

Key STONE

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BANDRA
NEWSLETTER

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



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JUNE - JULY 2024

Building a Faith Community for Service

It has been one year for me in St Peter's and I continue to be inspired by the wide variety of services rendered here. Right through the year, there is active participation in Church services. A lot of efforts are made to keep the housebound in touch with the community. Various outreach programs cater to the needs of those who are struggling. The generosity and commitment of our parishioners is truly inspiring.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has just met for an overnight session, reflecting on where we are as a parish and where we need to go. The plans and dreams that emerged will be shared in subsequent communications. Here, I just call your attention to our Parish vision "Building a Faith Community for Service". St Peter's is living out this vision to a good extent, but much more can still be done.

First of all, we would like all parishioners to be familiar with the vision statement and its five key concerns namely are Faith Formation, Faith Celebration, Family Outreach, Social Outreach and Civic Involvement.

Greater awareness about these concerns would lead us to explore new ways of addressing them. All this is a work in progress. For now, we rejoice in all that the Lord is doing through us and remain open to where the Spirit wants us to go.

The coming Feast of St Peter is an invitation to learn from the example of our Patron who strove tirelessly to build up the nascent Christian community. It could be said that he, along with the other apostles, were building up a faith community for service. Peter's forte was his ability to work with all types of people. At a time when opposing points of view were threatening to tear apart the early Church, Peter found a way to accommodate these views and bring out the best in each apostle.

Through the intercession of St. Peter, may our parish grow in its ability to listen, accommodate and bring out the best in each one.

- Fr. Luke Rodrigues s.j.

Feast of St. Peter & St. Paul - 29th June

- Inputs by Janet D'souza

St. Peter, as we have learned, was entrusted with the keys of the kingdom of "heaven", and so we hope and pray, that on judgement day, St. Peter will use that key to allow us into the pearly gates of heaven.

Food for Thought: Do you believe that each of us have also been given a key? The key to a good Christian life through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Use it then to make both yourself and the world around you, a better place.

Here are interesting facts about each of these Saints

ST PETER



St Peter's name was originally Simon and he was a fisherman of Galilee.

He was one of the twelve apostles. His brother, Andrew, introduced him to Jesus.

St. Peter struggled with doubt and human weakness, yet Jesus still chose him!

St. Peter was the first Pope. The Catholic Church can trace the succession of every pope back to St. Peter!

The Acts of the Apostles illustrate his role as the Church's head - the rock upon which Christ would build his Church.

He died by crucifixion. Tradition says he requested an upside-down crucifixion because he considered himself unworthy to die the way Jesus did.

ST PAUL



Before receiving the name Paul, he was Saul, a Jewish pharisee who zealously persecuted Christians in Jerusalem.

He underwent a huge conversion on his way to persecute Christians in Damascus. He instead went on to be baptized there and dedicated his life to spread the Gospel.

He was imprisoned and beheaded under Emperor Nero.

His letters are in the New Testament. These writings shed light on the faith of the early Church.

He is buried in Rome in the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls.

St. Paul is the patron and saint of the missionaries and evangelists!



LAUDATO SI' PLEDGE

In answer to Pope Francis' call in Laudato Si' I pledge to:

PRAY
for & with creation

LIVE
more simply

ADVOCATE
to protect our common home




- ① I will **avoid wasting** food and water
- ② I will **use public transport** more often
- ③ I will **consume responsibly** by only buying what I need
- ④ I will **properly dispose** of the waste I generate
- ⑤ I will **inspire others** to join me in protecting our planet

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOMBAY

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram icons | /archbombay

Pope's Intention July 2024

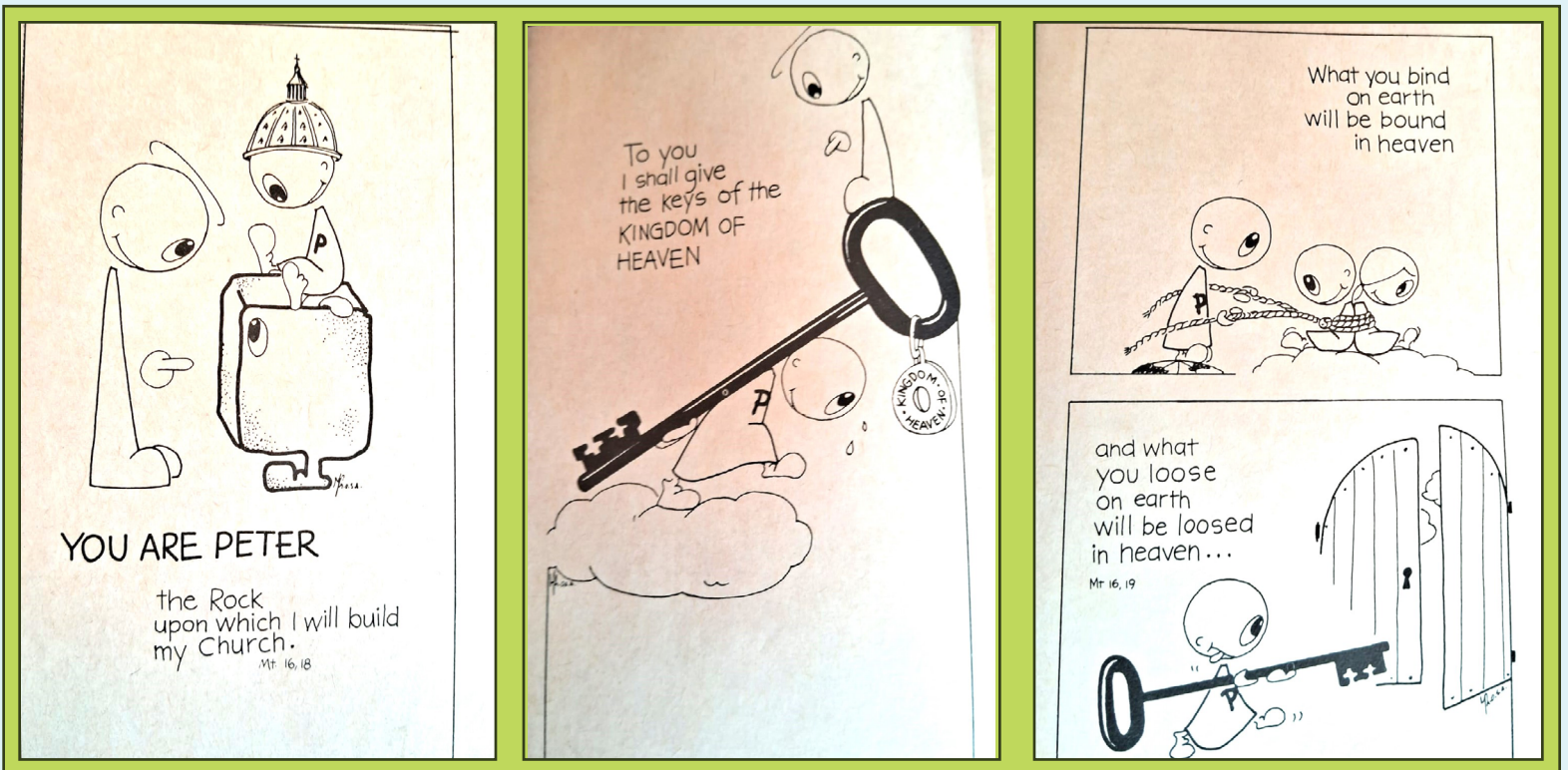


For The Pastoral Care Of The Sick

Let us pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick grant the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.

 **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**
INDIA

OUR ROCKSTAR



YOU ARE PETER
the Rock upon which I will build my Church.
Mt 16, 18

To you I shall give the keys of the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

What you bind on earth will be bound in heaven

and what you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven...
Mt 16, 19

Moving up the Grades -Schenelle Ferreira

'Education is our passport to the future for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today'

As much as we love holidays, all good things must come to an end and we have to face the reality that education is an essential part of our life. It is exciting to go back to school and be reunited with old friends. However, with the good times we share with friends comes the workload of assignments, homework and dragging ourselves out of bed on early mornings.

A few days before school can actually begin, I prepare myself to get back to my routine. I sleep early so I can get up on time, I ensure all my holiday homework is complete, my bag is packed, uniform ironed, shoes polished and most importantly that both my socks belong to the same pair!

For the new academic year, I make a new schedule, limit my screen time, try to complete my daily homework and read something new every day. Last but not the least, I read a passage from the Bible before I go to sleep every night.

More than getting back to school, I enjoy coming back to the Jesus Club. The teachers make the lessons interesting and fun. I am looking forward to learning more about Jesus and other biblical heroes.



Goodbye vacations! Hello Sunday School - Rheanka Ferreira.

It is that time of the year again when the temperatures are soaring and the parched earth is craving for the first monsoon showers. It is also time to put away the swimming gear and pull out the backpacks. It is the end of the late movie nights and lazy mornings with no tiffins to pack. It seems like summer vacations end too quickly and before you know it, the kids are back in school.

This time can be an exciting and challenging time for both, parents and kids. Kids make new friends, adjust to new teachers and get back to a more structured lifestyle. It is also a time of testing their faith and the choices they make as individuals. While bringing kids to church is important, Sunday school has the extra benefit of providing in person interaction for kids. It allows them to feel, witness and experience what life with God is like.

At the Jesus club, kids are encouraged to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. They understand how much God cares about them. They learn to actively participate in the eucharistic celebration. We often overlook the significance of children in the body of Christ. When children come to Sunday school they develop character, learn love, empathy and Christian values. They are empowered to face the challenges of this world.

As we prepare our kids to get back to school, let us also help them to get back to the Sunday routine of attending children's mass at 8:00 AM followed by the Jesus club at St. Peters parish.

WELCOME BACK TO THE JESUS CLUB!

Every child is welcome at the Jesus Club

Here every child is taught the Catholic Faith, they learn all the prayers and how to participate in the Liturgy. We are open to children from all schools, parishes and strata of life.

What do we offer these children?

We follow a prescribed syllabus from the Archdiocese of Mumbai, and also teach the children prayers and bible stories suitable for their age.

Besides this, they learn how to participate fully in the Eucharistic celebration, where they read, sing and serve at the altar of the Lord. Std 3 learns the 10 commandments and the Beatitudes in song and pictures. In Std 4 they are prepared for the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

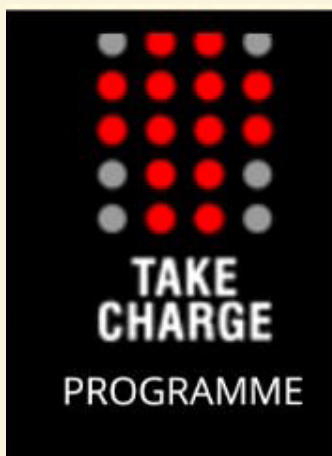
Kids have fun acting, singing, playing, and debating and they are encouraged to use their talents in the service of the Lord. They learn to mix with all types of children and often form friendships that last forever. This builds up their confidence and inter personal skills. Outreach programmes and picnics are fun times and yet they have a message. Modern technology is used to make lessons fun, interactive and interesting. Colouring sheets, quizzes, word searches and crosswords add to the informal atmosphere.

We are aware that today, a lot of children do not attend Catholic schools and hence there is no religion taught to them. This makes it even more necessary for children to learn more about the faith from the Jesus Club

Our aim is to nourish the seed of faith planted at baptism and help the child grow into a mature adult. Come, let us help your children grow.

Empowering our
Catholic Youth

25th May



SUMMERTIME... AND

The month of May was HOT...but happening!

A pot pourri of fun, fellowship, camaraderie and community worship to our Mother Mary

Good Shepherd community picnic



ST. PETER'S YOUTH PRESENTS

REWIND



May Rosary Fellowship at St. Peter's Colony

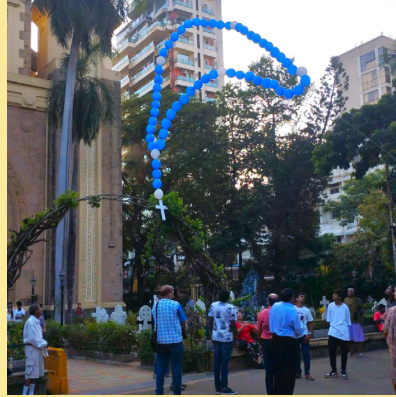
The picnic and Treasure Hunt - Luke D'abreo

The YSS, under the guidance of Johnny, had organised a picnic as part of the summerclub activities. The picnic was at St Bonaventure church in Madh island. We left at around 7 am by bus. The highlight of the picnic was the gola cart. We had a blast at the picnic and are looking forward to going there next year too!!

The YSS summer club also organised a treasure hunt. Some of the clues were...

- I swing but I'm not a pendulum (*Banyan tree behind the St. Stanislaus basketball court*)
- The first face you greet and the last face you see (*St. Peter's main church gate*)
- A place where you cool down in summer (*Pool*)

THE LIVING IS EASY



YSS Rosary



A case for Reverse re-development - Maharashtra Nature Park

- Denise Anklesaria

Care for Creation Group with Natasha DCosta organized a visit to Maharashtra Nature Park (MNP) in Mahim East. Braving the ferocious Friday sun on May 24th, members of the Care for Creation group and other parishioners headed to Mahim East all capped and booted.

MNP is the brainchild of Shanta Chatterji, a corporate lawyer, who worked under the guidance of Dr. Salim Ali (Birdman of India). The aim was to have a green lung in Mumbai and also to generate awareness about Nature Conservation. Its natural settings and rich biodiversity makes it an ideal place for this purpose. However it was not always so green.

Developed on a garbage dumping ground of 37 acres, the park is a wonderful example of how a wasteland can be "redeveloped" in the ecological sense. It has vast expanses of manmade forest and is surrounded by the natural ecosystem of the mangrove forests of the Mithi River. It is home to 14000 varieties of trees such as Hirada, Behada, Amala, Arujn, Kadunimb, Baniyan, Fig etc. There are 125 species of birds such as Indian Paradise Flycatcher, Kingfisher, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Purple-rumped Sunbird, Coppersmith Barbet and White Spotted Fantail Flycatcher.

85 species of butterflies can be found here too. Reptiles such as Russel's viper, Sand boa, Cobra besides most of the species of lizards and geckos are a part of the ecosystem.

A section of the forest is devoted to medicinal plants. The manmade lake in the center is home to the resident crocodile besides other amphibians. There is a nursery, from where our group shopped for as many plants as we could carry home.

We returned, tired and happy and ready to spread the message of reverse redevelopment, to enrich the spaces around us with the colours of nature.

Senior Learnings! Do More with Less - Janet D'Souza

Our entry into and exit from Life is but a journey and by no means, a destination.

"NOTHING" is the common denominator.

At birth, we came with nothing At death, we take nothing. And yet, in the in-between, we have a compelling urge of acquisition. Acquisition in several forms, begins to define us. Our "needs" and "wants" become blurred. "Big" and "More" began to consume us; bigger homes, cars, TVs, sound systems, etc . We are all guilty.

Materialism and liberalization made the mickeys out of us. Marketing and advertising drove us insane on the path of consumerism. And then, electronics and technology exploded and lo and behold, "small" and "less" has now become the new mantra.

Our gadgets soon became "smaller" and more "efficient". My mobile is now my "bank" and my "music system". My wrist watch is now my lifeline to how well I eat, sleep, breathe, exercise - providing me with invaluable statistics. Things and stuff are becoming redundant as a result.

Welcome to the age of Minimalism. Declutter and the proverbial catch phrase, "Less is More" is our new reality. Let's welcome it.

Time therefore to re-evaluate what we so easily fell into - and consciously work towards a decluttered lifestyle. Hoarding and keeping things for the next gen, are passe! Let not your home become a "dead space" filled with unwanted stuff that is no longer required. Declutter!

We come with an expiry date...so does everything else , be it food, clothes, medicines, masalas, cosmetics - no matter how good or useful they were, once upon a time!!

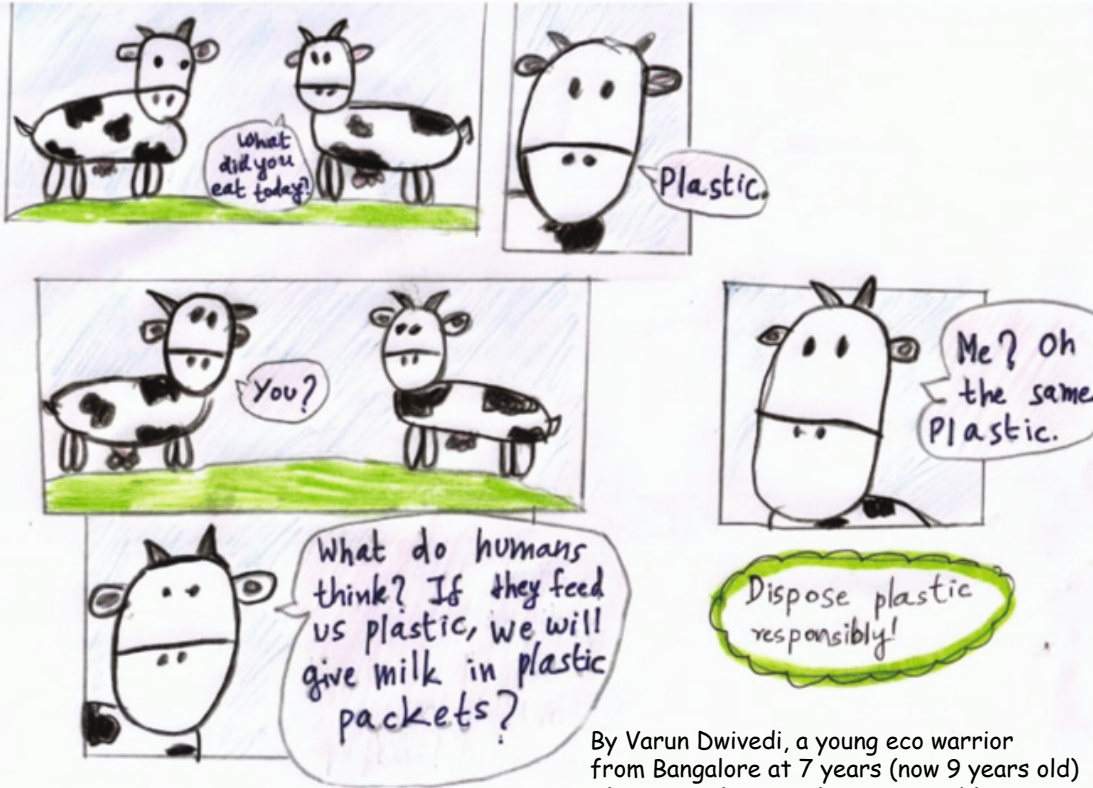
Do a thorough check of all storage. Clean up - clear out The freedom and joy of "less" is worth experiencing. Try it. Take baby steps to declutter and minimalise. The next generation will love you for it - All the More!!

RETHINK, REDUCE, RENEW



"I just worry that we won't be able to provide the same level of crap that our parents gave us"

Say **N** to Plastic



By Varun Dwivedi, a young eco warrior from Bangalore at 7 years (now 9 years old) This reminds us to live responsibly

Everyday
is
World
Environment
Day

REIMAGINE

Imagine there is no plastic, to clog our precious earth. To reach our drains, lakes & oceans, harming animals & birds. To languish in a land-fill, leach poisons to the ground

The truth - we are all guilty .. and add up to this nightmare of plastic all gone wrong

It is so very simple, to **STOP** it all right HERE & NOW

Reimagined by Janet D'Souza with inputs from **BEAUTIFUL HARAT**
CLEAN | GREEN | SAFE

Adopt greener habits for a smaller waste footprint

- Choose reusables not disposables
- Paper usage depletes tree resources



Carry your own bags



Carry your own mug



Carry your own bottle



Opt for reusables



The Social Cell and the differently abled young adults celebrated a Mother's Day where the proud young adults 'garlanded' their overwhelmed mums with 'chocolate medals'



Thank you SOC!
I know this is from Jahnvi to me...but I also know who made it for me

- Tripti Lakshminarayanan



Social Outreach Cell

- Roselyn Rebello

Our Social Outreach Cell (SOC) was set up to offer services and programmes to the parish community. Initiated by Ms. Del D'Souza and Fr. Errol Fernandes sometime in 2012, this group is like a compassionate heart within the community. Our members reach out, connect and try to make a difference. It's not just a duty, it's a calling - a way to weave kindness into the fabric of our parish.

Sunday mornings come alive with energy. Our differently abled friends gather for dance and exercise classes. We cheer them on as they stretch, sway and find joy in movement. It's more than fitness, it's a celebration of abilities and resilience.

Once a year we gather for *Dhanyavad* - a heartwarming event. Domestic workers - our unsung heroes - come together sharing their journey, their challenges, their victories. It's a day of gratitude where we honour their contributions and create a circle of support.

Our seniors deserve pampering, don't they? Imagine trained beauticians visiting their homes. Beauticians who trim hair, shape nails and listen to life stories. It's not just about grooming, it's about dignity and respect and the warmth of the human touch. And for our homebound seniors, these services bring comfort to their doorstep.

The Christmas Eve mass for the homebound is a sacred gathering that brings a sense of belonging to those who may otherwise feel lonely during the festive season.

The SOC welcomes you to join them by sharing your time, talent, skill and service.

You can make the difference

FAMILY EMERGENCY KIT



DRY CLOTHES



WATER & FOOD



READY CASH



FIRST AID KIT



TORCH &
CHARGER



CONTACT LIST

BEING MONSOON READY AVOID AVOID AVOID!

Since raincoats, gumboots are just not enough.
You may have to be prepared for
the worst to enjoy the best!
So better be safe than being sorry!

Avoid drinking water from running taps
or open containers as they may cause
water borne diseases.

Avoid wearing white, body-hugging and tight
clothes. Switch to loose-fitted ones.

Avoid eating street food and junk food
from roadside stalls

Avoid travelling by private vehicles and switch
to public transport

Avoid taking shelter under trees and stay away
from windows and balconies



Democracy demands we give them a chance
But this time I think we should join in the dance
Coz whoever they are, the men at the helm
The country still belongs to us, not to them

We gave them their seats, the two-seventy-two
We voted them to power between me and you
But whether they prove to be wise men or fools
This nation is ours so let's play by the rules

Let's not break the law, can we please
stand in line

Let's not pull those strings to avoid paying a fine
Let's finally get that a red light means stop
Let's not stoop to bribing the poor traffic cop

Let's be part of the reason our country is great
Let's be good citizens before it's too late
Let's serve our great country without hesitation
Let's all work together to build a strong nation

Enough of the trolling, the barbs and the fights
Now let's stick together,
stand up for our rights
Enough of debates on religion and caste
Now let's be united, secular at last

They might have the seats,
the two-seventy-two
But the country belongs to me and to you
And we're a billion people, a billion and plus
At the end of the day, the onus is on us.

- Anon

When others need to search for something	
When Catholics need to search for something	

TIDBITS

From: The Editorial Team
To: Our Readers

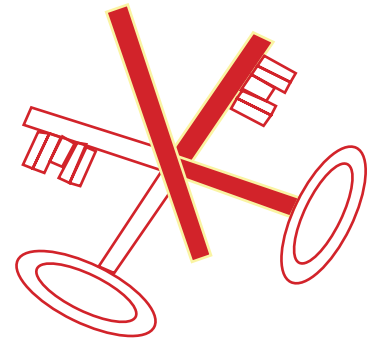
Yay! We, the Team, have completed a year in office!
And...are still standing! 🙏 🙏
Thank you. 🙌

This issue of Keystone is for the months of June-July 2024.
Going forward too, it is our plan to bring out the bulletin
on a **bi-monthly** basis.

We welcome feedback, articles, pictures of happenings on our email
stpeterschurchkeystone@gmail.com

Pictures for publication - please remember the key guidelines for
good reproduction - **jpg format; 500 px, a caption and name for each photo**

Let the Keystone be the true reflection of St.Peter's church.



Born in Christ

MILESTONES

Name

Parents

Katelyn Stacey Fishery

D/o Dwayne & Stacey Fishery

Maverick D'souza

S/o Francis & Mohini D'souza

Skyler Gonsalves

S/o Carl & April Patel

Jeremy Fernandes

S/o Nelson & Ruth Fernandes

Zayn Evan Fernandes

S/o Clayton & Stephe Fernandes

Luke Vaz

S/o Sheldon & Ayesha Vaz

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Denzil Lawrence D'Abreo

83

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Libby Fernandes

88

Go - Nidhi, Hill Road