



Building a Faith Community for Service

## KEYSTONE NEWSLETTER

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October 2022



### Is The Mahatma Relevant For Christians?

Mahatma Gandhi can be truly called a disciple of Jesus Christ. Though not a baptized Christian, he in fact followed Jesus' main teachings in an extraordinary way, and finally gave his life for the sake of "righteousness" (Matt 5:10).

According to the book *Gandhi, the Man*, authored by Ms. Millie Polak (she and her husband were part of Gandhi's household in South Africa), Mr. Gandhi "frequently quoted the sayings and teachings of Jesus. The lesson of the '**Sermon on the Mount**' seemed to be constantly in his mind, and was a source of guidance and inspiration to him. There was a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ that adorned the wall over his desk. There was no picture of the Buddha or of Krishna in the office. But in the **center of his office room was the face of Christ.**"

Gandhi himself wrote, "Although a great part of my life has been devoted to the study of religion and to discussion with religious leaders of all faiths, **I know that I cannot avoid writing about the figure of Jesus** and trying to explain what significance and meaning he has had for me... I believe that Jesus himself, if he lived among men today, would bless the lives of many who perhaps had never heard his name, if they live in accordance with the virtues that his life so imperishably illustrated, the virtues of unselfishness and loving kindness toward one's fellow men. It is this, I think, that above all was important to him, just as it is written in the great book of Christianity - "Not he who cries out Lord, Lord, but he who does his will."

**"What, then, has Jesus meant to me? To me he is a great world teacher. To his followers, he was and is the only-begotten Son of God. Whether or not I accept this, does he affect my life the less? Is all the grandeur of his teaching thus automatically barred from me? I cannot believe so. The adjective "begotten" has a meaning for me that I like to think is deeper and possibly grander than its literal one. To my mind it implies spiritual birth. My interpretation, in other words, is that in his own life Jesus stood nearest to God. And it is in this sense that I look upon him as the Son of God..."**

**"I refuse to believe that there were any who did not profit by his example and by his atoning for their sins, whether or not they consciously realized it. The lives of all were to some degree, great or small, changed and benefited by his presence, his actions, and the words of his voice... I interpret the miracles of Jesus not in a literal sense, which seems to me unimportant, but as the dramatic and unforgettable expression of this impulse, as the most vivid lesson possible to impart - not to just pass by the sick and suffering, not to judge those who, in the world's eyes, have sinned, but to forgive them and thus help them to enter a new and better life..."**

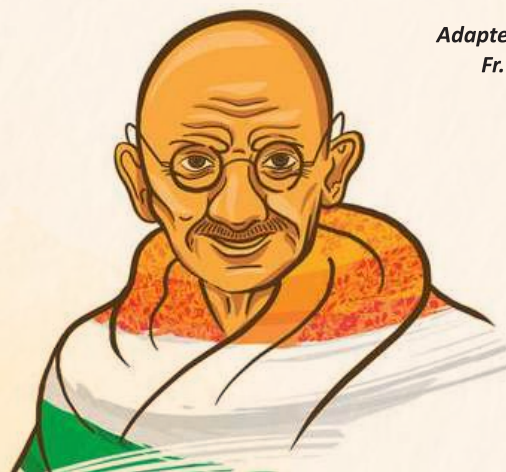
*because there was such a figure as that of Jesus, I am hopeful and confident of the future.* (The Modern Review, October 1941).

The Spirit-inspired documents of the Second Vatican Council can help us today to see Gandhi as a Spirit-filled disciple. The Paschal Mystery "*applies not to Christians only but to all men and women of goodwill in whose hearts grace is active invisibly. For since Christ died for all, and all men and women are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery*" (Gaudium et Spes, n.22).

St Pope John Paul II developed this theme in his encyclical on missionary work (Redemptoris Missio, 1990), explaining that **the gift of salvation cannot be limited "to those who explicitly believe in Christ and have entered the Church. Since salvation is offered to all, it must be made concretely available to all... (But) many people do not have the opportunity to come to know or to accept the Gospel revelation, or to enter the Church. The social and cultural conditions in which they live do not permit this, and frequently they have been brought up in other religious traditions"** (n.10).

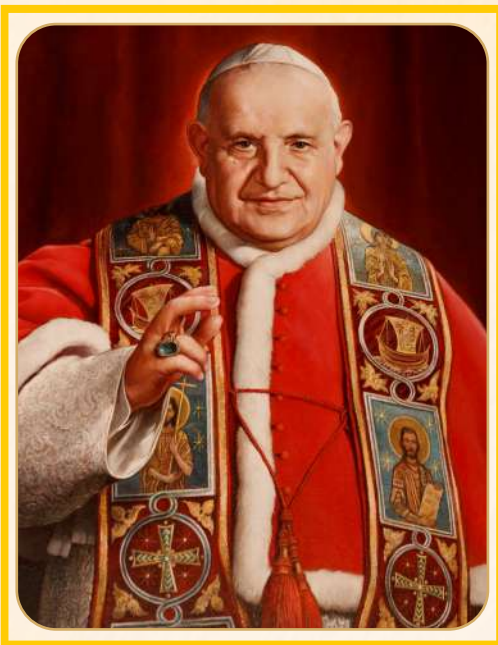
Let us remind ourselves of St John Paul II's declaration: **"The Holy Spirit's presence and activity affect not only individuals but also society and history, peoples, cultures and religions. Indeed, the Spirit is at the origin of the noble ideals and undertakings which benefit humanity on its journey through history"** (RM, n.28).

On Gandhi Jayanti, we thank God that the "Father of our Nation" was such a great follower of Jesus Christ!



Adapted from an article by  
Fr. Fio Mascarenhas SJ





## Saint Pope John XXIII (1881-1963)

Feast  
11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

The child, who would be Pope John XXIII, was born to a very poor Farming Family in a small village in Italy. Baptized Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, the baby would eventually become one of the most Spirit-filled Popes in recent history, transforming the Church forever. Angelo was always proud of his “down-to-earth” roots. He struggled through his education, and managed to be ordained a Priest. Fr. Roncalli went to study Canon Law in Rome, but also worked as Bishop’s Secretary, as Church History Teacher in the Seminary and as Publisher of the Diocesan Paper.

During World War I, Fr. Roncalli was drafted into the Royal Italian Army and experienced the horrors of war as he served as Stretcher-bearer and Chaplain.

Roncalli was appointed Papal Diplomat, serving as Apostolic Visitor to Bulgaria, as Apostolic Delegate to Turkey and Greece, as Papal Nuncio to France. With the help of Germany’s Ambassador to Turkey, Archbishop Roncalli helped save an estimated 24,000 Jews during the Nazi persecution. He was soon appointed Cardinal and Patriarch of Venice. Cardinal Roncalli was unexpectedly elected Pope at age 77.

As Pope, he began to change the culture in the Vatican. He began visiting the sick, the poor and prisoners in his Diocese. He promoted Ecumenical Movements in cooperation with other Christian Churches. He emphasized the Pastoral role of the Church and began meeting with Political and Religious leaders from around the world. His most famous Encyclicals were Mother and Teacher (1961) and Peace on Earth (1963). Pope John enlarged the membership in the College of Cardinals naming Cardinals from Africa, Japan and the Philippines.

Pope John XXIII was indeed inspired by the Holy Spirit to convene the historic Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) – to bring in a breath of fresh air. “The Church has always opposed errors”, he exclaimed. “Now, however, the Spouse of Christ is called upon to apply the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity.” Pope John was diagnosed with stomach cancer – a terminal illness at that time. In his last months, he offered to negotiate peace between the Soviet Union and the United States, then at the height of the Cold War.

Throughout his life, Angelo Roncalli cooperated with God’s grace, responding to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, believing that whatever the job at hand it was worthy of his best efforts. His sense of God’s Providence made him the ideal person to promote a new dialogue with Protestant and Orthodox Christians, as well as with Jews and Muslims. “Good Pope John” died at the age of 81. His farewell message is: “It is not that the Gospel has changed; it is that we have begun to understand it better... the moment has come to discern the signs of the times, to seize the opportunity and to look far ahead.”

In 2000, Pope John XXIII was beatified. Miracles were attributed to him and his body was found to be uncorrupt. He was canonized in 2014.

*Fr. Aubrey A. Mascarenhas, SJ*



## Celebration Of Girl Child Day

The church in India has designated 8th September, the birthday of Our Lady, as the day of the Girl child.

The Women's Cell presented a small skit on the 8th of September at the 7pm Mass. The skit highlighted mainly the problems faced by girls in rural India, where their parents get them married at an early age, as early as 12 years though the legal age is 21.

In the skit, children of the Jesus Club, youth and members of the Women's Cell participated. The message of the skit was to educate the girl child and give her the same opportunities that a boy gets. If education is given to all children equally the whole family gets educated.

On Sunday 11th September a video was shown which pinpointed gender discrimination faced by the girl child in the family. It also showed Women who have made significant contribution to Society.

May Mother Mary, who was brought up by her parents with dignity, inspire all parents to treat their daughters and sons equally, free from gender discrimination!

*Women cell member*

### Pope's Intention Oct 2022



**For a Church Open to Everyone**  
We pray for the Church, ever faithful to, and courageous in preaching the Gospel, be a community of solidarity, fraternity and welcome, always living in an atmosphere of synodality



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**



# Community Sharing

## ***Queen Of What ?!?!***

The patron of our Community is Our Lady Queen of Peace, but it was anything but peace that reigned that 22nd evening. There was loud laughter, screams of delight, yelling of “House”, singing, music, dancing, a march-past and so much more. **It was so much fun!!**

## **But let’s start at the peaceful beginning. 22nd September is the Feast Day of Our Lady Queen of Peace.**

Our Community has traditionally held a celebration on this day. However in the last couple of years we could only manage one online get together - and let’s face it – you really can’t have much fun staring at a Zoom screen (despite that one ubiquitous ceiling-fan participant). So this year when someone suggested that we have a REAL get together, our Core-Group immediately swung into action.

A suitable mass timing was selected for the morning Eucharistic Celebration – our Zone priest Fr Assis ‘booked’ himself as the celebrant. For the evening - an action plan was drawn up. Tasks were listed and assigned to animators. Mouth-watering Snacks, Fun-filled Games, Surprise Gifts, Music, Coupons, even a take-away Biryani dinner.

Permission was sought from the parish for the use of the premises and facilities. Fr. Frazer unhesitatingly gave us his blessings and encouragement on noting the occasion.

The one & only Tony was contacted for the Sound. As always he was ever ready to help. (On the evening itself, finding the lighting insufficient, he arranged for and wired brighter lights). God bless you Tony and your staff assistant.

Whatsapp and word-of-mouth messages went out to the Clusters calling community members to come celebrate together. And what a heart-warming response it was. We had about 65 members who made the evening the fun time it really was. The Compere-DJ were a father-daughter duo - in perfect sync. We always remember our housebound - each got a home-delivered biryani pack BEFORE our event began.

Fr. Assis was to perform a Marathi folk dance & song. Unfortunately he had to attend a funeral in Vasai. Fr. Frazer stepped in a while to meet many of the older folk and to commend the community on a great turnout. Sr. Minaxi opened and closed the event with a prayer - meaningful as always.

We’d promised we’d end by 8pm and we did - on the dot!

It was an evening to remember - surely all thanks to the blessings showered from above by a smiling Mother. Maybe she’s that too - QUEEN of FUN.

***Core Group - Queen of Peace  
(Bazar Cross Lane & Boran Road)***



## 'Save Aarey' Protest Rally

The Bombay Catholic Sabha organized a 'Save Aarey' Protest Rally on 28th August 2022 at 10 am to appeal to the Maharashtra Government to shift the Metro Car Shed to Kanjur Marg and save the Padas (hamlets) of the poor tribals and also save the surviving trees in the Aarey forest.

I met up with the members of the Mount Carmel Unit of the Bombay Catholic Sabha and travelled to the venue of the Rally, known as the 'Picnic Spot', in Aarey Milk Colony. Gradually the number of protestors increased as buses brought in Members from other Parish Units. Mr. Dolphy D'Souza, former President of BCS and well known Activist, and Mr. Raphael D'Souza, current President of BCS addressed the gathering, and strongly reiterated our appeal to our Government.

Unfortunately, not many members of St. Peter's Church BCS unit and also from our Care for Creation Group joined this rally. The time to stand up for the rights of our poor tribals and our own right to breathe clean air is NOW. Please do not stay disinterested – once we are half choked, it will be too late!

*Harry D'souza - St. Peter's BCS member*





# The All Bandra Zonals – 65<sup>th</sup> Year In 2022

The All-Bandra Zonals which bonded parishes across the Bandra Deanery these past years, was held this year over 4 Sundays from Sunday 7th August to Sunday 9th August after a 2-year hiatus due to the Pandemic. St. Peters Parish, Bandra West, St. Joseph the Worker Bandra East together with St. Andrew's comprised the South East Zone Team.

The Zonals started by St. Andrews parish in 1953 & followed by all other Bandra parishes brought together Bandra's talented children, youth, and seniors in every parish giving them a platform to perform and showcase their talent. It is truly wonderful to watch the performances at the Zonals each year - the stage from where so many of our youngsters have started out on their journey to make a career in the music world.



This year as always, there were eight categories of performances – INDIVIDUAL VOCALS, INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENTAL, DUOS, QUARTETS, ELOCUTION, DANCE, CHOIR & the PLAY. It was so heartwarming to see our St Peters Parishioners right from the 8-12 Age Group to our Seniors in the above 20 category actively participating in all the categories– Singing, Dancing, Elocution, Choir & the Play, all shining so bright – truly our South East Zone stars from St. Peter's Parish!

Success lies in team-work and coordination. It was simply amazing the way our St. Peters Parish worked shoulder-to- shoulder with their fellow team members of the other Parishes to ensure our South East Zone group productions did excellently.

A Big Thank you to Fr. Fraser and St. Peter's Church for supporting us whenever we needed to practice. And a big Thank you as well to the organisers and all the participating teams for keeping the Bandra Zonals flag flying so high once again.

**Shalini Dsouza**



# Teacher's Day Celebration

St. Peter's Church celebrated its annual Teacher's Day for all the teachers and ex-teachers of the parish on Sunday 4th September with a mass at 8am followed by a get-together.

On the 4th of September I woke up early at the crack of dawn. I saw that we were being blessed with wonderful showers of rain which I always call "Showers of blessings" and I knew that this was a sign from the Lord of His blessings on all of us who celebrate this day.

As we assembled to begin our day at Church, we were greeted with smiles and love in the eyes of all present. Fr. Frazer was the celebrant at the mass. During his homily he told the children that their parents were teachers as they have taught them since birth. He made it known to the teachers, that they too, were parents to the children they were teaching as they were moulding young budding minds. The children's choir sang beautiful, melodious hymns making us feel so loved and appreciated.



After mass we all met in the School Hall where Darryl Loyola was the Master of Ceremonies for the morning of fun and frolic. Children dancing and reciting poems were the beginning of the entertainment for us teachers. Darryl's bubbly nature and wit got us all dancing and singing to old Punjabi and Hindi songs, not forgetting the English ones which were a hit. Plenty of spot prizes and group games were fun too. We were all blessed with snacks and gifts.

We truly enjoyed the fun which left us smiling even after it ended. We give grateful thanks to the parish and all who worked so hard to give us such a great experience that made us feel appreciated. God bless you all.

*Susan Remedios*



## SSVP Feast Day Celebration

St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Peter's Church celebrated the feast of their Patron St. Vincent de Paul on 27th September 2022 with the Eucharist offered by Fr. Aubrey Mascarenhas at 7.00 pm. Prior to the mass a meal was sponsored by us at the "Feed the Hungry" Programme, a Feast Day menu catering to around 94 people.

At 6.30 pm the members distributed generous grocery hampers to our adopted families in the parlour. The families were touched by this gesture with notes of appreciation from them.

Our Conference is all about reaching out to the poor in every way namely medical, educational, monthly aid, and being in touch with them. Our sincere gratitude to all our generous benefactors without whom this outreach would not have been possible.

Wouldn't you like to be a part of our conference? We'd gladly welcome you.  
Enquiries at the Church Parish Office.

**SSVP member**

## Bishop Barthol Baretto's Message CCR-Mumbai | Golden Jubilee



The Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) in the Archdiocese of Mumbai celebrates its Golden Jubilee year. Yes, 50 YEARS!

Bishop Barthol Baretto – Episcopal advisor to the CCR invites you to be part of the mega closing celebration on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of October 2022 at the Shanmukhananda Auditorium Sion (W) in Konkani, English, Hindi, Marathi and Tamil.

For entry passes/coupons contact our parish prayer group coordinators or the CCR office, Dadar by calling 022- 24303626 / 022 – 24210881

Don't miss this grand celebration of God's love.

Book your entry passes right away and we shall see you all for this Glorious Golden Jubilee Celebration.

Best Regards,

**Lester Frias**

**Coordinator, Keys of The Kingdom.**



# Sunshine Seniors

*Sunshine sweeps the clouds away  
Sunshine brightens up the day*

*Sunshine melts the winter snow  
Sunshine helps spring flowers grow*

*God has blessed us with this Sunshine  
To To keep us warm from time to time.*



The Sunshine Seniors, as the Senior Citizens Group of St. Peter's is called, renewed their activities gradually ever since the lockdown was lifted and the pandemic gloom began to fade.

- Advent Recollection by Fr. Allwyn Misquita sdb – “Jesus is the Reason for All Seasons” on 7th December 2021. Lenten recollection by Fr. Savio de Sales on the “Gifts of the Holy Spirit” on 10th March 2022.
- Over Night Picnic at Stanislaus Villa, Lonavala on 15th May 2022.
- Thanksgiving Mass on Feast of our Patron Saints, Joachim and Anne on 26th July followed by a short Fellowship.
- Fellowship for Senior Citizens who came for Housie on 28th July – soup and cake – to celebrate the Feast.
- Line Dancing – with Marita Nazareth – And Exercise for the Well Being of Senior Citizens from 11th August 2022.
- Birthday of Blessed Mother Mary and Bandra Feast was celebrated on 14th September 2022 with a short fellowship.



We gave a snack and a coffee. Our grateful thanks go to Fr. Baptist for his prayers which were spiritual and meaningful. A hymn to Mother Mary “Be with us Mary Along the Way” was sung by all of us. It was an evening of fun and frolic. Thanks to our God.

Line Dancing, which was started by Clarissa Barrett in September 2019 at St. Peter's, but had to be closed down in March 2020 due to the pandemic, was restarted under the coaching of Marita Nazareth at St. Peter's from 11th August 2022. Marita brings abundant infectious energy to the Sunshine Seniors group. God bless her and may her enthusiasm always shine forth.

We have Line Dancing and Fun Exercises for Seniors every second and fourth Wednesday and Housie on the fourth Thursday of every month, both from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at our Lady's Room. We have a good attendance of a minimum of 25 Seniors who attend these programs. We exercise and energize, thereby building Good Health and Community Bonds that we Seniors value the most. Those Seniors wishing to attend are welcome and may come directly to the venue. You may contact Mona on mobile no 9619783023 to receive regular updates on forthcoming activities and information relevant to Seniors.

***Mona Gracias - President Senior Citizens Association***



## Earth Corner

### Say no to plastic with Refillable



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Refill brands such as



To place an order WhatsApp us on 93216 19095



***Refill is the new "R".  
Great for your pocket.  
Better for the planet.***

This start-up Refillable, aims to eliminate 1 million plastic bottle packaging in 2022 by allowing users to refill their everyday homecare items in their existing bottles or other containers at their doorsteps. The products they sell work out 10-20% cheaper without the packaging. The brands who have partnered in turn will also meet their 2025 recycling targets.

So why wait. Let's join the Refill revolution. WhatsApp to have your home care liquids delivered to your doorstep. It's definitely great for your pocket and better for the planet.

CCG Team





# PARISH COUNCIL HAPPENINGS September 2022



## Review

### **1. August Cluster Meetings**

This Archdiocesan initiative was appreciated as it would help establish Christian Community and obtain grassroots information on various issues. Salient points of these cluster meetings are listed below:

- Some felt that Inter-religious initiatives could result in dilution of our own faith and create confusion especially with the youth. Fr. Frazer responded that strengthening our own faith is a life-long effort which we cannot stop. However, learning to respect the traditions and religious experience of other groups was the need of the hour.
- Some were unhappy about prayers/hymns in the vernacular. To this, Fr. Frazer said that we should be considerate if just one prayer or hymn is sung in another language as a token of solidarity with those parishioners comfortable in an Indian language.
- The Homily should be practical. Fr. Frazer clarified that the homily focuses on the readings of the day. It was therefore agreed to have a monthly session where topical issues could be discussed.
- At the request of many parishioners, it was agreed to advance the Saturday Mass timing of 6.45 pm to 6.15 pm; no change in the 7.45 pm mass. This revision will be effective from Saturday 1st October onwards.
- To the suggestion to restore the 6.45 am daily mass, Fr. Frazer noted that those who wish to attend the daily mass at 6.45 am may go to St. Joseph's for the 6.30 am mass, celebrated by our own Priests. We do not have personnel to add another daily Mass.
- Parishioners wanting a black and white print of the Keystone should register their names at the Parish office

### **2. Events on August 15th:**


The 10 am Indian style mass was conducted with Fr. Aubrey as the main celebrant. The session by Dr. Ram Puniyani, well-known author and activist, was attended by almost 200 people of all faiths. His talk on the Preamble and its impact on our constitutional rights was enlightening and greatly appreciated.

## Agenda

**a) Faith Formation:** Commencing October, Faith Formation Talks will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month post the 10 am Mass from 10.50 am – 11.30 am. Announcement will be made in the Church.

**b) Fellowship Session from October:** Fellowship Sunday will be on the 4th Sunday of the month after the 10 am Mass.

**c) Inter-religious bridge-building and inculturation:** This is the Jesuit commitment to put into practice the directives of Vatican II. Fr. Frazer emphasised the need to understand that people of other Faith are also yearning for God. We need to make efforts to continue to address this issue with parishioners who are not yet comfortable acknowledging God-experience in other religions. We must be open to people of all faith. It is a slow process but we must broaden our minds & continue to dialogue.





***Catholic Theology appreciates the religious experience of other faiths, which is very relevant in these days of communal conflict. Our Parish has applied this theology practically in the following ways:***

- Reading a note on the Feast of a major religious group at the Eucharist; this in no way suggests that we are worshipping other Gods or getting personally involved in their religious ceremonies. It just means that we are showing respect and are lifting them up in prayer at the Eucharist.
- Inter-faith cultural events like the Dandiya Dances, the Easter Eid Milan, the Christmas Programme and recently the Iftaar programme with our brothers and sisters of other faith. Surely one can celebrate all such cultural events just as we invite others to our festival celebrations.
- 30 parishioners went on an inter-faith pilgrimage to Bandra shrines of different faiths; they were warmly received at these shrines. Such interaction will only make our Evangelization more fruitful. We intend to resume such pilgrimages after the monsoon.
- Raksha Bandhan - Our multi-faith Committee members visited the Bandra Police station where the lady members tied Rakhis to the male police force.

Fr. Frazer suggested listening to the two videos, one by Fr. Fio on "Broadening of Horizons" and the other by himself on "Reading the Signs of the Times" for a better understanding of these initiatives. These online talks are available on our YouTube Channel. This point may be taken up at future Cluster meetings.

**Parishioners are free to use the suggestion box to express their doubts and feeling on these issues.**

## AOB

**Rosary in October:** Associations/Zones will conduct them at the Church Grotto on all weekdays at 6.15 pm.

**Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ**

## MILESTONES

### Rest in Christ

#### NAME

Thelma Almeida  
Ivy Joyce Roche

#### AGE

83  
82

#### ADDRESS

Baba Nagar  
Ladhani House, Almeida Park





## Let's Care For Creation!

The season of creation that's being observed by our Catholic community begins from September 1st, celebrated as the WORLD DAY OF PRAYER for the CARE OF CREATION and concludes on October 4th, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, who is regarded as the Patron Saint of Ecology. The theme of this season is, **'LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION.'**

When I heard this announced in church recently during our regular children's mass, it got me thinking about various ways in which I can contribute to making our planet Earth greener and more sustainable for all mankind to flourish and prosper. The global environmental crisis is currently in focus everywhere as the daily newspapers report raging forest fires in California, flash floods in Europe due to melting of icebergs and glaciers and scorching heatwaves across many countries, resulting in water scarcity, loss of vegetation and drought. TV channels constantly stream images of this devastating climate change due to global warming. This alarming situation needs to be addressed by all of us, to introspect what we can do, however small, to make a positive change to this environmental crisis. I would like to share some of my real-life examples of 'Care for creation' projects, that I am involved in.

As a middle school student of a progressive IB world school, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in many Rotary and Interact Club events. Currently, I am actively involved in the 'Green plastic' initiative project, that's started by the organization 'Mission Green Mumbai.' We students, are donating thick, old, polythene bags that are lying unused around the house and using these as plant holders or grow bags. We are filling these plant holders with nutrient compost soil, sourced from our campus garden department and then using this to nurture small shrubs or saplings. We intend to sell these grow bags during our upcoming Diwali mela festivities in school and donate the money generated, to charitable organizations for the underprivileged. This way we are reusing materials lying about at home as well as reducing consumption of buying pots for plants. This activity is a simple way of fostering a greener, 'care for creation' outlook amongst students of our school and increasing our social bonding as well, for we all meet daily and check on our plants and help each other with some useful gardening tips.

Next month, after the monsoons, I will volunteer for my school's beach clean-up drive at Juhu. This project, started by the environmental activist and lawyer, Afroz Shah, is supported by the BMC and is part of the **'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar'** campaign with the aim of improving the ocean's health for all forms of life and making the beach surroundings cleaner, via the collective action of citizens.

Recently, at home a few weeks ago, I made the best use of waste materials by forming wooden coasters and computer mousepads from left over bits of wonder floor tiles that my Mom had purchased, for her dental clinic flooring renovations.

I will always adhere to the **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE** mantra in my life and hope that my above-mentioned examples serve to motivate and encourage other youth to do likewise and reduce our carbon footprint on our planet Earth. **Let's CARE FOR CREATION** together and sing a few lines of that iconic Michael Jackson song, suitably tweaked by me to reflect the theme of creation.

*Let's heal the world.*

*Make it a better place. For you and for me and the entire human race.*

*Let's care for creation daily and nurture more greenery,*

*Let's make this world a better place for you and for me.*

**Reuben Menezes - Grade 9, Singapore International School.**



## Why I Like Going To Sunday School

On the first day of Sunday School after Covid-19, I walked into the church feeling nervous and a bit anxious. I didn't know what it would be like after spending two years at home. I even expected to find it boring. However, after just one class, it was clear to me that it was not the case.

I found that the classes were surprisingly enjoyable. First, we discuss a story in the Bible like Abraham and Isaac, or Jacob and Esau. Then followed my favourite part - the debate. We debated on the topic conferred in class. For example, when we were talking about Joseph, we were debating on whether Joseph or his brothers were in the right. It's always interesting hearing different perspectives on whatever is conversed about. I don't think it'll ever get tiring. Last, we get a worksheet with a word search, crossword or something similar. The classes are always so fun, and everyone at church is so kind.

I wouldn't know as much about God if I weren't in Sunday School, and I'm sure it's the same for many people too. With Sunday School, we can learn about Jesus and have fun at the same time, so why would anyone dislike it? I always have a great time there, and leave church in a good frame of mind.

**Kiera Pereira – STD VII**

Wish you all a very  
**HAPPY**

*Diwali*

