever we turn to God with a sincere sorrow for sin and a desire to make a new beginning, God is there to meet us with forgiveness. God has given us the sacraments as a way of showing that we are receiving the gift of his love in very real and down-to-earth ways.

What should we confess?

We know we are to confess our sins to God, but many of us wonder whether we need to confess to those we have sinned against. Do we need to tell the person we've sinned against that we're sorry?

"*Walking in the light*" (1 John 1:7) means that we are living in obedience to God's commandments. In the same verse, we have references to forgiveness through Christ and "fellowship one with another." So, there is a connection between having a "clean slate" and our relationship with other people. "*Every sin is ultimately committed against God*" (Psalm 51:4). The Bible consistently emphasizes our need to confess our sins to Him (Psalm 41:4; 130:4; Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9). This does not mean that we are never to seek another person's forgiveness.

The principles here seem to be:

- 1) *We should seek forgiveness from the Lord for every sin. He desires "truth in the inward parts"* (Psalm 51:6).
- 2) *"If our relationship with the Lord is right, then our relationships with other people will fall in line. We will treat others graciously, with justice and honesty"* (Psalm 15).

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Open Secret | The Journey Home



Friends of Raigad Mission members trip to a Mission Station at Rees Village , Raigad



Visit to Shanti Daan



Sale of Books and Religious articles by Daughters of St Paul on Feb 21-22 , 2015



Community 1 - Carnival cum Valentine Day Celebrations



Faith Formation



Induction of Lectors

How can we go to confession and be forgiven when we know we will go out and do the same thing again?

To best answer this question, we're going to look at two powerful passages of Scripture. The first is found in the book of Psalms: *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us"* (Psalm 103:12). One of the most common thoughts that runs through our mind is that our sins aren't really forgiven, despite the promise of God's Word. If we've truly received Jesus as Saviour by faith, and still have that uneasy feeling wondering whether or not there is true forgiveness, that may be coming from demonic influences. Demons hate it when people are delivered from their grasp, and they try to plant seeds of doubt in our minds about the reality of our salvation.

But this Psalm also tells us that God not only forgives our sins, but removes them completely from His presence. This is a profound thing! Without question, this is a difficult concept for humans to grasp, which is why it's so easy for us to worry and wonder about forgiveness instead of just accepting it. The key lies in simply giving up our doubts and our feelings of guilt and resting in His promises of forgiveness.

Another thing we constantly think is that there is no hope, that there is no possibility that we can be forgiven, healed, and restored. We must always keep in mind that there is no place we can go that God's grace cannot reach, and there is no depth to which we can sink that God is no longer able to pull us out. His grace is greater than all of our sin. Whether we are just starting to wander off course or we are already sinking and drowning in our sin, grace can be received. Grace is how we live, how we are saved, how we are sanctified, and how we will be kept and glorified. Let us receive grace when we sin by repenting and confessing our sin to God. Why live a sinful life when Christ offers to make us whole and right in the eyes of God?

"The sacrament of reconciliation is a sacrament of healing,"

Every time we go to confession, God embraces us.

How to make a Confession:-

The basic requirement for a good confession is to have the intention of returning to God like the "prodigal son" and to acknowledge our sins with true sorrow before the priest.

Before Confession

Be truly sorry for your sins. The essential act of Penance, on the part of the penitent, is contrition, a clear and crucial rejection of the sin committed, together with a resolution not to commit it again, out of the love one has for God and which is reborn with

repentance. The resolution to avoid committing these sins in the future (amendment) is a sure sign that your sorrow is genuine and authentic. This does not mean that a promise never to fall again into sin is necessary. A resolution to try to avoid the near occasions of sin suffices for true repentance. God's grace in cooperation with the intention to rectify your life will give you the strength to resist and overcome temptation in the future.

Examination of Conscience

Before going to Confession you should make a review of mortal and venial sins since your last sacramental confession, and should express sorrow for sins, hatred for sins and a firm resolution not to sin again.

A helpful pattern for examination of conscience is to review the Commandments of God and the Precepts of the Church:

- 1) Have God and the pursuit of sanctity in Christ been the goal of my life? Have I denied my faith? Have I placed my trust in false teachings or substitutes for God? Did I despair of God's mercy?
- 2) Have I avoided the profane use of God's name in my speech? Have I broken a solemn vow or promise?
- 3) Have I honored every Sunday by avoiding unnecessary work, celebrating the Mass (also holydays)? Was I inattentive at, or unnecessarily late for Mass, or did I leave early? Have I neglected prayer for a long time?
- 4) Have I shown Christlike respect to parents, spouse, and family members, legitimate authorities? Have I been attentive to the religious education and formation of my children?
- 5) Have I cared for the bodily health and safety of myself and all others? Did I abuse drugs or alcohol? Have I supported in any way abortion, "mercy killing," or suicide?
- 6) Was I impatient, angry, envious, proud, jealous, revengeful, lazy? Have I forgiven others?
- 7) Have I been just in my responsibilities to employer and employees? Have I discriminated against others because of race or other reasons?
- 8) Have I been chaste in thought and word? Have I used sex only within marriage and while open to procreating life? Have I given myself sexual gratification? Did I deliberately look at impure TV, pictures, reading?
- 9) Have I stolen anything from another, from my employer, from government? If so, am I ready to repay it? Did I fulfill my contracts? Did I rashly gamble, depriving my family of necessities?
- 10) Have I spoken ill of any other person? Have I always told the truth? Have I kept secrets and confidences?

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- 11) Have I permitted sexual thoughts about someone to whom I am not married?
- 12) Have I desired what belongs to other people? Have I wished ill on another?
- 13) Have I been faithful to sacramental living (Holy Communion and Penance)?
- 14) Have I helped make my parish community stronger and holier? Have I contributed to the support of the Assumption Family?
- 15) Have I done penance by abstaining and fasting on obligatory days? Have I fasted before receiving communion?
- 16) Have I been mindful of the poor? Do I accept God's will for me?

During Confession

After examining your conscience and telling God of your sorrow, go into the confessional. You may kneel at the screen or sit to talk face-to-face with the priest.

Begin your confession with the sign of the cross, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. My last confession was _____ weeks (months, years) ago."

The priest welcomes you and listens to you

Say the sins that you remember. Start with the one(s) that is most difficult to say. (In order to make a good confession the faithful must confess all mortal sins, according to kind and number.) After confessing all the sins you remember since your last good confession, you may conclude by saying, "I am sorry for these and all the sins of my past life."

Listen to the words of the priest. He will assign you some penance. Doing the penance will diminish the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven. When invited, express some prayer of sorrow or Act of Contrition such as:

An Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell. But most of all because I have offended you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.

At the End of Confession

Listen to the words of absolution, the sacramental forgiveness of the Church through the ordained priest.

As you listen to the words of forgiveness you may make the sign of the cross with the priest. If he closes by saying, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good," answer, "For His mercy endures forever."

After Confession

Give thanks to God for forgiving you again. If you recall some serious sin you forgot to tell, rest assured that it has been forgiven with the others, but be sure to confess it in your next Confession.

Do your assigned Penance.

Resolve to return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation often. We Catholics are fortunate to have the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is the ordinary way for us to have our sins forgiven. This sacrament is a powerful help to get rid of our weaknesses, grow in holiness, and lead a balanced and virtuous life.

(Some parts of the above article are adapted from the book Catholic Questions Wise Answers – Michael J. Daley)

- Edited and assembled by Troy Monteiro)


Community No 1 - Sts. Peter and Paul | Co-ordinator - Selwyn Miranda
Carnival cum Valentine Day Celebrations

As per tradition, our community celebrates the Carnival festival on the weekend prior to Ash Wednesday. We held the celebrations in the compound of one of our community members on Valentine Day at 8 pm with Aleshia Rodrigues welcoming the guests. This was followed by music, dance and games for all. Snacks and drinks were served after each game. During the celebrations, we had a prayer recited for the welfare of all the families in the community, for the comfort of the sick and home bound and the success of the students in our community, particularly those appearing for the Board exams this year. We were happy to have in our midst Fr Elias, Fr Byron and Br Rocky. Fr Elias took this opportunity to address the gathering and share his ideas with all. The celebrations culminated with a sumptuous dinner. It being Valentine's Day, the dress code for the event was Red.

- Selwyn Miranda

Community No 16 - Don Bosco | Co-ordinator - Iris D'Souza
Feast of Don Bosco

The community of St. John Bosco celebrated their patron's feast on 31st January' 2015. It commenced with the Novena jointly organized by the animators and the families at nine homes in the community. The fellowship and interaction after each day was looked forward to by all. The Community joined in the recessional hymn after mass, praising Don Bosco - 'O Don Bosco Saint of Gladness'. There was a celebration in the hall with Fr Elias and Br Rocky attending along with special invitee Lia Sathe. She reminisced on her past interactions with our community. The finale was the masala dance which had the entire community, young and old on the floor.

Dear Don Bosco, be with us; Don Bosco, watch over us; Don Bosco, forever our model be!

- Isabel

Community No 17 - St. Anthony | Co-ordinator - Sagayaraj Kovilpillai
Children's Party

On 12th February, our community no. 17 had a pre-Valentine Day Children's Party at our co-ordinator's residence. Fr. Byron, the children, youth, parents & animators joined in the meaningful prayer for children said by Nirmala. Fr. Byron then spoke to the children and amused everyone with his jokes. Mercy, Jason, Rhea and Adrian organized games for us and our DJ Peter played wonderful music. As Lent was approaching, Fr. Elias gave a short speech to the children on the importance of our church and how to value our parents, which had a positive effect on everyone including the non-Catholic neighbours from the society. We were then served cake and snacks. Prizes were given to the winners of the games. Fr. Elias and Br. Rocky presented tiffin boxes with sweets to 25 children and 6 youth. After a group photo Fr. Elias thanked the co-ordinator and the animators for organizing this party which ended with a prayer thanking the Lord.

- Hazel Abreo / Sharon D'Souza

THE BLESSING OF THE RELOCATED GROTTO AND THE STATUE OF ST JOSEPH AND THE INDUCTION OF USHERS WILL BE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19 (THE FEAST DAY OF ST JOSEPH - HUSBAND OF MOTHER MARY) AT THE 7 PM MASS ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS.

OUR DEAN, FR BARTHOL BARRETTO WILL BE THE MAIN CELEBRANT FOR THE OCCASION. PLEASE COME IN LARGE NUMBERS TO COMMEMORATE THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION!



It was on the 1st of February when I received my Confirmation. After almost a year of preparation, it was the day to receive the sacrament and be a Confirmed Catholic.

What a wonderful day it was! I was so happy to receive the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit! It was a blessing to be able to see the Bishop again hold onto his Crozier as I received my Confirmation Bishop Agnelo Gracias was the Main Celebrant and he gave a lovely message to all receiving the sacrament of Confirmation he said "During Baptism your parents brought you to church for your Baptism.... But this morning, each of you have walked in on your own with pride and great joy and will reaffirm the promises." I hope that I received the gift of courage most, because I know I will need that a lot as I grow up. It was so good to learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit from our Confirmation teachers and I hope that the Assumption family keeps praying for all the gifts to fill our lives.

I remember walking up to the Bishop, who called me by name and asked me, "What is the meaning of your name - and I humbly replied "Handmaid of the Lord" and he responded "Yes be the Handmaid of the Lord" and I was sealed with the Holy Spirit. Confirmation for me means taking up my faith. I took up my faith because I want to be close to God and right now I feel closer to God because of Confirmation. It has greatly increased my faith and will help me preach the Word of God. It makes me feel like my life is completed from Baptism to Confirmation. It was the most amazing day of my life and I will never forget it. On behalf of the entire Confirmation batch of 2014 I wish to thank everyone especially our Catechists, Fr. Elias, Fr. Byron, Bro Rocky and the Assumption Family that came to celebrate the Eucharist with us on our special day.

- Ancilla D'souza,
Confirmation Batch 2014



EASTER HOUSE BLESSING PRAYER

(To be conducted by the Head of the Family. The whole family gathers around the altar at home at a time convenient for all. It is important that all the members of the family are present. Then, preferably the Head of the Family conducts the Blessing Service)

Introductory Prayer: - Dear Lord, this our family has gathered for a very special purpose, namely the blessing of our home. At this moment Lord, we want to feel in a real way your presence. You have said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name there I am in the midst of them." We want this presence of yours to be felt powerfully by each one of us because we want to make you the permanent member of our family. We want you to stay with us always, so that the evil one will have no place in this home.

Blessing:-

Head: - Show us O lord thy mercy, alleluia

All: - And grant us your salvation, alleluia

Head: - O lord hear our prayers

All: - And let our cry come unto you

Head: - The Lord be with you

All: - And with you

Head: - O Lord God Almighty, bless this home. In it there may be health, purity, victory over sin, strength, humility, goodness of heart, greatness and goodwill, full observance of your law of love and gratefulness to you our father. Save from destruction those who have been signed by the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, as once you saved the Hebrews in Egypt and send thy holy angels from heaven to watch over, cherish, protect, be with and defend all who live in this house, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord.... Amen

(After this the Head of the family takes the Blessed water and sprinkles all the rooms with it. After this a hymn may be sung or a decade of the Rosary could be recited)



A VISIT TO A MISSION STATION AT RAIGAD

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating."

That's not a very apt beginning for an article during the season of Lent. But I use this phrase as an analogy to explain our feelings when the core team of our parish's Friends of Raigad Mission visited an area called Killat Wadi in Rees, Mohopara, of Raigad District. I have a cousin Priest, a cousin Brother and two cousin Sisters (one recently deceased) who have been working in Mission areas in India and in Cameroon, Africa. I had "heard" firsthand accounts of their work, but this was the first time that I had occasion to actually be present and "experience" firsthand what "working in the missions" really means.

26 core members accompanied by Frs. Elias and Byron and Br. Rocky made a 3 hour journey by bus on Feb. 19 to the above mentioned area which is one of the 19 Villages looked after by the Presentation Sisters Of the Blessed Virgin Mary. What struck me forcefully at first was that the sisters did not wear the same habits (just simple differently colored and printed salwar kameez's) nor did they have a big cross strung around a thick chain around their necks. Even their convent, Prerna, does not have a name board or any sort of inscription. All this was mainly to enforce the fact that their charisma is upliftment of the poor and not conversions. Each of the 19 villages is in far flung areas with just muddy and stony roads and is isolated in nature. The 15-odd houses in Killat Wadi were built of mud, straw and sticks, and they had the barest minimum of vessels

and clothing. The people mostly belonged to the Katkari tribe, one of the most primitive and isolated group of nomads, whose main source of income is working as bonded labourers in the fields and brick kilns.

All the 18-odd Mission Stations run by the Jesuits and various other religious organizations have been working for more than 25 years and their efforts are slowly but surely bearing fruit. The tribals are educated by local teachers and they are also educated about various government schemes and loans available for their benefit. The locals' knowledge of various herbal remedies is also helping them earn a steady income as the Sisters help in marketing these products as also their handicrafts.

Just a 3-hour journey from the Convent to the Wadi, partly by bus and mostly on foot in the scorching heat of the unrelenting sun left us tired, hungry, dehydrated and more tired. And to imagine that all the priests, brothers and religious in the 18 odd Mission Stations with each Station having 15-20 villages, do this day in and day out, from morning till evening, come rain or shine, cold or hot weather; is mind- numbing to say the least, and at the same time humbling. They are truly following in the footsteps of our Lord by serving the poorest of the poor!

**- Harold Mendes,
Core Team Member, Friends of Raigad Mission**



GOOD HEALTH IS IN OUR HANDS

On 29th January 2015, the Holy Cross Mahila Mandal, Bunderpakhadi, with the guidance of Centre for Social Action (CSA) staff, Mishal Dabre, organized an awareness session to sensitize women on "Health is to be regarded as a Human Rights issue". This session was conducted by Dr. Evelet Sequeira, M.D. who had earlier worked with UNICEF and now currently is a free lancing consultant. The session was attended by 30 women.

In the first part of the session she stated that every women desires to enjoy good quality reproductive health care not only for the sake of her own well being, but also for the well being of our world. She focused specifically on Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer, the risk factors, signs and symptoms and the preventive measures. She also touched upon various other health related issues.

During the second part of the session she focused on Nutrition and Meditation – How to make Food your medicine and not Medicine your food. She engaged the group in some breathing and meditation exercises along with her. She then addressed individual queries of the women present. At the end of the session she gave each woman a flower and asked them to perform an Arati so as to experience the fact that each person is a precious gift of God. All the participants found this session very useful and expressed their desire for more such inputs.

**- Mishal Dabre,
CSA Social worker**



VISIT TO SHANTI DAAN

Some of our Suncats from Std VI share their experiences of their visit to Shanti Daan.

Mecvin Dsouza reports: We, the students of Sunday school Std VI visited Shanti Daan Ashram on Sunday 14th December at 10 am. We were 25 to 30 children accompanied by Sir Stanny, Sir Blaise and Ms. Hemla Dsouza. There we met Brother Francis, who told us about the history and the missionary work done at Shanti Daan. There were many boys and old men; a total of 210 inmates. Most of them were physically and mentally handicapped. Initially, I was scared when the little children came to hug us and wanted to hold our hands. We sang carols and hymns for them. They, too joined in singing some hymns. Later, we all got along so well that many of us forgot our fears and enjoyed playing throw ball with them and had lots of fun with them. Brother Francis took us along the ashram and showed us, the medical room as well as the rest rooms of the inmates. We spoke and greeted many of the elders there. Each one had their own story. Brother Francis also showed us many articles made by the special children of the ashram like wax statues of Mother Mary, wax candles of different shapes and designs, greeting cards, and other art & craft items. We also learnt that many children from Shanti Daan attend school, they speak English, Hindi and Marathi. I too made friends with Mohan, Raju and Ranjeet. The children of my class were generous in contributing clothes, toys, sweets, toothpastes, toothbrushes, soaps and cash to them. We clicked many photographs with them as memories. Indeed it was a memorable day for all of us. By visiting Shanti Daan I came to know how people suffer loneliness, sadness in their lives. I am thankful to God for giving

me good health, loving and caring parents. I promise to always pray for the children of the Ashram that God will grant them good health and fulfill their daily necessities and also bless them and shower His choicest blessings upon them.

Hersch Daruwala speaks: My visit to Shanti Daan has surely changed the way I used to look at life. Now I thank God for all the graces He has given me:- protected life, loving parents and most of all normal healthy environment, which I took for granted earlier. The brothers at Shanti Daan are truly angels sent by God they provide the inmates with food, clothing, shelter and most of all take care of their illness and even dress their wounds. What we children contributed was very less compared to what they needed. I felt very sad and have promised that in my way I will help and contribute to such people in society and in doing so, I would find happiness.

Leah Monterio adds: My visit to Shanti Daan was a memorial one. There were many people with whom we shook hands, even greeted with a smile, spoke to some, and sang hymns for them. At the end, they had lovely smiles on their faces and it didn't look as if they were disabled. I made many friends there. I would like to thank our parish fathers, Brother Rocky, Stanny Sir and Blaise Sir for making this opportunity come true.

- SUNCATS,
06th STD



FAITH FORMATION SESSION

Deanery faith formation for Sunday School Children of Std 7th & 8th was held on Sunday 8th Feb., 2015, at St. Anne's High School, Borivali west. 45 children and 4 teachers from our parish attended the program. There were 7 parishes participating in the program and a total of 210 children were present there. The program began with an ice-breaker where children were divided in groups and had to introduce themselves in their respective groups. A lot of enthusiasm was seen in each group when they had to answer the quiz questions given to them in sheets. The winning groups were given prizes. Children from each parish then presented skits, debates, charts, etc. based on the topics given to each parish on Communication, Mass media, Child labour, Corruption, Pollution, Leadership, and Recycling of waste.

Our parish was given the topic- Child labour. We explained the topic to our children and they were encouraged to speak to people and seek more information through the internet. Our children spoke to the members of the Civic and Political Cell of our parish. Some also talked to domestic helps in their homes, etc. These interviews became an eye opener to our children. They saw many children working in bonded labour. They were shocked to know that many poor children are deprived of education only because the family needs an extra hand to earn, in order to have even one meal a day. They learnt that these children had big dreams and a desire to study in school but because of financial constraint, they were forced in to Child Labour. The information collected by our children was collated and presented in the form of a skit. 24 children enacted different roles in the skit. The others had prepared beautiful charts on the topic which was also displayed along with the skit. Our skit was well appreciated and children performed with conviction. The faith formation session concluded with the Holy Eucharist.

- Stanny D'souza,
Catchiest (SunCats)



INDUCTION OF LECTORS

May the Lord be in my heart and on my lips that I may worthily proclaim the good news of salvation.

It is the mission of a lector to be the channel through which God's Word is made present to the faithful. Just as the Lord is present sacramentally in the midst of the congregation during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, so too is God present in the reading of the Scriptures in the Liturgy of the Word.

Those who proclaim God's Word in the liturgy are ministers. When you answer the call to be a minister of the Word, you enter a deeper relationship with God revealed in Scripture. A reader has the awesome duty and privilege of bringing the printed word to life, making it flesh. Their proclamation enables God's Word to achieve the purpose for which it was sent. In short, they are prophets, ones who speak for God. And as Catholics we believe that God's words find its fullest expression in that one perfect Word – Jesus, the word made flesh.

On the 15th of February we celebrated Bible Sunday

in the Archdiocese of Bombay, The Bible was enthroned and the Lectors were commissioned at the 09:00 am Mass in our parish, Fr Elias made the mass special by asking the entire Assumption Family to stretch their hands and asked them to pray for all the Lectors, he also made it more special as he blessed each of them and as a gift each Lector was given 'God's Word 2015'.

Being a lector is a very rewarding experience. It gives a person a chance to verbally share the word of the Lord with the faithful attending the Mass. It is definitely a faith-filled experience. If you are an adult and feel you may have the gift of proclaiming, please contact our Lector's Coordinator, Troy Monteiro, at 9819135263.

**- Troy Monteiro,
Lector's Coordinator**



The Konkani Missions were conducted in our Parish by Fr. Thomas Fernandes - a Capuchin priest from 23rd to 25th February. Fr. Thomas Fernandes ofm Cap along with his team from Retreat centre Malvan emphasised on topics that ranged from sin and forgiveness to discipleship and a greater intimacy with God through a personal encounter with Jesus. They also explained how Mother Mary intercedes for us and the importance of Family Rosary. All were invited to make their confessions and approach the priests for counselling. A great start to the season of Lent, indeed!

- Gracy Monteiro



The season of Lent is essential for us to understand our call as followers of Jesus Christ and how He suffered on the Cross for our sins. On the 22nd of February, 2015, acclaimed Gospel Band, Open Secret performed on our parish grounds, their Lenten musical, 'The Journey Home.' Based on the 14 Stations of the Cross, the entire concert was solemn in nature. Each of the songs performed by the band led by Macklin Lacerda was curated to make the audience one with Christ through his Passion.

It was a great experience as the music was a treat to the ears. About 1200 people attended the concert.

All in all, it was an amazing evening, sitting under the starlit skies; cool winds blowing and just being enthralled with the guys performing on stage. Those who didn't attend, don't know what they missed.

- Royden Gomes



Senior Citizen Day was celebrated on Feb 07 beginning with mass at 8.30 pm, followed by a party in the hall where we were enthusiastically welcomed by Frs. Elias and Byron and Br. Rocky. Fr Elias began with an opening prayer and a positively uplifting talk on ageing gracefully. All the members took active participation in the games which were fun filled. Lively music lent wings to our feet and we danced merrily to local and western music. A sumptuous dinner followed by some ear pleasing music was a befitting ending to the wonderful time we all had.

- John Lucas



A camp to Risen Christ Church, Khandala, was organized for the youth of our parish on the 7th and 8th of February. We left from church early on 7th, Saturday morning. We enjoyed the lovely bus journey, and the scenic beauty on the way up the hill was mesmerizing. We reached the venue by 10 am and enjoyed the lovely breakfast that was prepared for us. We were then shown around the place.

The camp began with an icebreaker through which we were introduced to many new youth members. We played several other games that were organized by the animators. Br. Rocky shared his life experiences with us and helped us with important career advice. We had a debate post lunch that brought out the views of our youth on "How technology adversely affects relationships." All the youth voiced their opinions and views on how technology has changed our way of living. Fr. Byron concluded the debate, advising us on how to use technology wisely and carefully and how to not allow technology to use us! Through this debate, we learnt how important it is to detach ourselves from all our gadgets and make time for our loved ones. In the evening, we visited Rosary Hill. We clicked tons of pictures there and enjoyed the wonderful sunset.

We headed back to Risen Christ Church where Fr. Byron celebrated mass. The homily was interesting; he asked us to write down any doubt we had in

regards to our faith in God. The mass was followed by a delicious dinner. The best part of the camp was the night walk we went for post dinner. We walked to Rajmachi Point, a place on the hill from where we could see the Mumbai-Pune Express Way, which was beautifully lit. It was an awesome sight!

We rose early the next morning to catch the sunrise at St Mary's Villa. The cool atmosphere and the beautiful scenery reminded us of the magnificence of God's creation. All our doubts were clarified by Fr. Byron during the session he conducted for us on faith. All of the questions we had written down the previous evening were answered. We learnt how important it is to have strong faith and trust in God. Father also clarified our doubts on various other topics such as mixed marriages and life after death. We then celebrated Sunday mass, which was followed by some more fun games. We enjoyed lunch together, and then it was time to head back home.

Although we were sad that the trip came to an end, we were happy that we were a part of it. During this camp, we had the chance to interact with many new youth members. We made new friends, and the camp strengthened the bond between us as a group. We played games, we laughed, we learnt, we had fun. This was indeed a fun formative trip!

- Scarlett Rodrigues

To commemorate the Year of the Eucharist and the Family, on Maundy Thursday ONE Hot Cross bun per family will be distributed after the mass, community wise. There will be 22 counters, one for each community and parishioners are requested to depute one of their family members to collect the bun in an orderly fashion.

While having dinner the head of the family will break the bread (bun) and distribute it to all the family members to symbolize Jesus' last Supper with His disciples.

Please contact your respective coordinators for further details.





know St. Joseph as the foster father of Jesus and the husband of Mary. Of the many qualities that made him worthy of his calling, three stand out:

Compassion: In those times, women accused of adultery were punished by stoning to death. So when Joseph realized that Mary was with a child that was not his, he took compassion and decided to divorce her quietly so that she was not exposed to shame or cruelty – this was before he knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

Faith: Strong faith is characterized by willingness to say yes to God without understanding or knowing the outcome. Joseph believed the angel who told him that Mary was carrying the Son of God – no proof required, no questions asked. He just trusted in God. Again, he did not hesitate to leave every-

to a strange country with his young wife and baby when the angel told him his family was in danger. He did not ask “Why me?” or “What have I done to deserve this?” He simply put his faith in God.

Responsibility: Joseph fulfilled his role as a father and husband to perfection. He worked hard as a carpenter to support his family. Yet, he was there when his family needed him. He celebrated the important days with them. We know that he took his family to Jerusalem every year for the Passover. He took great care of and protected Jesus. When Jesus wandered off into the temple, he joined Mary in her frantic search for Him.

It would be nice to dwell on these qualities, and when faced with similar situations, attempt to react as Joseph did.

Activity: Find 15 words for the article above hidden in this puzzle.

S	P	O	N	M	L	E	O	S	T	T	R	M	H	U	S
R	F	E	C	A	L	L	I	N	G	E	R	O	W	T	B
G	E	N	O	J	E	R	U	S	H	M	E	S	R	C	A
T	I	S	M	O	N	A	F	T	H	I	J	O	L	L	N
G	E	L	P	M	E	T	A	N	M	A	D	N	V	E	Y
K	E	P	A	O	T	F	S	E	N	N	A	R	E	S	A
R	A	P	S	U	N	O	P	D	O	G	O	S	N	A	R
P	J	E	S	U	S	S	Z	N	E	F	M	C	A	M	W
A	N	R	I	S	H	T	I	A	F	A	E	A	D	O	E
S	O	F	O	I	N	E	K	B	R	M	S	E	R	R	N
O	H	E	N	M	A	R	Y	S	I	I	U	T	A	K	G
V	Y	C	A	R	E	N	A	U	C	L	H	M	E	Y	E
E	W	T	L	E	R	T	G	H	I	Y	I	U	T	A	L
R	N	I	G	O	O	S	A	E	N	D	L	T	S	G	O
D	E	O	L	L	C	P	E	N	L	E	E	L	Y	O	G
E	F	N	O	S	H	E	N	F	T	I	N	E	S	S	T

Key to the puzzle

S	P	O	N	M	L	E	O	S	T	T	R	M	H	U	S
R	F	E	C	A	L	L	I	N	G	E	R	O	W	T	B
G	E	N	O	J	E	R	U	S	H	M	E	S	R	C	A
T	I	S	M	O	N	A	F	T	H	I	J	O	L	L	N
G	E	L	P	M	E	T	A	N	M	A	D	N	V	E	Y
K	E	P	A	O	T	F	S	E	N	N	A	R	E	S	A
R	A	P	S	U	N	O	P	D	O	G	O	S	N	A	R
P	J	E	S	U	S	S	Z	N	E	F	M	C	A	M	W
A	N	R	I	S	H	T	I	A	F	A	E	A	D	O	E
S	O	F	O	I	N	E	K	B	R	M	S	E	R	R	N
O	H	E	N	M	A	R	Y	S	I	I	U	T	A	K	G
V	Y	C	A	R	E	N	A	U	C	L	H	M	E	Y	E
E	W	T	L	E	R	T	G	H	I	Y	I	U	T	A	L
R	N	I	G	O	O	S	A	E	N	D	L	T	S	G	O
D	E	O	L	L	C	P	E	N	L	E	E	L	Y	O	G
E	F	N	O	S	H	E	N	F	T	I	N	E	S	S	T



DEAR PARISHIONERS,

BRIGHTEN UP YOUR DAY
WITH A FUN DAY AT THE BEACH

AS WE CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE
EUCCHARIST AND THE FAMILY

LET'S ALL GET TOGETHER AND
MEET OUR OTHER FOLKS FROM
THE ASSUMPTION FAMILY

THERE WILL BE FOOD, FUN
AND GAMES FOR ALL!

THE LOCATION IS ST. BONAVENTURE CHURCH
ERANGAL BEACH (MUDH ISLAND)
@ RS. 100 PER PERSON ONLY

ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS & ALL YOUR
FAMILY MEMBERS TO JOIN

PLEASE FIND THE SCHEDULE BELOW
FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AND REGISTER

WITH YOUR COORDINATORS OR
ANIMATORS AT THE EARLIEST.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE...

THERE ARE SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO CONTRIBUTE

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.

PICNIC SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Communities
20th April	Monday	5, 6, 7, 11
21st April	Tuesday	1, 12, 15
22nd April	Wednesday	2, 16, 18

Date	Day	Communities
23rd April	Thursday	3, 17, 19, 21
24th April	Friday	8, 9, 10
25th April	Saturday	4, 14, 20

Easter Community Masses

Date	Day	Time	Communities	Venue
06th April	Monday	7:00 PM	5, 6, 7	Church
06th April	Monday	7:00 PM	4, 14	Chapel
06th April	Monday	8:00 PM	11	Area
07th April	Tuesday	7:00 PM	12, 15, 20	Chapel
07th April	Tuesday	8:00 PM	1	Area
08th April	Wednesday	7:00 PM	16,18	Chapel
08th April	Wednesday	8:00 PM	2	Area
09th April	Thursday	7:00 PM	17,19, 13	Chapel
09th April	Thursday	8:00 PM	21	Area
09th April	Thursday	8:00 PM	3	Area
10th April	Friday	7:00 PM	8	Chapel
10th April	Friday	8:00 PM	9	Area
10th April	Friday	8:00 PM	10	Area

ADVT.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, you who makes me see everything and who shows me the way to reach my ideals, you who gives me the Divine gifts to forgive and forget all that is done to me, and you who are in all the instincts of my life with me, I in this short dialogue, what to thank you for everything and affirm once more that I never want to be separated from you, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in their perpetual glory. To that end submitting to God's holy will, I ask from you Holy Spirit with Faith..... (Your Request)

Thanks Giving to Holy Spirit all the Special Graces received.

From: Maxim Martha, Jeneve Martha, Melron Martha & Merlin Martha



A workshop was held on Thursday 26th Feb'15 on legal aid against "Domestic violence" with the help of Michelle Dabre the social worker of our parish. The workshop was conducted by Christine (Social activist) who is also a lawyer by profession and working under (MANJLI'S) a social legal aid centre for women.

Christine talked about the **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005** which was brought into force by the Government of India from 26 October 2006. Under this law, women suffering from domestic violence get security, maintenance, compensation, custody for their children, her own things and also right to live in the same house without harassment. She explained more about **domestic violence; that it is not only physical torture but can be mental or sexual as well** and under this law a woman can file a complaint against men only who may be her husband, father, brother, son, brother-in-law by taking help of the police and their legal aid centre.

Further, she also gave information on filing a complaint in the police station of "**D.I.R.**" (**Domestic Incident Report**) which is filed for domestic violence, then "**F.I.R.**" (**First Investigation Report**) on which investigation is carried out. She spoke about "**Zero F.I.R.**" that can be filed by a women or a girl at any police station closest to the incident of molestation,

eve-teasing, rape etc. **Zero FIR is an FIR that can be filed in any police station (i.e.: irrespective of place of incident/jurisdiction) and the same can be later transferred to the appropriate Police Station.**

One needs to take a Xerox of the complaint and file a complaint at the police station where one belongs and the police will have to conduct further investigations. She also informed that **a female cannot be arrested by a police or lady police officer between 7.pm and 7am.** We were also informed that the police helpline number for discrimination against women, children and senior citizens is **103.**

It was very good of Christine to devote her precious time and enlighten us on this issue. We, the women of Bunderpakadi Mahila Mandal, are very thankful to her and our parish social worker for arranging the workshop.

Mentioned below are the contact numbers useful for women who are facing any domestic violence and need help in counseling.

- 1) **Christine:** +919867696123
- 2) **Manjali's Office:** 02226662394
- 3) **For appointment:** +917506732641

- Dipali Philip Vaity

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

	<u>Color</u>	<u>B/W</u>
Full	2500	1500
Half	1500	1200
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LENTEN PROGRAMME - 2015

LENTEN MISSION - MARATHI

7:00 PM March – 12, 13,14 – Lenten Mission for All in Marathi - Fr. Donald Rodrigues

7:00 PM March – 19, 20, 21 – Lenten Mission for Youth– Fr. Donald Rodrigues

LENTEN MISSION - ENGLISH

7:00 PM March – 23, 24,25 – Lenten Mission for All in English – Fr. Allwyn Misquitta

Sacrament of Reconciliation

06:00 PM - 09:00 PM March 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th - Confessions (Guest Priests will be present)

29th March - PALM SUNDAY

6:30 AM Mass in English

7:45 AM Mass in English (Children)

8:45 AM Blessings of Palms followed by procession - Mass in English

11:00 AM Mass in Tamil

5:00 PM Way of the Cross, Veronica singing in English, Sermon and Procession

6:30 PM Mass in English

02nd April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:30 PM Mass for the Sick and aged only

8:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper - Washing of the Feet (Main Celebrant Bp. John)

10:00 PM Holy Hour in Marathi

11:00 PM Holy Hour in English

03rd April - GOOD FRIDAY

7:30 AM Stations of the Cross in English (In the Church)

7:30 AM Stations of the Cross in Konkani (In the Hall)

7:30 AM Stations of the Cross in Marathi (Holy Cross Chapel)

09:00 AM to 12:00 PM 3 Hour Agony of Jesus (Conducted by Bp. Percival Fernandez)

12.30 PM Stations of the Cross in Tamil

6:00 PM Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

04th April - HOLY SATURDAY

8:00 AM Devotion to our Lady of Sorrows

9:00 PM Easter Vigil (Please bring your candles along)

05th April - EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 AM Mass in English

8:00 AM Mass in Marathi (Holy Cross Chapel)

9:30 AM Mass in English

NO EVENING MASS

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Begins on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday at 3 pm. On other days, at 6.15 pm in the Church

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