



Building a Faith Community for Service

KEYSTONE NEWSLETTER

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

Visit us at : www.stpetersbandra.org

JUNE 2023



Is There A Personal Pentecost For Each Of Us?

Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit can and does make a significant difference in our lives. We must therefore celebrate our own Pentecost, not merely that of the Apostles and early disciples.

The Spirit brings along as “fruits” - the possibility of a character-change for each of us, making us more joyful, loving, peace-filled, patient and with self-control. This will not be something ‘put-on’ or superficial but coming from within. Which of us does not need this, in the challenging times we face?

The Spirit also brings “charisms” or gifts meant to be used in the service of others, including the ability to pray deeply and in tongues – allowing the Spirit to pray within us, the power to bring about healing through prayer for the sick, and the ability to discern what God is saying to the individual or the group - something that the synodality process has highlighted.

The fruits and the charisms of the Spirit are needed more than ever in these days, as the country prepares for elections in mid-2024 - elections that many feel will decide whether India will remain as a secular democracy. Political, social and economic disruption is seen everywhere and people, including Catholics in Bandra, are very divided and even antagonistic to others. God's Spirit can unite us and grant us those qualities and abilities to be attuned to His desires for us and for our country. May the 12 months before the next Pentecost be used effectively to bring change in our country and State, as we invoke the Holy Spirit in our personal lives!

I thank the Lord for the 7 years of ministry at St. Peter's - in creative partnership with other Jesuits and especially with so many lay parishioners who gave of their time, abilities and resources to make the Parish a more-caring place. May we all unite in building God's Kingdom of peace and justice!

Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas, SJ



Saint Norbert, O.Praem. (1080 - 1134)

Feast
6th JUNE

Born at Xanten (Germany), Norbert, was completely engulfed in the worldly spirit till his dramatic conversion while caught in a thunderstorm. A sudden flash of lightning split the darkness, his horse bucked, throwing Norbert to the ground. On recovering consciousness, his first words were: "Lord, what do you want me to do?" He received the response in his heart, "Turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it."

He returned to Xanten to devote himself to prayer and penance. He began his studies for the Priesthood and accepted Ordination. Few could believe in his radical conversion and condemned his hypocrisy. In response, Norbert gifted all he owned to the poor and sought the Pope's permission to become a wandering Preacher in Europe. A French Bishop invited Norbert to work for moral reform in his Diocese. He then offered Norbert land at Prémontré to start his own reformed Community.

Thus began the Congregation of the Premonstratensians or Norbertines, as they are commonly known. They swore to follow Christ by the practice of community living, in poverty, in obedience, in celibacy, enriched with an active ministry. Norbert held before them the vision of the early Christian Community, empowered by the Holy Spirit and oriented towards service to others. In keeping with the Historical Context of the Church, the Norbertines dedicated themselves to combatting rampant heresies, particularly regarding the Blessed Sacrament, revitalizing many of the Faithful who had grown indifferent, effecting peace and reconciliation among numerous enemies.

Norbert entertained no pretensions about his own ability to accomplish this multiple mission. Even with the aid of a good number of men who joined him, he realized that nothing could be effectively done without God's power. Trusting in the strength drawn from the Blessed Sacrament, the Norbertines converted innumerable heretics and reconciled many enemies.

Norbert was suddenly chosen to be Archbishop of Magdeburg. He introduced his spirit of reform among the Clergy and Laity of his new Archdiocese. Norbert turned his residence into a Norbertine monastery. Always ready to develop his vision further, he softened the monastic aspect of the lives of his men at Magdeburg so they might have a more dynamic sense of outreach and commitment to active ministry. Even though Norbert was a man of deep prayer and spirituality, he was a person aggressively interested in the service of people.

Norbert became an important Church figure when he secured the support of the German Church and the German King to defend the claim to the Papacy of Pope Innocent II. Norbert zealously and courageously worked to build up the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church until his death at the age of 53 on June 6, 1134.

His vision is still being realized by his Model of ministry-minded Priests living in community under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Aubrey A. Mascarenhas, SJ

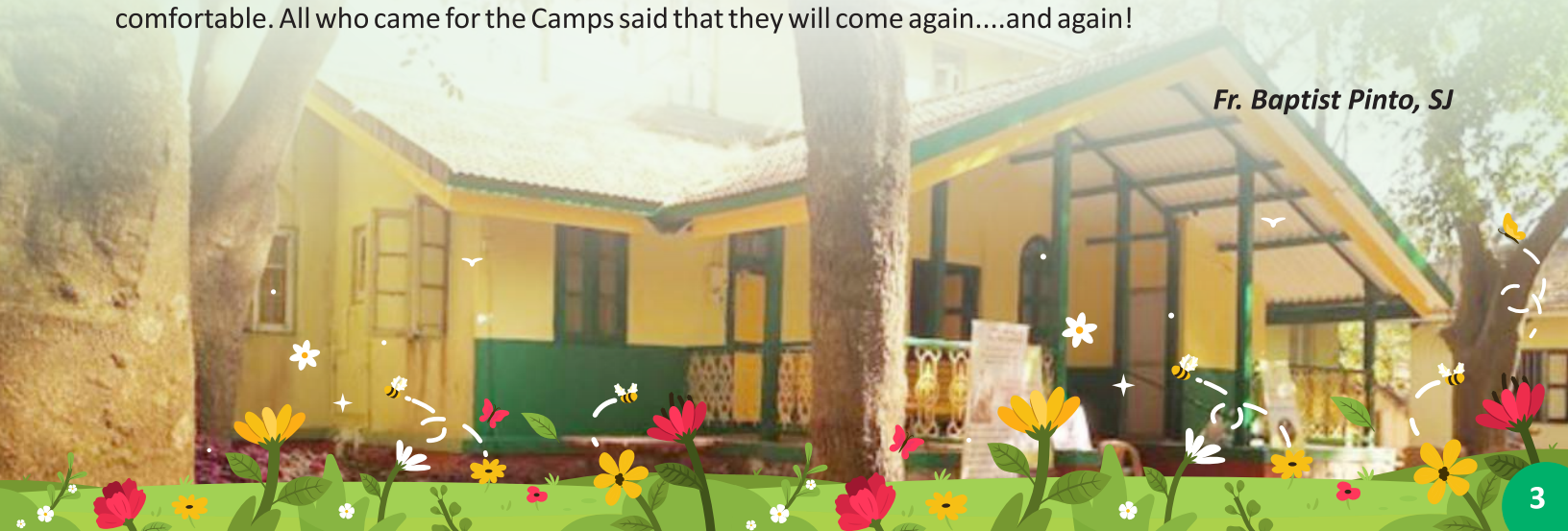
Holiday Camps - Lonavala

This May there were 4 Family Camps and one Senior Citizens picnic organised at the St Stanislaus Villa, Lonavala...the Villa in the Woods. Around 50 persons and more attended each of the Camps. Fr Francis de Melo celebrated the daily Eucharist and organised fun games that were thoroughly enjoyed by all. On the last night of each camp there was a bon fire sing song session that lasted till 1.30 am in the morning! Fr Ivan D'Souza organised games for the last Camp.



The thick wooded Campus with tall trees surrounding the three bungalows kept the place cool even in the afternoons. The lovely Nature Walks...the visit to the town for Chikki...the Houseie....praying the Rosary and the delicious food by Giles and team will be long remembered. The rooms are all self-contained and very comfortable. All who came for the Camps said that they will come again....and again!

Fr. Baptist Pinto, SJ



Seniors Go On A Picnic

St. Peter's Senior Citizens Association organized an overnight picnic to St. Stanislaus Villa, Lonavala. 48 of us including a few from other parishes left in a luxury bus on Sunday 14th May at 07:15 a.m. and returned after breakfast on Monday, 15th May. After a short prayer for a safe trip, we enjoyed the drive admiring the beautiful scenery along the expressway and relishing the delicious chicken mayo sandwiches and mango juice.

Fr. Francis de Melo from St. Xavier's College and Mr. Giles Fernandes, the caretaker of the Villa welcomed us warmly as we arrived and then served us a tasty breakfast. At 12 noon, we had a mass celebrated by Fr. Baptist Pinto, our Spiritual Director and concelebrated by Fr. Francis de Melo. It was a meaningful and participative experience with our lively singing of the well-chosen hymns.



An appetizing lunch was topped by ice cream. We recharged ourselves with a relaxing siesta followed by tea and a snack at 4 p.m. Then all were excited to board the bus to buy the famous local chikki and chevda. At 7 p.m. the Rosary was prayed for everyone's intentions followed by a hymn to Mother Mary "Let us mingle together".

At 8 pm we had dinner, then two games of housie and a hilarious sing-song session which brought the house down and then retired for a good night's sleep. We awoke early next morning to the pleasant chirping of the birds in the woods.

The Eucharist was celebrated at 8 am praising and thanking God for the fun, fellowship and friends. After a hearty breakfast, many rushed to take photographs in groups to preserve happy memories. At 10 am, we began our return journey back home. We look forward to our annual picnic next year when we can again spend time in an outdoor setting and enjoy the great company.

Mona Gracias

Easter Eucharist Celebration

Holy Rosary Community of Baba Nagar celebrated its Annual Easter Eucharist on Monday 10th April at St. Peter's KG. It was well organised and well attended. In fact, Fr. Frazer posted this message the same evening: 'Thanks to Esme the outgoing Co-ordinator and her team for the excellent arrangements'.

In his homily, Fr. Frazer reminded us that we are called to proclaim the Risen Jesus and His values to all among whom we live, by our very presence, our words and actions. It is in this way that down through the ages, the presence of Jesus and His values, have influenced the world beliefs and cultures. Take for example, the Preamble of our Indian Constitution, which speaks of Justice, Equality, Liberty and Fraternity - so typically Christian and Human values.

After Mass, Suzanne Chauhan, on behalf of our Community, bid farewell to Fr. Frazer who has ministered to our Community during the last few years after the sad death of our former chaplain, Fr. Conrad Mascarenhas.

We wound up the evening with bonhomie and camaraderie with one another and savoured the delectable snacks offered by Errol Netto, a member of our Community.

May Mama Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, bless every one of our families in Baba Nagar.

May the JOY and PEACE of her Risen Son and the powerful presence of His Spirit help us all to proclaim JESUS is LORD. Amen.

Verena Pereira



SHC Rally - May 01, 2023

In keeping with the Archdiocesan directive, St. Peter's Parish organised a rally of the Small Human Communities on the theme, 'Let's build the Human Family' on 1st May 2023.

Sr. Yvonne was overall in charge. She locationally grouped the Fourteen Communities into 5 major groups:

1. Mary Help of Christians (Bazar Road) / Queen of Peace (Boran-Bazar Cross) / Divine Mercy (Waroda Road)
2. St. Joseph's (St. Joseph's Primary) / Good Shepherd (Rebello House) / Maria Goretti (Somnath Lane)
3. Archangel Raphael (Almeida Park) / St. Peter (St. Peter's colony)
4. Queen of the Family (Station Road) / St. Martin (St. Martin's Road) / Holy Family (D'Monte-Chinchpokli)
5. Mary of Nazareth (Elco Arcade) / Our Lady of the Wayside (J.D. Alves) / Holy Rosary (Babanagar)

It was heartening to see 2 additional groups - our little ones from the Jesus Club and our enthusiastic and active Youth (SPY).

The SHC is involved in various activities related to the Parish mission of building Human Community. Each group had to enact the chosen activity through song/dance/skit.

More than 700 including many from other faiths attended this spectacular event. Members of the Multi Faith Committee were the guests of honour.

The two comperes, Jenny Martins and Alvito D'cruz, conducted the entire event with flair and aplomb, as they announced each group, led by their mascot, joyfully parading into the venue holding placards / banners of their theme.



The Comperes, Jenny Martins and Alvito D'cruz

Notable was the entry of the tribal Adivasi women of the Queen of the Family Community. They gracefully danced their way into the venue accompanied by Fr. Praful on the 'Dhol' and brought Fr. Frazer under a colourful ceremonial umbrella to the stage.



Tribal Adivasi women of the Queen of the Family Community



Colourful Ceremonial Umbrella



Fr. Praful on the 'Dhol'

They then performed a prayer dance which was followed by performances of each group highlighting the message of their chosen theme with appropriate costumes, dialogue, song and dance. The audience were in rapt attention, applauding each performance.

The programme concluded with a special farewell to Fr. Frazer who is leaving St. Peter's after seven years (the proverbial 'itch') to take up his new assignment. The entire audience joined in the chorus of a song of tribute and thanksgiving scripted by our talented parishioner. Terence Cardoz gave a farewell speech which, true to his razor-sharp wit and tongue-in-cheek humour, had the crowd in splits of spontaneous laughter.



Mary Help of Christians/Queen of Peace/Divine Mercy:

We decided to bring out our theme, 'Strengthening Neighbourhood Clusters' through song and dance of different people. Our chosen Mascot was a Big Heart, worn by Luv of Divine Mercy (Waroda Road).

Hectic preparations began shortly after Sr. Yvonne indicated the Community grouping and May 01 for the SHC rally. Anthony of Queen of Peace got all the music and songs together with help from Erica and her son Brian from Mary Help of Christians to edit the Mash up music on a pen drive. Darryl Loyola helped us with the Mascot. The banner and 4 placards of Unity, Peace, Service and Love were done by Philip from Mary Help of Christians who also identified the cheer leaders & other dancers and arranged for special white T shirts printed with a big Red Heart in the centre for them.

We then had 2 practice sessions on 28th & 30th April. Idea was to get many people involved. Hence, we had the elderly, middle aged, youth and children, totally 20, who performed on the stage that day. A Big Thank You to all those who participated in this dance. Mention must be made of our evergreen Sister Reetha and Shama, a lady of another faith but a member of our neighbourhood who did the South Indian dance.

Ours was a simple performance without any professional help. Hope we were able to pass on the message that "A heart full of Love and ready to Serve will surely help to Strengthen our Neighbourhood Clusters."

Marcellus Gomes - Mary Help of Christians



Archangel Raphael / St. Peter's Colony

The theme 'Care for Creation' was chosen and our script-writer Victoria suggested a skit and drafted one which was fine-tuned upon, after a couple of brainstorming sessions at our late evening meetings. The camaraderie and new-found friendships with our neighbouring community, Archangel Raphael (Almeida Park) kept us looking forward to our next practice session, each of which ended with something special to munch on. Our very professional director Parul brought out the best in each of us, some of us who have never acted before in our lives!

And everyone put in their greenest foot forward and gave off their best whilst enjoying every moment of it. It has been a long time since our two communities spent quality fun time together which was truly the highlight and takeaway in preparation for the SHC Rally.



Thanks to Fr. Frazer, Sr. Yvonne and the PPC team for hosting the programme which truly brought out Community-building and strengthening of interpersonal bonds which got strained due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Kudos to all participants who took time out and made much efforts to make the SHC rally a resounding success.

Vanessa Menezes - St. Peter's Colony

Queen of the Family / St. Martin / Holy Family:

The group presented their theme of Outreach especially to the needy through a well-scripted song 'Do It Now!' The lyrics highlighted the need to reach out to our brethren, the under privileged, the less fortunate, irrespective of religion, caste or creed. NO DISCRIMINATION AMONG GOD'S CREATION! That was the message. Just as Christ our Lord and Master came to serve, we need to do likewise and be of service to all. We need to follow Christ's commandment to love one another just as Christ loves each one of us. If there is a right time to do a good deed, it is NOW. We need to act TODAY. We need to reach out and we need to teach others by being living examples. Our greatest inspiration is Saint Mother Teresa who lived with the poorest of poor and saw Christ in each of them. Sr Prisca dressed up as Mother Teresa, symbolizing a figure of love and compassion to the poor and destitute.

The practices brought the communities together to work as one. It was wonderful to see members of the communities stepping up to volunteer and take up responsibilities. Unity is strength... where there is team work and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.



Let the essence and spirit of the rally live not only in our lives but enrich the lives of others as well, as we continue to build a strong community of brotherhood. Let us start right now!

Rheanka Ferreira - St. Martin's

St. Joseph's / Maria Goretti / Good Shepherd

Synodality was the theme of our Musical play showcased through contemporary dance, meaningful hymns and songs, placards and narration.

The script portrayed the 4 pillars of the Church: Inclusion, Collaboration, Faith-filled Church, and Church of The Times. Each of these pillars were highlighted through the many associations that offer their services in the Church like Social Outreach Cell (SOC), Senior Citizens, SVP, Lectors, Cantors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Care for Creation and the cemetery issue of St Peter's. Song and dance was creatively used to bring the skit to life. The concluding item was the dance to the ever-popular Hindi song Jai Ho ! so very apt for Maharashtra day.



The best part of putting the whole thing together was the connection we made with each other during our daily practices that were held between 7-9 pm. I want to thank Janet D'Souza and Darryl Loyola for investing their time and energy into training all of us while having fun in the process.

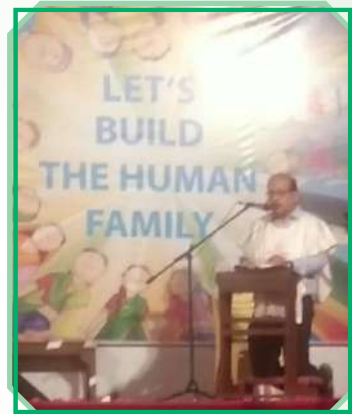
Ellen Maumkel - St. Joseph's Community



Holy Rosary/ Our Lady Of The Wayside/ Mary Of Nazareth

The 3-Community group presented a one-man Skit to bring about awareness of the Parish mission of building bridges of communication and understanding with people of other faiths. It portrayed a pious Catholic on stage in prayerful conversation with God, represented by a person off stage. The pious Catholic first expresses his gratitude to God for taking care of him and his family during their battle with Covid. He then begins his dialogue placing his questions that have been troubling him about other faiths. While in deep meditation, he hears God answering his questions.

God (the person off stage) makes him realize that whatever he did to the least of his brethren, irrespective of their faith, he did it to Him. The food he gave to his Hindu watchman, the education he sponsored of the child of his Buddhist maid were more than repaid by the life-saving blood that was donated to him by his Muslim neighbor at the time of his illness. God made him understand that He was the God of every living person and creature on this earth and people of all nations and all religions are His children.



The person in prayer was also disturbed by the rituals and practices of other religions and if he was to accept them as part of our faith and culture. God clarifies that we do not need to practice the rituals of another religion, but we can be present in solidarity and respect. God even encourages the man to take up yoga as a breathing technique with huge personal benefits.

The prayer was a process of discovery which eventually led the devout person to a new realization and creation: God is Omniscient, Absolute, Reality of God is One Fullness of love. He thanks God for answering all his queries and putting everything in perspective. He is reinforced with the idea that when we experience God in other religions, we become better Catholics and better collaborators in building a better world.

The Skit was followed by an Audio Visual that showed glimpses of the Multi Faith Activities undertaken by the Multi Faith Committee of our Parish, led and guided by Fr. Aubrey and supported wholeheartedly by Fr. Frazer.

Brian D'souza - Mary of Nazareth

Jesus Club

When we got a message that we were invited to take part in the SHC Rally, I was very happy, This was going to be fun, Yay!!!

We were very excited as we went for the practices. The script of the skit was very touching. It was the dreams of 3 trees that speak about Jesus, His birth, His miracles and finally His passion and death. God has plans for each one of us and how His plans are much, much better than what we dream. I was given the part of one of the trees and I was super happy. All practised hard and sincerely and the teachers helped us with love and patience. We were given costumes according to our characters and we all looked perfect.

The final day arrived and we were all waiting anxiously to go on stage. I was a little nervous but knowing I was acting together with my friends made me feel comfortable. We performed confidently and we spread our message clearly. This was not only a fun experience for me. I learnt we can all have big dreams but we have to keep in mind everything happens according to the will of God.

Joshyer Fernandes



St. Peter's Youth



We were delighted to be invited to take part in the SHC rally. The message we had to portray was 'Unity in Diversity'. Perfect! because what brings unity in a Community better than song and dance. So we at SPY decided to do what we do best "put on a good show" through song and dance to highlight this message. We marched into the venue carrying placards of India and the various States to show that India is a large country of diverse cultures, religions and languages.

We started our fun performance with a Punjabi song showcasing North India followed by a Jive number to show a little of the influence from the West and then we moved all the way to the South of India . We then tied it all together with the song 'Indiawaale'. We believe we achieved our goalwhich was to have fun, entertain the audience and unite the entire community, all while portraying the message of "Unity in Diversity".

Calista D'souza



Parish Jesuit Movements

Outgoing



Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas, SJ served for 7 years as Parish Priest and Manager of the 2 Schools on campus. He has been transferred to Vinayalaya, the Jesuit Administrative Headquarters at Andheri, to serve as the Province Development Director.

Fr. Praful Ekka, SJ has served in our Parish for the last 2 years, first as a Deacon and then after his ordination in July 2021, as an Assistant Parish Priest and Teacher of Physical Education in St. Stanislaus High School. He has been of great service in the pastoral ministry with the Adivasi parishioners from Chhota Nagpur, with whom he built a bond of affection and support. He also animated the Altar Servers and looked after the Station Road Community. He leaves to teach in our Jesuit School for Adivasi children in Ambatha, near Nashik.



Incoming



Fr. Luke Rodrigues, SJ 58 years young, comes to our campus with a rich experience in Education and in Spirituality – a rare blend. He was at Vinayalaya, Andheri, as the Director of the Retreat House, the Coordinator of the Spirituality Platform and of the Alumni Associations for the Bombay Province. He was also the Director of the Archdiocesan Office for the Environment. Earlier he had taught at the Jesuit B.Ed. College at Churchgate and for several years was the International Vice Chaplain for the World Christian Life Community or CLC, based in Rome. He comes back to his childhood Parish, having spent his formative years with his family on St. Martin's Road. He is also an ex-student of St. Stanislaus High School and the brother of the newly installed Bishop of Pune: Bishop John Rodrigues. Fr. Luke will be the Parish Priest of St. Peter's and the Manager of St. Stanislaus High School and St. Stanislaus International School.

Fr. Evarist Newnes, SJ 78 years old, is an eminent educationist, specializing in the ICSE Curriculum and has been Principal of several Jesuit ICSE Schools including St. Mary's ICSE. His latest accomplishment was to set up and administer for several years, a new ICSE School in Manickpur, Vasai – St. Xavier English Medium ICSE School. He has also spent several years as the Coordinator of all Jesuit alumni in the Bombay Province.



Fr. Simon D'Souza, SJ 77 years old, has been in Higher Education most of his life, teaching at St. Xavier's College Mumbai and serving as In-charge Principal for a short time. After retirement from the College, he has served in the spiritual ministry for several years, including a stint at the Infant Jesus Shrine, Nashik and the Jesuit Retreat House, Bandra.

Pope's Intention June 2023



For the abolition of Torture
We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture & guarantee support to the victims & their families



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
INDIA

Jesus Club - Adoration

On the 12th of May 2023, we, the children of the Jesus Club conducted the half hour adoration at St Paul's Multimedia Chapel from 8.30 to 9 pm. It was such a wonderful experience for us children to be so close to Jesus and know that He is truly blessing us, as He Himself said, 'Let the little children come to me'.

Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a victorious King and I was so excited to play the keyboard whilst we children sang praises and prayed to our Glorious King... it was really so wonderful and I felt so close to Jesus.



I had an amazing experience playing for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for the very first time. It did make me nervous, as people from all over the world would also be listening and praying and so we children had to be clear and sincere in our prayers, bringing more people closer to Jesus.

Many thanks to my music teacher for her efforts in training me and to teacher Celine who helped us children to prepare for the Adoration. Thanks also to Fr Reynold for encouraging us to pray rather than just reading. I know deep down in my heart, that God has blest each one of us for the efforts we put in and for sincerely loving Jesus with all our hearts.

Shanaya D'souza



Easy Access To Pope's Speeches And Videos

It's surprising to learn at times that many people are not aware of how to get access to the Pope's speeches and the videos of his events.

You can find the official Holy See website in several languages right here:
<https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>.

This is virtually a one-stop shop for accessing just about everything Pope Francis says or does. The site also includes links to the various departments of the Roman Curia and other agencies and offices related to the Vatican.

On the main page of the Holy See website there is a calendar with select papal events each day, which provides links to the Pope's addresses, the daily bulletin of the Holy See's Press Office, newly issued papal documents, and -- in the case of papal liturgies -- a pdf of the service booklet. If you click "General Audience" you can access the text of the Pope's catechesis in the original Italian, plus full translations in numerous other languages. There is also a photo gallery and a video recording with an English voice-over (with the option of including sign language).

There's another easy way to access videos of papal events, even as they are happening -- it's through the various YouTube channels operated by Vatican News. The one that provides "universal sound" that is unfiltered and without comment or voice-over is here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7E-LYc1wivk33iyt5bR5zQ>. The first window is Vatican Media Live, which provides a running video feed that can be scrolled back up to 12 hours. The live camera is actually fixed on St. Peter's Square when it is not broadcasting papal events -- such as the general audience and Angelus -- in real time.

There are also recorded videos of past events. The English version of the Vatican News YouTube channel is here: <https://www.youtube.com/@VaticanNewsEN>.

Enjoy the view... especially the words and gestures of Francis, the teaching and evangelizing pope!

Fr. Frazer Mascarenhas, SJ



MILESTONES

Born in Christ

Stellan Xavier Nevin

S/o Nevin Chonkar
& Steffi Serrao

Rest in Christ

Sheela Margaret Dias

Cremation

92

Reminess, Prof. Almeida Park

Santan Joseph D'souza

Shroud

74

107, Dunhill Apartments

Karen Vaz

Shroud

46

Garda Cottage, Almeida Park

Anacleto John Rodrigues

Shroud

85

6, Berchman House, St. Peter's Colony