



HISTORIA DOCUMENTADO DA PAROQUIA DE NOSSA SENHORA DE ASSUNCAO - CANDOLIM

BY HAROLD MENDES

The documented history of the Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Kandivli (West) - 1560 AD to the present.

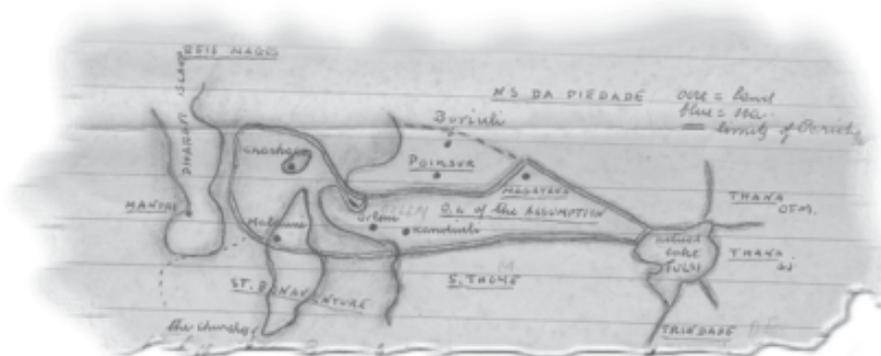
Our parish is one of the oldest in the Archdiocese of Bombay. Sit back and read on to discover its fascinating history and some little known facts.

Introduction

Kandivli, in days gone by, was a small village (hamlet) surrounded by forests, rice fields and a stream (the so called river flowing behind the church) rising from the Kanheri Caves in the Western Ghats about six miles away and flowing into the Arabian Sea near Marve. The Bombay Development Department brought fame to Kandivli; to reclaim the Bombay Backbay, stones and earth were taken from Paran, a hillock, East of the Kandivli Railway Station. On this account a number of dwelling houses were constructed for officers and workmen numbering hundreds. During the boom that followed the First World War (1914-1918) and the inauguration of the Kandivli Railway Station on Jan. 10, 1909, a few years earlier, several Gujaratis flocked to the western side of the Kandivli Railway Station on account of the healthy climate, good water and rural life. A Municipal Body known as the Notified Area Committee was established to look after building, sanitation, lighting and roads. Many Catholics from the parish were members of this Committee, including Joseph F. Mendes (the first non official Chairman), Joseph Braz Miranda, Anselm Miranda and Edward Mendes.

Parish Of Our Lady of the Assumption

Our Parish as we know it today, became an independent unit on **October 27, 1861**; but before that, let us go back into the past for the origins of Our Lady of the Assumption Church. The existence of a Church dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption is very old. Fr. Paulo de Trindade gives some interesting data in his book, **Conquista Espiritual de Oriente – The Spiritual Conquest of the Orient (Lisbon, 1957)**. He states, “This Church was part of the Franciscan Rectorate. In 1630, this Rectorate comprised of the following villages: Magatana, Maluana, Candol, Olvem and Charkopa. Besides a number of babies in arms, there are more than 200 children and 560 adults in the Rectorate”. He further records in his book, “The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption is bound in the North by the Churches of Nossa Senhora da Piedade (now Immaculate Conception Church), Borivli, and the Holy Magi, Gorai ; in the East by the Parishes of Thana (Thane); in the South by the St. Thomas Church, Goregao (Goregaon), and St. Bonaventure Church, Erangol (Erangal); and in the West by the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Manori”. Malwani was not yet separated from the Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption; this took place somewhere between 1630 and 1680. Records also indicate that the Portuguese built the first parish at Candolim in 1560 and it already had canonical status in 1595 when Fr. Gaspar Farras was appointed Rector in the Custodial Chapter of that year. Other authors too like Jose Gerson da Cunha (1844-1900) and Fr. Ernest R. Hull, S.J. (1863-1952), too speak of Candolim in their writings.



Map of Salsette by Fr. G. Schurhammer (1956)

The present Church had a predecessor in a Church of the same name built by the native Catholics in 1630 at Magatana, which was situated about half a mile East of the present Railway station of Kandivli, close to Poinsur. Eryer, who visited the area around 1575, writes, "When we come to the town of Magatana, two separate churches strove to meet us". These two churches must have been Our Lady of the Assumption and Our Lady of Remedy, Poinser. The former was under the Franciscans and the latter under the Jesuits. The Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency (Volume I, Part 2 : 66) speaks of Magatana in this way : "This part of Salcette must have been a favourite one, as, within a mile of this, there were two large churches of Magathan and Poinser standing within a stone's throw of each other and within four miles on the other side of Ghodbunder...." The private building and church at Magatana are no longer traceable, but it continued to be a Franciscan Church until 1739, when they had to leave the island, and it must have probably been destroyed.

The parish then passed into the hands of the secular clergy, but in 1777 it seems to have lost its independence and was joined to the parish of Poinser (Humbert I : 189). From then on, it was under the Vicar of Poinser until about the time of the creation of the parish of Kandivli, when the Magatana church mysteriously disappears from history. A full century before the coming of the Marathas to these parts, it appears that a chapel also dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption was built in the village of Candolim. The chapel was then filial to the church at Magatana. When in 1777, the Magatana parish was absorbed into the parish of Poinser, Candolim and its chapel also passed under the jurisdiction of the Vicar of Poinser (Humbert II : 38). Thus, during the 1600s/1700s, there was a Church at Magatana and a Chapel at Candolim, both dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption. There are no records of the Candolim chapel again until about the year 1853, when Fr. Gabriel Francisco da Silva was appointed Vicar of Candolim (where he remained until his appointment at St. Michael Church, Mahim) on Sept. 04, 1857.

We now come to that part of our church history which not very many people are aware of, and which led to the creation of our present independent Church of Our Lady of the Assumption on Oct. 27, 1861. I refer here to the conflict between the "Padroado" and the "Propaganda".

The meaning of "Padroado" and "Propaganda"

"Padroado" – Padroado is merely the Portuguese word for "Patronage" which essentially consists of nominating a candidate for some ecclesiastical office. Its Spanish equivalent is "Patronato". The genesis of this "Patronage" system could be traced to Henry the Navigator (1394-1460), a son of Portuguese King John I, who obtained special privileges from Popes to propagate the faith in newly discovered territories. Henry founded and led a mission organization called the Order of Christ.

In the almost feverish rush for new countries which arose in Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries, Spain and Portugal took the lead by a long way, wherein Spain had already appropriated the whole of Mexico and Central America and the Western part of South America; and the Portuguese, the coasts of Africa, India, Malacca, Siam (Thailand), China and Japan. Though the territories occupied by these countries were exceedingly small, these points of occupation were enough to give them advantage of first possession which, in those times, carried with it a certain right of monopoly against later comers.

"Propaganda" – Shortly after 1600, it became clear that the Portuguese missionary enterprise was exhausting itself and there was not the least likelihood of really adequate measures being taken towards the conversion of the vast countries of the East which had been

placed under the diocese of the Royal Patronage of the King of Portugal.

Pope Gregory XV established the Congregation of “ de Propaganda Fide “, after he received several reports about major disorders and abuses in carrying out the mission. The Pope understood that the missions, hitherto left under colonial authorities, functioned inadequately. At the same time he was mindful of the immense sacrifices of countless dedicated Portuguese and Spanish missionaries. Hence, the erection (in 1622) of a special congregation “de Propaganda Fide” under which the missionary energies of the various religious orders of other nationalities (i.e. other than Portugal and Spain) could be distributed to all those parts of the pagan world which the existing missionary personnel and resources were unable to reach.

(Note: Regium Placitum – This referred to the claim of the Portuguese Government to exercise censorship on Papal Bulls (documents) Briefs, Decrees or Instructions communicated to the Bishops or the Clergy in such a way that unless they bore the signature or sanction of the King, they could not be legally introduced, accepted, published or put into execution within the kingdom. Thus India and the Colonies were the playground for the Europeans to fight out their rivalries back home. During this time, the Reformation had broken out, and England and Holland had broken away from Rome, with some of the German Princes. The British therefore did not feel obliged to follow the agreements entered into by the Pope).

The conflict

Accordingly, from the year 1622, different nationalities of missionaries and of different orders were enlisted and sent to India, Malacca, Siam, China, etc., proceeding directly from the Holy See in Rome as part of the “Propaganda” programme. These were sent to work in areas/dioceses/parishes which were at least vaguely comprised within the diocese patronized by the King of Portugal (i.e. “Padroado”). Hence, the conflict.

How did this conflict affect our parish?

The villagers of Candolim, numbering about 150 (including parishioners from Valnai, which was affiliated to our parish till 1912), considered the chapel dating from late Portuguese times (1630) as belonging to them, since it was built by their ancestors. A “Padroado” priest, Fr. Elias D’Souza (Vicar of Poinser), was in charge of it, but as he did not visit regularly, the villagers secured a “Propaganda” priest to take over charge (Sept. 25, 1859). The “Padroado” Vicar, however, secured the key and kept this new priest out till the “Sirkar”, on hearing their complaint, secured it for them.

Fr. Elias D’Souza then filed a suit demanding re-admission to the Church (Oct. 1860), but the decision given on Jan. 28, 1861, was a neutral one, viz., that both parties had a right to the church and the court had no authority to settle what priest (“Padroado” or “Propaganda”) was the proper one.

Fr. Elias then appealed to a higher court, but lost the appeal on May 04, 1861. The appeal stated that there was nothing to show that the services should be performed only by what they called “appointed” priests; hence the decision of the lower court was confirmed, with costs to be paid by Fr. Elias. This left the church in the hands of the “Propaganda” party. On Oct. 20, 1861, Fr. Elias came earlier and tried to prevent Fr. Joao Antonio Almeida (the “Propaganda” priest) from saying Mass by obstructing the altar steps. The “Patel”, Roquio Mariano D’Souza, was called in, and a tumult arose, and Fr. Leo Meurin (who was in charge of Candolim at that time, and later Archbishop of Bombay; a street (Meurin Street) named after him still exists today in Kandivli Village) barely succeeded in preventing them from coming to blows. The obstruction continued

till 2:00 p.m., when the people went away. The “Padroado” party then locked up the church and also went away.

The people then appealed to take up the case at law (Statement dated Oct. 20, 1861). A week later, they drafted an “Act of Donation” by which “the Christian Community of Candolim and Orlem resolved unanimously to give over their church with the adjacent plot of land estimated at the value of Rs.790/- as property to the Rt. Rev. Vicar-Apostolic of Bombay”, whereupon, “Rev. Leo Meurin having been deputed by the Pro-Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, accepted the donation”. This Act of Donation dated Oct. 27, 1861, was signed by Roquio Mariano D’Souza (Patel), Fr. Leo Meurin S.J. and 37 parishioners. It seems as if this “Act of Donation” was effectual, for there is no record of further conflicts and no attempt to bring the church to “Padroado” later on. In 1887, the Concordat Settlement left Candolim in possession of “Propaganda”.

Subsequently, there are a few domestic details about a piece of land bought in 1872 and added to the compound; a dispute about the boundaries in 1876 and a false alarm about a road to be cut through the compound in 1887. It has not been possible to trace records about the church which stood in the centre of the present compound and which was demolished in 1995. Questions like, When was it built?, How much did it cost?, Were there any modifications or adornments done later on? may never be answered.

New Ventures

During the tenure of Rev. John A. Gomez from July 1910 to December 1929, many improvements were made and several devotions started, particularly that to St. Joseph. To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the appointment of this great Saint as Patron of the Church, Fr. Gomez had an Oratory erected in the Church compound and established the Sodality of The Blessed Virgin Mary for Men in 1921. The grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes (subsequently demolished and rebuilt adjoining the old church and again demolished in 1995 and rebuilt near the school entrance) was also built during his time. A Reading Room and Library was also established, to which Archbishop Alban Goodier presented several books. Under its auspices, the Sodality conducted debates, dramas and social events. Some of the esteemed office bearers were Ben E. Mendes, Caesar Miranda, Joseph Ferreira, Paul Rodrigues and Aloysius Mendes.

The St. Joseph’s Christmas Saving Fund established in 1916, functioned successfully for many years. The Silver Jubilee Celebration of this fund was held on Dec.23, 1940, with a solemn high Mass at which the founder Fr. J. Gomes was the celebrant. Members with their families numbering about 100, spent the whole day in the Church premises; the programme consisting of meetings, lunch, sports, etc. (The Examiner, 1941- p 78). Tributes were paid to the founder Fr. J. Gomes, the Secretaries, Ben E. Mendes and Michael Mendes, and the Managing Committee, Caesar Miranda, Lawrie Miranda, Aloysius Mendes, Edward Mendes, Joseph Ferreira and Victor D’Silva. On Jan. 5, 1941, “Elopement”, a light comedy in 2 acts was successfully staged by the members of the Girls’ and Men’s Sodality in the School hall in aid of the Parish Church (It is quite possible that the old Church was renovated around this time). Fr. Justin D’Souza, the President of the occasion, complimented the actors for their fine performances.

The Kandivli Sporting Club was established in 1921 for the advancement of Cricket and Hockey. This too functioned for many years, conducting various tournaments like the Annual Cricket Carnival (which continued for more than a decade and then intermittently till the seventies) between the Bachelors and Married men of the three villages of Kandivli, Poinsar and Orlem in the parish and in the neighbouring parishes too. This Club was ably managed and run by Cricket Captain, Ben E. Mendes, Hockey Captain Victor D’Silva, and other office bearers like Aloysius

Mendes, Thomas Miranda and Pat D'Silva. There was also a separate Badminton Club which was started and continued to function for many years. Rev. Thomas do Rosario Almeida was responsible for the great improvement in the choir during his tenure from 1930-34. He was ably assisted by Michael Mendes, the Choir Master cum Violinist for over 40 years. Joseph Almeida was a Sacristan of the Church for over 40 years on payment of Rs.2/- per month.

Miscellany

One tiny bit of information available is that, the Church was renovated in 1948 at a cost of Rs. 21,000/-, of which around 70 % of the cost was met by the parishioners' contributions.

Another bit of information is that the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our Church today was brought from Poincur Church (when?) and kept in our Church and declared as its Patroness, according to tradition. But there is absolutely no documentation or information about who composed and set to music the melodious colloquial Marathi song " Aunkwari Mariae " (printed elsewhere in this Souvenir) which is sung during the nine day Novena preceding the Parish Feast on August 15.

Bunderpakhadi

In 1905, a plot of ground was secured free, from the Government (84' x 52') for a filial Chapel at Bunder Pakadi, a fishing village on the creek towards the West of Candolim, where lived about 100 Catholic Koli and Bhandari fisher folk. Here, a small Chapel was built and the children were gathered together for elementary education in the evenings. The Examiner of Dec. 21, 1907, speaks of a Holy Cross Chapel built by Fr. Joseph Soares, the Vicar of Kandivli, for the benefit of the poor Bhandari and Koli Christians of Bunderpakhadi, about a mile from the parish church. This Chapel is still functioning (and the Feast day is celebrated with great fanfare on the 1st of May every year) and was rebuilt in 1916 through the efforts of Rev. John A. Gomez and subsequently renovated over the years. He also succeeded in building a Marathi medium school there in the year 1921 (now defunct) with the help of Archbishop Alban Goodier, S.J., in 1964.

In the year 1988, the Congregation of the Helpers of Mary established a Convent in the rooms adjoining the Chapel. They were largely responsible for the upliftment and improvement in the quality and standard of living of the Catholics living there. They taught in the school, conducted various workshops for the women and children with the establishment of a Mahila Mandal and Balwadi, educated the men folk about work opportunities, conducted literacy classes for young girls, started the Marathi Youth Choir, conducted Marriage and First Holy Communion preparation courses in Marathi, in addition to helping out in the main Parish by teaching in the Sunday School, visiting the parishioners etc. The village folk still remember with fondness Srs. Aruna, Sushama, Gracy, Mathilda (the laughing nun), Julie, Yvette, Anita and Ancilla (the nun with the guitar) among others. Sadly, they left our parish in 1997 to continue their mission in other more needy areas of India. In the year 2001, the Congregation of The Poor Sisters of Our Lady (PSOL) set up a convent there and continue the same work begun by the earlier nuns; the driving force being the gentle, soft spoken and "always at your service", Sr. Marie Gonsalves. Sr. Elizabeth Gonsalves was the first PSOL Principal of St. Joseph High School, followed by Sr. Fatima Fernandes.

St. Joseph High School

It is very difficult to establish the exact year of the foundation of the school at Kandivli. According to Fr. Ernest Hull, the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption which was at Magatana

had a Catholic population of 272 and 39 children in the school. The first data we have of a school attached to the Church of the Lady of the Assumption at Kandivli is found in the Pastoral Gazette of 1882 which gives the following data:

1882	1 Teacher	10 boys	5 girls
1883	1 Teacher	9 boys	1 girl
1884	1 Teacher	17 boys	-
1885	– 1891 No records		
1892	1 Teacher	24 boys	-
1893	1 Teacher	19 boys	-
1894	1 Teacher	21 boys	-

About this time a building for a school was put up, and so in 1891, Kandivli got its own Anglo Vernacular School, the first such school in the area, and children from Olvem and Poinisar attended it. The Examiner of 1894 (p. 565) states, “ The new school in the Church yard of Kandivli is a lasting testimony to Fr. Nicolao D’Oliveira’s zeal for the education of the youth (Fr. N. D’Oliveira was in our parish from 1874 – 1882, and from November 1890 till his death in July 13, 1894).

Some more statistics:

1895	1 Teacher	21 boys
1896	1 Teacher	25 boys
1897	1 Teacher	14 boys
1898	1 Teacher	5 boys (It was during this time that the Cholera Epidemic and Bubonic Plague was rampant in Bombay)

On Dec. 31, 1899, the School had 18 pupils, of whom 12 were East Indians (including 2 girls) and 6 Hindus. The School was then under the Joint Management of Joseph Braz Miranda and John Caitan Mendes. On the occasion of the Prize Distribution Ceremony, the IX Annual Report was read (the first therefore being read in about 1890-91).

In the year 1900, there was 1 Teacher and 12 pupils. There are no records from 1901-1908. Then from 1909-1911, the Indian Catholic Directory gives the number of students as 7. A survey made in 1916, and published in The Examiner (pp. 83,74), gives the number of pupils as 66, of whom 60 were Catholics (Kandivli – 42, Poinisar – 11 and Orlem – 7). The School appears as a Primary English Teaching School. In 1918 it had lost 7 of its students.

In August 1919 this school was replaced by a new school called St. Joseph School (subsequently St. Joseph High School) through the efforts of the then Vicar, Rev. John A Gomez. In 1928, the school had 43 students on its roll (Catholic boys/girls – 12/12 and non-Catholic boys/girls – 12/7)

In the India Catholic Directory of 1932, 2 schools appear in Kandivli : Parish School – 32 students, Marathi School – 27 students. In the documents of 1935-36, the number of students is 35. The Examiner of Oct. 16, 1926 (p. 502), speaks of a Debate held in the Hall of St. Joseph School at Kandivli.

Another reference we have to St. Joseph School is in the Examiner of 1955 (p. 94), “ Kandivli has not forgotten the late Fr. John A. Gomes and the good work that he has done for the Parish”. His portrait was unveiled in St. Joseph’s Hall and at the requiem mass for the repose

of his soul, Fr. Raymond Mendes, in his eulogy, enumerated his good works : the School building in the Church yard and at Bunderpakhadi, the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Oratory to St. Joseph, the founding of the Sodalities, etc.

The present

Coming back to the parish of Kandivli village, we can judge from the census figures over the last 150 years or so (published elsewhere in this Souvenir) that our parish grew gradually from around 100 parishioners to about 4391 (about 1244 families) at present, with more and more relocating here from South and Central Bombay and elsewhere. Valnai, which was affiliated to the Church of Candolim, right upto the 20th century, was constituted a separate parish on July 02, 1916. Thus, from 1916 onwards, the majority of parishioners was concentrated around the church, i.e., the villages of Candolim and Maroda (Assumption Village). Later on, the geographical area of the Parish enveloped the newly developed areas of Dahanukarwadi, Transit Camp, Mahavir Nagar, Charkop, Babrekar Nagar, Ganesh Nagar, Sanjay Nagar, Iraniwadi, Station Area, Sai Nagar and Bandongri, Hanuman Nagar, Anna Nagar, Thakur Complex, etc., towards the East.

It was as early as in 1987 that the need was felt for a new Church, as the old Church (which was a century old if not more – of course with additions, modifications, renovations etc. being made over the years) could not accommodate the growing number of parishioners. It was at this time that a decision was taken at the Parish Council level to shift the age old graveyard at the front of the church to the rear of the school. After the requisite permissions were acquired, the graveyard was shifted in 1988-89 and which is now being rebuilt and will be inaugurated on Oct. 27, 2011. A proposal for building a new Church was put forward by Noel Murzello, Alban Mendes, Lynn Rosario and Stanley Rebello among others, to the then Parish Priest Fr. Edward D'Souza, but was put on the back burner for some time because of lack of funds and also because a new Parish unit in Kandivli (East) – the Nativity of Our Lord – was set up in 1993, and the number of our parishioners was reduced. But this was more than made up for by the influx of people to the government/private housing complexes in the various sectors of Charkop and other areas. Thus, the new Church project was taken up in right earnest (the details of which are dealt with in another article). The old church, along with the memories it held, was demolished in 1995, paving the way for a bigger and modern place of worship which is pleasing to the eye, both in its architectural setup and in the interior design. The new Church building was blessed and consecrated on June 1, 1997.

On the momentous occasion of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee, the new Cemetery will be inaugurated and the website of our parish will also be launched, thus putting our parish on the world wide web. From its humble beginnings at Magatana, to being part of the Poincur parish and finally standing on its own for the past 150 years, our parish is now a bustling, vibrant, globally accessible Church. But like the poet Robert Frost said, “... **I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep.**”

Note :

1. Names of places and their spellings have been used as they appear in documents and historical records. They may either have been spelt in that form or they may be misprints.
2. A list of the present day names of villages and towns and the names by which they were known as or referred to in the past :

Present Name	Earlier Name
Kandivli	Candolim, Kandol, Candol, Kandolim
Assumption Village	Maroda, Marodi
Bunderpakhadi	Bunder Pakadi, Bunderpakady
Magathane	Magatana, Magathan
Orlem	Olvem, Valnai
Poisar	Poinsar, Poinsur
Malvani	Maluana
Charkop	Charkopa

Sources :

- 1) Bombay Mission History, Volumes I and II by Fr. Ernest R. Hull, S.J.
- 2) Catholic Bombay – Her Priests and Their Training Part II, 1800-1928, Fr. J. Humbert, S.J., Catholic Press (Ranchi), Bihar, 1964.
- 3) Catholic Directory of the Archdiocese of Bombay, 1982.
- 4) “Contact” – Archdiocesan Bulletin, Oct. 1973.
- 5) Ben R. Mendes – Bombay East Indian Association Golden Jubilee Souvenir – 1937.
- 6) The East Indians – Catholic Community of Bombay, Salsette and Bassein – Thesis by Elsie W Baptista, Ph.D., 1967.
- 7) Trace – A Historical Review of ‘East Indian Christians’ by Teddie J. Rodrigues, 2005.
- 8) Historical records of our parish.
- 9) Other sources – as indicated in brackets in the above article.

SESQUICENTENNIAL JUBILEE PRAYER

***H**eavenly Father, we thank you for the abundant graces showered on us during the past 150 years of our Parish. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the efforts of the Priests, Sisters and Parishioners in all these wonderful years. They planted and nurtured the faith of our parish dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption. As we commemorate the 150 years of our parish, we ask your Holy Spirit to guide and bless our families and our celebrations. Strengthen our faith so that we may be united, generous, service oriented and self-giving. May we dedicate ourselves to praying the Rosary daily in our families, thereby bringing peace, love and harmony in the family and society. We ask this through the intercession of our Blessed Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you forever. AMEN.*

Sesquicentennial Jubilee Committees

ORGANISING COMMITTEE :

FR. GERALD A. FERNANDES
FR. CONSTANCIO NORONHA
CLIVE RODRIGUES
MARIA PAUL
QUEENIE MITHRA
SHARON D'SOUZA
ROYSTON PINTO
TREVOR FERNANDES
TREVOR FONSECA
DENIS FERNANDES
EDWARD D'CUNHA
CAJETAN D'SOUZA

LITURGY TEAM :

FR. CONSTANCIO NORONHA
LIA SATHE
SHARON D'SOUZA
LYDIA CARVALHO
JUDITH TENDULKAR
EDNA DHILLON
MAXIE RODRIQUES
JOSEPH FU
JOE KURIAKOSE
JULIANA ABREO
REHEA QUADROS
LAVINA CASTELLINO

PARISH CHOIR :

RICHARD MITHRA

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE :

MARIA PAUL
JUDY RODRIGUES
HAROLD MENDES
ESPECIOSA DIAS
CRENNA D'COSTA
MARK FERNANDES
ISABELLA FERNANDES
LEENA FERNANDES
WILFRED D'SOUZA

SOUVENIR COMMITTEE :

CLIVE RODRIGUES
HAROLD MENDES
PRATIMA GRACIAS
VANESSA FERNANDES

GAMES COMMITTEE :

TREVOR FERNANDES
SHELDON D'SOUZA
ANDREA ROSARIO
JOSHUA FERNANDES

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE :

ROYSTON PINTO
PRIYANKA KOSHY
RIMA QUADROS
EDWINA JAMSON
KRITESH DHILLON
NIKITA FERNANDES

SECURITY COMMITTEE :

DENIS FERNANDES
RICHARD D'SOUZA
PATRICK FERNANDES
NISHA D'SOUZA
AUSTIN VOITY
ROBIN LEWIS
RONALD D'SOUZA

CAFETERIA COMMITTEE :

QUEENIE MITHRA
LORRAINE PHILIP
GRACY MURZELLO
URSULA MIRANDA
VIVEKA FERNANDES
LYDIA CARVALHO
EDNA DHILLON

GROUND & STAGE :

EDWARD D'CUNHA
RICHARD D'SOUZA
VALARIAN PIAS

PARISH WEBSITE :

DENIS BRITTO



Vocations from our Parish

FROM THE YEAR 1901 TILL DATE OUR PARISH HAS OFFERED NINE RELIGIOUS AND ELEVEN PRIESTS/BROTHERS TO WORK IN OUR LORD'S VINEYARD. TWENTY VOCATIONS IN A SPAN OF A LITTLE OVER A CENTURY !

RELIGIOUS	Joined	RIP
1) Sr. Christina Rose Mendes - Convent of Jesus and Mary	1901	1951
2) Sr. Ann Marie (Scarlette Miranda) - Cloistered Carmelites	1962	--
3) Sr. Pamela Ferreira - Poor Sisters of Our Lady	1962	--
4) Sr. Claudette Miranda - Daughters of Saint Paul	1963	--
5) Sr. Mary Laurentia (Judy Rodrigues) - Sisters of the Third Order Apostolic of Our Lady of Mount Carmel	1964	--
6) Sr. Filomena da Cruz - The Mission Sisters of Ajmer	1966	--
7) Sr. Loretta Rodrigues - Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Provincial of Our Lady of the Mount, Bandra	1970	--
8) Sr. Regina Ferreira - Good Shepherd Sisters	1978	--
9) Sr. Rowena Miranda - Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries	1986	--

PRIESTS	Joined	RIP
1) Msgr. Joseph Maria Braz de Souza	18- (?)	1912
2) Fr. Hermenegild Mendes	1906	1963
3) Msgr. Raymond Mendes	1926(?)	1971
4) Fr. Hilary Miranda S.J.	1939	2006
5) Fr. Kenneth Mendes	1954	--
6) Fr. Noel Sheth S.J.	1960	--
7) Fr. Leslie Rodrigues	1961	--
8) Fr. Bosco Remedios	1961	--
9) Br. Malcolm Rodrigues S.J.	1965	--
10) Fr. Trevor Miranda S.J.	1976	--
11) Fr. Ashlyn Chand	2008	--

Note : All the above Religious and Priests are from Kandivli Village, except Msgr. Joseph Maria Braz de Souza who was from Orlem (which was part of our Parish till 1916), and Fr. Ashlyn Chand, who is from Dahanukarwadi.



Vocations from our Parish - Their stories...

EACH OF THE RELIGIOUS, PRIESTS AND BROTHERS HAVE A MARVELLOUS STORY OF THEIR OWN...WHY/WHAT INSPIRED THEM TO JOIN; THE WORK THEY ARE INVOLVED IN; THE TRIALS AND HARDSHIPS OF WORKING IN OUR LORD'S VINEYARD AND THE JOY THEY HAVE FOUND IN FOLLOWING IN OUR LORD'S FOOTSTEPS.

Religious :

1. Sr. Christina Rose Mendes

Sr. Christina Rose Mendes was the first vocation from Kandivli Village. Born on September 12, 1883, she was one of six siblings of late John (Joao) Caitan (1847-1921) and late Anna Frances Mendes, and younger sister of late Michael Mendes (1880-1973) from Kandivli Village. She joined the Convent of Jesus and Mary, Clare Road, Byculla, Bombay, in 1901; made her first profession of vows in Bombay on July 22, 1903; and took her final vows on January 6, 1909. She served the Lord with joy for 48 precious years, and died in 1951. She was buried in the Sewri Christian Cemetery in the section reserved for the Sisters of the Convent of Jesus and Mary.

2. Sr. Anne Marie (Scarlette Miranda)

Sr. Scarlette Miranda is the daughter of late Thomas (Sunny) and late Ivy Miranda, and grand niece of Sr. Christina Rose Mendes of Kandivli Village.

In her own words, *"I heard the Call very early when Prince Charming whistled and I followed. I joined the Carmel of Christ the King Convent, Calcutta, in July 1962. Carmel was my dream. It was the Beauty of Silence that attracted me to the Cloister which grows into a deep mutual friendship with Jesus, daily sitting at His feet in prayer and gazing into His face - praying for all mankind, for those who cannot, will not and have not the time for prayer. Our life is totally Marian centred, is one of silence and prayer. It's a beautiful vocation, never a dull moment, busy, we keep abreast with the world, yet withdrawn. Requests for prayers come from all over the world through emails, phones, letters etc. Our Chapel is peaceful and quiet where people find their solace; it attracts many people of all religions, young and old. Never once have I regretted my vocation. It is beautiful and challenging in spite of a thorn strewn path at times - who does not encounter some of them sometimes? Next year will be 50 years since I left my home to work in the Lord's Vineyard and it has been extremely rewarding and fulfilling..."*



Note : Her sister, Sr. Claudette Miranda, has joined the Daughters of St. Paul and her late

uncle Fr. Hilary Miranda and brother Fr. Trevor Miranda are both Jesuit priests.

For further information, please contact Carmel of Christ the King Convent, 4 Outram Street, Kolkata-700017. Mobile: 9831432612; 9163282913; 033-2287-4050.

3. Sr. Pamela Ferreira

Sr. Pamela Ferreira is the daughter of late Joseph and late Dorothy Ferreira of Kandivli Village. In the year 1962 she joined the Poor Sisters of Our Lady (PSOL) - the same Congregation that has a convent at Bunderpakhadi.

She has been posted at various Convents in Mumbai and at present is at the St. Pius Convent at the St. Pius College (Seminary), Goregaon East.

Note : Her sister, Sr. Regina Ferreira, has joined the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of The Good Shepherd (Good Shepherd Sisters).

4. Sr. Claudette Miranda

I, Sr. Claudette Miranda, daughter of late Thomas & late Ivy Miranda, and grand niece of Sr. Christina Rose Mendes from Kandivli Village, joined the Daughters of St. Paul in Bandra in June 1963 when I was 18, to offer myself in the service of spreading God's Word through the media of communications.



Within two years I was sent to Italy where I completed my formation and Masters in Theology and then returned to India. I was sent to Shillong, a new mission where I was involved in Outreach Missions to neighbouring states to communicate God's Word. Those were my best years as I was young and full of enthusiasm wanting to reach the remotest corners of the North Eastern States with the Word of God. Arunachal Pradesh was the only state where I had not reached as in those years it was a forbidden land for missionary work. Later, I was in charge of the Book Centre as soon as it was inaugurated there. I was then sent to Delhi to offer my services in the Archdiocesan Public Library in the Cathedral complex. Then I was appointed Superior in Nagpur for two terms establishing a new Community, the Book Centre and Outreach Mission. I was then elected on the Provincial Council for two terms and was transferred to Secunderabad where I was in charge of the Book Centre and got involved in the Diocesan work of Basic Christian Communities. I was then appointed as Superior of the Goa Community. When I finished my term there, I was asked to go to Calcutta to take charge of the Book Centre and accounts for four years. While I was there, the community of Vasai was being born and I was asked to come down to Vasai to be one of its pioneers. After three and a half years in Vasai, there was a request to offer my services at the National Office of the Conference of Religious of India (CRI), to take up the media department.

CRIB or the Conference of Religious India e-Bulletin is the prime communication channel of Religious in India. This is published every week at www.religiousindia.org and reaches 1,28,000 religious and 16,000 communities across the country every week. So, I am continuously in touch on our website and all the Catholic Websites searching for the latest happenings in religious and church circles in India and around the world. Through the magazine "Religious India" as Editor, we offer new orientations and challenges to all religious. Besides, at this centre many seminars are held for Major Superiors of religious men and women all through the year. It is a very challenging task to be here and I feel I have gained much personally, socially and spiritually and even become media savvy.

In Bandra, the Daughters of St. Paul have the Provincial House, the Formation House and the Publishing House of the Pauline Publications and Audio-Visual (AV) Productions. Our communities attached with Book Centres are established in all the main cities of India. For us Daughters of St. Paul, the Book Centre is like a Church from where we proclaim God's Word to all who visit us. We also reach out to the neighbouring areas offering the Word of God and other wholesome value-based literature to children and adults, by putting up Book Exhibitions in Schools, Parishes and at Seminars.

Note : Her sister, Sr. Scarlett Miranda, has joined the Carmel of Christ the King Convent, Calcutta, and her late uncle Fr. Hilary Miranda and brother Fr. Trevor Miranda are both Jesuit priests.

5. Sr. Mary Laurentia (Judy Rodrigues)

Sr. Mary Laurentia was born on March 2, 1945, and is the daughter of late Lawrence and late Clare Rodrigues of Kandivli Village.

She joined the Congregation of the Carmelite Religious in 1964. Her entry into the convent in Kerala caused an upheaval in her. She refused to stay even for a day - the food, the people, the long hours of prayers....! No, home life was sweet, less stifling. With great difficulty she succumbed to "just give yourself a chance, (to put it in her own words), Time, reflection and guidance saved me! Today I thank God for calling me". After her early Formation and College studies in Trivandrum and Pune, she spent 4 years in Rome for Religious studies and 1 year in France. She then came back to Trivandrum. Her apostolate was mostly teaching : All Saints' College, Trivandrum - French, Catechism, Value Education, etc. She enjoyed teaching her junior sisters mostly spiritual topics. She was Principal for the last four years prior to her retirement. She was also a member of the General Team for 6 years. At present she is a member of the Provincial Team for Vocations.

Her address : Sr. Mary Laurentia, St. Joseph Convent, 9, Burr Road Kirkee, Pune - 411003.

Note : One of her brothers, Br. Malcolm Rodrigues, has joined the Jesuits and the other, Fr. Leslie Rodrigues, is a diocesan priest.

6. Sr. Filomena da Cruz

Sr. Filomena da Cruz, daughter of late Carlos and late Maria da Cruz, hailing from Goa, was a teacher in a Portuguese school in Silvassa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli. She was in the choir of Our Lady of Piety (Piedade), Silvassa, and also sang occasionally for the choir of Our Lady of the Assumption, Kandivli, Bombay. She worked in an office in Charni Road, Bombay, and in another office in Colaba, Bombay, and also taught in Fatima Devi High School in Malad East, Bombay, before joining the religious life.

She joined the Mission Sisters of Ajmer in May 1967 from the Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Kandivli. She took her final vows in Ajmer in 1975. She completed her teacher's training in Bombay after joining the convent. She has been posted at Ajmer, Bikaner, Deoria, Bhilwara, Mt. Abu, Abu Road, Mapusa, Goa, etc. She is presently posted at Mapusa. She has served the convent in different areas of work, including teaching the K.G and Primary School students.

Since the year 2000, she has been working in the Prison Ministry. She visits the prisoners and interacts with them every Wednesday. Besides this, she also does social work and offers counselling to mentally challenged persons in co-ordination with a psychologist and a psychiatrist.



7. Sr. Loretta Rodrigues



Sr. Loretta Rodrigues is the daughter of late Albert and late Mathilda Rodrigues of Kandivli Village. She was born on Nov. 15, 1947, and along with her six siblings she studied in St. Joseph's School and later on at St. Anne's School, Malad. She has done her B.Ed. and on Dec. 29, 1967, at the young age of 20, she joined the Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (FHIC) better known as Mount Mary Sisters, Bandra. She made her final profession on June 3, 1970. She loves teaching and is happiest with children in the various Mission Centers, guiding and helping them in their studies and various activities.

She has been posted in various centers in India- St. Clare Convent, Agra; Infant Jesus Convent, Manori, Thane; Sacred Heart Convent, Sadashivgad, Karnataka; Shanti Bhuvan, Lucknow; Mount Mary's Convent, Bandra; Jyoti Niwas, Delhi; Ashapad, Dahanu; St. Joseph's Convent, Goregaon; St. Francis d'Assisi Convent, Navsari, Gujarat; St. Joseph's High School, Billimora, Gujarat; and is presently still serving at St. Joseph's High School, Valsad, Gujarat.

She celebrated her silver jubilee on June 3, 1995, and has been of service in the Lord's Vineyard for 44 long years and happily looks forward to serving many more years.

8. Sr. Regina Ferreira



Born on April 23, 1946, to late Joseph and late Dorothy Ferreira of Kandivli Village, she joined the Congregation of Our Lady of the Charity of the Good Shepherd, better known as the Good Shepherd Sisters, on Dec. 17, 1977, and took her final vows on July 16, 1980.

She is presently involved in the following - Animator of a Project for 1500 children called "Chalice-Canada"; Animator for the ongoing formation of the Province of India and Animator for the Provinciate Community. Besides this, she has also been involved in Formation, Caring for Destitute children and Animator of different Communities and has been posted in Mumbai and

presently at Bangalore.

The Congregation of Our Lady of the Charity of the Good Shepherd is an International Congregation having houses all over the world. In India they are present in 7 states and Nepal. Their main charism is making known the merciful and compassionate love of Jesus the Good Shepherd towards women and young girls. They run schools, social centres, homes for destitute children, single mothers and work with trafficked women and children and with the tribals in remote tribal areas.

Note : Her sister, Sr. Pamela Ferreira has joined the Congregation of the Poor Sisters Our Lady (PSOL).

9. Sr. Rowena Miranda - 25 years in the service of God's people

"As I look back from where I have come and who I am today, my heart is filled with deep gratitude and wonder for the way God has journeyed with me..."

She was brought up in Kandivli Village amidst her 7 siblings. Her parents were late Paul and late Bonnie(Bona) Genevieve Miranda.

This is her story in her own words...

My parents instilled values that have been life giving. They were loving, hardworking,

generous and service oriented. My parents were liberal and gave us much freedom. I was a very lively child, more of a tomboy actually. My dad used to call me a "live wire". After my teacher's training I taught at St. Joseph's Convent School, Kalimpong, Darjeeling, and later on at Greenlawns High School, Peddar Road, Mumbai.

I was a member of many of the organizations in the parish - Youth, CLC, SCC, Charismatic group, Choir, Catechism teacher, Parish Council, etc. I was on the core team and steering committee in the diocese for the CLC and SCC. A few of us from the parish formed a service team to help out in the parish and we started with the first official and detailed census of the parish. This opened us up to the length and breadth of the parish and we met almost all the parishioners right from Damupada in the far East to Charkop in the West. We reached out especially to the poor and needy of the parish and organized many programs for the children, youth and senior citizens. We took up social and civic issues too. For me this was a great joy as we reached out to the slum areas in the East and the Industrial Estate area.



I started my own business in dress designing and sewing wedding gowns and the entire decor for a wedding. I realized that I could not cope with a full time teaching job, parish involvement and dress designing and so in 1979, after seven years, I discontinued teaching and focused more on my business and parish work which I enjoyed very much. My years of involvement in my home parish - Our Lady of the Assumption - have helped me decide on my way of life.

A turning point.... A significant milestone...

In January 1985 my mother fell and fractured her right leg. This was a turning point for me. She had to be cared for and so I took time off from my activities and involvements and spent time with her. I had time to reflect on my life and my future. Deep within me I felt a calling and realized that marriage would not fulfill it. It was a calling to service beyond the limits of family life and the parish. I took the time to discern this Calling. Under the guidance and direction of the late Fr. Tony D'Mello, S.J., I was able to speak my truth and own my deepest desire. It was he who introduced me to Medical Mission Sisters and once I decided, there was no turning back. Fr. Tony D'Mello told me that Medical Mission Sisters treat persons with respect as mature persons and give them the freedom to grow as they are. They are non-traditional and pioneers in many areas. Thus I joined Medical Mission Sisters in April 1986 to the shock of most of my friends, priests I knew and even Bishop Bosco Penha. My family members too wondered at my decision. However, my mother was a big support during this time.

From Mumbai I went straight to the State of Bihar - to the poorest and most backward State. The first few months were a big challenge for me. Being a girl from the city, going to the rural area of Maner, Bihar, for my novitiate, was in itself a big cultural shock and I had to adjust to the food, life style, language, dress and values. I quickly adapted to it all and it was here that I grew to be more 'Indian.' The poverty around exposed me to a new reality and I was witness to the gap between the rich and the poor. My deep longing for 'a one world' of peace and justice and fellowship which I had always yearned for, confirmed that I could play a role with like minded groups in effecting change. This deepened my conviction and desire to live a simple lifestyle, and be a counter witness to the materialistic and consumerist world.

My new family - Medical Mission Sisters

My journey as a Medical Mission Sister these 25 years have broadened my horizons,

widened my vision and connected me to people across the whole world. My friends circle has grown and I experience great freedom. I still have contacts with my long time friends in Kandivli and other parts of Mumbai. I professed my first vows on April 23, 1988, in Maner, Bihar. My novitiate was in the context of living with people in a village in the most backward State of Bihar. I started my ministry in a tribal area in Jharkhand - working in the community health department of our hospital there. Living amidst the wonder and beauty of nature I developed a deep relationship and connection with the cosmos. It spoke to me of the changing seasons, life-death-resurrection. I also got involved in the parish- BCC and Youth, and for a short time in the rehabilitation centre for addicts.

I professed my Vows for Life on April 23, 1994, in our parish church - Our Lady of the Assumption, Kandivli.

In July 1994, I was back in Holy Family Hospital, Mandar, Bihar assigned to the dietary department. It was a new area for me. Handling the kitchen staff and trying to set some discipline was a big challenge. I learnt that working 'with' the employees is a big help rather than playing the 'in charge' role. I completed my Bachelor's degree in Theology through Vidyajyoti, Delhi. I was Formation Coordinator of our province from January 1999 - December 2003. My teaching profession was a big help here as I had to teach the women who came to join us and also accompany them on their journey to be Medical Mission Sisters. I was in the USA from 2005-2007 to train in spiritual direction/ personal transformation at the Institute for Spiritual Leadership, and Masters in Pastoral Studies + Financial Management at Loyola University, Chicago. I am now entrusted with the responsibility of leadership as Provincial of the North India Province which includes States from Goa to Delhi. Hence, I have a lot of traveling to do. I am also appointed as one of the finance team members for our Society at the central level. I am currently based in Pune.

My daily prayer is the 'Serenity Prayer'

Medical Mission Sisters (a short history)

Medical Mission Sisters is a Catholic religious international congregation. We were founded in the United States of America on September 30, 1925, by an Austrian woman - Mother Anna Dengel. Our Charism is "called to be a HEALING presence in a wounded world." We are sisters of different cultures and 22 nationalities working in India and around the world. Our various ministries are hospitals, community health, work with HIV/ AIDS patients, cancer patients, street children, the homeless, drug/alcohol addicts, holistic health centres (education and healing without allopathic medicines), retreat work, counseling, SCC, slums and in justice issues. Our thrust is to the poor and marginalized people with a focus on women and children.

I am grateful for my CALL to religious life and it is a joy to be part of the Medical Mission Sisters' family.

I continue to say 'THANKS' to all that has been and I say 'YES' to what will be.

Sr. Rowena Miranda, Medical Mission Sisters, Bibwewadi, Pune 411037. Ph: 020- 24230037 (mobile - 9422892136) Email: rowenamir@gmail.com

Note : Sr. Rowena Miranda is the grand niece of Sr. Christina Rose Mendes; cousin of Sr. Scarlett Miranda, Sr. Claudette Miranda, Fr. Trevor Miranda and Fr. Noel Sheth, all of Kandivli Village.

Priests :

1. Fr. Joseph Maria Braz de Souza

Born in the village of Orlem (which was a part of our parish till 1912), Fr. Joseph Maria Braz de Souza, of the principal family of Valnai (Orlem), a former chaplain of military forces at Satara from 1861 to 1886 built, at his own expense, a private chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes at Orlem Village (then a hamlet of just about 12 families) in the year 1880.

In 1908, Fr. D'Souza was elevated to the dignity of CAMARIERE SEGREDO EXTRA URBEM to Pope Pius X. He died in December 1912 and was buried in the sanctuary of the chapel at Orlem, that he built.



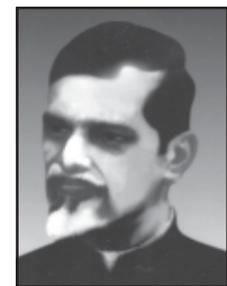
- Website of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem.

2. Fr. Hermenegild Francis Mendes

Fr. Hermenegild Mendes, born on January 1, 1880, was the eldest son of late Maria Francisca (of Gorai) and late Daniel Mendes, residing at Meurin Street, Kandivli Village. His father Daniel oversaw the family farms and was also the head clerk in the collector's office. He had two older sisters, Lucy and Leopoldine. His younger brother, Paul Mendes, retired as the Food Ministry Secretary in the Bombay Presidency. His youngest brother, George Mendes, did his MBBS from Grant Medical College and was Kandivli's first qualified doctor.

Hermenegild studied at St. Mary's High School, Byculla. He completed his matriculation from Bombay University, staying with his mother's relatives who had shifted to Mazagon. He joined St. Xavier's College and completed his Bachelor of Arts in Botany in 1902. His love for Botany continued during his priestly years and he often conducted nature sessions for his young relatives and neighbouring children with the aid of a microscope that was his cherished possession.

He served in the Bombay Secretariat from 1902-06 and rose to be the first Indian Under Secretary in the then Bombay Presidency. He left a promising public career and studied in the seminaries at Mangalore and Kandy, Ceylon, where he was ordained a priest on 23 rd March, 1912, by Archbishop Jurgens S.J. He served in various parishes, including Mahim, Mazagaon, the Cathedral at Bhuleshwar and St. Theresa's Chapel, Girgaum. He also served as parish priest of Juhu, Culvem, Vakola, Orlem and Manikpur (Bassein) parishes, and as Chaplain at the Rescue Home, Kandivli. In his later years, he suffered from severe rheumatism and opted for early retirement in the year 1937, retiring to the family house at 64, Meurin Street, Kandivli Village. He had very strong ethnic feelings and insisted that his relatives and local friends admit and register that they were of Maratha stock and their mother tongue was Marathi. He was also instrumental in the carving out of the Orlem parish from our parish on July 02, 1916. He also aided a monthly journal styled the Bombay Watchman, which was printed and published from May 1911 to April 1916, with literary and financial contributions. The object of the journal was mainly to advocate the abolition of the Portuguese Padroado. He patiently waited for the setting up of the Clergy Home at Bandra, and was one of its first entrants. He died on July 19, 1963, at the Clergy Home and was buried at St. Andrews Church cemetery.



- Austin Mendes

3. Msgr. Raymond Mendes



Msgr. Raymond Mendes followed his cousin Fr. Hermenegild Mendes and joined the Seminary in 1926 (?). He was the son of late Joseph and late Rita Mendes of Kandivli Village. He possessed a strong physique and like so many of his fellow Mendes' from the village, he revelled and excelled in Hockey and Cricket at St. Stanislaus, Bandra. In those halcyon days, green Kandivli had lots of open spaces for hunting, fishing, swimming and bare back horse riding on horses left loose for grazing. This hard build of his stood him in good stead during his pastoral life at Holy Cross Church, Nirmal (Bassein), St. Francis Xavier Church, Vile Parle West, Holy Spirit Church, Nandakhal, Bassein, and San Thome (St. Thomas) Church, Sandor, Bassein. During those days priests had to walk miles over so called roads and fields and marshy lands. During the rainy season one funeral from a village half a mile away would wear out the stoutest of shoes. The priest would return after a couple of hours utterly spent. The lives of the people in Bassein were mostly concentrated around the household chores and the family fields and plantations. They got up early at 4 am and did all the work themselves. The women folk would carry the produce on their heads and go to far away areas by train to sell it. Fr. Raymond and other priests of the area sensed and foresaw that without education the local people would remain mired in their misery and poverty. Primary education was fine but there were hardly any children coming to school as they were needed to work in the fields. Fr. Balaguer, the then Vicar General of the Bombay Diocese, issued a "fiat" that every church should have a primary school at least. Fr. Raymond lived, worked and wound up his mission and life all the time in the parishes at Bassein, barring a few years at Vile Parle. Kandivli can boast that its son was one of the great builders of Bassein (especially in the field of education), whose people are the first to acknowledge this and to this day hold his name in benediction. He expired on Feb. 20, 1971, and was interred in a special grave in a leafy glade next to the side porch of the old church.

Note : His nephew Fr. Kenneth Mendes is a retired diocesan priest.

- Fr. Kenneth Mendes

4. Fr. Hilary Miranda



Born : 14th January 1923

Joined the Society of Jesus (S.J.) : 20th June 1939

Ordained: 24th March 1954

Back to the Lord: 22nd August 2006

A life of abundance, a holy man, a great educationist, a spirit filled good leader, humble and self-effacing... words that best describe Fr. Hilary Miranda. His parents were late John Dominic and late Rose Miranda of Kandivli Village. He led a full life with its ups and downs. During his Juniorate at Hazaribagh (1941), he developed lung infection and had to have one lung removed. No one expected him to live long. It was often said that Fr. Hilary had a knack of knocking at St. Peter's door only to be sent back. Against all odds, he continued for another 60 years and went on to hold many major responsibilities.

Fr. Hilary began his education ministry as Principal and Rector to many schools viz. St. Xavier's, St. Stanislaus, St. Mary's, Campion School, and as Chaplain at Infant Jesus Shrine Nashik, with short stints at Delhi, Manmad, Retreat House and finally Vinayalaya. One would

expect that he would wear all these accomplishments proudly on his sleeve. He was too shy for that. The only important thing, he would say, is to know Christ, that everything else was secondary.

After his retirement, he gracefully changed gears and moved into spiritual ministry, an apostolate that was close to his heart. He was a member of the first Charismatic Service team. Fr. Hilary was truly a remarkable man, able to judge the secret thoughts of peoples' hearts and to bring God's loving touch to many a troubled soul. His few and softly spoken words brought light to seekers of truth and comfort those heavily burdened.

He was a true 'Yes Man', a Jesuit who always said 'Yes' to the Lord and to any assignments far and wide. Fr. Hilary ran his race well, inspiring one and all by his charisma. Truly 'the foolish one of this world has God chosen to confound the wise, and the weak ones by human reckoning to confound the strong'.

- *Gerald Miranda*

Note : Two of his nieces, Sr. Scarlette Miranda and Sr. Claudette Miranda, joined the Carmel of Christ the King Convent and Daughters of St. Paul respectively, and his nephew Fr. Trevor Miranda is a Jesuit priest.

5. Fr Kenneth Mendes

Fr. Kenneth (Kenny) Mendes is the son of late Benedict and late Delphine Mendes, of Kandivli Village. He was born on Aug.9, 1934, and is the nephew of Msgr. Raymond Mendes. People who remember him talk about his jovial nature and smart turn of phrase and quick repartee. Many were indeed surprised that he chose to become a priest and serve Our Lord.



His family shifted to the Girgaum Parish at Khotachiwadi, Mumbai to take advantage of the education opportunities available in South Mumbai, from where he joined the Seminary in 1954, after graduating in Science. He was ordained a priest on Dec. 21, 1961. A few months before his ordination he had a serious fall while playing on the Seminary grounds which had serious consequences, as he had to have a kidney removed. He served in the following parishes - Our Lady of Grace, Papy, Bassein; Holy Spirit Church, Nandakhal, Bassein; St. Joseph Church, Colaba; St. Michael Church, Mahim; Our Lady of Good Health, Sahar; St. Joseph Church, Juhu; Sacred Heart Church, Worli; St. Joseph Church, Vikhroli, and St. Lawrence Church, Wagle Estate, Thane. When he was posted at Wagle Estate Thane, it was intended to be a position of a builder. He accepted the challenge and set out to build a church in D'Souza Wadi, Wagle Estate, Thane, in honour of St. Lawrence. The church was nearly completed, when Kenny had to undergo an urgent cardiac by-pass operation. Taking only a couple of months' rest to recuperate, he resumed his church completion exercise, which proved to be quite a strain on his health, especially post by-pass. Having successfully built the church, he opted for premature retirement on health grounds. He completed his B.Ed. after his sojourn at Nandakal. Juhu, Mahim, Worli, Sahar and Vikhroli were the parishes where Kenny was head honcho in the education stream.

It is with the people of Bassein that he most identifies himself with and the people have fond memories of him. On Sundays he used to travel by tonga to say masses in Umrade, Bolinj, Nanbhat, Jhapke, Rajodi (Ranpatti) and other villages in Bassein. His mentors were Msgr. Sebastian Vaz and Fr. Bernard Bhandari. He used to say of the people of those days..." times

were hard, people were poor, they sometimes only had one meal a day....but they were still happy and believed in God...". In those days people from neighbouring villages would come to bury their dead at the Nandakhal Church and the bodies were brought by handcarts through rutted and slushy roads, but at the end of the day it was the people's unflinching faith and unbounded love for Christ that inspired him.

His reduced activity after his retirement did not deter him from his favourite pastime of swimming. Another forte is his love for languages - Latin in particular, and while residing in the Clergy Home he learnt the classic language - Greek. Well versed in English, he writes well, though off the beaten track at times. His articles in The Examiner draw kudos from many.

Fr. Kenneth retired in the year 2000 and presently resides at Clergy Home, Bandra.

Note : His uncle is Msgr. Raymond Mendes.

Vivian Mendes/Harold Mendes (adapted from the Marathi article in Suvarta, August 2011)

6. Fr. Noel Sheth S. J.



"My late father Kantilal (baptismal name Kenneth) Sheth was a convert from Hinduism. Seven years after becoming a Catholic, he married my mother Connie Mendes, from Kandivli Village. It was only after the wedding that he informed his Hindu family that he had become a Catholic and had got married to a Catholic. They were so infuriated that they severed their relationship with him. I am the eldest among my three other siblings. When I was born, my Hindu relatives heard that a child was born and came with clothes for the new baby and the family was reconciled again. Now they are very proud of me, especially since I am a scholar in Hinduism.

Dad spurred me in the quest for excellence. He also used to take me and my younger brothers to his Hindu friends when they invited him for religious celebrations, etc.; so from childhood I learnt to be broad-minded and open to different cultures and traditions. My mum taught me gentleness and non-violence, not by words but by deeds. Dad passed away when I was still in school. Shortly after that we moved to Kandivli Village, mum's hometown. She brought us up single-handed, took up a teacher's job and also did all the cooking and other work at home. Her self-sacrifice and selfless love were a great inspiration to me.

When I returned from school, before doing my homework, I would go and fill water at the common tap and fill up the water tanks in my grandparents' (Michael and Rita Mendes) home where we were staying for some time until we moved to a rented flat just opposite Assumption Church. I was the only boy among the women who filled up water at that tap and I picked up some East Indian Marathi from their conversations. I was good in athletics and I joined others in the village in playing cops and robbers (chor police) and other games. I also used to make frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament in the church.

I realized later that my vocation was nurtured not only by my family but also by my grandparents and uncle and aunts, especially those who were in Kandivli. I remain ever grateful to my relatives who prayed and still pray for me and my perseverance. When I was in my final year at Jesuit-run St. Xavier's High School, I made a retreat and felt God's call to dedicate myself to the service of others in the priesthood. I was very touched when Uncle Alban Mendes collected contributions from relatives and bought towels, clothing, etc. before I entered the Jesuit novitiate at Andheri in 1960 at the age of 16. God has blessed me with many talents and so I did well in my studies and extra-curricular activities such as picking up Indian classical singing, elocution,

different Indian and foreign languages, etc.

Besides the usual novitiate and juniorate in Mumbai and the ecclesiastical studies of philosophy and theology in Pune, I was asked to study Sanskrit and Pali by my Jesuit superiors. All my companions in college and university in the Sanskrit and Pali classes were Hindus and, after a short initial unease at a Christian studying with them, we became good friends and that friendship still continues today. In fact, we used to study together in the late evenings under a street lamp, where I used to explain things to them in Marathi. I received a full scholarship to do my doctorate in Sanskrit at Harvard University, U.S.A., one of the most prestigious universities in the world.

The Society of Jesus has given meaning and vision to my life. Last year we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of my joining the Society of Jesus.

At different times I received offers to teach full-time in different prestigious universities abroad, but conscious of my mission to teach in the national and oldest degree-conferring ecclesiastical institution of India - Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion, in Pune, I go only as a visiting professor and also deliver public lectures at various institutions in different countries.

I was appointed Rector of the Papal Seminary, Pune, and President/Principal of Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, both of which celebrated the Centenary and the Platinum Jubilee respectively, of granting degrees, while I held office. This gave me experience in administration and dealing with people in different walks of life. The cooperation that I received from my colleagues and students resulted in my being awarded the Sam Higginbottom Award for Best Principals of India 2004-2005. I also gained administrative experience by being a member of the administrative council or board of such international bodies as the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), the Conference of Catholic Theological Institutions (COCTI), and the Conference of Catholic University Institutions of Philosophy (COMIUCAP). I happen to be a member of various learned bodies, both national and international, and was also a member of the Regulatory Council of the prestigious Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute. From India, I am the only Christian who presents papers at Sanskrit Conferences.

My publications deal with the exegesis of Sanskrit and Pali texts, on Christianity and the other Indian Religions, and on comparative philosophy and theology. At present I am the Convener of the International Secretariat for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Relations of the Society of Jesus and advisor to the Jesuit General for relations with Hinduism. In a sense I am a "hyphenated priest" - a priest-scholar, a priest-formator. I think that, to be truly good priests in India, we need to integrate Indian spirituality (which includes Indian forms of prayer and meditation) into our Christian spiritual life, otherwise our Christianity will not have an Indian soul.

The Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in Kandivli has produced many priests and religious serving God and people in various ways, in different parts of India. Let us pray that this beloved parish of ours may continue to bring forth priests, religious sisters and brothers and lay religious leaders to act as a leaven in society, transforming it from within. My hearty congratulations, high appreciation and deep gratitude to the priests, religious sisters and brothers, and lay parishioners of Assumption Parish as it celebrates 150 years of sterling service in the Lord's vineyard.

Note : Fr. Noel Sheth is the grand nephew of Sr. Christina Rose Mendes and cousin of Sr. Scarlett Miranda, Sr. Claudette Miranda, Sr. Rowena Miranda and Fr. Trevor Miranda, all of Kandivli Village.

7. Fr. Leslie Rodrigues



Fr. Leslie Rodrigues is the son of late Lawrence and late Clare Rodrigues of 56, Meurin Street, which was situated on the only Rock in Kandivli. He was born on Dec. 11, 1942, and studied at the local parish school and subsequently at Antonio da Silva School, Dadar. He joined St. Pius X College (Seminary) on the 1st of January 1961 and completed Rhetoric, Spirituality and Philosophy courses in April 1966, and then joined the St. Charles Seminary at Nagpur for Theology in June 1966. He was ordained a priest on the 1st of November 1969, at St. Peter's Church, Bandra, for the Diocese of Amravati. His first appointment was at St. Francis de Sales High School, Aurangabad (famous for the world renowned Ajanta and Ellora Caves), on 10th June 1970. He superannuated from the same School as Headmaster on 31st December 2000.

At present he holds a triple post of Manager of St. Francis de Sales Primary & High School; Secretary of St. Francis de Sales Education Society (that has seventeen schools under its umbrella, both English & Marathi medium) and is Parish Priest of St. Thomas Catholic Church, consisting of about 250 families, all of which are in Aurangabad. He will complete 42 years of priesthood on 1st November 2011. He states, " All these years I have been blessed to be with students, fully involved in their all-round formation imparting Christian values basically to a non-Christian world". His ordination motto is - "To serve and not to be served."

Note : Fr. Leslie's sister, Sr. Mary Laurentia (Judy Rodrigues) has joined the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order Apostolic of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and his brother Malcolm Rodrigues is a Jesuit brother.

8. Fr. Bosco Remedios



Fr. Bosco Remedios is the son of late John Salvador and late Angela Remedios of Kandivli Village. He joined the Seminary in the year 1961.

God's call-and a response.

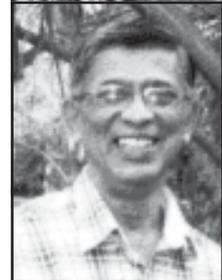
For whatever occurred during that little dash between God's call and my response, I am extremely grateful; it has been the growing edge of my life. So I am extremely grateful to God for inviting me to be His priest. My gratitude also goes to my parents who shaped my life, stood by me and encouraged me to face every fear and doubt. My family has always been around me in an intimate way. While in the seminary it seemed that my vocation to the priesthood was theirs too! Their constant prayers and self-sacrifices at that crucial juncture of my life meant very much to me; were it not for them I am not too sure if life in the seminary would be as smooth even though it was an uphill task. Besides God, I owe the fulfillment of my priesthood to them as well. For this I always thank God and I am extremely grateful to them as well. This closeness to the family continues for me into the priesthood too. That's the place where I am absolutely free to be myself. I have conveyed this to them ever so often. So for their sheer acceptance and allowing me to be the person I wish to be, for their understanding and patience I am very grateful to them. For their timely fraternal correction I am very happy. They have been a sounding board for me with regard to my sermons, talks, prayer services, instructing couples intending marriage and reaching out to married couples. I wish to express my deep appreciation to them for all this. The vocation to the priesthood is a pearl of great price-but many are involved in paying the price for it.

I have served in many parishes in Mumbai including Sacred Heart Church, Santa Cruz,

Gloria Church, Byculla (where I have organized various Family Enrichment Programs which include Marriage Preparation Sessions and Engaged Encounters), St Andrew's Church, Bandra, and am presently posted at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Mazagaon.

9. Br. Malcolm Rodrigues S.J.

I am Malcolm Rodrigues, fourth child of late Clare and late Lawrence Rodrigues, formerly of Kandivli Village. I was born on the 8th of May, 1947. I joined the Society of Jesus (The Jesuits) on the 8th of June, 1965. I strongly believe that it was the strong religious milieu of the family (Family Rosary, daily Mass, religious minded Parents) and our family life revolving around the Parish, that created the soil for the seed of my vocation to grow in.



I have been a Jesuit Brother for the last 46 years now, and I have enjoyed every bit of it. I have been involved in Teaching, Administration, Jesuit Formation, Mass Media and Communication and at present I am the Financial Administrator (Treasurer) of the Gujarat Jesuit Province. Apart from my work, I direct Retreats, conduct Seminars and Workshops on Inner Healing and Personal Counseling. All in all, it is an exciting life, and I would invite anyone to join this life, if he or she is interested in being fully integrated and happy. I am really proud that this small Parish has had numerous vocations and pray that it will continue doing so. I am proud to be part of the 150 years heritage; wish you all God's abundant blessings. Thank you.

Br. Malcolm Rodrigues, S.J. Premal Jyoti, P.B. 4002 Ahmedabad 380009 Gujarat.

Note : Br. Malcolm's sister, Sr.Mary Laurentia (Judy Rodrigues), has joined the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order Apostolic of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and his brother Fr. Leslie Rodrigues is a diocesan priest.

10. Fr. Trevor Miranda S. J.

Fr. Trevor Miranda, son of late Thomas and late Ivy Miranda, was born in Kandivli Village on 12th July 1953. He completed his schooling in our parish school, St. Joseph's, and was part of the first successful batch to appear for the SSC exam in 1970. He has two degrees in Arts and Law (BA, LLB) and a Diploma in Business Management and Journalism. He also has an Honorary Doctorate (D. Lit.) conferred on him by Marquette University, U.S.A., in 2005, in recognition of his contribution to the cause of education for the underprivileged.



He joined the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1976 and was ordained in 1986. In April 2011, he celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination. After his ordination he was appointed the Treasurer of the Bombay Jesuits which he did for 10 years. But his heart was for the poor and in fact he started REAP while he was still in Regency (in formation).

He founded REAP (Reach Education Action Programme) in 1987 as a response to the challenge of countering illiteracy. This became his passion. He wanted every child to be in school and not working. He went about systematically setting up a non-formal education system reaching the poorest in their situations. Thus was born a literacy movement empowering lives. Today REAP has a network boasts of 250 education centers spanning the length and breadth of Mumbai city and surrounding rural areas up to Khardi (halfway to Nashik) covering about 7,000 learners - mainly rag-pickers, child labourers, slum and rural children. To encourage tribal girls and boys to complete high school, he has also started two boarding schools for them in Dolkhamb, Shahapur

Taluka. He believes that education must lead to social change. This he does by empowering women through formation of Self Help Groups (SHG's). As of today, REAP has 200 such groups and their total savings is more than Rs.1 crore. REAP also offers teacher training programmes and short term courses for youth to make them employable.

His work is much appreciated and he has received several awards for his hard work. But his most prized lifetime award is the \$1 million International OPUS Prize for outstanding humanitarian work conferred on him in the United States of America in 2005; the funds enabled him to carry out his mission with greater fervor. Fr. Trevor Miranda resides and operates in Kalwa, Thane Dist. For more information go to www.reapchild.org

Note : Fr. Trevor Miranda is the grand nephew of Sr. Christina Rose Mendes; nephew of late Fr. Hillary Miranda; brother of Sr. Scarlett Miranda and Sr. Claudette Miranda; cousin of Sr. Rowena Miranda and Fr. Noel Sheth, all of Kandivli Village.

11. Fr. Ashlyn Chand

Born and brought up in South Mumbai, his family members were parishioners of the Cathedral of the Holy Name, Colaba. Fr. Ashlyn's family moved to the Dahanukarwadi area of our parish at Kandivli in 1983. He is the son of late Anthony Leyland and late Amelia Chand of Mumbai. He joined the Seminary in 2001 and was ordained on March 22, 2009.

Here is what he has to say....



"I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me." Phil.4:13

June 2001 is the month I will always remember. It was the month I joined the seminary. Behind me lay ten plus years of work experience. My last job was as a Consultant for a software consultancy company. Even though I was doing well in my profession, the salary being good along with a high position, I found there was something missing in my life. At that time I could not recognize what it was.

It was in the year 1998, that I started attending "Wellsprings", a theology course for the laity organized at Juhu, by Mrs. Penny Bajaj. It was during this course, which I attended from 1998 - 2000, that I began to find answers to my life. Learning theology gave me a direction and purpose in life. Being very service oriented and people friendly I began to ask myself the question, "Is God calling me?". This was because there was a great desire within me to serve and help out people, and this reaching out to people gave me a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction. It was during a retreat conducted by Bishop Ferdinand (Ferdie) Fonseca, organized by " Wellsprings " that I first spoke to Bishop Ferdie about my call. During the retreat Bishop Ferdie helped me discern and accept my call.

However, leaving the security of a job, which offered me a good position and an excellent salary, was not easy. However, after a great deal of discernment and firm faith in God, I decided to quit my job and join the seminary. On joining the seminary, all my doubts and apprehensions were wiped away and I experienced a deep inner peace, joy and fulfillment which convinced me that I had made the right decision of leaving everything to come answer God's call - To follow HIM & Serve HIS people.

Note : His first and current posting is at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mount Poincur, Borivli.

k k k



Some Census Figures of Our Parish

Year	Parishioners	Year	Parishioners
1859	150 }	1967	651
1864	165 }	1968	649
1869	226 } including	1970	669
1875	150(?) } Orlem	1972	669
1884	250 } parishioners	1975	880
1888	243 }	1976	920
1926	220	1977	915
1937	273	1978	915
1949	300	1979	950
1950	331	1980	1072
1956	447	1984	1540
1965	523	1985	1798
1966	527	2011	approx. 4200



Past and Present Vicars / Priests of Our Parish

YEAR NAME

1595	Fr. Gaspar Farras
1853-1857 Sep.04	Fr. Gabriel Francisco da Silva
In 1857, the parish became 'agregada' attached to Poincur, and since Fr. Elias M. de Souza was alone, he could not regularly go to Candolim (Kandivli) to say Mass.	
1859 Sep.19	Fr. Leo Meurin (later Archbishop of Bombay)
1860 Jan. 04	Fr. Bernardo Alexio Paes
1861 Oct. 27	Fr. Joao Antonio Almeida
1862 Nov.01	Fr. Joao Francisco Rodrigues until 1864
1865 Apr.16	Fr. Manoel Antonio Fonseca until Feb. 1868
1868 Mar.01	Fr. Joseph Antonio Fonseca until Jan.01, 1871
1871 Jan.04	Fr. Domingos Antonio Leao until Nov.10, 1872
1872 Apr.24	Pastoral visit of Bishop Leo Meurin, Vicar-Apostolic
Nov.17	Fr. Joseph Braz Maria de Souza until end of 1872
1873 Jan.	Fr. Joseph Ignacio de Silva until end of 1873
1874 Jan.04	Fr. Elias Maria de Souza administered a baptism
Jan.24 - Jun.14	Fr. Sebastiao de Penha
Jun.21	Fr. J. Nicolao de Oliveira until 1882 (but he was absent from De.25, 1878, until Jan.18, 1880. He was also the founder of our present school in 1880)
1878 Dec.25	Fr. Joseph Ignacio de Silva
1879 Jan.26	Fr. Joseph Antonio Fonseca
Feb.23	Fr. Henrique Antonio Carvalho of Poincur administered a Baptism and another on Jun.22
Mar.02	Fr. Elias Maria de Souza till the end of 1879
1880 Jan.18	Fr. Nicolao de Oliveira until Sep.03, 1882
May 06	Fr. Elias Maria de Souza administered a baptism
1882 May 07	Visit of Bishop Leo Meurin, Vicar-Apostolic
Sep.27	Fr. Joseph Ignacio de Silva until No.02, 1890
1885 Aug.16	Fr. Elias Maria de Souza administered a baptism

1888		Pastoral visit of Georgius Porter S.J., Archbishop of Bombay
1890	Nov.11	Fr. Nicolao de Oliveira until his death on July 13, 1894
1894	Aug.	Fr. Elias Maria de Souza
	Dec.	Fr. Joao Antonio de Mello until Apr. 1899
1899	May 14	Fr. Daniel F. Fernandes until Oct.15
1900	Mar.04	Fr. Joao Antonio d'Almeida until Nov.03, 1901
1902	Jan.	Fr. Joseph Braz Maria de Souza till end of 1903
1904	Jan.	Fr. Clement de Mello until Mar. 1905
1905	Mar.12	Fr. Joseph Soares until May 23, 1909
1909	Jun.	Fr. J. Clement M. de Mello until Aug. 1910
1910	Oct.02	Fr. John A. Gomes until 1929
1912	May & Jun.	Fr. Hermenegild Mendes
1913	May 04	Pastoral visit of Hermannus Jurgens, Archbishop of Bombay
1916	Mar. & Apr.	Fr. Justino D'Souza of Orlem was in charge
1930 - 1934		Fr. Thomas do Rosario Almeida
1942-1947		Fr. A.C. Sardinha
1947-1971		Fr. E.S. Monteiro
1971-1975		Fr. Peter Drego, Asst. Fr. Albert Borges and subsequently Fr. Joseph Castellino
1975-1982		Fr. Newman George Lobo, Asst. Fr. Joseph Castellino and subsequently Fr. Roque Gonsalves
1982-1989		Fr. Edward D'Souza, Asst. Fr. Roque Gonsalves and subsequently Fr. Gregory Pereira and then Fr. Andrew Mukadam
1989-1997		Fr. Peter Drego, Asst. Fr. Andrew Mukadam and subsequently Fr. T.O. Jacob and then Fr. Gonsalo Pereira
1997-2002		Fr. Albert Gonsalves, Asst. Fr. Gonsalo Pereira
2002-2008		Fr. Clarence Fonseca, Asst. Fr. Francis Mendes
2008 -		Fr. Gerald A Fernandes, Asst. Fr. Francis Mendes and subsequently Fr. Constancio Noronha

Sources :

- 1) Catholic Bombay - Her Priests & Their Training Part II : 1800-1928 by J. Humbert S.J., Catholic Press (Ranchi), Bihar, 1964.
- 2) Historical Records of our Parish.



Our New Church - Conception to Consecration

The date "June 01, 1997" will be written in letters of gold in the history of our parish as on this day, the new church building was consecrated.

Nearly ten years have passed since the idea of building a new church was conceived in the minds of the then parish priest, Fr. Edward D'Souza, and the parishioners. During the last two decades, the Catholic populace of our parish has been swelling due to the continuous migration of people from the city to the suburbs. Our old church which was nearly a century old (of course with additions, modifications, renovations etc. made over the years) stood elegantly in the middle of the church compound in all its ancient splendor, but was gradually becoming insufficient for the Sunday Mass goers who had to bear the strong sunshine and pouring rains due to lack of space inside the church. The construction of our new school building with the Assumption Hall provided a temporary solution to the problem as the Sunday services were held there; but the church lost a lot in revenue as the hall could not be hired out on Saturdays and Sundays. Even the meetings of the various associations had to be held in the school classrooms which were uncomfortably cramped. The new parish unit "Nativity of Our Lord" carved out from our parish and set up in 1993 at Kandivli (East) hardly made a difference as the Kandivli (East) parishioners already had Mass centres or were attending services at Poin-sur or Goregaon (East).

Gradually the plan to build a new church took firm root in the minds of the parishioners. Committees were set up to look into the various aspects of the project. Years passed by, but there was no sign of the work beginning. The main difficulty was in obtaining Clearance Certificates, with the political scenario contributing to it. If the church was to have been built at the same site, we would not have had problems with the sanctioning authorities. But the need was felt for a big open playground for the children of our parish and school and which could also be utilized for functions and open-air services. Thus, it was decided that the new church would be built at one end of the Church complex and the graveyard shifted to the rear of the school. By the time the requisite permissions were obtained, a good seven years had passed. Meanwhile, the parishioners had already begun their drive to raise funds for the proposed Church. Each earning member of the parish was asked to contribute at least one month's salary. A week-long "Assumption Mela" was organized on a large scale with almost the entire parish helping out in one way or another. In addition, there were the Sunday Bazaars, Housies, old newspaper drives and white elephant sales, etc., which helped us to collect funds bit by bit.

It was only when the foundation stone was laid on December 04, 1994, by Fr. Peter Drego and the old structure pulled down in April-May-June 1995, that hopes were ignited in the hearts of the parishioners that things were indeed moving and our new Church would see the light of day in the near future.

Things did not move smoothly, as was obvious when the work was stopped temporarily at various times in order to fulfill the requirements of the authorities. There was also the unpleasant episode wherein we were asked to part with a section of the graveyard so that the second Commencement Certificate could be issued. This incensed quite a few parishioners, but thanks to Our Lady's intercession, good sense prevailed and the work continued; sometimes at a steady pace and sometimes too slowly. The new Church was taking shape gradually with minor changes. This was done mainly to adhere to the various demands of the municipal authorities. The parishioners were always kept abreast of the various developments, the problems faced and other technicalities, by the parish priest through the Patrika, our parish bulletin brought out every four months, which reported in detail the progress of the church building.

Maximum utilization of space has been done; for in addition to a new Church building, there is also the priests' quarters, guest rooms, meeting rooms and provision also made to increase the capacity by addition of a mezzanine floor in future if needed. The task involved was stupendous, involving a large number of parishioners who gave joyfully of their precious time and energy whenever required. The dedication shown by the various committees and the priests of the parish was indeed commendable. Of course, it was not a bed of roses all the way, with everything going on smoothly, but the difficulties and differences were overcome gradually.

It is quite fitting that Fr. Peter Drego who has been associated with all the aspects of planning, development and construction of our new Church during his tenure of eight years and also from 1971-75, should be associated with the consecration and dedication of the new Church before his transfer becomes effective.

Heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Technical Committee, Finance Committee, Architect, Interior Designer, Contractor, Builder, Structural Engineer and Labourers; not forgetting the priests - past and present - and the parishioners who all helped in whatever way possible to bring our dream of a new Church to fruition after a long but fruitful wait.

Even though our Church is to be consecrated on June 01, 1997, there will be some work left incomplete due to the shortage of time and funds. Fund-raising activities are still on - the Raffle (the draw of which was held on May 01, 1997) and 'Assumption Mazaa' (two fun-filled evenings on May 03- 04, 1997) being some of them. If things continue to move smoothly, the entire project will be completed in the near future.

To quote from our Parish Prayer, "Above all, we ask You to bring all parishioners together to co-operate and work together, selflessly and in harmony in all our common projects..."

We have proved it and by the grace of God and Our Lady of the Assumption, we will prove it time and again in the future.

By R. Jayakumar

Published in the Consecration Souvenir, 1997



Sepia Toned Memories

WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, ITS TIME TO SIT BACK, CLOSE OUR EYES AND LET THE BLURRED MEMORIES OF THE PAST GENTLY SEEP INTO OUR MINDS AND HEARTS. WHO CAN FORGET THOSE DAYS... WHEN THE WORLD WAS A GENTLER PLACE, TIME MOVED SLOWLY, GOLDEN SUNSETS WERE A MAGICAL TREAT, BIRDS TWITTERING WAS MELODIOUS AND HEAVENLY MUSIC AND FRESH UNPOLLUTED AIR WAS TAKEN FOR GRANTED? YES, THOSE WERE THE DAYS MY FRIENDS, THEY'LL NEVER COME BACK AGAIN . . . !!!

"The Agony and the Ecstasy"

Fr. Peter Drego

Am glad to have the opportunity to address all the parishioners of Our Lady of the Assumption Church on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary. I was privileged to be the second longest serving priest in the parish after Fr. Emmanuel Monteiro. My first day at Kandivli was dramatic and unforgettable, especially the welcome the parishioners gave me in the old school hall, now re-built into a beautiful large hall. I remember ending my speech with a popular song of those days: "Young ones shouldn't be afraid"; and afraid they were not, in giving me full cooperation with their cheerful dedication and hard work. I also remember the farewell the parishioners gave me and in my speech, I described my four year stay in Kandivli as "The Agony and The Ecstasy" from the book and film on the life of Michaelangelo. I was not afraid to venture to experiment with new ideas in the social and pastoral field. I was young and progressive at that time, and gladly experimented with things & Ideas which were "all-current" or modern, because our parishioners were open to new ideas. I really enjoyed doing what I did. The Youth Group played a large part in this "Ecstatic" experience. At the farewell organized by the parishioners I sang a song choked with emotion to the tune of "Don't cry for me Argentina" twisting it into "don't cry for me people of Kandivli, the truth is I never left you..... I kept my promise..... don't keep your distance". Eight years after I left Assumption Church, I was again appointed vicar in the same parish. I accepted with joy, but it was a different parish. The parish had grown, and so were the young ones and the old too. Charkop was growing up by leaps and bounds. Though far away, they were close to the endeavour of the new church. Hardly had I stepped into the new-old parish when the Parish Council informed me about the plan of the new church which the former Parish Priest, Fr. Edward D'Souza, had already planned. I accepted the new Church Building like a New Baby on my lap! But as an artist, I preferred a more artistic and meaningful design and with much difficulty managed to change the design into the present church. The Parishioners were happy that they were going to have a new church and all cooperated full heartedly. The Parish Council took great interest in the endeavor, and appointed a New Church Building Committee. It was a well-united, efficient, hardworking Committee. The Parishioners were generous, and quick in

collecting the finance, but the wheels of the government & the BMC ran slow as usual. It was time for me to be transferred with the 6th year approaching its end, when the Parish Council, (without my knowledge or permission) asked the Archbishop Simon Pimenta to extend my stay in Kandivli till we finished the new church building. I accepted the wise move. But the responsibility was indeed burdensome. Fortunately I had a very good Committee called the Church Building Committee. The members were honest, dedicated, united and open hearted. It was not just an ordinary building, but a church with a meaning, connected with the Assumption of Mary - New life and Movement, blended with Indian art, modernism and unity. The theme was "The Whirl of Life", which ran through the flowing lines on the stained glass as well as the background, and the monolith of the lectern, the Baptistry and the Altar. The roof sloping upward is a symbol of the Assumption with a picture (made of fibre glass) in Indian style. All designed by Sr. Vimla. It was considered by the Liturgical Art Committee of Mumbai as one of the liturgically most beautifully designed Churches in Mumbai of that time. After completing the church and the parish house and the aftermath, I was physically and mentally tired & felt the dire need of rest. I asked The Archbishop for an extension of 15 days within which I could satisfy in good conscience say "Good-Bye" to my Parish. Years later after I had finished my tenure at St/ Andrew's, Bandra, a parishioner of St. Andrew's asked me "which was your best parish" I spontaneously said; " The Assumption Parish of Kandivli".

“Roots”

Fr. Leslie Rodrigues

My roots are in Kandivli, where I was born, bred and buttered. It was a simple childhood in the then clean environment, close to nature, with folk more spiritual than material. The village was a close knit family. I still cherish every moment, person and place, nook and corner of Kandivli. That was exactly fifty years ago. People, besides my parents, to whom I owe my gratitude and I thank God for, are: Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Monterio, as the simple devoted country priest who lit the spark of my vocation; Mrs. Olga Miranda who taught me the three 'Rs'; Mr. Joseph Ferreira for catechism, and Mr. Joseph Rodrigues for brushing up my English at high school level. I pray that they are now all in heaven enjoying their well earned reward. Of course, my contemporary boys and girls going to school, felling mangoes, tamarind and boras on the way(!), playing various improvised games... oh I can go on and on.....Those were the days, my love 'Kandivli'.

Mother Assumption, you who have nurtured us, continue to keep the flock of your Son in Kandivli Parish under your loving care! Until we all meet in heaven.

“I remember...”

Noel Murzello

As I pen a few thoughts ahead of the 150 years Sesquicentennial Jubilee Celebration of our parish, I get nostalgic about the old Church and the old parishioners. Born in this Parish and associated with Church activities for over 40 years beginning with serving Mass in Latin in the 1970's under the late Rev. Fr. E. S. Monteiro whose tenure in this Parish was the longest ever; a record 24 years. To assist him were seniors like Aloysius Mendes, John Remedios, Paul Rodrigues, Paul Miranda and Thomas Miranda. I would call them the Pillars of the Church then. I recollect the old Church structure with a tiled roof was renovated and the old School building came up and was blessed by the late Cardinal Valerian Gracias.

Then followed a transition under Fr. Peter Drego who took over in 1971 and Fr. Edward D'Souza in 1982 with a repeat by Fr. Peter Drego in 1989 with the late Alban Mendes and the undersigned assisting and guiding them when necessary, with help from the Men's Sodality, followed by the Parish Welfare Association. Both these priests foresaw the growth in the parish and with meagre finances available then, efforts to raise funds began with Republic Day Dances in 1987, 1988 and 1989, fetching a total profit of Rs.2.50 lakhs only. Considering the needs of the growing parish and the dilapidated condition of the Parochial House, in February 1987, the Finance Committee headed by Fr. Edward D'Souza, Alban Mendes and Noel Murzello, and a General Body Meeting of Parishioners decided to raise funds for the New Church Building and Priests' Quarters as they stand to-day. Mention must be made of the Assumption Mela, a nine day fete of fun and frolic, the only one ever held in this Parish, which brought all parishioners under one umbrella, working relentlessly for its success and which brought us a profit of approx Rs.10 lakhs. The efforts of the Chief Organisers, Stanley Rebello, Austin Mendes and Noel Murzello, with the entire Parish community headed by Fr. Peter Drego, were appreciated. Contributions from parishioners through volunteers of the Building Fund and donations and raffle proceeds fetched us another Rs.25.47 lakhs then. Added to this was the proceeds from the sale of two Church properties, helping us build the existing premises at a cost of Rs.133 lakhs. Cheers to the vibrant communities in our success. The existence of this beautiful Church premises brings to mind this eternal question - "Who is the Church?" and the answer is "WE THE PEOPLE".

To end this brief article, I quote from a letter received from Fr. Peter Drego in July of 1997 when he left to go abroad after a job well done by all of us and his delayed transfer.

He writes *"I am here in the US after visiting Rome and the U.K. but my heart is in Kandivli. I hope you and the Technical Committee are giving the final touches to the "unfinished symphony". News spread in Rome that our Church is the most beautiful Church in Bombay. At the reception given to our Bishop Ivan Dias on the day of his receiving the "pallium" (insignia of our Archbishop), he questioned me about it, and I said YES, I agree in all humility. While the feeling of pride is yet high, please tell them about the costs".* All success to the volunteers working for the 150 year celebrations.

“Those were the days...”

Sr. Scarlett (Girloo) Miranda (Sr. Anne Marie of the Holy Family OCD)

The pride that I have is the pride that I belong to the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Kandivli. It's nostalgic to recall the beautiful, simple life of the parish in which I grew up under the baton of Fr. E.S. Monteiro of happy memories. My memory stretches from 1949-1962 (though I was born in 1943 and left in 1962 to join Carmel of Christ the King Convent, Calcutta). These were happy, peaceful years in the parish where everything centered around the church. There were no clubs or any other entertainment as such in those days in Kandivli. All that we ever had was the Christmas Sports and sometimes a Whist Drive on the Parish Feast day - 15th August. So Sunday evenings, after Sunday school where the Brothers from Goregaon Seminary conducted classes in Catechism after Benediction and on holidays, found all children playing in the Church compound up to the Angelus bell at 7 pm., to their hearts content. Girls and boys each had their own games with Fr. Monteiro watching us happily from his veranda and where we would refer our little fights to him.

The compound had several mango trees that were easy to climb and pluck fruits and finally only two were left to tempt us. There was a big Cross on a raised rock at the western end near

the bridge, a grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes near the entrance of the Church and St. Joseph's grotto at the school followed later by the statue of Christ the King. St. Joseph's School or "Khoipti College" as we all used to fondly call it, is where we all graduated with our elementary education before going to outside schools and convents. The parish kept us together. It was a close knit community, mostly related or interrelated families. The main features of the Parish were the Lenten Pasch Sunday - so vividly portrayed each Sunday and specially on Good Fridays. With its processions on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and XIII Hours Adoration making its way through the village, a beautiful manifestation of our faith, where even the non-Catholics would show their respect at our procession, standing alongside the road or at their houses, lighting candles, offering flowers and arati, even accepting and welcoming the statue of Our Lady of Fatima into their homes with due respect and honour.

Then there was the Novena to Our Lady of the Assumption. It was the highlight of the Parish. A real family affair where all the married children and extended families would join in the feast day celebration. The novena was a great hit and excitement for us, where we children had to bring baskets of flowers either to pour at Our Lady's feet at the "Aunkwari Mariae", or to toss the flowers at the chorus on Our Lady. If Fr. Monteiro happened to stand by, the older boys would aim their flowers at him. The Feast Day Mass had a Big Brass Band with musicians and fireworks, the church was well decorated. All were in a festive mood. The rest of the year the sole Choir Master/cum Choir was my Grandpa - Mr. Michael Mendes with his violin and powerful voice; rarely would some of the parishioners join him in singing at Mass in the choir loft.

October, the month of the Rosary, saw the statue of Our Lady of Fatima being taken from house to house. The small candle light procession delighted us, and a treat that followed was the icing on the cake. As children we vied with each other to do the decoration for the XIII Hour Adoration procession along the route - from the Mendes Cross to the Miranda Cross - more a competition feat. The whole route was lined with cut down branches and vaktis (home made colourful tissue paper cut in strips, pasted on twine) were strung from branch to branch. The quaint old church, the oldest among neighbouring parishes, grew vibrant in the years to come with Kandivli expanding into the Industrial Estate and the Charkop sectors. The fishing village of Bunderpakhadi also formed part of the parish.

I am happy to say that my dad, Thomas Miranda or Sunny as he was popularly known, was the backbone of the parish with Fr. Monteiro relying heavily on him. Together they had the school upgraded and had the little Housing Complex (the present day Assumption View building) built across the road. My dad was the recipient of the Papal Award 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontificate' together with Mr. John Remedios. My daddy was felicitated and honoured at a special function in the parish. I did not get the opportunity to witness it as I had already joined the Carmel of Christ the King then.

“Down Memory Lane”

Sr. Mary Laurentia (Judy Rodrigues)- Sisters of the Third Order Apostolic of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

"After I got a call from Harold Mendes requesting me to give a write up on my vocation, these thoughts flitted through my mind about my beloved Kandivli Village of the 50s and 60s. I visualize our Kandivli Village with its cottages, bungalows and familiar faces. Every October, Our Lady of Fatima statue was circulated to each and every family and it was a momentous occasion for one and all. There were just 30- 31 Catholic families and two small villages of Maroda and

Bunderpakhadi, yet the Parish was vibrant. During the Novena of Our Lady of the Assumption, we as children loved to sing and shower flowers at the feet of our Mother. Each child brought a little basket of flowers. Holidays were wonderful - no Computer or TV or Mobile - but running to a friend's place or the Church compound to play and enjoy; but every one had to be home as soon as the Angelus bell was rung at 7 pm.; no ifs, no buts, no excuses, the Angelus had to be recited either at home or in the Church compound. Sometimes on Sunday, "Daddies" took a chance to enjoy a game of cricket in Meurin Street where we lived. Children and elders were there to watch and cheer as they sat on the 'Rock' seat (now disappeared). All of us when at home together recall so many beautiful memories of Kandivli. We wish to be there sometimes. How I wish I could be present for the Sesquicentennial celebrations ".

“Crosses of the Parish”

Harold Mendes

Crosses big and small dot many of the roads and by lanes of Mumbai. Many of these were erected during the Bubonic plague (1896) and the various epidemics which affected the people in the days gone by, and were built as thanksgiving memorials. No written records exist about the crosses of our parish. Some of the oldest crosses (erected in the early years of the last century) were the Bunderpakhadi Cross (still existing), the Miranda Cross on M.G.Road, Kandivli Village (still existing), the Mendes Cross, Meurin Street, Kandivli Village (renamed the Meurin Street Cross when the original wooden Cross was relocated to the compound of Marie Villa and a new concrete and marble Cross was erected in its place in May 1999), the Remedios Cross at Kandivli Village (relocated to Goa in 2008), the Assumption Village Cross and the newly built Cross on the New Link Road at the entrance to Bunderpakhadi. There are also a few other private family crosses and grottoes built later on. The most magnificent of these was the immense concrete Cross in the Church Compound built on a rock with 16 steps. Old timers will remember the glorious evenings spent sitting on the steps and watching the children run around and the adults playing cricket or football; and the recitation of the Angelus at the dot of 7 when the church bell tolled. There was a time when the Rosary was recited faithfully during the month of May at all the Crosses and small celebrations were the norm. Could we go back in time to relive those nostalgic times? Fanciful thinking ! (Photographs of the above mentioned crosses are in the pictorial section)

“बंदरपाखाडीचा क्रुस”

कैतान डिसोज़ा

बंदरपाखाडी गावकरी क्रुसाकडे पूर्वी घनदाट जंगल होते. त्याच्या बाजूला पूर्वीचे लोक शेती करायचे. तिथून जाण्यायेण्यासाठी छोटसा कच्चा मार्ग होता. त्या काळातील लोक प्रवास करण्यासाठी घाबरायचे म्हणून गावकऱ्यांनी एकत्र येऊन हा निर्णय घेतला की, गावकरी क्रुसाची आपण तेथे स्थापना करूया. १९१४ च्या पूर्वीपासून तेथे क्रुसाची स्थापना झालेली होती.

त्या क्रुसाची स्थापना करण्यात अनेक गावकऱ्यांचा हातभार लागला होता. त्यामध्ये प्रमुख सहकार्य करणारे श्री. आंतोन सोस, श्री. आंतोन एलिस वैती, श्री. शालू कैतान डिसोज़ा, श्री. पास्कू दुसिन वैती, श्री. लुश्या फ्रान्सिस वैती इत्यादी होते. तसेच त्या काळात त्या गावकरी क्रुसाच्या आशीर्वादासाठी फादर सोस व फादर जी. एस. मोनटेरो होते.

त्यावेळेस सिस्टर अरुणा, ज्युली, ग्रेसी, सुषमा व अनिता होत्या. या सर्वांना गावकऱ्यांनी कुसाच्या देखरेखीपासून ते साफसफाईपर्यंतची कामे करण्यासाठी हातभार लावला होता.

३१ मे, या दिवशी बंदरपाखाडीत गावकरी कुसाचा सण साजरा केला जातो. अशा प्रकारे बंदरपाखाडी गावकरी कुसाची सुंदरता व पवित्रता बंदरपाखाडी गावकऱ्यांनी राखून ठेवली आहे.

“Assumption Village”

Mylene D'Souza and Sharon D'Souza

Assumption Village along with Kandivli Village and Bunderpakhadi is one of the oldest Catholic inhabited areas of our Parish. Initially, it was a small Gaothan (hamlet) of Catholics who had their own fields and lands, geographically situated near the river end of the Shivaji Road touching Mathuradas Extn Road. Nearly all the families were East Indian by culture and were inter related. They were closely knit and used to have get-togethers on all festive occasion like Christmas, Easter, the Cross Feast and when the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was circulated, a common celebration was held.

During the Novena of our Parish Feast (Assumpti Mauli cha San) in the rainy season, all the villagers would get together and make a temporary road by putting bricks and stones to walk over the slushy muddy roads to attend Mass. At that time Fr. E. Monterio was the Parish Priest.

One of the most prominent of our villagers was the late Ambrose D'Souza who composed and directed East Indian songs and plays. He encouraged the villagers and their relatives by training them to sing and take part in various competitions held at various places around Mumbai. A Club named 'Moonbeam Dramatic Club' was formed and it won many medals and cups. In the mid 1980s a radio broadcast of songs was aired in memory of him. A TV Show was presented in 1990 on Doordarshan.

Many of the villagers and the then parish priest Fr. Edward D'Souza, suggested that we name our village and also have a Cross erected at the entrance. We approached the local corporator, and with constant follow-ups our Village was named 'Assumption Village', with a signboard put up by Vernal D'Souza. A Cross was erected at the entrance with the initiative of Roydin Fernandes which was partly sponsored by some of our non-Catholic neighbours.

k k k



Extracts from the Parish Register - Births, Marriages and Deaths

LEATHER BOUND REGISTERS, FADED WRITING WITH FOUNTAIN PENS AND BROWN TINTED INK, DUSTY YELLOWING PAGES, TATTERED BINDINGS, WATER SMUDGED HANDWRITING . . . ALL THIS ADDS TO THE ROMANCE OF GOING THROUGH OLD RECORDS AND TAKING A PEEP INTO THE PAST. HERE IS A RANDOM SELECTION OF BIRTHS , MARRIAGES AND DEATHS APPEARING IN OUR PARISH RECORDS OVER THE PAST 100 YEARS.

Births

Sep 19, 1910	May Candide d/o Rosy & John Miranda
Jun 03, 1919	John s/o Ignatia & Joseph Rodrigues
Apr 13, 1923	Anthalone d/o Rose & John D'Souza
May 04, 1928	Dominic s/o Romana & Francis Voity
July 21, 1935	Mary Veronica d/o Estelle & Joseph Pereira
July 21, 1947	Jean d/o Angela & John Remedios
Jan 07, 1951	Magdalene d/o Delphine & John D'Sa
Aug 15, 1963	Assumption d/o Dominica & Francis Voity
Mar 24, 1974	Gregory s/o Joana & Alex Gomes
Dec 27, 1985	Mark s/o Aldriq & Jitendra Barot
Jun 20, 1997	Elisha d/o Gretta & Edwin Monis
Dec 30, 2005	Dhruv s/o Narita & Chetan Khatri
July 11, 2011	Gizele d/o Silvi & Robert Fernandes

Marriages

May	17,	1914	Caetan Folgado to Concesca Murzello
Feb	24,	1919	Michael Miranda to Cecilia Miranda
Feb	25,	1924	Francis Voity to Rumana Voity
Feb	20,	1933	Domingo Quiny to Susanna D'Souza
May	21,	1938	Joseph Victor D'silva to Lottie Isabelle Mendes
May	03,	1943	Philip Ignatius Ambosta to Jane Blanche Mendes
May	12,	1947	Pascoal Koli to Anna Voity
May	13,	1951	Joseph Vaz to Dorothy Miranda
May	18,	1959	Gregory Mendes to Concessao D'Souza
Jan	02,	1966	Henry D'Souza to Clara D'Souza
Nov	23,	1969	Edward Fernandes to Florie Branco
Dec	27,	1971	Augustine Clayburn to Andrea Fruter
Nov	20,	1977	Lancelot D'souza to Lourdes Miranda
Jan	17,	1981	Valentine Machado to Juliana Aranha
May	05,	1985	Wilfred Tixeira to Saira D'Souza
May	06,	1990	Francis Dabre to Mabel Voity
Oct	10,	1993	Upendra Dalvi to Anita Sequeira
May	10,	1997	Joseph D'Almeida to Elizabeth Masca
May	21,	2000	Gabriel Fernandes to Evelyn D'Cruz
Aug	31,	2011	Anand Nadar to Theresa Nadar

Deaths

Jan 01, 1917	Joannis Mau D'Souza	25 years
Feb 26, 1920	Martha Magdalene Mendes	16 years
Dec 08, 1927	Rose Marie Voity	65 years
July 11, 1933	Peter Dennis	60 years
May 21, 1939	Catherine Rodrigues	63 years
Sep 01, 1942	Emmanuel Salvador Pimenta	49 years
July 09, 1948	Hazel D'Silva	2 years
Oct 21, 1958	Teresa Fernandes	60 years
Aug 03, 1959	Mary Theresa Remedios	74 years
Aug 26, 1961	Quiteria Henriques	78 years
June 05, 1965	Rita Caroline Mendes	78 years
Feb 01, 1971	Msgr. Raymond Mendes	65 years
June 19, 1972	Magdalene Gudinho	30 years
Feb 16, 1982	Harry Fernandes	50 years
Jul 13, 1990	Alban William Mendes	66 years
Jan 26, 1996	Dominic Voity	40 years
Mar 18, 2000	Leonardo Fonseca	82 years
Aug 14, 2011	Gladys Rosario	37 years



Reprints from the "Patrika", Our Parish Bulletin

Looking Back

Today, as I look upon Assumption Church, I pause to think and remember the Church as she looked thirty years back.

I remember the way she stood proudly with serenity and majesty in the midst of greenery, with birds chirping away merrily. Oh! What peace and joy reigned in her parish!

The parishioners who participated in the services of the Church were like a big, happy family. Everyone knew one another so well and greeted each other affectionately. People had more time then and used to participate in all the functions that were organized by the Church. The Church compound was at the disposal of the old and young alike. The elders used to come and sit on the steps of the big Cross situated fifteen feet high on a rock at the western end of the church compound and exchange juicy, newsy tit-bits with one another, while their children used to run and play about, screaming and shouting at the top of their voices, and Mother Mary smiled on each and every one of them benevolently.

As the years passed, distinctive changes took place. She lost her natural, smiling countenance, as she tried to carry the heavy burden of the increasing parishioners. New faces began to appear with the disappearance of the greenery which gave way to concrete jungles. New and broader roads were built and factories sprang up where once nature had prevailed. Traffic began increasing with the appearance of the B.E.S.T. buses and more and more people came from far and wide to live in the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption....

January 1992, Lia Sathe

The New Church

The laying of the foundation stone of our new church is a milestone in the history of our parish.

Right from the year 1739, when the parish church was shifted from Magatana in the East to Kandivli Village in the West, upto the present day, our parish church has taken different forms. The oldest structure was a small private chapel, built by the villagers way back in 1630 or so. The next authentic historic data we have is that the church was remodeled in 1948, and stands as it is, to the present day. The growing population of Kandivli now calls for the building of a new church. The foundation stone of the new church will be laid on the 4th of December, 1994, after the 8.00 a.m. Mass.

The Technical Committee and the Parish Council have decided that the foundation stone should be blessed and laid by the Parish Priest, who they say, has borne the brunt of the work

involved, in the planning and building of the new church. "So it was written, so shall it be done!"

When the foundation is laid, three meaningful "ceremonies" will mark the event: 1) A Cross and Medal of Our Lady will be inserted into the spot of the main pillars. 2) A parchment containing the historic details of the building and the plans of the new church, together with a few coins of the current year, will be inserted into a "matka" which will be buried within the foundation (-historians, please note!). 3) The foundation stone will be blessed, and later on, placed in a prominent place in the new church premises. On that very day the concreting of the footing will commence. All this will take place on the Titular Feast of St. Francis Xavier, patron of India and of our Archdiocese. It will be a historic day for our parish. The blessing of the foundation will surely engender new enthusiasm among our parishioners, who will certainly co-operate wholeheartedly towards the completion of the new church. We now go ahead, looking forward to the day of its completion and blessing. May that day come soon!

December 4, 1994, Fr. Peter Drego

Blessing of the Foundation of the New Church

The 4th of December, 1994, was a historic day in the life of our parish. On that day, the foundation of our new church was blessed. After the 8.00 a.m. Mass the whole congregation went in procession to the site, with the altar boys, Crusaders and last year's First Communicants forming a colourful ending of the procession. A few words of introduction by the Parish Priest, Fr. Peter Drego, set the mood of the congregation. After striking a note of history, Fr. Drego stressed that, the church is not a building but a Community and called on all parishioners to build a loving, caring and sharing Community in their neighbourhood. In this way, he said, the whole parish should be trying to build up communities as we endeavour to build the (concrete) church. Father Drego then introduced to the congregation, the architect Mr. Bosco Fernandes, the consultant Mr. Raymond D'Lima, and the designer (interior) Sr. Vimla. The prayers were then led by the Priests and members of the Technical Committee (TC) and leaders of the Church Building Fund (CBF). The parchment was then read by the Secretary of the T.C., Mr. Noel Murzello, putting on record the history of the church and the names of the Architects, Structural Engineer, Consultant and Interior Designers, together with the members of the T.C. The medal of Our Lady and a Cross was blessed and inserted into a "matka" together with a few coins of that year, along with a copy of a newspaper, The Examiner and the Patrika, all dated December 4, 1994. The coconut was broken by Fr. Gonsalo Pereira according to Indian customs, and cement was ceremoniously thrown into the main pillar by the priests, builders and T.C. members. There was a thunderous applause, cheering the day and hour of the laying of the foundation of our new church. The ceremony was concluded by a vociferous singing of "O give thanks to the Lord for he is good". Pedas and coconut pieces were distributed to everyone according to Indian custom, to sweeten the memory of this historic day.

February 5, 1995, Harold Mendes

10th Anniversary of the Consecration of our New Church

Ah! What a wonderful event, the 10th anniversary of our beloved Church of Our Lady of the Assumption! This was celebrated on 1st of June, 2007. There was excitement in the air and also in the hearts of parishioners. Preparations were on in full swing for weeks in advance.

Some of the faithful came forward willingly to render their humble services and formed a

Committee headed by our dedicated Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Clarence and assisted by Rev. Fr. Francis.

The atmosphere that day was filled with joy and happiness as the sun set. Each one walked into the splendidly lit church to partake in the thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration concelebrated by five priests and preside over by Rev. Fr. Peter Drego, our ex Parish Priest. During the mass, the Parish Priest unveiled a souvenir depicting the Church and the Assumption of our Lady.

Then everyone joined with fervor and togetherness in the function that followed to commemorate the anniversary day. Rev. Fr. Peter Drego was the Chief Guest for the day and Rev. Fr. Edward D'Souza, our ex Parish Priest, and Rev. Fr. Roque, one of our ex Assistant Parish Priests, also graced the occasion. Fr. Drego and Fr. Roque spoke to the gathering about the many changes and improvements they noticed in the parish in comparison to their own times.

The Lord in His goodness made it possible for the function to be held on the grounds as it had rained heavily the previous day. Tensions and problems were put aside as all enjoyed the refreshments together with music, songs and dance as talents of children and youth were displayed at their best on the stage. The show went on, ending with a fun-filled game of housie. Bright and cheerful faces moved out to cherish the treasure of a wonderful evening well spent.

August 15, 2007, Edna Dhillon

k k k

LIST OF SPONSORS - NEW CHURCH

Altar	: Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount, Bandra
Baptismal Font	: Baptist Lucas
Holy Water Font	: Yvette & Trevor Pereira
Lectern	: Amy Miranda
Pews	: In Memory of Rita & Michael Mendes & family
Fans	: Clifton Gonsalves
Tabernacle	: Irene & Maurice Miranda & Family
Stained Glass Windows	: St. Michael Church, Mahim; Sacred Heart Church, Santa Cruz; St. Stephen Church, Cumballa Hill; Haines Road Cemetery; Theresa Monteiro; Betty & Arnold Miranda & Family; Marcellino Pires & family; Pascal Luis & family; Pamela D'souza; Technical Committee (Church Building)

TECHNICAL TEAM - NEW CHURCH

Chief Architect	: Bosco Fernandes
Structural Engineer	: Edgar de Souza
Contractor/Builder	: Raymond D'Lima , Neri D'Lima
Site Engineer	: Aspi D. Machhliwala
B.M.C. Architect	: John Fernandes
Interior Designer	: Sr. Vimla
Sound Technician	: Roger Drego
Electricians	: P. Carneiro & Sons (Vir Bijli)
Marble work and Backdrop	: Theodore Figueiredo
Stained glass windows	: Salim Khan

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - NEW CHURCH

Fr. Peter Drego	Selwyn Miranda
Noel Murzello	Stanley Pereira
Lyn Rosario	Maurice Pereira
Austin Mendes	Stanley Rebello