

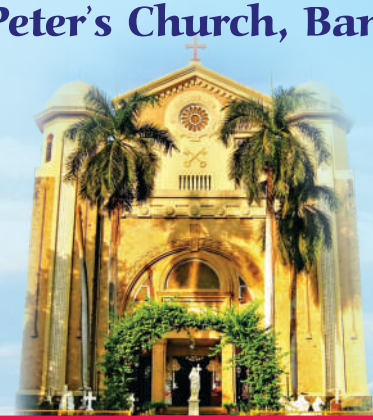


Building a Faith Community for Service

KEYSTONE NEWSLETTER

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

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JULY 2023

The Rock On Which Our Church Is Built

"Lord to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of Eternal Life." (Jn 6; 68). What a beautiful testimony these words are! A testimony of faith and surrender, expressing the deepest sentiments of Simon Peter who speaks not just for himself but also for the other disciples. Centuries later, we find our own hearts resonating with these words of our Patron, and we follow his lead in committing our lives to Jesus Christ.

There is always some fresh inspiration we can draw from the life of St. Peter. His spontaneous, impulsive nature endears him to us. We can sympathize with his weaknesses (often seeing ourselves mirrored there) and admire him for his human touch. But above all, we see in him a model of what it is to be a Christian - someone who puts complete trust in Jesus; someone who cannot turn anywhere else but to Him who is the source of Eternal Life.

Jesus hailed Peter as the rock upon which the Church would be built. And that is because Peter had learned to build his own life upon the rock that is Christ Jesus himself (cf. Mt 7, 24). It is in this complete surrender to the Lord that Peter discovers stability, security and strength to guide and nurture the newly founded Church. Inspired by our Patron, may all of us at St. Peter's Church learn to trust completely in the Lord, thereby building the edifice of our lives on solid rock.

Fr. Luke Rodrigues, SJ





Saint Maria Goretti (1890-1902)

Feast
6th JULY

Maria Goretti came from a very poor Italian family of farmers but their deep Faith in God kept them a loving, hardworking, united and devout family. They were forced to give up their farm and work for other farmers. They had no house of their own but shared the house of the Serenellis. After her father expired, Maria's mother, brothers and sisters worked in the fields while young Maria cooked, sewed, kept the house clean and watched over her youngest sister, Teresa. At 11 years of age, Maria was a beautiful and grace-filled child, cheerfully obedient and devout, who loved Jesus with all her heart, trusting that Jesus and Mary would protect her and her family.

Alessandro, the Serenelli's 18-year-old son, would often harass her with sexual advances. She resisted firmly and avoided him. On 5th July 1902, as Maria was sewing on her door-step, Alessandro surprised her, pulled her indoors and attempted to rape her. Maria cried that it was a sin against God and warned he would go to hell. As she struggled desperately and refused to submit to him, Alessandro stabbed her with a large knife fourteen times and fled.

Maria's family returned home and found Maria bleeding profusely on the floor. They quickly took her to the village hospital. The surgeon could do little to close the wounds where the large knife had gone right through her body, piercing her throat, heart, lungs and abdomen.

When Maria was told she would die, she thanked the surgeon, expressed concern about her mother, forgave Alessandro and prayed that he may repent and be with her in Heaven. She suffered a slow, agonizing death, drawing courage from looking upon the Virgin Mary and holding the Crucified Lord to her heart.

Alessandro was arrested almost immediately and sentenced to thirty years imprisonment. He remained unrepentant until Maria appeared to him in a dream - in a beautiful garden, dressed in white, offered him exquisite white lilies which flared into a flame and burnt his hands. Alessandro awoke a reformed man. When released from prison, he begged forgiveness from Maria's mother, which she readily gave, saying: "If my dying daughter could forgive you, who am I to withhold forgiveness?"

Maria Goretti was the youngest to be canonized a Saint. Youth from around the world assembled at St. Peter's Square, Rome, on 24th June 1950. Alessandro was present and bore witness to her holiness and his miraculous conversion. He became a Capuchin Lay-Brother, worked in a Monastery as gardener until his death.

Maria worked numerous miracles after her death. She is declared a Martyr of Purity as also a Saint of Mercy. She pardoned her assailant with her dying breath. While we admire and respect Maria's heroic pursuit of Christian virtue, we will experience the call, maybe not to die a martyr, but to live life courageously seeking holiness with the grace of God. Blessed indeed are the Pure of Heart, they shall see God.

Fr. Aubrey A. Mascarenhas, SJ

Holy Family Community Celebrates Cross Feast

As has been the practice over the years, our community gathers together every evening in May at the Cross on D' Monte Street to pray the Rosary.

This year, on the 4th of June, the community celebrated the Cross Feast. Savio and his team decorated the Cross with flowers and garlands, beautifully lit up with candles. He led us with the recitation of the Rosary.

Praying together as a community with a large number of members brought much joy.



There were special intentions interspersed with Marian hymns, which added joy to the Rosary recitation. After the litany, prayers were offered for all our sick and dear departed.

We then went to the adjacent open ground where we were served snacks, followed by "Housie". That was not all. A simple enjoyable dinner followed, spending time with the community.

God bless the sponsor, especially Savio and his team for both, leading us in prayer and fellowship.

Shaniya D'Souza

Pope's Intention July 2023



For a Eucharistic Life

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way & opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
INDIA

Bombay Catholic Sabha (BCS) Activities

Committed to a better tomorrow, Today

1. The St. Peter's Unit in collaboration with the Mt. Carmel's Unit is organizing an Electoral Camp on all Sundays of July from 09:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the School Assembly Hall. The purpose of the camp is to encourage the use of the Voter apps and to help the citizens avail of the following facilities:

- a. Checking of names on the Electoral Rolls
- b. New Voter Registration
- c. Corrections in Election Card such as name spelling, age or address.
- d. Deletion of names from the Electoral Rolls in case of Death, Migration etc.

The volunteers for this Camp, drawn from parishes across Bandra Deanery, were trained by Election Officer, Mr. Prasad in Our Lady's Room on the 17th June. It was a very beneficial training.

2. The BCS also organized a meeting with residents of Bandra to address traffic issues on 23rd June, 2023 in our Lady's Room. There were more than 50 participants from across Bandra. The following officers from the Bandra Police Station were present: Senior PI Mr. Marathe and his team of Police Inspectors Mr. Vishal Patil, Mr. Sudarshan Gaikwad and Mr. Ramesh Jawale. Police Inspector Traffic Mr. Jadhav attended. Mr. Killedar PI Traffic could not be present as he was called for an emergency meeting elsewhere.



Each of the participating residents filled out their complaint forms and were given an opportunity to mention their grievances. A wide spectrum of issues were raised from non-existence of no parking or one way street signs and vehicles driving on one ways in the wrong direction to traffic monitoring, share an auto menace, imposition of fines and impounding of licenses for breaking the rules. The Inspector gave his views on some issues. Suggestions were made by the Citizens to Traffic Department. They also appreciated the work done by the Police/ Traffic Department most often in the hot sun and adverse weather.

The Sabha has submitted a letter to the Traffic authorities and will follow up on all the issues for a successful closure.

We are grateful to the Inspectors for an interactive session and a patient listening. We hope to build on this partnership.

3. The St. Peter's Unit had their AGM on the 25th June, 2023 at 11 a.m. in Our Lady's Room.

We began with the Sabha anthem. We welcomed our new Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Evarist Newnes S.J. who said the Opening Prayer. We are grateful for the presence of Ms. Rowena Babu, observer from the Executive Council. We were happy to note the presence of youth at the AGM. There were 20 participants.

The Minutes of previous AGM on 19th June, 2022 were read by the Secretary and passed. The Annual Report was presented by Chairperson. All the activities were displayed with visuals and appreciated. The Treasurer presented the Annual Statement of Accounts and observations made. Future plans were also presented and suggestions of members were discussed.

We remembered all the dearly departed members especially our first and long serving Chairperson Ms. Ella D'Souza who passed away on 30th May, 2023.

After the Vote of Thanks, the closing prayer was rendered in song. This was followed by the National Anthem.

BCS - St. Peter's Unit Managing Committee



In Memoriam



With sadness I write a short account of our committed parishioner Gilly D'Costa, who went home to be with her beloved Maker, on the 21st of June. She was a dedicated Teacher at Victoria School, Mahim, for the best part of her life. Her students, over the years, kept in touch with her & loved her not only for her teaching methods, but also for her gentle & encouraging ways.

Her youthful attractiveness and charm remained with her always. After her retirement, she became a familiar figure in our Parish as a Lector and active member of the SSVP and the Charismatic Renewal.

Towards her later years she suffered much due to her many trials and illnesses. Yet her Faith in a good and caring God nourished her through her Parish commitments and especially in her role as Lector. As though it were not enough, barely a month before she passed away, she suffered an extremely disfiguring skin ailment that caused her a great deal of pain. Her faith in Jesus never wavered and she expressed it in words to me that were edifying.

She was one of eight brothers and sisters and cared, during her teaching days, for her dear mother Ubaldina, till the end. I do believe, she is now enjoying the rewards of a God who never fails in His marvelous promises.

(Mrs.) Frances Azavedo

Take Charge of Your Health – Let Nature Help You!

Health Promotion Trust's Naturopathy Residential Wellness Centre

The Health Promotion Trust (HPT) of the Archdiocese of Bombay invites you to participate in a life-enhancing program conducted by the Naturopathy Residential Wellness Centre at the Convent of Jesus and Mary, Nun's Hill, Khandala. HPT initiated this enterprise in collaboration with the **National Institute of Naturopathy, (NIN)**, Pune (AYUSH Ministry – Government of India.)

The Centre's goal is to offer holistic health options emanating from nature's healing power. Doctors and therapists with expertise in naturopathy will empower attendees to take charge of their health through the practice of natural healing techniques. These have proven to be extremely effective in disease prevention, treatment and overall restoration of the body, mind and soul.

The program comprises a 3-day residential camp for a maximum of 20 participants, with nominal rates for boarding and lodging. The therapies offered include:

Mud therapy

Acupressure

Acupuncture

Hydrotherapy

Indoor Exercises

Ozone therapy

Enema

Meditation

Fasting & Diet therapy

For additional details please contact the Health Promotion Trust office: **24440121/ 9619001142** or email us at:

hptkhandala@gmail.com / healthpromotiontrust@gmail.com

Website: www.healthpromotiontrust.org

Fr. Rocky Banz, Director, Health Promotion Trust

St. Peter's Church, Bandra

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) 2023 - 26

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE PPC

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Fr. Luke Rodrigues (PP) | 5. Glenn D'Silva (Consultor) |
| 2. Louella Luis (V. President) | 6. Calista D'Souza (Youth) |
| 3. Christine Saldanha (Sec) | 7. Fr. Baptist Pinto (Jesuit Rep) |
| 4. Terence Cardoz (Consultor) | 8. Sr. Yvonne Rodrigues (SHC) |
| 9. Fr. Aubrey Mascarenhas | 25. Bernadine D'Penha |
| 10. Fr. Assis Rodrigues | 26. Celine Fernandes |
| 11. Fr. Evarist Newnes | 27. Maria D'Sa |
| 12. Fr. Francis Juan | 28. Cheryl Pinto |
| 13 Fr. Simon D'Souza | 29. Neil Pais |
| 14 Fr. Dudley Mendonca | 30. Carol D'Mello |
| 15 Fr. Fabian Barreto | 31. Anthony Rodrigues |
| 16 Br. Conrad Fonseca | 32. Sylvia Lewis |
| 17 Sr. Reetha K. | 33. Dibya Minj |
| 18 Sr. Vidhya Manuel | 34. Genny Martins |
| 19. Sr. Lalita Lopes | 35. Marisa Duarte |
| 20. Russell D'Souza | 36. Brian D'Souza |
| 21. Celestine Taites | 37. Sandra Abraham |
| 22. Prakash D'Souza | 38. John Murzello |
| 23. Michelle D'Souza | 39. Agnes Taites |
| 24. Marcellus Gomes | 40. Clara Muckaden |

St. Peter's Church, Bandra

PARISH SHC CO-ORDINATORS FOR THE YEARS 2023-2026

Community Name / Area	No. of Families	Priest / Sister	Coordinator	Contact Number
A. Queen of the Family (Station Road)	70	Fr. Assis Rodrigues / Sr. Prisca Dias	Celestine Taites	9867221895
B. St. Martin (St. Martin's Road)	95	Fr. Luke Rodrigues / Sr. Maria Pegado	Louella Luis	9819621958
C. Holy Family (D'Monte St / Chinchpokli)	100	Fr. Assis Rodrigues / Sr. Heather Aranha	Prakash D'souza Michelle D'souza	9819680824 9987406025
D. Mary Help of Christians (Bazaar Road)	63	Fr. Simon D' Souza / Sr. Reetha K	Marcellus Gomes	9967387054
E. Mary of Nazareth (Elco Arcade)	60	Fr. Aubrey Mascarenhas / Sr. Louisa Lopes	Glenn D'Silva	9821671584
F. Our Lady of the Wayside (J D Alves.)	63	Fr. Evarist Newnes / Sr. Sneha Vaz	Bernadine D' Penha	9820814820
G. Archangel Raphael (Almeida Park)	135	Fr. Baptist Pinto / Sr. Asha D'sa.	Celine Fernandes Maria D'sa	9820746440 9967413439
H. Holy Rosary (Babanagar)	42	Fr. Simon D' Souza / Sr. Mahima	Cheryl Pinto	9820789231
I. St. Peter (St. Peter's Colony)	43	Fr. Luke Rodrigues / Sr. Sangeeta	Neil Pais	9820159604
J. St. Joseph (St. Joseph's Primary)	72	Fr. Baptist Pinto / Sr. Yvonne Rodrigues	Carol Dmello	9819710615
K. Divine Mercy (Waroda Road)	50	Fr. Fabian Baretto / Sr. Vidhya Dandakar	Anthony Rodrigues	9920149227
L. Queen of Peace (Boran Road / Bazaar Cross)	86	Fr. Assis Rodrigues / Sr. Minaxi Macwan	Terence Cardoz	9821111770
M. Good Shepherd (Rebello House)	44	Fr. Evarist Newnes / Sr. Martha .K	Christine Saldanha	9819039916
N. Maria Goretti (Somnath Lane)	70	Fr. Aubrey Mascarenhas / Sr. Collette Pereira	Sylvia Lewis	9967118216
Total: 993				

Thank You, Bona!

For several years, the Keystone has been a bulletin that is admired for its professional quality and comprehensive coverage. The man behind this is Bona Pereira who has shouldered the responsibility of ensuring that the Keystone rolls out on the dot every month. With great patience and perseverance, he collected news items, edited as required and with the designing skills of Marissa Alveyn brought out a vibrant and colourful Keystone which was a delight to read.

Bona has expressed the desire to be relieved of this responsibility and this is the last issue guided by his hand. Our search has begun to set up a new team responsible for the Keystone. Bona, we salute you for the dedicated and distinguished service you have rendered. Our bulletin has played a key role in helping the parish stay connected and we are ever grateful to you for this.

Fr. Luke Rodrigues on behalf of the Parish Council

The Good News And The Not So Good News

So, which one do you want to read about first?

Ok, let me make the **choice**.

The not so **good news**...



I am sure, everyone of you or rather, most of you, have both heard and experienced the “environmentally – reduce/eliminate single-use plastic” initiative by **Refillable**.

This enterprise literally, overnight, converted us to a lifestyle change of opting to buy some household products in our own ‘non plastic’ containers. They ran a “**door to door, buy any amount of each product**” through a wonderful scheme, thereby eliminating ‘**single use plastic**’. No more of those highly contaminating, choking, destructive plastic bags that were ultimately going into the oceans/landfills and uncannily, coming back to bite us in more ways than one.

Remember what goes around, comes around. They, ie Refillable, offered us an easy solution.

A win-win for us and our planet. However, to sustain this venture, it requires not just a few of us but literally **ALL OF US** to adopt a plastic free lifestyle. Sadly, Refillable are discontinuing the “retail” and going forward, continuing with bulk biz.

Not so good at all... can we change the course? Nothing is impossible if we **collectively adopt the Refillable route**.

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS...

Very recently, I did a random physical search among our frequently visited “baniya” shops and discovered, refillable options for the aam aadmi (you, me, our neighbour) to continue making conscious and eco friendly choices in our purchases and thus steadily clean our planet by reducing plastic in multiple forms alongwith the added and most unnecessary packaging. **We only need products, right.**

Top of my list and endorsed by the very well-known Luke Coutinho
ADRISH @ Pali Road, between HSBC & Gold’s Gym.



A Zero Waste Organic Store offering an extensive range of products from fresh veggies / fruits, nuts, grains, pulses, oils, detergents, ecofriendly kitchenware, souvenirs, clothing etc. Shop for as little or as much as you want, in your container or even work out a mutually acceptable reusable container of theirs. Here are a few of their shelves.



Next on my list and equally 'eco friendly' are these 2 **"Grain and Provisions" Merchants @ Bazaar Road**

- Meghji Lakhamshi, Shop no.3, Asma Manzil
- Vira Stores, junction of Bazaar and Boran Road

Both shops have a large range of grains, pulses, masalas which we can buy in the quantity we want and most importantly, in our own container. In my quest to provide us with more options, I visited a couple of other stores at Pali Market only to be utterly defeated and dejected. The question ***"What do we do when the customer irresponsibly demands a plastic bag?"***. Are we not culpable??? Don't you see, ***if there is no DEMAND, SUPPLY will automatically stop.***

And so, I ask you dear reader, are you strong enough to make the switch for yourself and be a crusader by encouraging other families, neighbours, communities to convert to a **ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE?**

WOULDN'T THEN THIS BE THE BEST NEWS. TAKE THE CHALLENGE. LET US GIVE FUTURE GENERATIONS THE PLANET OUR FOREFATHERS GAVE US.

Janet D'souza, CCG Member

Environment Day

On the 4th of June for World Environment Day, RUR GreenLife put up an ArtVo Tetrapak recycling exhibition in St. Peter's Square which aimed at creating awareness and eco consciousness to sensitize parishioners on sustainable living. RUR also innovates and designs sustainable solutions by developing eco-friendly products from Tetrapaks and promoting source segregation and waste management practices.



St. Peter's Church through the Care for Creation Group have been recycling Tetra pack for the past several years and sending them to RUR who then make garden benches and school furniture which are then sent to the mission schools.

The ArtVo mobile classroom showcased a bench, school desk and other innovative items made from Tetrapaks as seen in the pictures. Our parishioners were encouraged to experience recycling through touch as well as enjoy photographing themselves in various poses as part of the display.

We do hope that many more people will be encouraged to adopt good green practices and we can work together towards a green sustainable living.



MILESTONES

Rest in Christ

NAME	BURIAL	AGE	ADDRESS
Ella D'souza	Shroud	86	Go-Nidhi, Hill Road
Gibbson E. Fernandes	Shroud	56	Go-Nidhi, Hill Road
Malcolm D. Correa	Shroud	84	Green Fields, Almeida Park
Dorothy Bibiana Colaco	Shroud	90	Bindya Society, Hill Road
Pamela Christine Nazareth	Shroud	82	Green Fields, Almeida Park
Gilroy (Gilly) Saud D'costa	Shroud	73	Prem Guru, Jain Mandir Road

Back To School!

We are returning back to one of the most enjoyable schools... **SUNDAY SCHOOL!!**

Well, I'm definitely in for this one. It's not only the exposure received through activities like taking part in the mass, choir, and other meaningful activities. But it's the personal touch that is added by our dear teachers who try their level best to help us understand our religion better and bring us closer to God.

Initially, I felt myself entering an alien environment but it was easy to adapt due to the warm atmosphere which is promoted by the Sunday school. I started attending classes when I was in grade 1, and have loved the journey through my entire school life.

Some of the fond memories I have developed over the years are:

- **Singing along with my Sunday school teacher and learning action songs.**
- **Completing colouring sheets that, immediately bring a bible message or story to mind.**
- **Enacting prominent parts of the bible and relating it to reality.**
- **Being encouraged to develop my talents like singing, playing the casio, and reading with expression.**
- **Participating in debates and other gatherings like 'faith formation programmes' where we share ideas, explore, and generally try to find ways to make our world a better place.**

I know that once I finish school, I am going to miss these classes. At the end of it all, I am grateful that it has helped me learn more about my faith and has deepened my relationship with God.

Suzanne Fernandes - Class IX

