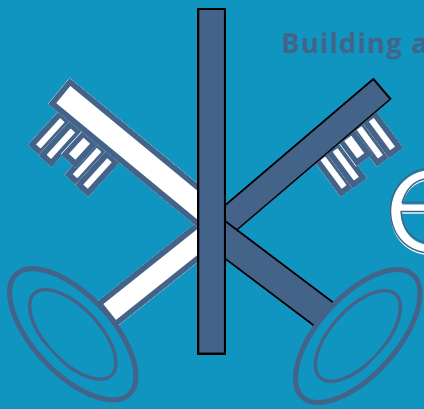


Building a Faith Community for Service



eySTONE

ST. PETER'S CHURCH BANDRA
NEWSLETTER

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



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APRIL-MAY 2025

*We are an Easter People
Alleluia is our song*

On Good Friday, there was darkness over the whole land. The disciples were in hiding, afraid. The two men on the way to Emmaus were downcast; they were hoping their Messiah story would have had a better ending.

And then it happened. On the third day, there was loud thunder, an earth-shattering quake, the stone that covered the tomb was thrown away. The tomb couldn't contain the Messiah. Jesus has risen and is with us here and now. The sadness and gloom that crept over the whole world is now blown away. There is a cool breeze, a new energy, a new vibrancy.

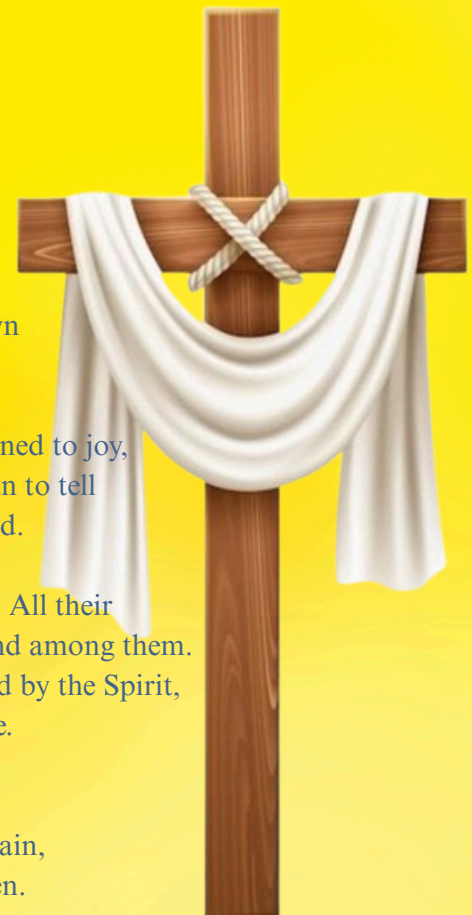
The Good Friday people have now become an Easter people. Sadness has turned to joy, defeat to victory. They are electrified, they are energized. Mary Magdalene ran to tell the disciples. Peter and John ran back to the tomb. They saw and they believed.

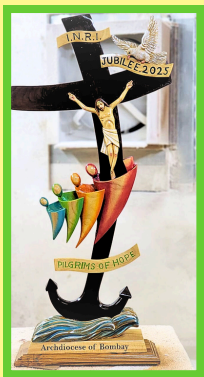
There was a new sense of urgency among the disciples and followers of Jesus. All their despair and fear had vanished. There was a new hope; their Lord was alive and among them. They were now an Easter people. Nothing could stop them now. Emboldened by the Spirit, they went to all four corners of the world, proclaiming fearlessly, Jesus is alive.

Jesus' resurrection invites us to open our hearts to the miracle of new life. It invites us to love again if ever our love was rejected. It invites us to trust again, if our trust was betrayed. It invites us to believe again, if our belief was shaken. It invites us to be pilgrims of hope. It invites us to be an Easter people, and Alleluia will be our song.

Happy Easter!

-Fr. Trevor Miranda sj.





D'MONTE STREET/
CHINCHPOKLI
1ST-18TH MARCH

Crossing our paths...

BAZAAR ROAD
19TH-30TH MARCH

ST. JOSEPH'S
CONVENT
31ST MARCH

The pilgrim cross: March-May schedule

J D ALVES
1ST-12TH APRIL

ST. PETER'S CHURCH
12TH APRIL-31ST
MAY



During this Jubilee Year, the parishes of the Archdiocese of Mumbai focus on specific ministries. The focus area for April is 'Youth' and for May is 'Workers'

**YOUTH
might!**

Youth - God's favourite! To shake up the world. A quick glance at Biblical characters will confirm this. David, Samson, Isaiah, Mary and the list goes on and on. Jesus himself was in his prime when he took on the world. And all of them were world changers. That is the power that God sees in youth.

The church and the youth play significant roles in each other's lives. They need each other and they play a vital role in the vibrancy and newness of the church. During their college years many youth are active in church. But working life changes it all. Today's work timings and culture make it difficult.

Recently at St. Peter's, 20 youth came together to brainstorm about what can be done for working youth. Interestingly, they expressed their desire to connect and a keenness to do something together. It did take them a lot of courage to move out of their shell; to venture into this unknown group.

Being Lent, their desire to do something turned to *Lent on Wheels* (See page 12). Rather than walk or ride, the youth would roll in a bus to the different Jesuit houses in Mumbai, bringing a unique blend of spirituality, interaction, Eucharist, fellowship, and Lenten teaching. It is really encouraging to see this enthusiasm. There are many more youth out there to whom we have to reach out to. We need parents, SCC and PPC animators to identify them.

We are presently looking at making the college and working youth more vibrant in the parish and need your support and cooperation.

Let the risen Lord shine through the youth in our parish.

-Fr. Ivan D'Souza s.j.

Participating in God's labours!

We celebrate International Worker's Day on 1st May each year. Labour has an inherent value in itself; since all things and structures are a fruit of somebody's labour. God worked for six days and continues to labour in creation to sustain us.

The Church celebrates the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, the Patron Saint of workers, on 1st May, which coincides with International Worker's Day. This feast was established to emphasize the Church's support for workers and to provide a Christian perspective on the dignity of labour.

The Church has consistently asserted the dignity of labour and the rights of workers, always emphasizing the spiritual and moral dimensions of work. As Christians, we need to look at work as a form of participation in God's ongoing creation, being aware that all labour, no matter how humble, has inherent dignity.

The Church continues to advocate for worker's rights, promote social justice, and recognize the spiritual value of work. This standpoint, encourages Catholics to see their work as a vocation and a way to contribute to the common good.

-Fr. Frankie Nunes s.j.



"Stay positive,
work hard,
make it happen."

Timeless Lent: A stairway to Heaven

Drawing from the wisdom of the past and with a deeper understanding now of our spiritual practices, **let us strive to be pilgrims of hope, renewed in love and strengthened in faith.**

We quote excerpts of an insightful article by the late Fr. Joe Maciel s.j., where we are reminded that, despite the passage of time, the essence of Lent remains unchanged.

In our modern age, filled with the stupendous achievements of man in so many spheres, it might seem strange that the church should dedicate a special season to penance.

We like to think that penance was alright for people of days gone by, for monks and hermits and old men and women who had lost their zest for living. The very words "penance" "mortification" seem to frighten us, to make us feel terribly out of place. And yet, the Church, shrewd and experienced judge of men that she is, insists in her liturgy and her pronouncements that if we are to be Christians worthy of the name, our daily lives have to be seasoned with, salted with penance.

Lent is a time for penance and a time for deep reflection. Lent, year after year, makes us see life in proper perspective, to look at the cross of Christ and face the searing fact of sin and it's effects on man.

Our lenten observance should serve to draw us closer to the Crucified. Love prompted God to send us a Redeemer, who died for our sins and rose triumphantly on the third day. Love - deep, sincere, emptied of all sentimentality - should prompt us to go about our Lenten observance cheerfully and willingly for "God loves the cheerful giver"



-St. Peter's Parish Bulletin (March 1966)

Mary and the month of May

Let us mingle together, voices joyful and gay
Singing hymns to our Mother, tis her own month of May!



Come the month of May, and we will once again gather around the Church grotto or a neighbourhood cross to offer homage to Mother Mary. We have grown up celebrating this connection between Mary and the month of May. But, how did this tradition arise?

In Mumbai, the sweltering summer heat of May could blind us to the fact that this is actually a very pleasant time in Europe. This is the middle of the spring season, a time when the earth is sprouting with new life - trees and meadows are in full bloom, birds and butterflies abound, and people enjoy being outdoors in nature. In Ancient Greece and Rome, this month was dedicated to different goddesses of nature, celebrating the fertility of the earth.

When Christianity spread through Europe, this springing forth of new life reminded Christians of Mary who brought forth Jesus Christ, the author of all life. Mary was seen as a symbol of renewal, someone who brings a new impulse to the Church as a whole. This connection grew stronger over the years, and different devotions were organized on each day of the month.

The Jesuits played an important role in this process. They initiated these devotions in the famous Roman College, from where it spread to schools and universities all over the world. We who have inherited this splendid tradition are called upon to find creative ways of passing it on to the next generations.

-Fr. Luke Rodrigues s.j.



Pope's Intentions

April, 2025

May, 2025

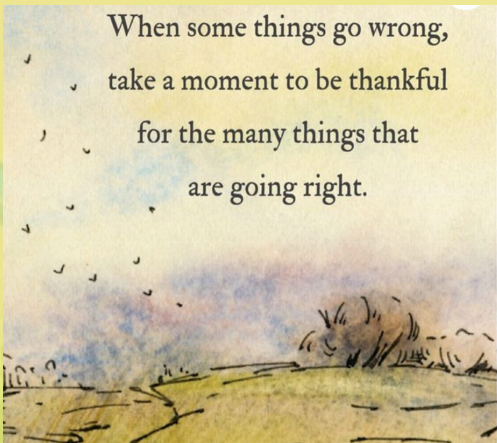
For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times

For working conditions

Let us pray, that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity and that society might be humanized.

When some things go wrong,
take a moment to be thankful
for the many things that
are going right.



The Jesus Club celebrated its annual day in February.....
An appreciative parent shared her thoughts...

The Jesus Club Annual Day

Mrs. Leah Dango told the gathering about how she had put off enrolling her son in the Jesus Club, always waiting "till he was older". Meeting up with teacher Sandra Abraham finally gave her the push and he started attending the Jesus Club 8am mass and class.

"The Jesus Club is a perfect place for Zidaan" she said "not just to grow in faith, but in confidence too. Each one has a role to play in class and has to participate in the skits, in reading, singing..."

"We rush our children into a competitive environment early; we sacrifice our time and energy to hone their talents - forgetting about the ONE who gifted them these talents" she continued.

She urged parents to enroll their children into the Jesus Club. "My experience says Don't Wait". She concluded by thanking the priests and teachers for creating an atmosphere where children can learn and grow in faith; where they learn to weather any worldly or spiritual storm.



Inter-faith Republic Day Celebration



The Holy Family community (D'Monte Street/Chinchpokli Road) held a meaningful interfaith prayer meeting on Republic day. Members - young and old, of many faiths participated.



SCC training session for animators and coordinators



At an SCC training session for animators and coordinators, Fr. K. T. Emmanuel spoke primarily on the needs of Leadership with emphasis on availability and capability.

He said, "Serving the people needs humility, sensibility, responsibility and the courage to do what is needed and right. Being a synodal Church, we now have to move from maintenance, into a mission mode and be outgoing, evangelical and inclusive. We are called to be witnesses and proclaim by our deeds."

-Mervyn Noronha

Archangel Raphael Community Outreach

The Archangel Raphael community visited the St. Anthony Home for the Aged. It was a touching and humbling experience to meet former parishioners.



World Marriage Day

"A family that eats together stays together; and, a family that prays together stays together" said Fr. Ivan D'Souza during his inspiring homily at the mass celebrating World Marriage Day.

Couples renewed their marriage vows and then participated in a well planned, enjoyable fellowship in the school shed.



-Eustace and Carol Pais



Our Parish Picnic

Priests and parishioners had a relaxing and thoroughly enjoyable picnic at Ferreira Farms, Manori. Nostalgic songs, the treasure hunt with enigmatic clues, well planned and creative games, the rain dance ... all helped to break the ice and build camaraderie. A memorable, fun time was had by all!

-Sr. Asha D'Sa



Mary of Nazareth Community outreach to Navjeet Centre



"Why Be A Volunteer?"

It's not for money, it's not for fame
and it's not for any personal gain.
It's just for love of fellow man.
It's just to lend a helping hand.
It's just to give a tithe of self.
That's something you can't buy
with wealth.
It's not the medals worn with pride.
It's just for that feeling deep inside.
It's that reward down in your heart.
It's feeling that you've been a part
of helping others far and near.
That's what makes you a VOLUNTEER.



As part of the jubilee year celebrations, they also had a fun evening to end a February dedicated to seniors.



The senior citizens prayed the rosary at the Jubilee Cross at Mount Mary's Basilica. The parishioners also visited the Pranam Maria museum which was awesome, a real work of art!



Fr. Henry Fernandes CSsR conducted a Lenten recollection for senior citizens.

Come in pilgrim lay your burden down

Parishioners prayerfully made their annual pilgrimage to Mount Mary's Basilica in February.



Great things happen when God mixes with us

As part of their outreach programme, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul visited Nirmay Niketan at Trombay. Patients with leprosy and HIV are cared for in one ward and another ward houses destitute and homeless people. There is also a palliative care centre which provides services like OPD for holistic symptoms, relief and pain management, as well as a host of other services

They next stopped at Shanti Bhavan - Home for the Aged where they were warmly greeted and welcomed.

It was a day well spent.
All returned in good spirits.

-Nandita Saldanha



Our parish Care for Creation Group visited Tara, *Tara! The star that shines in Raigad* where nature based livelihood is being encouraged in the local communities.

Lillian Pais writes in "Tara is a 6 acre plot with a nature trail of natural vegetation consisting of fruit trees, medicinal plants and other vegetation specific to the area which may not be fruitful but help to fixate nitrogen and nourish the soil. The rustling and crunching, when we walked on the blanket of dry leaves, made us feel one with nature. A small portion is cultivated with herbs and medicinal plants and the caretaker Lakshmana, explained the use of these plants for various ailments."



Where is Tara?

What is the connection between the Bombay Jesuit Province and Tara?

Tara is in the Raigad district of Maharashtra. In 1986, the Archbishop of Mumbai, Cardinal Simon Pimenta, invited the Jesuits to Raigad to cater to the pastoral needs of the small group of Catholics working at the MIDC centre of Raigad with their headquarters at Tara. Soon, other religious groups of men and women of the diocese began actively working for the tribal population of Adivasis and Katkaris.

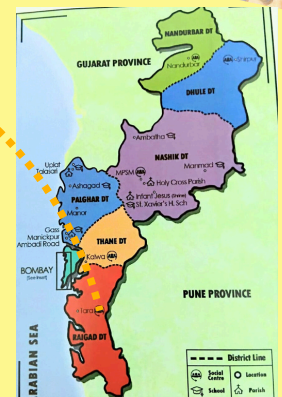
In 1990, the Jesuits acquired land in Tara and in 1992, built their residence with Fr. Desmond D'Monte as Superior and Fr. Frederick Sopena as Director of the Janhit Vikas Trust (JVT). The JVT worked for the all round development of the Katkaris.

Later, the Centre for Social Action (CSA) of the Archdiocese of Mumbai made their presence felt, training locals in church related activities. So, the Jesuit involvement in Raigad declined, though the JVT continued working on a smaller scale.

The Jesuit team at Tara today, has a new vision - to make it an important centre in Raigad, training young girls in tailoring skills, running literacy classes...

With the spirit of the Magis, JVT is determined to render valuable service to the people of Raigad.

-Genny Martins



Villa in the Woods



A perfect haven, St. Stanislaus Villa is a close getaway... just 100 kms from the crowded and polluted Mumbai. It consists of two sprawling bungalows with many rooms, a main hall, dining room and kitchen. There's also a quaint tranquil chapel to refresh your soul.



All this amidst lush greenery, tall trees and bushes, chirping birds, swings, hammocks, yellow benches, open spaces, nooks and crannies to discover...

What are you waiting for? Pick up the phone, dial the St. Stanislaus School office (tel no +919619629652) and gift yourself a refreshing break!

-Berna Mascarenhas



Memories are made of this

Fr. Gerard Rodricks fondly reminisced about his summer holiday camps at St. Stanislaus Villa, Lonavala.

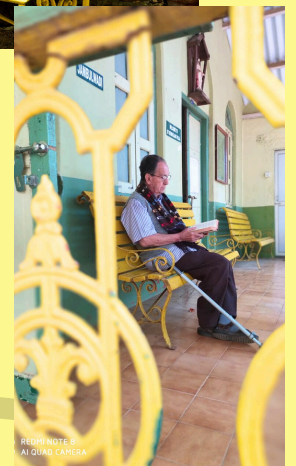
This villa still holds a special place in his heart! He remembers going there from the time he was 4 with his family and his Hindu neighbours, the Kapoors. Housie was a favourite. He enjoyed yummy food and the peaceful surroundings.

He remembers Fr. Henry D'Cruz and Br. Herman Castellino, who conducted the camps; also Ryewood Park and trekking over the lush green hills.

The beautiful old Banyan tree that he climbed 54 years ago still stands at the entrance to the Villa - he climbed it again a few years ago!

In 2018, the villa got an upgrade, but continues to retain its natural, rustic and eco friendly vibe. The Holiday Camps continue to bring families together to eat, pray, play and love.

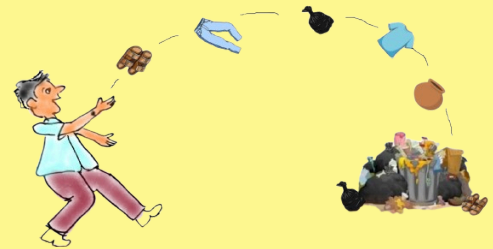
-Bunny Cardoz



RELAX
rejuvenate
BREATHE
refresh
ENJOY
nourish
RENEW



or Your Legacy goes to waste



St. Peter's Church, Bandra, is a core member of the Care for Creation Group of the Bandra Deanery. Parish teams form this large group and regularly meet to discuss and share environmental related topics. Recently, St. Anne's Church, Pali Hill, hosted the meeting, and herebelow, our CCG Member, Lillian Pais, reports.

Premila Martis talked about the assault by humans on Planet Earth that sadly affects the health and existence of all those who inhabit it. "Even in death", she said, "the waste generated at funerals is sent in truckloads from cemeteries to landfills that are a curse on the environment."

She presented the idea of a single-focus parish level Green Burial Pledge Campaign where parishioners submit a signed pledge opting for a shroud burial and an eco-friendly funeral; the pledge also mentions a favourite charity. There was a productive and interactive discussion on contrary practices being followed and how leaders in the parish could bring about an awareness and mindset change in their communities.

"Deadly" Habits..... Pun intended!

As creatures of habit, we often follow traditions without questioning their impact. So here, I want to delve into a few 'funeral' rituals. It is time to break the mold and consider both emotional and environmental habits.

RETHINKING OUR WAYS

'Viewing' vs Paying Respect

Instead of 'viewing', let us focus on paying our "last respects".

Floral Tributes

Good optics, for sure, but the dead neither see, smell or appreciate them. Lets review our motivation.

Shroud Burial

A great decision, but let us take it one step further by dressing the body in simple, bio degradable clothing. Polyester suits and dresses take centuries to decompose.

Eulogies

Do the dead hear our words?? Instead, cherish our loved ones in their living years and thereafter, treasure memories of who they were to us.

Post Funeral Refreshments

Let us foster community sharing and fellowship with simple, eco-friendly refreshments. Snack boxes create unnecessary "waste".

The time to change is **NOW**

By rethinking our funeral practices, we can honor the deceased, support the grieving and care for the planet.

**Change your habits,
change the world,
one funeral at a time,
in the living years!**

-Janet Dsouza

Which came first...



Ha! Ha!! We egg you to debate!. This Easter, lets not crack under the pressure of finding the answer. Instead, let us, as a family, focus on the joy and wonder of this Season. Together, let's get creative and try our hand at making some Easter treats and crafts. Here's a simple recipe for making your very own, home made, Easter eggs.



Biscuit Easter Eggs

Ingredients:

300gms mixed biscuit. (broken)
100gms butter or cream
2 Eggs (beaten)
100gm sugar
250 gms of dark chocolate slab
Vanilla essence - 1tsp

Method:

Break the biscuits into small pieces for the cake and powder the biscuits for eggs. Melt the chocolate in a pan and when cool add the beaten egg, essence and butter. If dry add milk. Stir up the mixture and when cool, press into egg forms or mould by hand into oval shapes. Refrigerate and next day you can wrap in foil. You can also put the mix into a loaf tin and refrigerate and then cut slices and serve. You can add nuts or raisins to the mixture if you want to.

Should you have very young children or grandchildren, try some easy-to-make craft ideas by recycling stuff lying around the house.

From bunny baskets to paper plate chicks and some clever eggstra special cards, there's more than plenty to make it a *hopping* good Easter.



Looking forward to

the gleehive BOZZ SEASON 2025
A musical experience featuring The Gleehive & Cadenza Kantori
6 APRIL 7:00 PM
ST ANDREW'S AUDITORIUM BANDRA
Join the RECYCLE Movement at the Dry Waste collection drive before the concert from 4:30pm to 7pm
@theGleehive

ST. PETER'S CHURCH
Presents

Cast
AJISHA PAIS
ALVITO CABRAL
ARDELA D'CRUZ
AUBREY D'SOUZA
CHRISTINA D'ABREO
CHRIS IOBO
CLARA PEREIRA
FR. DANIEL FERNANDES
DANIELLE GRACIAS
EDWARD MENDES
FR. FRANKIE NUNES SJ
ISRAELA PINTO
FR. IVAN D'SOUZA SJ
TIVO D'CRUZ
JANET D'SOUZA
DR. JARVIS PEREIRA
JEMIMAH FERNANDES
JEREMY FONSECA
KEISHA FERNANDES
KELLY D'LIMA
DR. MARTINA CONCESSIONE
NEIL PAIS
PETRA MISQUITTA
SALONI DESOUZA
SAMUEL RODRICKS
SARITA MANCHANDA
SEEMA RODRICKS

The **7** Last WORDS of CHRIST

Directed by Darryl Loyola
Produced by Fr. Luke Rodrigues sj
Script by Fr. Charles Rodrigues
Narrator: Rahul Mulani
Technicals: Corette Crasto / Lyle Pereira

Sunday 13th April 2025 at 7pm.
St. Peter's Church Grounds
Entry Free

Look up stanislausvillalonavala.in
or write to stanislausvilla@gmail.com

HOLIDAY CAMPS Lots of fun games

May 7 - 11, 11 -15, 16 - 20, 20 -24.
Camp starts on morning of Day 1, and ends 8.30 am on Day 5 (4 full days)

Camp charge:
Rs. 1490 (incl GST) per person
Child Rs 2800 (incl GST)

This is available : Rs. 600 each way

Contact Manali: 9619629652

ST. PETERS WORKING YOUTH

INVITING YOUTH 23-35 yrs

Sunday 6th April 2025

Lent on Wheels
A unique Lenten bus experience

- New friends
- Mass
- Music
- Way of the cross
- Tea, snacks & dinner.

Meeting point - St Peters Square
Time: 3-11 pm
Rs: 500/- (inclusive of travel, fun & meals)

WhatsApp Fr. Ivan SJ - 9870495963 for further queries

scan to register!

Milestones

UNITED IN CHRIST

Aaron Gresseux & Stacy Alphonso

Rohan D'Sa & Samika DeSouza

101, Ben-O-Lil-Haven, Waroda Road

Kripa Vue, M.G. Road

REST IN CHRIST

Christine D'Souza	08.02.2025
Carmeline D'Souza	11.02.2025
Esmeralda D'Mello	16.02.2025
Anthony Xess	16.02.2025
Ashley D'Mello	18.02.2025
Rozario Fernandes	28.02.2025

Dunhill Apts., Waroda Road
Dunhill Apts., Waroda Road
Baba Nagar, St. Peter's Road
Shastri Nagar, Station Road
Kostka House, St. Peter's Colony
D'Mello Compound, Somnath Lane

Please email your articles for the Keystone for the editorial team at stpeterschurchkeystone@gmail.com on/by the 15th of each month. Kindly send all images in JPEG/JPG format