

# KeySTONE

## NEWSLETTER

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

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February 2024

## *In Between Times*

February is the least of all the months.

In the liturgical year too, it is an “in - between” month, where nothing special happens. We have just finished the Christmas cycle with its theme of joy and pause a bit before moving into Lent, with its call to penance. We need such periods in our life.

In fact, if we were to move from one peak of joy to another, we would not really be able to appreciate and savour the joy to the full. We need time to assimilate, to let things sink in. And so we arrive at one of the paradoxes of life, that in order to really be happy, we must have times when we are not happy!

These are the times when we have to sit back and remember the joy that we have tasted. Even more strangely, to really know happiness, there have to be times when we are actually sad and sorrowful. Sorrow and loss make us sensitive to people and to experiences. And the more we are sensitized by pain, the more capable we are of experiencing joy. As the poet Khalil Gibran wrote “The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain”.

Let us then, use this lull in activity, to look into our lives and be grateful for what we do have. If the present has nothing pleasant to offer, let us look on this pain as an investment for a better future.

Taken from St. Peter's Church bulletin  
February 1976



WHO  
WAS  
SAINT  
BLAISE?



*Why is the blessing of the throat held on the third of February? What is its significance?*

On the 3rd of February, our Churches will witness the familiar practice of 'Blessing of the Throats'.

3rd February is the Feast of St. Blaise who lived in Armenia in the fourth century. He was a doctor before becoming a priest and bishop and hence it is natural to invoke his intercession for physical ailments.

Furthermore, he miraculously cured a little boy who was on the point of death due to a fishbone stuck in his throat.

Does this practice still have significance for us today? We often take good health for granted and realize its importance only in times of illness. The Covid pandemic shook us to the core and underlined the vital role of our respiratory system. A slight cough and throat infection that would usually go unattended, now became a major cause for worry. In those times, we experienced both the fragility of life and the miracle of those bodily functions that keep life ticking.

In this post-pandemic context, the practice of 'Blessing of the Throat' could be seen as an invitation to appreciate and care for the God-given gift of life.

Fr. Luke Rodrigues s.j.

*The more things change,  
the more they stay the same*

Taken from Keystone 2008, and relevant today too. Do you Agree?

January has already whizzed past - so far, a great New Year - just a very slight nip in the air, the promise of a pothole - free Hill Road, and looking at things from the hawkers point of view (being firmly embedded in the concrete), they will be with us longer than the concrete lasts!

Let's forget about the past year with its mixed bag of goodies and baddies. Maybe this year will LEAP forward with loads of goodies - lower taxes, reduced travel fares, a bumper crop of onions, a cooler summer, a floodless monsoon season, a noise free Diwali ending with a peace filled Christmas.

There is only one governing body (up there) that can fulfill our aspirations. Let's approach them right away. They already have priests and laymen here cooking up spiritual surprises for us through this coming year.

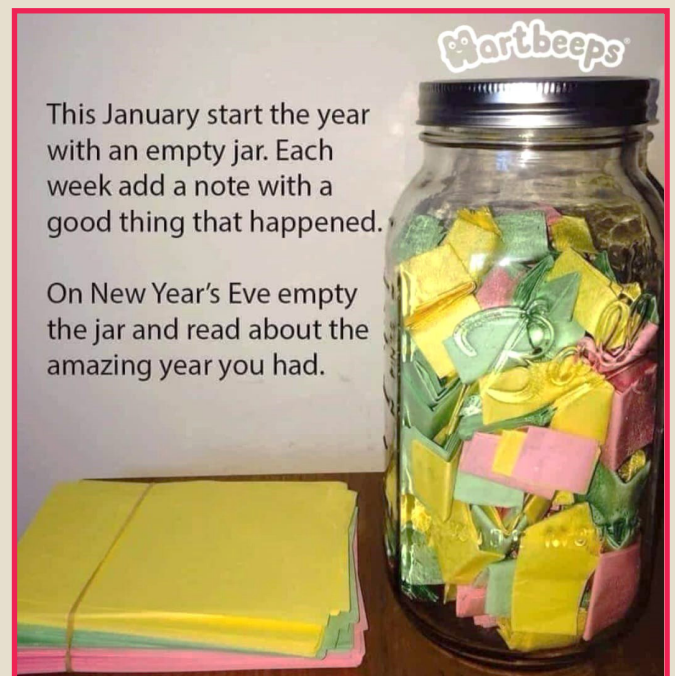
So, let's LEAP in joyful anticipation of good times to come. It's all in the mind and really does matter!

An optimist!

*Gratitude Jar*

This January start the year with an empty jar. Each week add a note with a good thing that happened.

On New Year's Eve empty the jar and read about the amazing year you had.





## *Magical marvels at St. Peter's*

Come Christmas, Easter or any national celebration day, our church becomes the cynosure of all eyes. People of all faiths flock here - some just to admire, some for 'photo ops'... The ambience, the themes, the colour co-ordination...so tastefully done.

So here's saying a big thank you and god bless to Darryl Loyola and all those willing hands that selflessly work behind the scenes to give us a beautiful St. Peter's Church.

*... we were on Facebook too!*



**OLD BOMBAY**  
Shantanu Mukharji · 2d · 🌐

A toddler admiring with awe a Christmas tree at St Peter's Church , Bandra . Merry Christmas everyone !

330 31 commen

Like Comment Send



## *Pope's Intention for February*

For the terminally ill

Let us pray that the sick who are in their final stages of life, and their families receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment

December, January came and went...all with the wonderful frenzy of Advent rolling into Christmas, then rolling into a new year; with us savouring the preparation, joy, sharing...

Here at St. Peter's, we had a bonanza of celebrations. Sharing some beautiful Kodak moments should you have missed the actual events.

## *A Sacred Milestone*



26 children received the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time on the 7th of January.

The theme of the mass was "I am special - I am Yours"



Our first communicants share...

Communion is a major part of your life, not just as a Christian, but as a person. It helps you understand your faith better and learn more about yourself.

Another Sacrament that you must receive before your FHC, is your first Confession. As soon as it is done, you feel clean, not like once you have a shower, but clean in the heart. - Zoe Pinto

I enjoyed Sunday school because my teachers were very kind and because they had a great sense of humour. If my Sunday school was a real school, I would rate it 10 out of 10. - Zac Pinto

I am sure, with JESUS in my heart, I am going to be the way He wants me to be: Loving, Helpful, Caring, Obedient and Forgiving. And from now on JESUS will be my best friend. - David Miranda

Jesus resonates in the unwavering love and guidance of my parents serving as the light that propels me towards extraordinary endeavours. - Ronan Demello



At the Inter Parish Footcom Tournament 2023, organized by the Bombay Catholic Sabha, St. Peter's church were the runners-up. 16 Parish Teams participated and Curt D'Mello from St. Peter's was awarded the Best Player of the Tournament. Three cheers to our St. Peter's Youth!



Shastri Nagar Community

Caring for The Elderly was the theme for the crib competition organized by the Bombay Catholic Sabha (St. Peter's Unit).



Mervyn Noronha

The cribs presented had a message and the scores were very close.

Congratulations to all the participants and a big thank you to the judges from other parishes.



Roland Cardoz and his sons



*No one can help everyone, but everyone can help someone!*

It was an activity packed second half of December for the members of the Social Outreach Cell.

The housebound who registered at our church parlour were treated to stylish haircuts by a team of volunteer hair stylists.

The differently abled young adults had their fun, Christmas-themed games and dances get-together to bring in the season. Santa's entry had them all excitedly jostling for "selfies" with our good ole St. Nick.



The Christmas eve mass for the housebound was a joy filled and rewarding experience.

Warm thanks to our volunteers who made these events happen!

Darryl and Sandra (comperes),  
Monty, Philo and Sukhanya (hair stylists),  
the Jesus Club choir,  
Corette, Sarita and Aubrey (carol singers),  
and our Santa Sinuhuel

- Berna Mascarenhas



Organized by the Youth Social Service (YSS)



St. Peter's Youth (SPY) 'Unwrap'ped a five day extravaganza.

Memorable events that rocked and rolled at St. Peter's.



On the last day of 'UNWRAP', the multifaith committee put up a skit in which people of other faith participated.

The tribals of our parish rendered carols in Hindi.



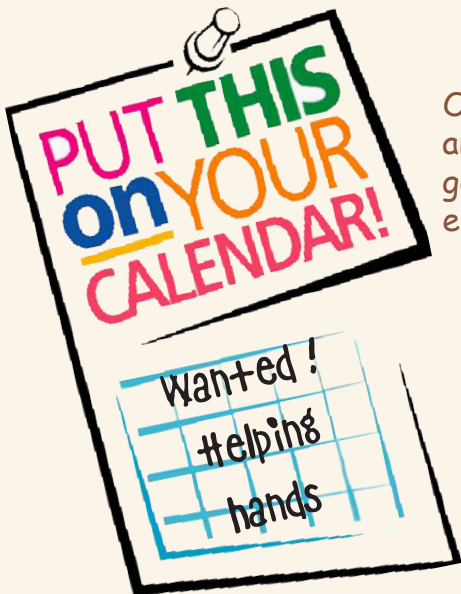
## Lumen Gentium and Gaudium et Spes

Around 30 catechists had their Second Catechist recollection in December. Fr. Joseph David spoke enthusiastically on the two documents of the Second Vatican council, "Lumen Gentium" and "Gaudium et Spes."

While Lumen Gentium looks at the church internally, Gaudium et Spes looks at its external mission.

To summarise: we can reflect on the following, "If I truly believe that Christ is the light of the world, what can I do to make His light shine even brighter in my little corner of that world?"

-Giselle Fernandes



Our small initiative of collecting, sorting and distribution of clothing and other items, has reached huge proportions. The donors are generous, the recipients are grateful. But the glitch is not having enough volunteers for the work of sorting, packing and forwarding.

It is too overwhelming for a few people to continue this ministry without adequate help. To pay people would defeat the purpose. Apart from regular volunteers, we would require professionals/ assistance to check out electrical and computer-related items.

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 10 am - 12.30pm, the above work is carried out in the MMT Hall- St Joseph Convent.

Volunteers could contact Christina (9619948199) or Marissa (at the parish office)

-Christina Lobo



## Advent Recollection

Fr. Daniel Fernandes conducted an Advent Recollection for Seniors. He gave a spiritual and inspiring talk on "TIS The Season to be Jolly".

The creative games, the sharing...all emphasized that Jesus is always by our side and that we can face any hurdles that come our way.

-Mona Gracias





# WHY USE MORE?

A poem for Sustainability Day - 26th October

By Odette Katrak



Why use more if less will do?  
Why buy new if old will do?  
The planet's wealth is fading fast,  
We today must make it last.

No harm at all to repeat your dress,  
To not repeat clothes, there's no duress,  
Cutting back doesn't mean compromise,  
Just mindful living, circularity is wise.

Tomorrow when new generations need,  
Why deprive them for our greed,  
So do cut back, please just use less,  
Don't put this planet under stress.

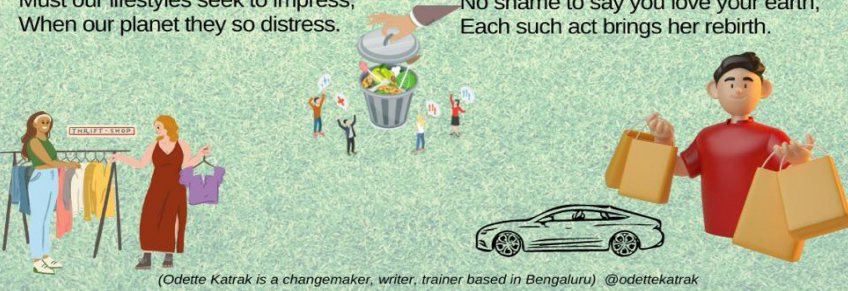
Why buy new if used will do,  
The preloved charm is beckoning too,  
A compelling call to use existing stuff,  
Why buy afresh when there's enough!

The food we waste is far too much,  
Repair, reuse – habits out of touch,  
Cut out packaging, carry own bags  
Learn to live simply, earn green hashtags.

Why use two when one will do,  
Why use any if none will do!  
Cutting back is the need of the hour,  
Minimalism must be our new mantra.

Ordering stuff at the drop of a hat,  
High cash flows, the cause of that,  
Must our lifestyles seek to impress,  
When our planet they so distress.

It's time to change the way we live,  
Cut back on mindless gifts we give,  
No shame to say you love your earth,  
Each such act brings her rebirth.



(Odette Katrak is a changemaker, writer, trainer based in Bengaluru) @odettekarak



Inspired by the poem "Why Use More" by Odette Katrak, (Bangalore based, co-founder of beautifulbharat.org), the Care for Creation Group organized a two day Mela entitled Shift to Thrift, focusing on "Sustainability, the Eco Friendly Way".

Less is More. Our everyday actions can and will impact Mother Earth if we choose to make positive lifestyle changes and learn ways and means to Upcycle, Recycle, Re-use what we have.

Once is not enough. The solutions are simple.... practice makes perfect!

-Janet D'souza





Lent is the time for us to experience and acknowledge our total dependence and need of God.

We should not associate Lent just with pious practices of fasting and abstinence, making the Way of the Cross, cutting down on cigarettes and movies...Lent is all this and much more!

Yet, often we do not seem to feel the need of God when things go well with us. But the moment we are struck with a misfortune - someone falling ill, or losing a job, or ... there we are making our favourite novenas and asking God to help us!

Let us make this Lent a time to reflect more deeply on our lives, to pray more sincerely, and to live more truly.

Let us allow God to enter into our lives and change us.



## What to Give Up:

*A Lenten Reflection*

- Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.
- Give up pessimism—become an optimist.
- Give up harsh judgments—think kindly thoughts.
- Give up worry—trust Divine Providence.
- Give up discouragement—be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred—return good for evil.
- Give up negativism—be positive.
- Give up anger—be more patient.
- Give up pettiness—become mature.
- Give up gloom—enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
- Give up jealousy—pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping—control your tongue.
- Give up sin—turn to virtue.

## My Plan for Lent

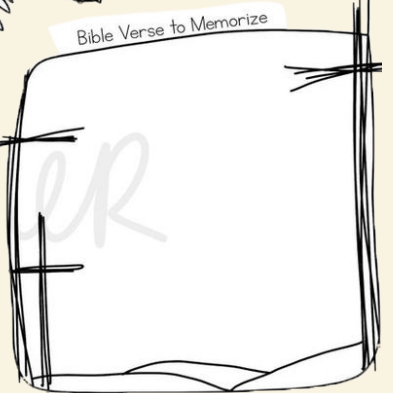
Each day I will pray...



I will fast by...



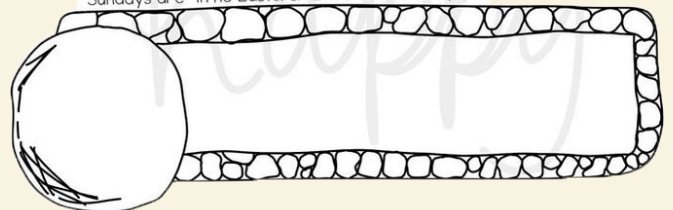
Bible Verse to Memorize



I will give alms by...



Sundays are "little Easters." I will celebrate by...



# WHY ASHES

ASHES ARE A PUBLIC SIGN  
OF OUR INTENT TO

**DIE TO OUR  
WORLDLY DESIRES  
AND  
LIVE IN CHRIST**

AS OUR FOREHEADS ARE  
MARKED WITH ASHES,  
THESE WORDS ARE SAID:

“REMEMBER, THAT  
**YOU ARE DUST,**  
AND  
**UNTO DUST YOU  
SHALL RETURN.**”



**WHERE DO  
THE ASHES  
COME FROM?**

THE ASHES ARE  
MADE FROM THE  
**BLESSED PALMS** USED  
IN THE PALM SUNDAY  
CELEBRATION OF THE  
PREVIOUS YEAR

## Practice the Pause

When in doubt, pause

When angry, pause

When tired, pause

When stressed, pause

And when you pause,

**PRAY**

## Lenten Word Search

G	Y	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	F	E	S	V	E
R	K	S	F	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	F
I	D	C	S	I	H	O	L	Y	W	E	E	K	G
C	Y	N	N	E	P	U	R	P	L	E	S	T	O
C	P	P	S	I	N	T	E	S	N	N	S	N	O
P	E	N	A	N	C	E	E	O	O	F	F	R	D
N	R	L	P	O	I	H	V	I	N	I	E	R	F
O	F	L	G	R	S	I	T	I	I	S	G	I	R
E	O	F	S	A	A	A	R	G	G	H	I	O	I
R	U	C	H	I	T	Y	E	Y	I	R	R	G	D
E	G	T	I	S	S	I	E	R	R	V	O	N	A
C	R	O	S	S	D	S	G	R	I	A	I	F	Y
A	H	S	E	A	S	O	N	R	R	E	C	N	S
G	N	I	T	S	A	F	F	O	R	T	Y	S	G

ASHES  
PENANCE  
GOOD FRIDAY  
GIVING  
CROSS  
FORTY  
PREPARE  
HOLY WEEK  
FORGIVENESS  
FISH  
PRAYER  
PURPLE  
SACRIFICE  
SEASON  
FASTING  
STATIONS

# Parish Pastoral Council Happenings

There were a number of programmes during Advent and Christmas, touching the lives of so many people. The Parish is grateful to all those who took trouble to organize these events.

The 'Shukriya' evening will be held on Sunday 11th February 2024.

As part of our Lenten preparation, the Presbyterian Church Choir from Chicago will perform in the church from 8 pm to 9 pm on Thursday, 15th February 2024

Our parish pilgrimage to the Mount will be on Friday, 8th March 2024

This year, we will have Lenten Missions by the Redemptorist Fathers. They will visit families from 10th to 16th March and the preaching will be from 16th to 23rd March.

## Milestones

### BORN IN CHRIST

Roylen Lipoon Rebello      S/o Leroy & Langlin Rebello  
Desiree Nunes              D/o Ryan Nunes & Bhumika Parekh

### UNITED IN CHRIST

Eldrich Herman D'silva & Nicole Marie Coelho	Boran Road
Joshua Rodricks & Leanne Alvares	Witsend
Wynelan Luis & Daniella Gomes	Turner Road
Sean David Keith Irani & Rasheema Jane Roche	Victory Blocks, Hill Road
Ralph Erwin Fernandes & Neysa Maria D'souza	Go-Nidhi, Hill Road
Andre Lawrence Pereira & Chantelle Lourdes D'souza	J. D Alves CHS, Hill Road
Brendon Mario Fernandes & Steffi Pinto	Somnath Lane
Loy Agnelo J. Fernandes & Maya J. Angel Campos	Sunkist, TPS IV
Bryan Phillips & Aliya Khan	Boran Road
Giselle Belicia Braggs & Jostan Melroy D'souza	Somnath Lane

### REST IN CHRIST

Leucadia Rodrigues	54	Somnath Lane
Joaquim Anthony Diniz	81	Go-Nidhi, Hill Road
Daphne Lucy Mary Coutinho	87	Boran Road
Zyldxian Ansil Pereira	28	Baba Nagar
Rosita D'Gama	85	Meher Court, Almeida Park
Benedicta (Joyce) Fernandes	85	De Britto House, SPC
Mary D'souza	87	Victory Blocks
Vimi Murzello	55	Elco Arcade, Hill Road
Alwyn Dominic Almeida	75	St. Martins Road
Francis Santiago D'souza	98	Windcliff, T.P.S. IV

Please email your articles for the Keystone to the editorial team at

[stpeterschurchkeystone@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterschurchkeystone@gmail.com)