



Building a Faith Community for Service

# KEYSTONE NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 2023

## Will Good Friday Ever End?

Millions of people living today will be asking this question. The people of Ukraine and Myanmar are definitely asking it. Arun Ferreira and Vernon Gonsalves from our Archdiocese and their families have been asking this question for the last 4 years. Hundreds of others in our country, who have been imprisoned without trial, are in the same sad situation. And Christians across India, experiencing increased persecution in the form of false accusations, arrests, violence and destruction of their property, have joined a large number of people of other minority communities – including the Muslim, the Dalits and the Adivasis, in experiencing their own continuing Good Friday.

The Prophet Jeremiah laments, “Those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. ‘Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can take our vengeance on him’.” Jesus Himself asks, “I have shown you many good works from my Father; for which of these are you trying to stone me?” Good Friday and suffering often come precisely because of good works. Those with power feel threatened. The Christian community being targeted in India, in the manner visible

today, demonstrates the truth of what Jeremiah and Jesus exclaimed.

It is because of the Resurrection of Jesus, however, that we can have confidence that we will not be destroyed. Our lives are not in vain. We can experience the Resurrection, already in the midst of our Good Friday experience. And like Jesus, we will not flinch or compromise or run away. Good Friday may seem to be never-ending but the Spirit of the Risen Jesus is with us to strengthen us in the assurance that love and goodness will triumph.

Will Good Friday ever end? Actually it is better to ask, “Can the Resurrection be prevented”? It could not be, in the case of Jesus; it cannot be prevented in that of anyone who joins with the Crucified Christ. The power of love is guaranteed by a loving God. May we stand firm – for truth and love, for reconciliation and healing, in our broken world!

*Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas, SJ*





## Louis-Marie De Montfort (1495-1550)

Feast  
28<sup>th</sup> APRIL

Louis de Montfort was a well-known Preacher and Author of numerous books promoting devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church. Notable among these being his *Secret of the Rosary and True Devotion to Mary*.

Born in Montfort in France, Louis studied in Paris. After being educated by the Jesuits and the Sulpicians, he was ordained a Diocesan Priest. While a Seminarian, he delighted in researching the writings of Church Fathers and Saints on the Blessed Virgin Mary, to whom he was singularly devoted. He preached Mary everywhere and to everyone. He was one of the greatest apostles of the Rosary in his day. His unique contribution to the Church is “Total Consecration to the Blessed Virgin”. His Spirituality has inspired many Religious Institutes and Marian Associations. Pope John Paul II chose for his Papal Motto, “Totus Tuus”, the first two words of the Montfortian total Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

Louis joined the Third Order of the Dominicans and asked permission not only to preach the Rosary, but also to form Rosary Confraternities. He assembled a small company of Priests to preach Missions and Retreats under the standard and protection of the Blessed Virgin. This led to the formation of the *Company of Mary*, a Missionary Congregation of Men, popularly known as the Montfort Fathers.

Desiring to proclaim Good News to the Poor in mission lands, Montfort made a pilgrimage to Rome to seek permission from Pope Clement XI. The Pope recognized his real vocation but sent him back with the title of Apostolic Missionary to exercise his Mission in France itself. In his apostolate, Louis was inspired to preach Missions among the very Poor. He began preaching Missions in the poor parishes in western France. During his Missions, Louis managed to compose more than 20,000 verses of Hymns and Canticles, meant to be sung in village Churches and in the homes of the Poor. His years of ministering to the Poor prompted him to travel on foot and to live a very simple and austere life. Montfort called people to conversion by renewing their Baptismal Promises. In his preaching, Father Louis recommended frequent, even daily, Holy Communion and imitation of the Virgin Mary’s ongoing acceptance of God’s will for her life.

Under Mary’s inspiration, Louis founded the *Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom*, a Religious Institute of Women devoted to the care of the Destitute. He also inspired the *Congregation of the Brothers of Saint Gabriel*, known as Montfort Brothers, committed to the Education of Youth.

Exhausted by his missionary labours and worn out by sickness, Montfort died on 28th April 1716 while preaching a Mission. He was 43 years old and had been a Priest for only 16 years. Thousands gathered for his funeral. Numerous miracles were performed at his Tomb. Canonized in 1947 by Pope Pius XII, he is venerated as a Patron of Preachers.

**Fr. Aubrey A. Mascarenhas, SJ**



# Bombay Catholic Sabha (BCS) Activities

*Committed To A Better Tomorrow, Today*

## Report on Recent Activities:

**1) Candle Light Protest:** 4th February. BCS gave a call to all its units to organize a silent candle light / flashlight rally in their respective units against the BMC notice to acquire part of St. Peter's Seaside Cemetery. This was to demand withdrawal of the amendment of the DP Plan brought in September, 2022. About 25 parishes across greater Mumbai participated in support of St. Peter's Community. In St. Peter's, about 200 parishioners gathered at the Entrance near the Grotto to protest. Though the rally was scuttled in all the parishes in Bandra at the last moment, the large turnouts at the gates of the churches drew a lot of attention.



They were successfully held in all other parishes across the city. The banner "Not an inch of St. Peter's Seaside Cemetery Land, Bandra" was uniformly displayed at all parishes. We were supported by the All India Catholic Union.

**2) Budget Analysis:** 7th February. The Budget programme "What They Didn't Tell You" was held in the Loyola Hall. A team of renowned Chartered Accountants headed by CA Arun Vaz gave insights into the Tax Savings Schemes and Plans, Senior Citizen & Women Schemes, Income Tax Limits & Calculation, Benefits to individual businesses and start-ups. This was followed by a wonderful Q&A session which was very interactive. The hall was packed to the rafters with about 120 people in attendance.

**3) Cricket Tournament:** The first Inter Parish BCS Cricket Tournament was held on our School grounds over 3 Sundays, 5th / 12th / 19th February. The opening day on 5th February was awesome and several teams attended the opening ceremony. This was organized by the Youth and Civil Services Training Forum of the BCS and 18 teams participated. Fr. Frazer inaugurated the event with the symbolic release of the balloons and umpiring the opening play. A team from St. Peter's played, mainly from the St. Peter's Youth group. The highlight was the women's exhibition match on the last day just before the men's finals. The women's contending teams were our very own St. Peter's and a mixed group of Bandra women which included former Olympic players. Sybil Miranda, former Olympic Hockey player and India team captain was the Chief Guest and gave away the trophies.



**4) Annual Sabha Day:** On 4th March, the Thanksgiving mass was celebrated at St. Peter's Church, Bandra at 4.30 p.m. The main celebrant was Fr. Austin Norris, Parish Priest of St. Paul's, Dadar and the concelebrant was Fr. Frazer, Spiritual Advisor to our St. Peter's BCS Unit.

The Fellowship event was at St. Andrew's Auditorium. The start was with the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, Cardinal Oswald Gracias and other dignitaries and the playing of the BCS anthem followed by the welcome speech by Mr. Dolphy D'Souza, President of the BCS and then by the Ecclesiastical Advisor of the BCS, Fr. Felix D'Souza.

The Secretary General Mr. Vinod Noronha gave the update on all the activities of the Sabha for each of the 3 forums, namely Socio, Eco & Political Forum, Environment Forum and Youth Affairs & Training Forum. The awards were given Deanery wise. From the Bandra Deanery, the Star Unit award was presented to St. Peter's Unit. Several awards including Life Time Achievement, "Power of One", Sarva Dharma Ekta Award for Inter Religious Dialog were distributed.

There was a classical dance and the finale was the performance of a renowned satirist who disturbed our minds by his satire on the political powers of the day.

#### **Upcoming Activities of the Unit:**

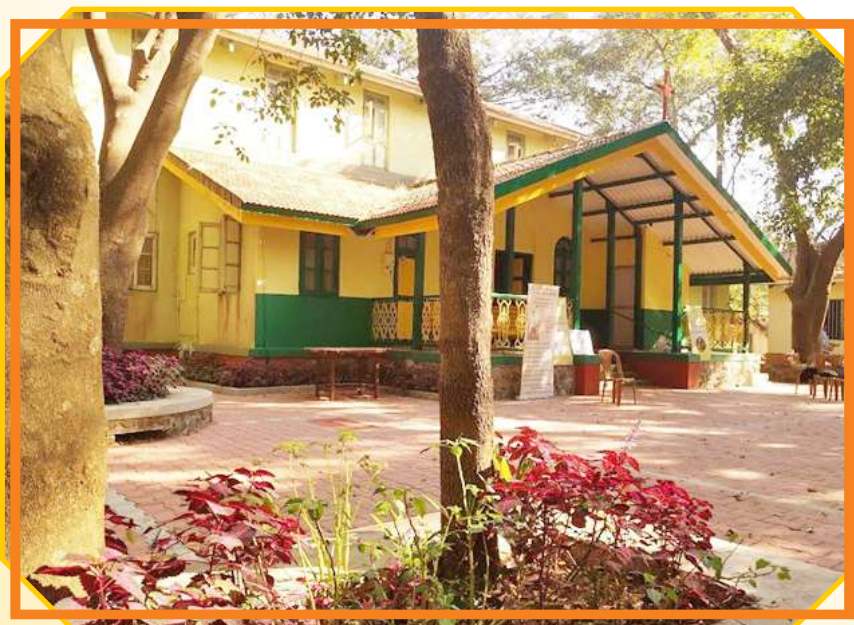
- (i) Voter registration
- (ii) Directory of and support for businessmen and entrepreneurs.
- (iii) Civil Services Training Programme
- (iv) Signature campaign across Mumbai for the withdrawal of DP amendment.
- (v) Activating ALMs in the Parish area



For any queries or feedback on the Sabha activities, you may get in touch on email id [bcstpeters@gmail.com](mailto:bcstpeters@gmail.com). If you're a BCS member, please ensure you're receiving the regular WhatsApp broadcasts on our programmes.

*BCS St. Peter's Unit Managing Committee Member*

## **Announcing Holiday Camps for families in May 2023 at St. Stanislaus Villa, Lonavala**



**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sun 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wed 10<sup>th</sup> - Fri 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> - Sun 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Two Camps will be of 5 days and one camp of 3 days;** arrival in the morning and departure in the evening.  
**You may come for the days of the camp or a part of the days.** The first camp will be conducted by Darryl Loyola and Fr. Francis de Melo S.J. The second and third camps will be conducted by Fr Francis de Melo S.J.

**Kindly book early to avoid disappointment.**  
**Contact Manali in the School Office for bookings: Mobile 9619629652**  
**Charges: Rs. 950/- plus GST for a 24-hour stay from check-in. Rs.600/- plus GST, for a child.**

# Senior Citizen Lenten Recollection

The SENIOR CITIZEN ASSOCIATION conducted a Lenten Recollection on 9th March, 2023 in St. Peter's Church from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Fr. Jude Ferreira, the resource person gave an inspiring talk on the topic "Joyful Season of Lent".

Each year O Lord, you give us this **Joyful season of Lent**. It is not a season of lamentations and cries. What is so Joyful about this season? Let us explore and reflect. What are we each supposed to do, whether Senior Citizens or youth?

A period of 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday is observed annually by the Church, in preparation for the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord. During the Holy Season of Lent, the Church urges the faithful to greater Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Each year God our Father, all powerful and ever giving God, gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery with mind and heart renewed and with the spirit of loving reverence to our Father in Heaven.

There are two types of Joy: Human joy and Spiritual joy. Human joy is what the Shepherds experience when they see the Baby Jesus. Joy experienced as occurred in the parables like the Prodigal Son, the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin in the Gospels of Mathew and Luke. Spiritual Joy is a heavenly experience. It is the Joy in experiencing the Risen Lord, in Repentance, in Breaking Bad Habits and in Change of Perspective. Lent is about **JOY: J-Jesus, O-Others, Y-Yourself**.

Sins are of two types: Wrong Relationships with self and wrong Relationships with others like hurting, gossip, slander. All sinners need Forgiveness, Peace and Grace. Weaknesses keep us humble. We need God, and through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we have to prepare for Forgiveness, Penance and Absolution.

The large gathering of 90 Seniors remained engrossed with Fr. Jude's session. We ended the recollection with Fr. Jude blessing us with the Crucifix. The Recollection was an intense sacred experience for all who attended. Our special gratitude to Fr. Jude.



*Mona Gracias*



# Gorai And Golas

Gorai and Golas always go together. After over a decade since our last St. Martin's community picnic, the core group made it happen again! Fifty of us packed in a bus, set out to Gorai early Sunday morning on March 5th.

Seeing everyone smiling and meeting together after the pandemic years was surely a happy sight. Singing along the way.... as the wheels of the bus moved round and round... we had a jolly good bus ride!

Reaching Fonseca Resort, we couldn't wait to sip some garam chai and delve into the many breakfast options! But of course, when in Gorai besides Gola there is always Toddy! Sipping some chilled toddy was truly refreshing.

We relished our breakfast and on to the beach to play some football, throwball and more. It was also so beautiful to see some senior citizens walk to the beach and feel the sand in their feet as they reminisced the good old days when they were young.

After a couple of fun and games, getting dirty in the sand and splashing water in the pool, it was lunch time. Yet another feast for us and when in Gorai nothing like a delicacy of fried fish!. With a well spread lunch buffet and kulfi we ate to our hearts content.



This was followed by a fun game of housie. Another dip in the pool, then after a stroll along the shore to have some Gola, eating some boras and targolas and buying some vegetables from the locals, we trekked back to the holiday home. Garam chai again and some garma garam bhajias was our evening snack and we couldn't ask for more.

What a fun filled picnic, with yummy food and drinks and of course great company. Thanks to the Fonseca family who were great hosts! Till the next picnic!

*Floyd Almeida*

*(Many expressed rave reviews of the fun, food and frolic.*

*One had nostalgic memories of her childhood days in her ancestral home in Gorai)*



# Women's Day Celebrations

This year our Women's Day celebrations were divided into 3 parts and spread out over 2 weekends. On Saturday, the 11th of March evening masses and Sunday the 12th March masses, we had a special sharing by Women's Cell members on the possibility of Women Deacons in the Catholic Church.

On Sunday, the 12th March morning - from 9am up to 1pm we invited women entrepreneurs to sell homemade delicacies and handicrafts. We had 12 stalls and most of the women were able to sell a number of items.

On Sunday 19th March we had a special Eucharistic celebration at 6pm. Fr. Frazer along with the altar servers and lector came in a procession to the altar led by the first communicant girls. They then did a prayer dance at the altar.



After the mass, an evening of fun and games began on St. Peter's Square. It was well attended by around 90 women. It began with a video commemorating Ancella D'Souza who was the Co-ordinator of the Women's Cell for many years and it was her death anniversary that day. Two outstanding women of our parish were also felicitated that evening, namely Mrs. Christina Lobo and Ms. Leena Mendonca, who are excellent in what they do and have contributed much to the Parish.

Fr. Frazer and Fr. Juan welcomed every one of us to a fun filled evening. The event was well organized and extremely enjoyable with good music, games, an excellent compere, tasty snacks and dinner. All the women were kept hopping around, dancing and mixing and meeting new friends. Yes, we even danced to the world famous and Oscar winning song ... "Naatu Naatu"... It was fun!



It was an evening well spent and memorable for those who attended. We all hoped that there would be more such functions organized where the lonely and senior citizens of our parish could participate. Grateful thanks to the Women's Cell for organizing such a great evening.

*Thank you... Dr. Hazel Colaco*

## Keys Of The Kingdom Picnic

Three years passed, plagued with the Pandemic. How we longed to come out of our houses and have a little fun, but we couldn't. Finally the doors were opened to our churches and prayer groups, as we entered into 2023, a year of new beginnings.

We, the Keys of the Kingdom Prayer Group of St. Peter's Church decided to have our annual picnic on the 26th of February. 32 members went to Samara Garden located at Malad, Marve road and had a lovely day of fun, games, delicious food, prizes, a dip in the pool and of course, fellowship.

As a prayer group it would not be complete without calling on the Lord and being grateful with a time of Praise and Worship. Following this we had a time of sharing personal testimonies and getting to know each other better. We were blessed because we came (Deuteronomy 28:6). Smiles and joy all over the place, along with the Fruit of the Holy Spirit were seen during this lovely day. We thank God for giving us this day to rejoice in Him and with His people.



*Lester Frias*

## Social Outreach Cell Goes Picnicking With The Differently Abled Children

You could feel the excitement from the first minute we started on our trip to Samara Gardens and you just knew this picnic was going to be a blast.

One of the highlights and the one activity most of us enjoy – a good swim. On cue everyone made a dash to the pool. Parents as enthusiastic to get into the water as the kids. The whole gang, young and old splashed about ensuring we made full 'paisa vasool'.

Group games took the excitement to a new height. The fancy dress competition was a stunner and a rip-roaring hooter with 6 fashionistas doing the cat-walk bordering from the bizarre to chic which made it hilarious and added an element of spice.



The dancing that followed to popular English & Hindi tracks was the icing on the cake. The frenzy had to unfortunately come to an end when it was time to leave. Each one dragging their feet to the bus and wishing we had more time for another jam session.

Not to forget the courteous staff at Samara Gardens who fattened us with a sumptuous breakfast, a delicious lunch buffet and hearty evening snacks.



The best part of the day:

**Most weren't Catholic but we bonded as one human community.**

**Most didn't speak English as their preferred language but all spoke the language of gratitude and friendship.**

**No Mass was celebrated but we celebrated life in all its fullness.**

*Jocelin Rodricks*

## **Sharings Of Ekatvam (Singles Group)** **At Masses On 18<sup>th</sup> /19<sup>th</sup> March**



**Brian** - "Though I felt strong and had a thriving corporate career, I discerned my existence was devoid of meaning and joy. There was a calling to use my energy for the good of others and why not other Singles?. Thus began my journey with this Group that has evolved into a multi-parish group with a Vision, Mission and Strategy, having its own distinct identity with a blend of diversity, spirituality, outreach and fun. What interconnects us is not just our Single situation, but our willingness to learn, explore, understand, empathize, imbibe and infuse, being committed for whatever we are responsible.

**Charmaine** - "This Group has given me an identity, been a refuge and helper in times of tribulation. I have come out of my crutches and experienced self-actualization. An outlet for my healthy imagination, it has given me courage and is a platform for embracing a simple life which has brought me solace & serenity when consolation couldn't be provided by immediate family. We have made presentations in Catholic tradition and are dedicated towards working for Society.





**Vanessa** - A lot of friends encouraged me to get married but I replied “when you are married you only love one. Being single gives me an opportunity to love many more”. No, not what you’re thinking... I mean the opportunity to love and be of service to the larger community. I am thankful for this platform for like-minded persons to live purposeful lives, alleviate fears and doubts, whilst celebrating Singlehood.

**Anthony** - We are an Inclusive Group, who find a sense of Belonging and experience fraternal charity. I can LOVE and be Loved and satisfy my deepest Longing for Companionship even while being Single. I realized I cannot brood or have self – pity, close my world and beat myself, but take responsibility for my life. Being transparent and like an open book with the group diminishes my fears. It facilitates healthy relationships where I can be myself and still reach out.



**Prakash** - I would like to thank Fr Ambrose who was part of our first meeting. We discuss topics on investments and savings, retirement planning, social outreach, civic issues etc. My experience of being single is not at all bitter. I enjoy the freedom to take decisions without consulting anyone. Though at times I feel I should be in a relationship, overall, I am happy and have decided to live life fully. Socially I don't feel alone, I have friends, with whom I interact and share a bond, becoming my extended family.

**Victoria** - Unfortunately, ‘being single’ is a negative connotation for most. Does one HAVE to get married? Being Single is as much a Vocation, as it is being married, or part of the Clergy. I believe that He wants me to focus on other matters. Helping others makes me realize that I am so blessed. Of course, I know that this does not obliterate my fears and anxieties of being single, but it has made me manage & work with them. No more asking why or how I am single - believing this is exactly where I am supposed to be – having a fulfilling and purposeful life.



Ekatvam is open to all Singles in Mumbai. We have our meetings monthly at St. Peter’s Church, usually on the last Sunday at 5 pm.

Contact details: **Brian D'Souza:** 9820432522; **Vanessa Menezes:** 9833187732; **E-mail:** ekatvam.mumbai@gmail.com; **Facebook:** ekatvam.mumbai; **Instagram:** ekatvam.mumbai

*Ekatvam Team*



# The Quintessence Of Hinduism

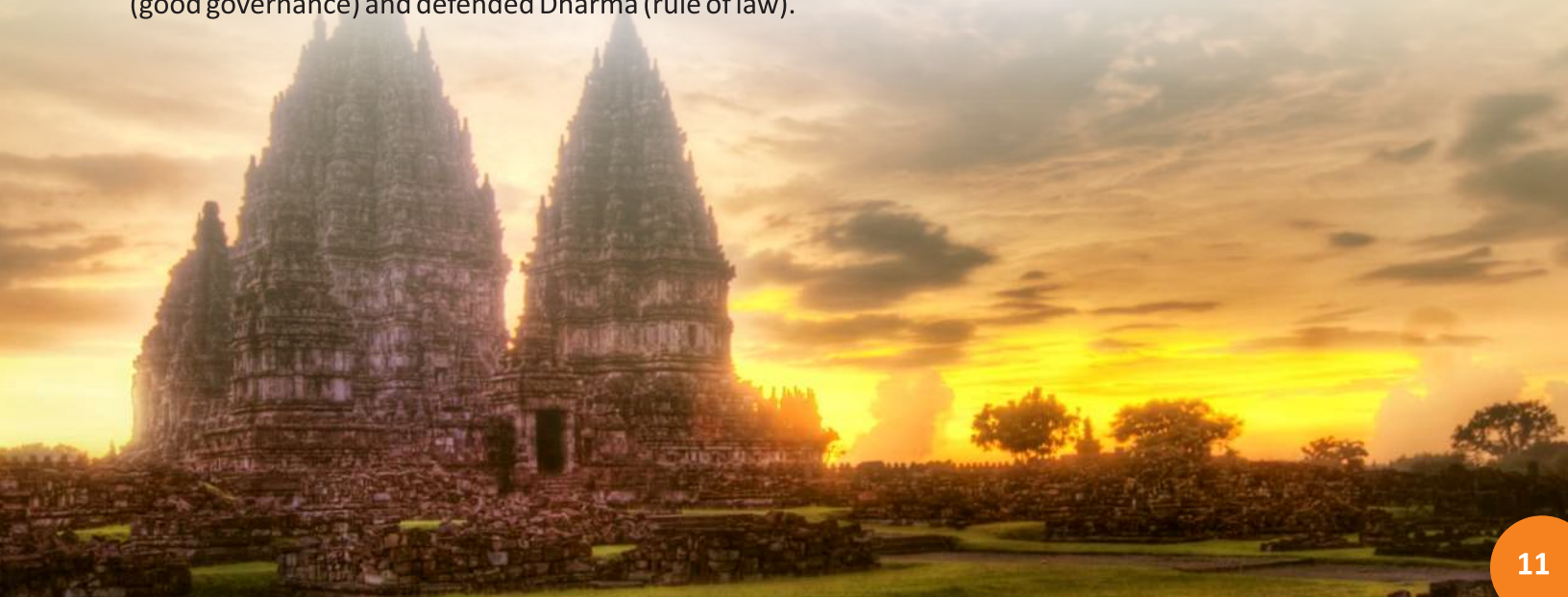
*(The article below was written by K Subrahmanyam, father of our present External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaishankar after the riots in Godhra, Gujarat. It first appeared on the editorial page of the Times of India on April 4, 2002 and has been licensed for republication by The Wire. It gives a true understanding of Hinduism).*

"Though the term Hindu is not of indigenous origin, I am proud to consider myself a Hindu. That pride has been deeply hurt by what others, using that label, have done in Gujarat. What they did was typically un-Hindu, even anti-Hindu. In Hinduism alone you are able to say 'Brahmasmi (I am God)' and to your neighbour, 'Tattvamasi' (You are the truth).

How can people who stabbed, burnt and killed their neighbours call themselves Hindus? Alienated from the Hindu tradition, and rejecting its finest thoughts, harbouring a deep sense of inferiority towards the Semitic religions, attempting to imitate and organise themselves on dogmatic structures, giving up the free and inquiring ways of Hindu philosophy and thought, these detractors have launched a campaign to destroy the spirit of the Hindu way of life. These anti-Hindus call themselves Hindus but in spirit and thought they belong to the dogmas of the dark ages.

Hindu tradition is based not on acceptance of particular gods, dogmas, revelations and religious structures but on reverence for Dharma, which is the rule of law and the ethics of the age. In the Hindu way of life there are no God or Prophet-given laws. Dharma is not immutable but is liable to change to be in consonance with changing times – hence, the concept of yuga dharma. Today's ethics, formulated by the Constitution, is secularism – that is the yuga dharma. Violators of it cannot be considered Hindus; they can only be looked upon as enemies of the Hindu way of life.

The true Hindu way of life is in danger today but not from those who follow other religions. It is threatened by those who want to imitate others and abandon its essence, because they have misinterpreted it through the prism of dogmatic faiths. For those who assert 'Brahmasmi' and 'Tattvamasi', it does not matter if the temple at the birthplace of Rama comes up a few years or a few decades later, if it comes up at all. Why is Rama the most popular of all the nine avatars? Because he was a maryada purusha, who gave Ram Rajya (good governance) and defended Dharma (rule of law).




Rama cannot be venerated by those who transgress Dharma by killing innocents. A way of life which highlights the birth and death cycle, allows one the freedom to worship God in any form or not to worship at all; proclaims the cosmic universality with its Advaita and cannot be reconciled with the killing of innocents. Dharma was killed in Gujarat. The administrators who failed to protect the innocent citizens are guilty of adharmā and if Rama had been alive, he would have used his bow against the 'asura' rulers of Gujarat.


The Hindu way of life will survive because it is the natural, free, inquiring way. The reverence for life, which is the essence of the birth and death cycle, the worship of Ishta devatas and the ability to see God in all things, living and non-living, has to be restored. The temptation to imitate others, by trying to straitjacket the free Hindu way of life into structural frameworks, must be resisted. Dharma – the rule of law – must be restored. Ram Rajya – good governance – should be established and nourished.

***The Hindu way of life is not the same as accepting an organised religion. Therefore, this way of life can be propagated, cherished and practised, without having to come into conflict with other religions. Comparing the Hindu way of life with other religions is like comparing apples and oranges. The Hindu way of life is the essence of secularism. Its thought processes and philosophical reflections are meant to be observed privately; in public, Dharma, the rule of law, has to be respected. Part of the problem is that the Hindu way of life has not been explained to our children as a secular way of life and that it is not the practising of a religion as understood elsewhere in the world."***

**Pope's Intention**  
Apr 2023



**For a Culture of Peace & Non-Violence**  
We pray for the spread of Peace and Non-Violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and Citizens



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**  
INDIA





Literally tucked away in the corner of St Peter's Church campus is a display of various initiatives taken up by the Care for Creation group. The Earth Corner notably simplifies for us the Laudato Si - Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment with a working model on segregation of waste, plastic and tetrapak recycling, e-waste, the need to use renewable sources of energy like solar panels, refill strategies, composting and shroud burial.



Our recent endeavour was to bring nature alive through a wall mural. The group brainstormed for an appropriate pictorial message for the wall. Danette Gomes, an illustrator and mural artist effortlessly illustrated our ideas and splashed colour and life into the humdrum wall. A few students of Stds 7 & 8 of St Stanislaus school together with ex-students enthusiastically participated and painted the basic coat for Danette. The collective effort is spectacular and is the ideal spot for group picture or a selfie.

*Come be inspired. Let's care for creation.*

CCG





# SUNDAY! FUNDAY!

## *Why I enjoy Sunday School*

The **Jesus Club** has taught me many things and most of all, it has brought me closer to Jesus. It has been a wonderful journey walking with Jesus. I have learnt many good values and simple ways to pray. I feel I'm a part of the church and even though I am only a child, I have a role to play.

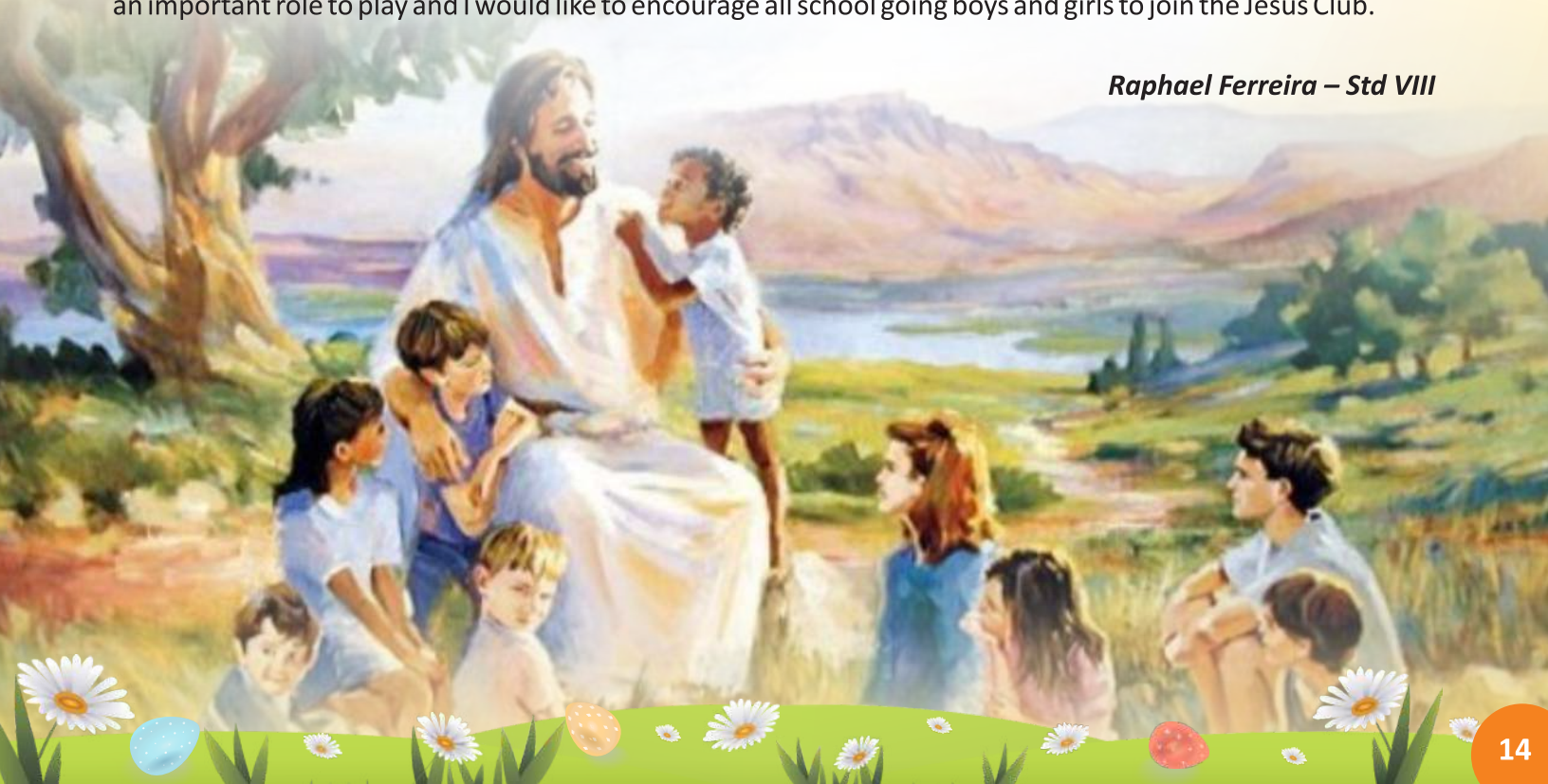
At the Jesus Club, we have the benefit of in-person interaction. Our teachers initiate many activities and programs throughout the year like debates, discussions and quizzes which I thoroughly enjoy. We share our views and thoughts about biblical stories and scriptures. We learn how to apply bible truths to everyday living. We are taught to put faith into action when we visit the sick and house bound and learn to be generous by sharing with the under privileged. The teachers encourage us to participate in the activities of the church like singing in the choir, reading and serving mass and acting in the skits.

The teachers plan skits, dances, songs, games and also snacks and goodies to celebrate special days like Parents day, Teacher's day and Children' day. I look forward to the wonderful Christmas party held before Christmas. Towards the end of the catechism year, we all go for a jolly good picnic.

Thanks to all these numerous opportunities I have had to participate in church, I have become more confident to stand in front of a crowd. Over the years, I have grown in faith, learnt honesty and patience through parables and bible stories. I have also learnt discipline and time management. I am grateful for the many friends I have made thanks to being a part of the Jesus Club.

To me, the **Jesus Club** is as cool as the name suggests. The learning goes beyond the Bible. We as children have an important role to play and I would like to encourage all school going boys and girls to join the Jesus Club.

*Raphael Ferreira – Std VIII*



**1) Women's Day Programme:**

- a) The Women's Cell will make a brief PP presentation at all Masses on March 11th & 12th on 'Women Deacons' and the move to revive this in line with Pope Francis' drive for greater involvement of women in decision-making in Church matters.
- b) Women Entrepreneurs will sell their items at St. Peter's Square on March 12 from 9 am to 1 pm.
- c) Women's Day Celebration - on St. Peter's Square on Sun 19th March, post the 6 pm Mass.

**2) Newman Choir Recital:** 'Seven Last Words' - at 7:45 pm in the Church on 12th March.

## Agenda

**1. SHC Rally:** 14 Zones divided into 5 groups, along with the Youth and Jesus club, will take part in a rally on the SCC school grounds on May 01 from 6.30 pm to 8 pm. It will begin with a march-past, followed by a presentation by each group through song, dance or a skit on 5 different topics relating to SHC activities. The adivasis of Shastri Nagar will perform a Prayer dance. It was suggested to invite a celebrated individual as the Chief guest. Coordinators/Animators must ensure their family clusters, including those of other faiths. attend in large numbers. There will be a nominal charge of Rs. 50 per person to partly meet the cost of Snacks which will be subsidised by the Parish.

### 2. BCS Initiatives

**i) ALMs:** The BCS is collecting information on membership of Parishioners in ALMs. Coordinators/Animators are required to provide information on the names of the buildings in their zone and on which particular ALM each falls in. Parishioners' cooperation is sought in collating this information.

**ii) Services & Business Directory:** The BCS is preparing a directory of family businesses, services etc of Parishioners; Mount Carmel's & St. Andrew's already have this Directory. Co-ordinators are required to take a survey of all their members running Businesses and Services and give this list to the Parish Office. This directory will help their Business/Services to grow.

**iii) Signature campaign: Cemetery issue:** The BCS is organizing a Signature campaign to appeal to the CM regarding the proposed BMC acquisition of land in our seaside cemetery. They are aiming to get 1 lakh signatures. Parishioners should also approach those of other Faith for their signatures.

**3. Next Topic-Living Faith Session:** Council members suggested a wide range of topics like Sacraments - explanation and relevance; Family unit integration; Increasing youth participation in Church/Community activities; Fostering communal harmony; Free will - its outcome on our behavioural patterns, etc. With several members mentioning family issues, it was agreed to have the next topic on 'Family Relationships'.

**4. Zonal Community Elections:** Communities will elect their coordinator from candidates standing for the elections to be held after the Zonal Easter Mass. Those completing one term of 3 years should stand again, to ensure continuity. Parishioners should be encouraged to take an active part in the community activities as Animators and Coordinator.

**5. Inner Psycho-Spiritual Session by Fr. Dudley:** Fr. Dudley's book has 3 parts - Who am I? Why am I who I am? Who I am meant to be? For a better understanding, Fr. Fr. Dudley is offering 8-10 sessions (1 per week), each session of roughly an hour to an hour and a half, commencing from June 2023. All are welcome.

**6. Holy Week Services:**

**a) Maundy Thursday:** i) Mass for the housebound/sick at 5 pm in the Church ii) Solemn Mass at 7:30 pm on the Grounds

**b) Good Friday:** i) Stations of the Cross at 7.30 am in Konkani, 8.30 am for children and 10 am for adults.

ii) Evening Service: 6 pm iii) 11 pm Service.

**c) Holy Saturday:** i) Morning 'Waiting with Mary' by St. Joseph's Sisters ii) Easter Vigil - 9 pm

**AOB**

**i. Triduum to St. Joseph:** 16 - 18th Mar

ii. Stations of the Cross to Karjat on 22nd Mar from 6 am organized by the Confraternity

*Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas SJ*



**MILESTONES**

**Born in Christ**

**NAME**

Aaron Thakur

**ADDRESS**

S/o Joshua & Monica Thakur

**Rest in Christ**

Maria Martina D'souza

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C/4, Baba Nagar