



Building a Faith Community for Service

KEYSTONE

NEWSLETTER

COMMITMENT • LIVING FAITH • INTEGRITY • CONCERN • (CLIC)

Visit us at : www.stpetersbandra.org

MARCH 2023



What Lenten Practices?



Pope St. John Paul II taught that we should, **“Carry out a sincere review of life regarding solidarity with the Poor”** (Mission of the Redeemer, 60). “We must imitate Jesus and have a preferential love for the poor” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2448). **St. John Chrysostom** insisted, **“Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them** and deprive them of life. **The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs.”** **St. Gregory the Great** taught: “When we attend to the needs of those in want, **we give them what is theirs, not ours.** More than performing works of mercy, **we are paying a debt of justice”** (Catechism, 2446). The Church’s teaching is radical. Does it make sense?

Consider this: the **minimum wage**, according to Government 7th Pay scales, for an **unskilled worker** like a peon, for an 8 hour job, is Rs 18,000/- per month. This is a **living wage!** Are we paying this to our watchmen, cooks,

cleaning staff etc? If not, **aren’t we stealing** from them, like Chrysostom says? A review is useful.

The Catholic Church is very clear and unambiguous about the **real presence** of Christ in the **Eucharist**. In a mysterious way, **Jesus is really present** in the bread and wine - transformed into His Body and Blood. Instead, don’t we take Holy Communion just as a **nice sort of blessing** for our day? **Real communion** with His Body, Blood and Spirit would transform our lives, making us want to join Jesus in His work of making the world more loving, even at a risk to our own comforts. Is the **radical meaning** given to the Eucharist by Jesus palatable? A review is useful.

May Lent help us to radically live the Gospel and thereby, **be** the Good News!

Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas, SJ



Saint John Of God (1495-1550)

Feast
8th MARCH

John (João Duarte Cidade) was a man of the Spirit, who listened to the voice of God and fulfilled the will of God every day of his life. At the age of eight, he was inspired to leave home to become a travelling Missionary. While he proclaimed the Word of God by selling religious books, he was always at the service of anyone and everyone who was suffering in body, mind or spirit. He went about doing good, with the power of the Holy Spirit.

At the age of 27, John joined the Spanish army. Fearing dangers to his life, John vowed impulsively to reform his unholy military ways. When discharged, he made a confession, and immediately changed his life. He worked as a shepherd while he contemplated what God might want of his life. He decided to go to Africa to ransom Christian captives and perhaps be martyred.

Inspired that martyrdom was not God's will for him, John returned to Spain and worked in a Religious Goods Store. Moved by a sermon on repentance by John of Avila, John soon engaged in beating himself publicly, tearing his clothes, begging mercy from everyone and wildly weeping for his past sinful life. Considering him insane, friends admitted him to a Mental Hospital.

John could never see suffering without trying to do something about it. Although still a patient, he immediately began to help the numerous sick people around him. Soon he announced his plan to start his own hospital to provide good medical care to the sick poor.

He initially supported his work by begging. However, benefactors, inspired by his devotion to this heroic charitable work, began to help John in cash or in kind. Critics too abounded unable to comprehend that John could shower his loving care on good and bad persons alike.

John's total concern and love for Christ's sick poor, supported by a deep interior prayer life, inspired young men to help him. These, twenty years after John's death, formed the Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God.

John was seriously ill when he heard that a flood was bringing down precious driftwood. He jumped out of bed to gather wood for the poor from the raging river. When one of his companions was drowning, John without thought for his illness or safety, jumped in after him. He failed to save the boy and caught acute pneumonia. He died on March 8, his fifty-fifth birthday, of the same impulsive love that had guided his whole life.

We admire the utter humility of John of God, to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in his total, selfless dedication to the welfare of others. The Lord blessed him with the gifts of prudence, patience, courage, enthusiasm and the ability to influence and inspire others. John's commitment to lovingly serve others flowed from his wholehearted love for God.

Fr. Aubrey A. Mascarenhas, SJ

Senior Citizens Valentine Nite

On 12th of February, SPY (St. Peter's Youth) organized a Valentine's evening for the elderly of our parish. Fr. Baptist welcomed the 77 participating seniors. The lively youth volunteers conducted the variety programme with flair under the professional compering of Arabella, the youth coordinator.



The event began with a slow dance and jive sessions to the old melodies requested by the seniors themselves bringing nostalgic memories of their youthful days. There was a karaoke session with everyone joyfully singing their favourite song. There were team games; one in which the team had to correctly identify the popular song from a given clue and then sing the song and dance to it as well; the other was a card and basket game in which the team had to gather the cards spread on a table and put them in the basket within a time limit. And of course, the perennial favourite 'Housie' was played and attractive prizes awarded. And all this activity stirred up an appetite satisfied with delicious sandwiches and refreshing hot soup. The programme ended with the 'grand masala medley' and dance. The seniors left with a deep sense of gratitude for SPY, for making them feel young again with a wonderful night of fun and frolic. Some have expressed their appreciation on WhatsApp as given below:

"Thank u so much Ara, Calista, SPY and Fr. Baptist. You kept our spirits up throughout. Our senior Citizens had tons of fun. Kudos"

*"Dear Fr Baptist, Arabella and team,
We had a spectacular evening today in the Loyola Hall. It was just awesome...
Thank you for all the arrangements. You took a lot of trouble to make it over enjoyable for us"*

SPY group

Living Faith

The Church's Stand On Marriage

Fr. K T. Emmanuel addressed the key questions on the Church's stand on Marriage on Saturday January 28th at the 6.15 pm mass.

1. How does the Church define a marriage?

Under Canon 1055/1056, the Church defines a marriage as a Covenant (agreement) between man and woman, an indissoluble union for life with the prime purpose of mutual good of the respective spouses and the procreation and upbringing of children. It was raised by Christ to the dignity of a Sacrament.

2. What is the difference between a mixed marriage and a disparity of cult marriage?

A Mixed Marriage, which is also known as a Mixed Religion marriage is, in the strict sense, one that is contracted between a baptised Catholic and a baptised non-Catholic. namely a Christian, a Protestant. A Disparity of Cult marriage is one that is contracted between a Catholic and an unbaptised person that is of other faiths. A mixed marriage is considered a Sacrament; but not so with a disparity of cult marriage.

3. What is to be done in mixed marriages/disparity of cult marriages, if the non-catholic party is unwilling to allow the children to be brought up as Catholics?

The Catholic party is bound to sign the usual promises but for good reasons the dispensation can be granted if, in the judgement of the Local Ordinary or his delegate, there is no danger of the Catholic party losing his/her faith and there is the founded hope of a happy marriage.

4. Is it permissible to celebrate a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Christian during Mass?

No, a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Christian cannot be celebrated during Mass. Even a marriage between a Catholic and a baptised non-Catholic cannot be celebrated during Mass without the due permission of the Local Ordinary, as per the motu proprio "Determining Norms for Mixed Marriages" issued by Pope Paul VI on March 31, 1970.

5. A marriage is a union for life, but are there any impediments under which a marriage can be dissolved?

Yes, there are 12 diriment impediments under which only a Local Ordinary can authorize dissolution of the marriage.

6. In the case of mixed marriages, is it permissible to give communion to the baptised non-Catholic party?

The provisions of Canon 844 §4 would apply to mixed marriages: if in the judgement of the Diocesan Bishop or of the Episcopal Conference, there is some grave and pressing need, Catholic ministers may lawfully administer communion to other Christians not in full communion with the Catholic Church, who cannot approach a minister of their own community and who spontaneously asks for communion, provided that he/she believes in the Real Presence and is properly disposed. These cases must be referred to the Diocesan Bishop for his permission.

7. Is double religious ceremony permissible in marriage?

Canon 1127 §3 clearly states that it is forbidden to have, either before or after the canonical celebration, another religious celebration of the same marriage for the purpose of giving or renewing matrimonial consent. Likewise, there is not to be a religious ceremony in which the Catholic assistant and a non-Catholic minister each performing his own rite, ask for the consent of the parties. However, there is no law forbidding a civil marriage before or after the Church marriage for reasons of obtaining passport, visa, etc.

Pope's Intention Mar 2023



For Victims of Abuse
We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the church; May they find within the church herself a concrete response to their pain & suffering



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
INDIA

World Marriage Day



St. Peter's Church celebrated World Marriage Day on Sunday 19th February with a special Eucharistic celebration at the 6 pm Mass. Fr. Frazer, the celebrant, felicitated married couples, especially those celebrating milestone anniversaries. One couple Doreen and Ralph were celebrating their diamond jubilee, 60 years of blissful togetherness. Fr. Frazer lauded all married couples for their commitment. He said that it was the most difficult and at the same time the most rewarding vocation which is a gift from the Almighty. There was a renewal of marital vows and a special blessing by Fr. Frazer. Several couples shared their marital journey at the Mass; many other couples also shared their experience at all other masses on Saturday and Sunday.

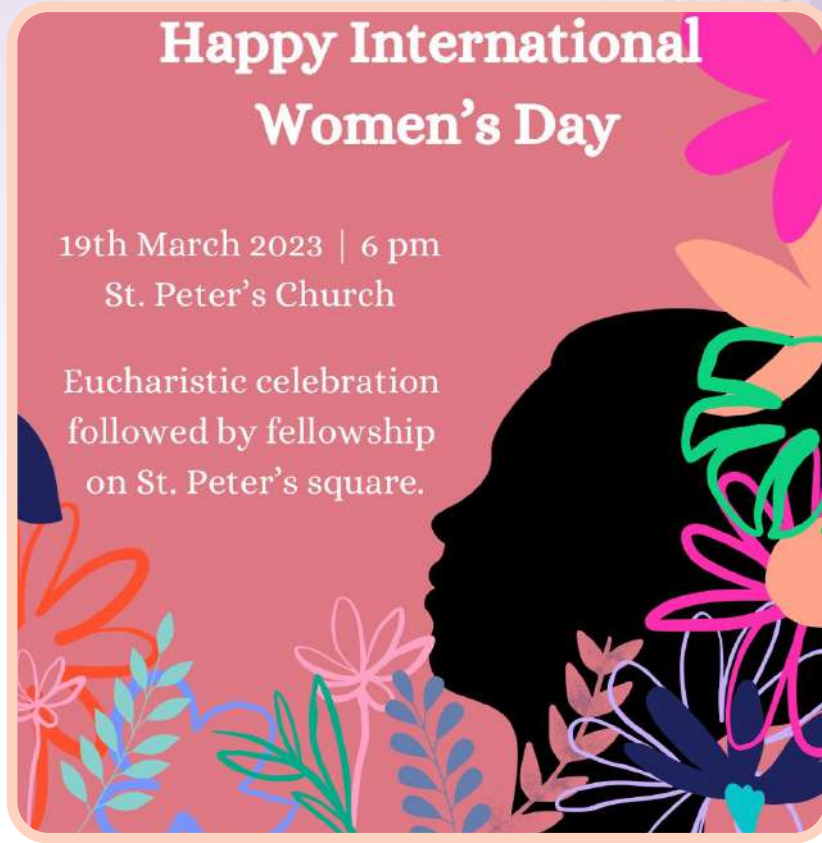


The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a get-together on St. Peter's Church Square. It was an evening of music, dance, karaoke, games, snacks and dinner organized by the Family Cell collaborating with the dynamic St. Peter's Youth group. The anchor for the evening was Arabella, the Youth Coordinator, who kept the couples on their feet dancing to the melodious music provided by Lyle and his team. 'The Wedding March' brought sweet memories to the couples present and the highlight was 'the cutting of the cake ceremony' by couples. The games were engaging especially 'How well do you know your Valentine' and it was heartening to note that all couples and others present young and old participated and enjoyed themselves. The evening concluded with dinner and a grateful thanks to one and all. The event was well attended and greatly appreciated.

Happy International Women's Day

19th March 2023 | 6 pm
St. Peter's Church

Eucharistic celebration
followed by fellowship
on St. Peter's square.



International Women's Day celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

The day also marks a call to action throughout the world for accelerating Women's empowerment and equality.

The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to NO single feminist nor to any one organisation but to the collective efforts of all who CARE.

Come Join The Women's Cell Of St. Peters

**HAPPY
WOMEN'S
DAY**

The 'Sasta Sale'

The 'Sasta Sale' has come to life due to Fr. Fraser, the Daughters of the Cross and volunteers from parish groups. So, what is this sale all about.

Reduce - the sale provides an outlet for unused/excess goods

Reuse - an opportunity to obtain used items at reasonable prices

Recycle - items are recycled e.g. old upholstery turned into bags

Segregation - of textile, leather, glass and e-waste

Mission Outreach - the sale proceeds go to a Mission Outreach

The sale has been an answer to another person's need, blessing SVP families or individuals who needed a sewing-machine, cycle etc. and couldn't afford it.

The sale is the tip of the iceberg. A lot of collecting, sorting, packing is involved in sending goods to centres doing amazing grass root level work.

How can you be a part of this initiative?

- Gift something to a needy person thereby contributing to sale proceeds and blessing someone
- Volunteer your time, skill, goods for the marginalized... the lost, the least
- Join the fun and fellowship at the Tables
- Contact Christina Lobo for collections - 9619948199

Your 'Mite' could make a "Mighty" difference



Pope's Apostolic Journey To Bahrain

In his 39th Apostolic Journey to Bahrain from Nov 03 to 06, 2022 Pope Francis dialogued with various forums on multi-faceted issues towards achieving a peaceful human coexistence, as he said on his arrival. "In preparing for my visit, I learnt about one outstanding 'emblem of vitality' in this country which is **the Tree of Life (Shajarat-al-Hayat)**. The secret is to be found in its roots, which extend for dozens of metres below the ground, drawing from subterranean deposits of water...and so... to the parched deserts of human coexistence let us bring the water of fraternity." The Pope employed the image of the desert to highlight the present situation of the world: countless wars and conflicts, isolationist mentalities, and environmental destruction.

On **Day One**, he addressed **the civil authorities and diplomatic corps of Bahrain**. He covered major issues - the Global labour crisis, Caring for the environment, promoting Peace not war, Living together in harmony and respect.



Pope welcomed by King Hamad bin Khalifa

On **Day Two**, He attended **the closing session of the Bahrain Forum for Dialogue** with over 200 religious leaders in the morning at Sakhir Royal Palace. He spoke out against war and on behalf of true religious freedom, recognition of women, protection of children's fundamental rights, and the concept of citizenship. In his meeting with the **Muslim Council of Elders**, he encouraged the members to embrace fraternity, prayer and common efforts to help humanity rediscover the hidden sources of life, foster peace and promote care of the disadvantaged in society.



Meeting with other religious heads

At the **ecumenical prayer meeting, at the Cathedral of our Lady of Arabia**, the Pope lamented divisions among Christians, which "have wounded the Lord's holy body." He focused on two main themes: unity in diversity, and witness of life." He also met privately with one of the leaders of the Islamic world, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmed al-Tayyeb.

On **Day Three**, he met with **young people at Sacred Heart School in Awali** and told them, “We need your creativity, your dreams and your courage, your charm and your smiles, your contagious joy and that touch of craziness that you can bring to every situation, which helps to break us out of our stale habits and ways of looking at things.”



Pope at Sacred Heart Church

Whether speaking to the King of Bahrain or religious leaders or local Christians, Pope Francis held out the possibility for humanity to create an oasis in the desert. Each person-especially people of faith-has the duty to water that oasis with our daily actions on behalf of the human fraternity. The goal is to allow God to guide our paths toward peace on this earth and the “fullness of communion in God”.

Pope Francis celebrated Mass at 8 am in Bahrain's National Stadium. People traveled from surrounding countries, starting very early in the morning to be there for the Papal Mass. The Stadium was packed to the gills with an audience representing 111 nationalities, Catholics mostly and a few non-Catholics as well. Pope Francis urged the faithful to shatter the chains of evil and break the spiral of violence by loving everyone... always.



Mass at National stadium

On the **final day's Prayer Meeting and Angelus with Consecrated Persons**, the Pope encouraged the nation's clergy to joyously bring God's joy to the Gulf nation's diverse flock, and made appeals for peace in Ethiopia and Ukraine. We too can draw lessons from the Pope's discourses on how we can be instrumental in establishing peaceful coexistence in our neighbourhood.

Brian D'Souza



Breath Taking!

Do we care about what happens to the huge amount of wet waste generated every day by you, me, restaurants, institutions, etc.??

Well, on this bright Thursday morning (2nd Feb 2023) an enthusiastic batch of 30 eager students of National College (3rd year Economics) were soon going to find out. These students are learning about the Environment and the detrimental impact created by man's **wasteful** habits.

Thanks to Papa Paul Fishery's motivated grandson, Wayne, who coordinated with the **Care for Creation Group**; his fellow batch mates were able to see/smell/experience first hand how **waste is not wasted**.



A few members of the CCG, led by Lillian Pais, all met at the Pali Hill Reservoir. This Reservoir is the main source of water supply to all of us in Bandra West. One area of this huge property has been skillfully demarcated, where, using both manual and mechanical techniques, they are successfully converting **Waste into Energy** (electricity) and compost.

It is a humbling process to witness the laborious task of manual segregation of food waste, which, by the time it reaches them, emits a nauseating and decaying stench.

The BMC staff are simple, hard working and very committed to the cause. Selflessly, day in and day out, in all kinds of weather, and putting themselves at a great risk to their health, they carry on the work of manual segregation and the process of conversion.

Beyond midnight and into the wee hours of the morning, garbage vans unload the waste food, collected largely from restaurants.



The first and most critical step of the process is **MANUAL SEGREGATION**. It was shocking to see so much plastic, by way of bags/containers/cutlery, mixed with food. Even shredding large chunks of meat is done manually.

All this waste is then fed into shredders which then pulverize it into a very fine/semi watery paste. From this step on, temperature controlled machines convert the waste to energy, that is Electricity and further, to compost.

***The street lights all along Pali Road are run on this energy.
All BMC gardens are supplied with good compost from here.***

Wayne's instant and resounding reaction was... Wow! What a breathtaking experience. Lessons instantly learned. The students immediately understood their role and responsibility of being mindful about waste and the importance of segregation. Charged with energy, they readily agreed to partner with CCG and will, hopefully, come on board to share ideas and work towards promotional projects to make the difference.

We at CCG, extend the invitation to all parishioners, as responsible citizens, to inculcate this lifestyle change of wet and dry segregation at the family/housing society/community level.

WASTE NO TIME.

Janet D'souza - CCG Member



Swacch Bandra

Attempts at wall paintings and road monitoring by H West Ward in the past have failed to get the local residents, shopkeepers and hawkers to keep St. Peter's Road garbage free. To date locals are seen dumping plastic bags of mixed waste against the boundary wall of St Peter's turf ground. While at night a group of ladies dump sacks of debris which they transport on hand carts.



The Care for Creation group pondered over this dilemma and came up with a strategy to not only retry the past efforts but simultaneously do an education drive and appeal to residents, shopkeeper's and hawkers to cooperate with the BMC service and if waste had to be disposed urgently then the designated community bins next to the fish market were to be used.

The education drive was positively accepted by all but it was amusing to hear the accusations and counter accusations. Local residents claimed hawkers were dumping garbage there, shopkeepers blamed residents for not only dumping their waste on St. Peter's Road but for also throwing their waste from first floor windows onto the road (which landed in front of their shops) while the hawkers blamed the restaurants and residents. The proposed installation of 2 CCTV cameras would serve as a deterrent to the culprits for fear of being caught and heavily fined.

Not to be left out the kids of St. Peter's KG school had a small demonstration on 20 February. They appealed loud and clear to everyone who passed by to "keep their road clean". This definitely is not a tall order from the little ones, if we collectively as responsible citizens hand over our waste to the BMC collection and thus keep the road free of garbage.

The education drive is done. The wall painting has commenced. Let us do our part. Let's keep St. Peter's Road garbage free. Let this be Bandra's success story.

My Bandra. Swacch Bandra.

Contact Details Of Persons

Providing Bmc Services:

For Debris Service:

1. Ravindra Mhatre - 99693 04548
2. Vijay Yadav - 98191 76585

For Dry Waste Collection (AASRA):

98338 88866/ 95600 45445/ 93218 88855

For Wet Waste Collection:

Prakash Gohil - 1916/96196 71927



Lillian Pais – CCG member

Faith Formation - Jesus Club

When our Jesus Club teacher told us about the 7th & 8th Std. faith formation, I was on cloud nine since this was the first time, I would be attending it.

I was eagerly waiting for the 5th of February. I encouraged my friends from other parishes to participate. The theme was 'Sustainable Living'. The Jesus Club children along with our teachers prepared a quiz and a gigantic poster on Carbon Footprint. We gave our 100 % and we were over the moon to see the results.

The Faith Formation was held at St. Joseph's Convent IGCSE hall. The program began with the celebration of the Eucharist. What caught my attention was during the sermon, Fr. explained how salt adds taste to our food; similarly, Jesus in the form of the Eucharist is the light of our lives and without Him, our life will be truly meaningless. After Mass each parish shared their thoughts on topics like saving water, air pollution and many other relevant topics related to the theme.

Suzanne Miranda - Std VII





Review

Seaside Cemetery Status: Fr. Frazer briefly reviewed the BMC notice and our concerted action in collaboration with the BCS and with other Parishes to get the Notice withdrawn. He then explained that the earlier DP plan had already acquired Church land at Nirmala Colony for an 18-metre parallel road. The DP was altered through an amendment by the new Maharashtra Government in September 2022 and a 13-metre road has been earmarked at Kadeshwari Marg, which will have to take up a large part of our cemetery. The logic behind this amendment is questionable and we will strive to get this amendment withdrawn. Our silent candle/flashlight rally on the pavement alongside the Church on Saturday Feb 04 was disallowed by the Bandra police, despite granting permission earlier. Surprisingly other rallies in Mumbai were successfully held, implying that the Bandra Police are under some unknown pressure. The BCS is planning a petition to the Government. Parishioners including those of other faiths are requested to sign this petition.

Agenda

1. SHC Rally: As directed by the Archdiocese, our Parish will hold a rally on May 1st on the school grounds. It will consist of a short prayer service. Communities in groups will present through a skit/song/dance, etc their activities related to Outreach to those in Need, Outreach to people of other faith, Care for Creation, Building Family relationships, etc. Sr. Yvonne will co-ordinate grouping of zones into 4 groups. The Youth & Jesus Club could also put up an item each.

2. Annual Marriage Day celebrations: Sunday February 19: Family cell in collaboration with SPY will celebrate World Marriage day with Mass at 6 pm followed by a get-together at St Peter's Square. SPY will organise an evening of fun and entertainment capped by dinner. This is open to all married couples from other Parishes as well and also widows/widowers. Attendees requested to register at the Parish office.

3. Lenten Programmes:

a) 'The Seven Last Words'- Newman Choir will perform a Classical Music Recital after the 6:00 pm Mass on Sunday 12th March in the Church.

b) Stations of the Cross on Fridays - Sr. Yvonne will organise Communities in groups and assign the Fridays on which a community group will conduct the Stations after the 7 pm mass. Good Friday Stations will be conducted as usual by the Youth.

4. Living Faith Session: Royston Braganza will speak on the topic ‘Why Do I need to come to Church?’ focusing on the Eucharist & Reconciliation at the 6.15 pm mass on Saturday Feb 25 and at 9 am, 10 am and 6 pm Masses on Sunday Feb 26. If he is not free for the 6 pm Mass, perhaps Fr. Frazer could get one of the Parish Council members to give a summary of Royston’s talk. Parishioners are requested to suggest relevant topics for future sessions.

AOB

i) Senior Citizens Nite: SPY is organising a programme for Senior citizens on Sun Feb 12 in Loyola Hall. Attendees should register in the Parish office.

ii) Pilgrimage to the Mount on 18th Feb: will start from our Church at 7.30 am to reach for a special Mass at 8.30 am followed by coffee & snacks.

iii) Change in evening Mass Timing: It was proposed to change the time from 7 pm to 7.15 pm to accommodate the half hour adoration on First Fridays. However this will begin after Lent, since the Stations of the Cross are held after the 7 pm Mass.

Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas, SJ



United in Christ

| NAME | ADDRESS |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aaron Leroy D’souza & Avril Kinny | 531-A, (4-A), Bazar Cross Road |
| Francis D’souza & Mohini Java | 16, Bhawnani Estate |

Rest in Christ

| | | |
|----------------------------|----|--|
| Joseph Sebastian Fernandes | 85 | A-101, Wit’s End |
| Patricia (Pansy) Dias | 86 | Carmel Haven (Pune), formerly Reminess |
| Viga Amelia Fonseca | 82 | B/7, Baba Nagar |
| Bruno Alvito Alphonso | 63 | 25-A, Rebello House |