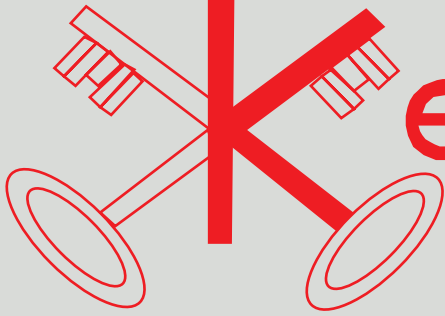


Building a Faith Community for Service



**KeyStone**

ST. PETER'S CHURCH BANDRA  
**NEWSLETTER**

**COMMITMENT ● LIVING FAITH ● INTEGRITY ● CONCERN ● (CLIC)**



Visit us at : [www.stpetersbandra.org](http://www.stpetersbandra.org)

December 2023 - January 2024

First and forever  
there was just a little family,  
without toys or trees or tinsel.  
With a baby - that's how

*Christmas*  
began.

In the celebration of Christmas  
do we let the festivities and goodies  
gain priority over the adoration of Christ?  
How much time do we spend with Christ  
on Christmas day?  
and how much time do we spend  
just enjoying ourselves?



Forgiveness is your responsibility.  
Reconciliation requires two people and one is never enough.

*All I want for Christmas is Reconciliation and forgiveness for the Whole Wide World.*

-Janet D'souza

Reconciliation is a wonderful concept, often brought up at Christmas. It is a process whereby we build/rebuild relationships. In the Christmas carol "Hark the Herald Angels sing", we celebrate **God and Sinner reconciled**.

Everyone loves the idea of Reconciliation, until it involves :

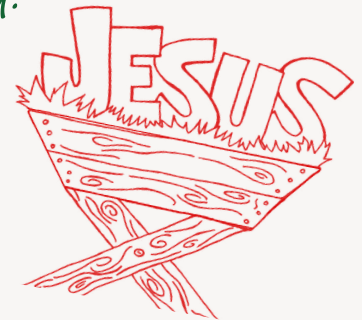
- truth telling, confessing, repenting.
- forgiving and peace making.

Is there anyone in our lives that we need to reconcile with? A spouse, a friend, a co-worker or even a family member, like our mum or dad, or brother or sister? Reconciliation is the fastest way to change our lives. **But How?**

It is the deep practice that we can all do with **listening** and **our mindful speech**. To reconcile means to bring peace and happiness, first and foremost within the family and then on a larger scale, with friends, community, neighbourhood etc. In order to reconcile, you have to possess the art of deep listening.

**The first to apologize, is the bravest**  
**The first to forgive, is the strongest**  
**And the first to forget is the happiest**

*Peace on Earth and mercy mild,  
God and Sinner reconciled.*



## Preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus -Bunny Cardoz

Thinking about Advent and the many traditions practiced during this time, I remember a simple tradition that we as children did, every Advent.

We made a bed of straw for Baby Jesus. Every good deed or word, every well said prayer and sacrifice, prompt obedience, kindness to others, was written on a strip of paper, folded and put into the empty manger in the crib.

Preparing the manger can help prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and help us to develop a prayer life with Christ. The manger is a symbol of our hearts and as we prepare a tangible manger, the image can help us to focus on what is important during Advent. A simple manger can be made out of a cardboard box or an actual manger from the crib can be placed where the children can put the straws easily.

Do try this simple activity with your children at home. Happy Christmas!



The first Christmas was simple. It's okay if yours is too.



# ADVENT Wreath meaning



## FIRST CANDLE

We light the "Prophet's candle" to remind us of the light of hope that the prophets had in the coming of the Messiah.

Reflect: Practice seeing friends and family in a new light today; bring someone a piece of good news.



## SECOND CANDLE

We light the "Bethlehem candle" to remind us of the dark night when Joseph and Mary found light and warmth in the manger.

Reflect: Do we ever act like the Bethlehem innkeeper, turning away the hungry and the homeless? How can we show thanks for a warm safe home?



## THIRD CANDLE

We light the "Shepherds candle" to remind us of the great joy that surrounded the shepherds when they heard about Jesus' birth.

Reflect: What are some of the things we can do this week to bring joy to the world of animals, plants and people?



## FOURTH CANDLE

We carry the "Angel's candle" to remind us of the light of the stars that guided the Magi to Jesus.

Reflect: What stars beckon us in this busy season? Choose paths that bring us closer to people, especially to those most in need of our love.



## FIFTH CANDLE

We light the "Christ candle" to remind us of the Baby born, as the prophets foretold, to be the Saviour of the world.

Reflect: Who needs us to be the light and life for them this holy season? Make someone glad with a letter or telephone call.



The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God

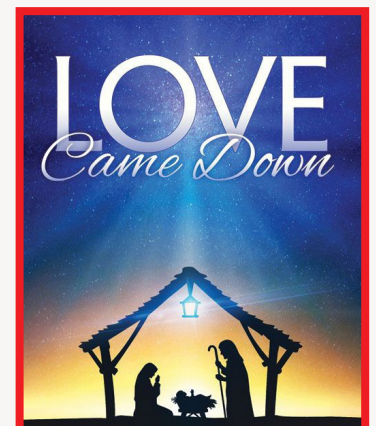
The evergreen is chosen as the base because God is the foundation of all good.

Green is the colour that represents hope and new life.

## Christmas is Love

John 3:16-17 says, "for God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him".

Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love.





Love is...  
reaching out to the  
Emily Care Centre



A rewarding encounter of listening, singing,  
and praying with the elderly and infirm Sisters

- Divine Mercy Community

## Where faith and love unite

-Vanessa Menezes

In order to experience the richness of other faiths, the multi faith members of our parish, along with persons belonging to other faiths and other parishes, visited and were warmly welcomed to the Ramakrishna Math at Khar, the Sri Guru Singh Sabha also at Khar, and the Shvetambar Jain Derasar (Mandir) at Bandra.

We all had open discussions and what stood out was the common thread that ran through the three religions - there is no God in human form. Spirituality is a desire to renounce all worldly things. The only criteria needed if one chooses to imbibe holiness, is love for humanity and selflessness.





## The 'Resurrected' Rosary -Genevieve Cabral

The rosary, considered the most powerful family/community prayer, is often found to be repetitive and a mumbling act.

But we at St. Peter's Colony changed the format to bring about renewed zest and break the monotony. Sometimes a new member/family led us in prayer; we had general intentions ranging from personal ones to praying for the community and the sick, the country and the world. The most appreciated intentions were those for the children of our community who all got a special blessing from Sr. Sangeeta.



The last day's rosary saw children dancing and enacting "It's I who build community". It was well attended (4 times more than the previous occasions!), and is proof that "We all build community!"



### Advice From A Tree



- Stand tall and be proud.
- Go out on a limb.
- Reach for the sky.
- Adapt to change.
- Branch out.
- Stay grounded.
- Remember your roots.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Get rid of dead wood.
- Be confident.
- Never stop growing.
- Bend before you break.
- Turn over a new leaf.
- Enjoy the view.

Participating in the **Eco Ambassador Course 2023** organized by the Archdiocesan Office for Environment, was a transformative experience. It provided a valuable platform for learning, reflection, and collaboration with team members of different Parishes who shared a deep commitment to environmental stewardship.

The course not only enhanced our understanding of ecological issues, but also empowered us with practical tools and knowledge to make a positive impact within our local communities.

This shared experience fostered a sense of camaraderie and a shared mission to protect the environment, reinforcing our dedication to preserving the planet for future generations.



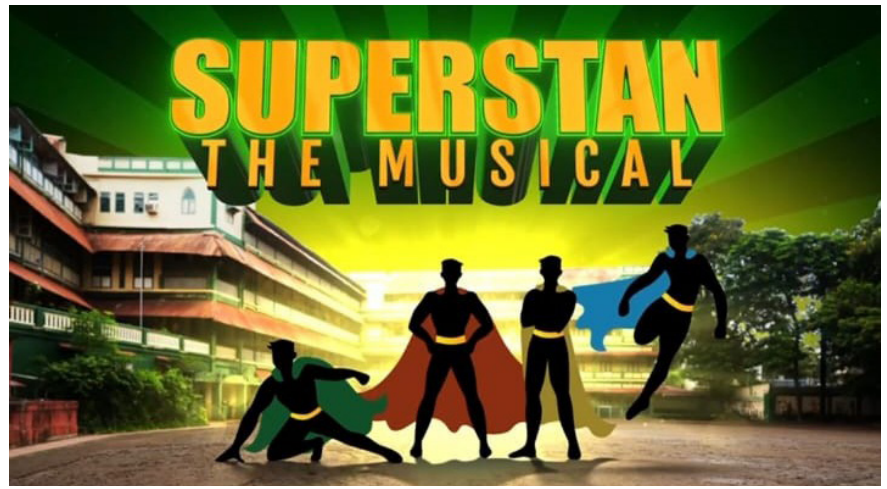
Alfred Nogueira  
Salvation Green Cell,  
Our Lady of Salvation Church, Dadar West

We all carried our own mugs for tea at every session.



Mark your calendars for  
**Super Stan the musical**  
on 21st and 22nd December  
on our school grounds.

Hurry, get your donor passes  
from the school office!



And here's our very own  
**Super Stan teacher Mrs. Sabita Menezes,**  
who will be retiring in January 2024 !

Following in the footsteps of her parents Alphonso (fondly called Brother D'Sa) and Lakshmi (Bhenji) D'Sa who were both "Super Stan" teachers at St. Stanislaus, Sabita joined our school in 1993 and in the span of her 30 years, she has had first hand experience of the transition from chalk and blackboard to microsoft and laptop. Learning has been an ongoing process for her!

Years rolled by and she honed her skills in learning and teaching, with non-stop activities, examinations and results, embracing changes and challenges in this vast field called education, taking it in the spirit of fun and laughter - and yes, sometimes shedding a quiet tear or two!

Time flies and the next chapter of her life will soon be unfolding. Thank you Teacher Sabita, for your tireless and selfless service and wish you the very best for what lies ahead.

The 'lector's workshop sessions' article in the November issue was contributed by Gillian Tixeira  
- The Editorial Team



Bandra was buzzing  
with participants of all ages,  
exploring key locations from  
Joggers park to Irish cafe  
to the Saisa club.

Excitement reached  
fever pitch with teams  
doing pushups, playing chess,  
gulping down karela "shots",  
spinning tops and the hula hoop...  
**Pure excitement!**







The Rock on which my church is Built

Where the Eternal flame still burns for this lovely community

(A: Parsi Agiary, Hill Road)



Martin goes to workout here

(A: Bhaiya Gym, St. Martin's Road)



At the base of the Hill where the Village chills, Even if you got no Paisa, You can always enjoy at

(A: Saisa)



Where do the Leprechauns go for a drink in Bandra?

(A: Irish Pub, Pali Naka)



Many a fortunate Kheema Pav, Bun Maska and Chais have been shared here .

(A: Goodluck Cafe)

The carpenter Saint dreamed up this quaint location, Where the love birds get hitched without hesitation.



(A: Joseph's Dreamland)



When, first by this willow, the Nation was mesmerized, The beauty of this gentleman's sport was galvanized

(A: Sachin's bat, Carter Road)



Where would you find gossiping aunties, laughing youngsters and a running track, all around a ducky Pond ?

(A: Joggers Park)

How many of these clues can you solve?





Once again  
its that  
**Special**  
time  
of the year.

### Coconut Ice

(No bake / No cook Recipe)

#### Ingredients:

400g (1 can condensed milk)  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
Pinch of salt  
180 grams icing/confectioners sugar  
380 grams fine desiccated coconut  
Pink food colour

#### Method:

Line a 8"x 8" cake pan with little margarine and parchment paper and keep it aside.

In a bowl, add the condensed milk, vanilla, salt and icing sugar. Blend well.

Add the desiccated coconut and continue mixing until the desiccated coconut blends with the condensed milk and confectioners sugar.

Divide the mixture into two equal portions and add a drop of the pink gel food colouring to one portion.

In the prepared tray, flatten the white layer first and then top it with the pink mixture and flatten till you get a nice even top. Cover the pan with cling wrap and refrigerate for two hours so the coconut ice can set.

Gently and carefully remove the coconut ice along with parchment paper

Cut squares, rectangles or triangles as required. Enjoy!

It can be kept out in room temperature for a week or for a longer period in the refrigerator.

HAVE A  
**Sweet**  
CHRISTMAS

**OLD FASHIONED**  
**HOT COCOA BAR**

---

$\frac{1}{3}$  UNSWEETENED COCOA POWDER |  $\frac{3}{4}$  CUP sugar

---


ADD  $\frac{1}{8}$  CUP BOILING WATER



blend in **3 $\frac{1}{2}$  CUPS MILK**

---

Heat but do not boil  
MARSHMALLOWS OPTIONAL



IN A SAUCEPAN SIMMER AND STIR FOR 2 MIN

### Milkcream - Bunny Cardoz

#### Ingredients:

1 litre Amul Gold Milk  
450 gms powdered sugar  
50 gms butter  
125 gms powdered cashew nuts

#### Method:

Reduce the milk on a high fire and stir every three minutes. Put off after 20 minutes. Scrape down sides.

Add sugar, nuts and butter. Reheat for 15 to 20 minutes. Stir off the flame till loss of sheen. Take out on the mat, knead, cool, and mould.

Keep open to dry before packing. Preferably kept refrigerated



I don't want much  
for Christmas. I just  
want the person who  
is reading this to be  
healthy, happy and  
loved.



I think as you grow  
older your Christmas list  
gets shorter, because  
the things you want  
can't be bought.

## *If you look for Me at Christmas*

*you won't need a special star -  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are.*

*You may not be aware of Me  
amid the celebrations -  
You'll have to look beyond the stores  
in all the decorations.*

*But if you take a moment  
from your list of things to do  
And listen to your heart, you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you.*

*You're the one I want to be with,  
You're the reason that I came,  
And you'll find me in the stillness  
As I'm whispering your name.*

*- Jesus*

## *Christmas Songs Trivia Game*

What song is a tribute to the  
town where Jesus was born?

What are the first four  
words of the chorus to  
'O Holy Night'?

What were 'We three kings  
of Orient are' following?

What did the ox and the  
lamb do in 'The Little  
Drummer Boy'?

What song's first line is  
'O the weather outside is  
frightful'?

What is the second line of  
'Silent Night'?

What time is it in the city in  
'Silver Bells'?

In the song 'It's beginning  
to look a lot like Christmas'  
what is the prettiest sight  
to see?

Where did the poor  
shepherds lay in 'The First  
Noel'?

What are the first three  
lines of 'We wish you a Merry  
Christmas'?



# Christmas Reflections...

For a while now, people complain that the C in Christmas means Commercialism. That it is now an industry - marketing cards, confectionery, clothes, candy, chocolates, decorations, dinners and dances.

It's time to put Christ back into Christmas.

Listen carefully to the Christmas story. It never grows stale and plucks at the heartstrings of young and old alike. It has everything...

There is the love interest - the devoted young couple having a baby far from home and family.

There is pathos in the fact that there was no room in the inn; the birth taking place in a stable; the infant warmed by the breath of farm animals.

The supernatural is provided by the birth of the Son of God flanked by choirs of angels.

And the mysterious, by the great lone star in the heavens.

The royal touch is given by the three wise kings who bring gifts for the child.

There is even the menace, when wicked King Herod seeks the child's life.

This Christmas, take this story to heart. Remember the evergreen story of Christ's birthday, and with him in mind, do what he asked "Whatsoever you give to the least of my brethren, that you give unto me"

Let us use this beautiful season of Advent to prepare for a happy and holy Christmas.

May the Lord, the prince of peace, be with you.

(From the Keystone - December 2005)

If the house isn't clean,  
it's still Christmas.

If desserts aren't made,  
it's still Christmas.

If there are no decorations,  
it's still Christmas.

If the gifts aren't purchased,  
it's still Christmas.

But if it's not about Christ,  
it's not Christmas.

wise men  
still seek  
Him

Each  
of us is an  
INN KEEPER  
who decides if there  
is room enough for  
JESUS  
Elder Neal A. Maxwell

IT IS NOT  
HOW MUCH  
WE GIVE BUT  
HOW MUCH  
love  
WE PUT IN  
THE GIVING.  
St. Teresa  
of Calcutta



Are we looking for a reason to grow  
or are we looking for an excuse  
to stay in our comfort zone?

It's close to the turn of the year.  
We have

365 new days  
365 new chances



Think about it:  
An optimist stays up  
until midnight to see  
the New Year in.

A pessimist stays up  
to make sure it leaves!

This year I will do

*more*  
of this

AND

*less*  
of that

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1.  | 1. Hoarding... got to leave it all behind!        |
| 2.  | 2.  |
| 3. De Clutter...<br>my mind<br>my possessions       | 3. No to Gossip...<br>badmouthing                 |
| 4.  | 4.  |
| 5. Embrace the 3 R's<br>(Reduce, Reuse,<br>Recycle) | 5.  |
| 6.  | 6. Junk and packaged<br>food                      |
| 7.  | 7.  |
| 8. Drink more water                                 | 8. Social media - a make<br>believe virtual world |

The New Year is waiting ... *go get it*

## Parish Pastoral Council Happenings

On Mission Sunday, our Parish welcomed the team from Ashagad mission. We are inspired by their untiring efforts in the fields of pastoral work and education and are happy that we can make a contribution towards supporting those efforts. Many thanks for your generous donations and of course, for the hard work in running the mission stalls that weekend.

We were happy to welcome Bishop Barthol Barretto who came to our parish on 17th November for his pastoral visitation. Bp. Barthol visited four families and had a first-hand glimpse at some of our social outreach programmes. He then interacted with a group of migrants, the parish youth, the PPC and the Finance Committee. He praised the good work being done and encouraged us to continue reaching out to ensure that no one is in need.

The Feast of Christ the King is an occasion to renew our commitment to Christ and work for establishing the Kingdom of God. Our procession and adoration services are part of the visible manifestation of that commitment.

December will be a very busy month with a number of programmes lined up during Advent and the Christmas season. Details about these programmes will be regularly communicated, and we invite you to make the most of these through your wholehearted participation.

*The Jesuit Team at St. Peter's wishes you  
a prayerful Advent, a joyous Christmas  
and a wonderful New Year.*



### RESTING IN CHRIST

Name	Age		Address
Alvito Gustavo Soares	80 years	Shroud burial	5, De Britto House, SPC
Mary Valji Parmar	72 years	Shroud burial	Chinchpokli Rd
Philomena D'cruz	87 years	Shroud burial	Joanna Apts. M.G. Rd
Thomas Mark Almeida	92 years		Neefam CHS, 9th Rd
Rosita D'Gama	85 years		54th Meher Court, 5th Road
Mary Michael D'Souza	87 years	Shroud burial	B-14, Victory Blocks
Benedicta Fernandes	85 years		2, De Britto House, SPC

Please email your articles for the keystone to the editorial team  
at [stpeterschurchkeystone@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterschurchkeystone@gmail.com)