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October 2023

The face of God

Have you heard about turning the world upside down? Well, in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us just that. Jesus is teaching us to think and act not like everybody else, but थोड़ा हटके थोड़ा रुकके थोड़ा सोचके. Yes, in the name of Jesus, I invite you to stop, think and act differently.

In this parable (Lk 10:25-37), the priest and the Levite ask the question which we may sometimes ask ourselves. "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" Such self-centeredness kills humanity, and makes our hearts cold and indifferent.

But...lo and behold, there comes a Samaritan, a hero, who turns the selfish and self-centered world upside down.

The Good Samaritan reverses the question and instead asks: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

Can I become a Good Samaritan today? Can I become a hero and turn my selfish world upside down?

The Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel) was issued by Pope Francis on November 24, 2013. Pope Francis, a 'Pope for the Poor' notes: "We have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor. May we never abandon them" (EG #48).

I have spent several years in the missions of Manor, Shirpur and Talasari. The Good News that we preach in our mission is that of the love of God. We Jesuits show God's love not only by preaching with our lips, but through concrete actions towards the marginalized. Our main work is in the field of Education. With the help of generous people, we manage to give them a decent living & help them excel in their studies, sports and music.

Besides educational work, we are engaged in social work, promoting organic farming, organizing sessions on human rights and running short-term skill courses for landless farmers, widows and school drop-outs. Through such initiatives we have helped thousands of Adivasis to stand on their own feet.

There is a lot more that we can do and we need to do ... for this we need your helping hand. Without you we cannot carry on our mission work. Can you become a Good Samaritan for our Adivasis today?

Let us build the kingdom of God together. Let us turn the world upside down today!

-Fr. Assis Rodrigues s.j.



St Francis of Assisi -Fr. Luke Rodrigues s.j.

Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is hatred let me bring your love. Where there is injury your pardon Lord; And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

All of us are familiar with this beautiful hymn attributed to St Francis of Asssi. The words beautifully capture the essence of this saint who has captivated the hearts of millions down the ages. His life is a beautiful testimony of what it means to be a Christian – total surrender to God, friendship with Jesus, solidarity with the poor and love for nature, all of which is lived out in a spirit of deep joy.

Francis is the patron saint of Italy and also the patron of animals, merchants and ecology. His simplicity and dedication brought about a great revival in the Church of the Middle Ages. Even today, he continues to speak to us through the shining example of his life. Pope Francis, himself a great admirer of St. Francis, draws our attention to the message that this 'attractive and compelling figure' has for us today.

"He (Francis of Assisi) was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable is the bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace." (Laudato Si' n. 10)

Let's make October our month of Thanks.

We are grateful for the vibrant community that is St. Peter's!

Read on to know more about the numerous and varied happenings in our parish...





Pope's intention for October

For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

The differently abled young adults and their parents say a heartfelt thank you and happy teacher's day

Ms Tracy Gonsalves, the exercise instructor writes in..

Being a teacher is a gift in itself; however, teaching the extra special ones gives me greater purpose. The best gift a student can give a teacher is their love to learn and their striving to achieve. Every Sunday, when I walk into class, I feel honoured to experience this love and determination.



This Teachers' Day was made extra special by each of the young adults and their parents who attend the exercise and dance classes organised by the SOC. The effort put in by each child to showcase their talents brought a cheer to our hearts. Every performance was filled with passion; a true display of love and gratitude.

The parents also organised a series of fun filled games that kept us on our toes and got our minds ticking. We were showered not only with love but also with thoughtful gifts that will always remind us of one of the best Teacher's Day celebrations we have experienced.

Thank you for everything. We are grateful for your love and generosity!







The Teacher's day celebration was truly heartwarming and meaningful. We knew that with the Jesus Club Teachers at the helm, we would have a truly spiritual Eucharistic celebration, and with Darryl as our compere, there would be a fun-filled celebration.

A very special something that made this year's Teacher's Day different was the presence of teachers from other schools in our Parish.

In collaboration with the Multi Faith committee, the Jesus Club invited teachers from Petit Municipal School, Anjuman-i-Islam Girls school, Crescent English Medium School, Anjuman-e-Islam Urdu School and Aseema NGO Run Municipal School to join in our celebration. Twelve teachers attended and all had a fun time.

Fr. Luke Rodrigues closed the morning celebration with gratitude to all teachers and a special emphasis on the crucial role that teachers play in the lives of children. Of course,

> the thoughtful and 'nature friendly' gift of a Mint plant to each teacher, served as a reminder of the importance of nurturing and the role teachers play in the growth of a child.

Grateful thanks to all who gave us a great time.



THE

CLUB

JESUS

celebrates

Teacher

Enhance and Empower your Golden Age

Think Positive, Speak Positive. React calmly. -Ekatvam member

The Ekatvam members put together an informative and fun evening for the 'young at heart' at the Loyola Hall on 24th August. Dr. Sibert Collaco, ably assisted by Agnelo Rodrigues engaged all with his positivity and enthusiasm.

Some of the very pertinent guidelines comprised:

- ♠ Crying cleanses the soul.
- Take time to live, because time passes quickly and never returns.
- Trust life and thank God for all you have.
- You can make a difference no matter your age.
- Your wisdom and experiences matter.
- Connect with God. Connect with each other. Fall back on inter-dependence.

- Serve with love, no matter your age.
- Find your place in the Universe.
- Whatever is yours, enjoy till the end. Do not save for your children.
- Bring happiness to your mind. Enhance your body through exercise, good diet.
- Keep anger out.
- 🐧 10% of your life will go wrong the important part is the remaining 90% - control your reactions.







Celebrating the season of Creation -Genevieve Martins

The Archdiocesan Office for Environment (AOE) invited all parish green cells to an event in September at the Salvation Hall in Dadar. The theme: "Let Justice & Peace flow."

Presided over by Bishop Allwyn D'silva and Fr. Luke Rodrigues s.j., the evening witnessed sharing and inputs by the different parishes.

The emphasis was to make our diocese a green diocese, to build up a Cadre of Eco Friendly ambassadors who would create a green church across the country.

Fr Luke spoke about various projects and initiatives that could make this a fruitful experience.

BCS - Seminar on Redevelopement in housing societies.

-David Cardoz

In September, the St. Peter's Unit of the **Bombay Catholic Sabha** organized a Seminar on an important topic that affects and impacts a lot of our parishioners "Repairs vs Redevelopment in Housing Societies - Process & Legalities"

Three professionals were invited to speak on their field of expertise.

Albert D'Souza: A structural engineer who spoke about repairs and structural audits. (for information/ queries contact: 9819521714)

Basil Menezes: An advocate who spoke about the proper legal procedure to be followed. (for information/ queries contact: 9820285602)

Farhat Kazi: An architect who spoke about the impact of the new Development Control and Promotion Regulations under the

Development Plan for 2034 & the possibility of undertaking Self Redevelopment. (for information/ queries contact: 7738490035)

All the speakers were well informed and the 250 plus crowd were listening intently, as could be judged from the many questions that followed. The Seminar which had to end by 8.30 pm continued till 9.30pm and eventually the Q&A session was curtailed, with a promise that queries could be put through to the speakers via the BCS and if needed, a follow up session would be held.

All in all, a very relevant & required seminar and kudos to the St. Peter's BCS Unit for recognizing a need and addressing it. The response should encourage them to conduct many more seminars on topical subjects that affect our civil society.



On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, the spirit of gratitude blossomed as members of St. Peter's Multi faith Committee, Bombay Catholic Sabha and Ekatvam embarked on a heart warming mission.

We extended heartfelt appreciation to our Police Force, Crime Branch, Road Traffic Officers as well as the BMC officers at Khar and finally the GRP. Railway police at Bandra Station.

Everywhere we were received with open arms and great joy. Fr. Assis who accompanied us, delivered an inspiring message in Marathi, that was really appreciated by all.

Our Raksha Bandhan initiative gave a simple yet profound message, that in unity and gratitude, the seeds of a harmonious society are sown.





Celebrating
with thanks
the happenings
in our parish.

We gather at our grotto every evening in October to pray the rosary... but did you know that the feast of our Lady of the Rosary originated in thanksgiving to Our Lady? Read on...

The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, celebrated on 7th October, originated in thanksgiving to Our Lady for her protection against invading forces.

By 1570, the Ottoman Empire of Turkey had invaded and captured large territories in East Europe. Now, with the help of their powerful fleet, they were threatening to invade and subdue all of Europe.

A few states hastily clubbed together a naval alliance to defend Western Civilization against the Turkish invasion. Crew members on all these ships went down on their knees to pray the Rosary, invoking the protection of the Virgin Mary against the vastly superior Turkish forces. In a miraculous turn of events, the alliance won a stunning victory over the Turks near the port town of Lepanto (in Greece). This happened on 7th October 1571. In gratitude, Pope Pius V instituted this feast, celebrated universally as Our Lady of the Rosary.

During this month of October, the rosary will be prayed at our church grotto at 6.30pm on all weekdays except the first Friday of the month.





festivals.

St. Peter's celebrates Agera - a thanksgiving harvest festival

- Inputs from Paul Fishery



The East Indian community in Mumbai celebrates Agera in October, in thanksgiving for a plentiful harvest. In rural areas where cultivation takes place, the first sheaves of grain harvested, are blessed and offered in thanksgiving at a special Mass.

Countries around the world celebrate Thanksgiving in different ways, on different days...but give thanks they do! Various states in India celebrate Makar Sankranti, Baisakhi, Lohri ... all thanksgiving harvest

We at St. Peter's, will celebrate Agera on Sunday 1st October. Paddy that will be brought from the fields of Vasai, Manori, Gorai, etc., will be blessed and offered at Mass.

After Mass, the faithful take a sheaf of the blessed paddy home, say a thanksgiving prayer, and place it on the altar.
Joyous feasting and celebration follow!



We, the ladies of the women's cell (who otherwise are keen on making our voices heard), listened attentively to 'The power of the mystery of silence'- a talk given by Deacon Ivan Fernandes.

-Louella Luis

Deacon Ivan Fernandes is a wonderful orator with a witty turn of phrase. He told us about an icon that hangs just outside the office of Pope Francis in Rome, which shows Our Lady with her finger on her lips - encouraging us to listen to God and not speak ill of others. There was also a poster alongside that said "No Complaints".

He spoke about how silence need not be sterile but could be fertile and he said silence was a language by itself. Emphasizing that women are the master piece of God's creation, he encouraged us to celebrate our femininity. He gave us three instances where women approached their challenges with silence.

He spoke to us in a language that we understood and told us to stand up for what is right and maybe use silence to make a difference. He gave us a lot to think about and the group was strangely silent after the talk. Had Deacon Ivan taught us to be different and let our voices be heard in silence?



Deacon Ivan with members of the women's cell

The Women's Cell celebrates the Girl Child -Celine Fernandes

Every year on the 8th of September, the day we celebrate the Nativity of our dear Mother Mary, we also celebrate the 'Girl Child Day'. This year, we celebrated on the 9th of September, by inviting the Adivasi children to a fun-filled get-together.

The smiles on their faces all through the function gladdened our hearts. '"Please let's have another party again", pleaded one child while leaving.





Looking back at the just concluded All Bandra Zonal Talent Contest and grateful for new friendships formed, talents honed and memories made.

Shalini D'souza, our South East Zone Captain says...

A Big Thank you to all our South East zone participants, parents and families who have encouraged their children to train and participate in the zonals. Your participation helps South East Zone shine brighter!

Parul Menezes writes in...

Under the leadership of the St. Peter's Parish zonal captain Shalini D'souza, securing nearly 100 on-stage participants across categories from St. Peter's Parish, 2023 perhaps marks the largest participation from St. Peter's parishioners since the inception of the now all-Bandra inclusive talent contest. This in itself is a promising movement, getting parishioners more involved not only in showcasing their talent but eventually and hopefully, in more spheres of parish activity.

In the run-up to performance dates, it was magical to witness not only the church open it's premises as a community center to facilitate practices that spilled to late nights but also to see a vibrant living community throw open their hearts and homes, going the extra mile to either participate or better still - to lend a helping hand to another, building tighter community bonds and new friendships to last a lifetime.

Riya Pereira, a young participant in the choir, shares her experience...

The Zonal choir is not just about the points and the trophies...it's also about cracking up over jokes told while sharing a bowl of soup; it's about the camaraderie that forms from trying to remember all the lyrics to the Latin pieces; it's about keeping your fingers crossed and hoping that Adrian (the conductor) does not catch you mumbling the wrong words. It's all about the new memories and friendships that form at the Zonals.



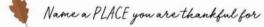
The South East Zone participants at the wrap-up party

Thank you.

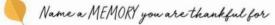
Two enormously powerful words!
Two words when put together
can express gratitude,
deep appreciation, encouragement, love...
So say them. Always say them!

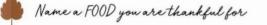






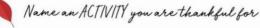












SEGREGATION OF WASTE- H/West Model (September 2023)

WET WASTE (GREEN BIN)

KITCHEN WASTE

Vegetable / Fruit Peels Cooked/ stale/ junk food Rotten fruits/ vegetables Expired food Chicken/ Fish/ Meat & Bones Grains/ Pasta Egg shells

Coffee grinds/ Tea bags Dairy Products House Sweeping (Dust) Coconut shell/ fiber

GARDEN WASTE

Daily garden waste (mulch, twigs, grass, weeds) in small quantities.

Puja flowers/ Bouquets/ Garlands (Nirmalya)

For Pre-Monsoon Tree trimming permission is online

mcam.gov.in portal

DRY WASTE (BLUE BIN)

PLASTIC

Plastic covers/ bottles/ boxes/ bags Chips/ toffee wrappers Milk/ Curd packet/ Bubble

Newspapers / Magazines Stationery/ Junk mail/ Flyers Cardboard /Pizza boxes Tetra Pak/ Paper cup/ Plate Food soiled tissue pape

STEEL/ ALLUMINIUM/ **METALS**

Foil/ Metal cans/ containers

RUBBER/ THERMOCOL/ STYROFOAM/ OLD BROOM/ DUSTER/ MOPS/SPONGE/ COSMETIC CONTAINERS/ GLASS/ LEATHER/ **REXINE/ CLOTHES/** WOODEN PIECES

DOMESTIC **HAZARDOUS** WASTE (BLACK BIN)

Bandages Material contaminated with blood / body fluids Medicine bottles Syringes/ Injection bottles Thermometer Old Paint / Paint cans Tube Light / Bulb Used batteries Pesticides/ Insecticides Hair Color Mosquito Repellant

Cleaning Agents Aerosol Cans Broken Glass Razor blades Pencil shavings Matchsticks

(Sharp/pointed objects and used syringes should be placed in a container before disposing in the waste bin)

SANITARY WASTE (BAGGED)

Sanitary pads/ Panty liners (Wrap in newspaper, mark with a red cross)

issue containing body Waxing strips Used Earbuds

DEBRIS

Paid pickup service

Ravindra Mhatre 9969304548 Yogesh Phalke 9867301699 Baban Gamare 8108871097 Vijay Yadav 9819176585 Nilesh Jadhav 9867856509

Complaint Numbers

DRY WASTE AASRA 93218 88855

> WET WASTE 1916

Compiled by Lillian Pais 992066374



The Assistant Commisioner HI west transdated

ST. PETER'S.K.G.

Bandra (w), Mumbai 400050

समय: ११, १३, १३, १४, १५

The dustbins outside St. Peter's KG were overflowing, emitting unpleasant odors and compromising hygiene. Rats were also present, and during rainy periods, the garbage littered the entire street. Parents took action by signing petitions, amassing over 250, which were then submitted to the BMC. The BMC, led by Mr. Kunde and his team, displayed remarkable proactivity.

Within a few weeks, the bins were removed, and BMC personnel were stationed nearby to dissuade littering. To enhance monitoring, CCTV cameras were installed, with continuous footage reviewed by the Care for Creation team. Recognizing Mr. Kunde's efforts, the children honored him for maintaining community cleanliness.

Collaborating with the BMC, the school educated parents about littering rules and associated fines. The importance of waste segregation was explained to parents, and the school's Independence Day theme focused on a clean India. Children were shown a video about waste segregation, and teachers performed a play to impart the significance of not littering and segregating waste at home as well

On behalf of our Manager Fr. Luke Rodrigues, we would like to thank Mr. Kunde, his team and Care for Creation for their unwavering dedication to enhancing the community's cleanliness and making it a better place for our little ones



Mrs. Natasha Rodricks

Supervisor 22/8/2023

Best Regards

The Care for Creation team had a presentation for students of St Stanislaus school. The focus was how to segregate waste, the importance of keeping our surroundings clean with a specific aim to eliminate dumping of garbage in our surroundings and the need to collaborate and cooperate with the BMC waste collection.

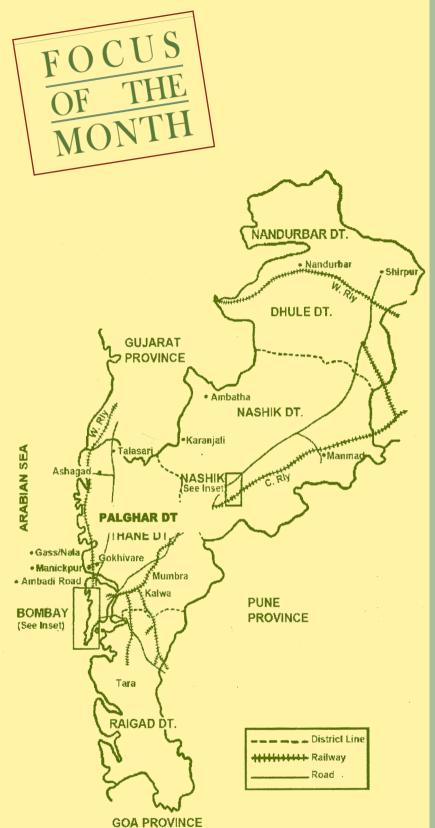
One of the students, whose family is in the recycling business, spoke about the work his family is doing as recyclers, the location of his shop and what materials they recycle.

The concept of being an active citizen and being part of citizen groups was explained. Some students showed an interest in attending the meetings for ALMs at HWest Ward. Others asked pertinent questions about waste management.

The interest shown in waste management is heartening. -Lillian Pais

Thank you to Mr. Kunde and to the BMC personnel!





A peep into the sometimes unknown world of St. Peter's rural outreach.

Did you know that our parish is "twinned" with the Jesuit run mission station in Ashagad?

Read on to know a little more...

THE BEGINNINGS

The Ashagad Mission, situated about 150 kms from Bandra, was started in 1967 by Fr. Stanny Miranda SJ (who himself hailed from Bandra).

It began as an off shoot of the Talasari Mission and Jesuit Fathers would come from Talasari to look after the faithful at Dahanu and the surrounding areas. The Fathers then decided to start residing at Ashagad to better nurture the nascent faith of the Adivasis.

This Mission began as a small centre with the fathers visiting the villages, celebrating Masses and performing the other Sacraments. The fathers then realized that the tribal girls were not sent to school and there was a high level of illiteracy among them.

It was then decided to start a small oncampus boarding for girls and boys. The Franciscan Hospitallers Sisters were invited to be a part of the mission to help look after the girls.



THE STABILISING

The children would attend the local Primary school and were later sent to Talasari for their High School education. The availability of a boarding was an encouragement for the people to send their children for schooling. The seed of faith, along with that of education, was slowly but surely taking root and growing steadily. The people gradually became aware that this was the best double engine of development.

The Mass Centres were increasing and so was the demand for establishing an education enterprise in Ashagad. Taking note of the needs of the people and their motivation to educate their children, the Jesuits enthusiastically decided to start new schools in the Ashagad mission. Today, the Education Apostolate and the Pastoral Apostolate are the two strong arms of the Mission.

THE PRESENT

Pastoral Apostolate Ashagad Mission has 12 Mass centres. Masses are offered on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The furthest Mass Centre to the East is about 52 kms away and to the West is about 30 kms away. Masses are celebrated in chapels or in different houses of the faithful. The Faith is nurtured through regular Masses, Catechism Classes, Faith Formation Sessions and One day Retreats. The Lay faithful take the initiative to organize weekly prayer services in a few centres.



EDUCATIONAL VENTURE

More than 30 years ago, through the untiring efforts of the Jesuits, the Maharashtra State Government allotted two Ashramshalas for the Ashagad mission. And one of them is for GIRLS ONLY! The Zilla Parishad Primary School too was started around the same time. Presently the Ashagad Jesuits run two Ashram Schools and one Primary school educating more than 1500 students. Over the years the Education Apostolate has taken root and is well appreciated by the local people.

GRATITUDE

The generosity of benefactors has enabled the Ashagad mission to move forward. We are very grateful to St. Peter's Church, Bandra for being a great support and a reliable partner in our ventures. Your support over the years has ensured that we continue our faith-building work along with providing quality, value-based education to our people. A BIG THANK YOU from the Ashagad Jesuits. We assure you of our prayers.

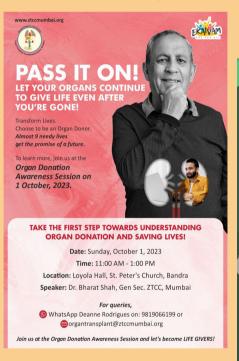
Fr. Sanjeev Gonsalves sj

Superior, Ashagad Mission



Parish Pastoral Council Happenings -Fr Luke Rodrigues s.j.

- ♠ Our Care for Creation group will actively promote composting, shroud burial and eco-friendly celebrations. Parishioners and school children will be shown the composting process at the Earth Corner. A note will be sent out regarding shroud burial, explaining its spiritual significance and outlining the process to be followed. We will also promote eco-friendly celebrations, aiming to gradually do away with single-use items such as paper boxes, plastic cups, cling wrapping etc.
- ♣ A session will be conducted to make parishioners aware of the DNR (do not resuscitate) declaration to prevent prolonging the end of life. The ICU is meant to enhance life where possible, and not prolong the final stages. Medical facilities can be provided to patients in the ward itself, where their loved ones can be present with them.
- A meeting of SCC Coordinators and Animators will be held to discuss ways of revitalizing our clusters and promoting more participation in the Parish.
- During the month of October, Rosary will be conducted at the grotto at 6:30 pm every week from Monday to Friday. The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (7th Oct) falls on a Saturday. On that day, the Rosary will be conducted at 5:45 pm in the Church. Various parish associations have volunteered to conduct the Rosary on different days during this month.









	NAME	BURIAL	AGE	ADDRESS
Felicio	a Virginia Ferreira	Shroud	92	St. Martin's Road
Marga	ret Winifred Mendonca	Shroud	78	Bazar Road
Cathe	rine Fernandes	Shroud	75	Waroda Road
Samso	on Rajesh Patel	Shroud	20	Chinchpokli Road
Rita C)'souza	Shroud	83	Hill Road