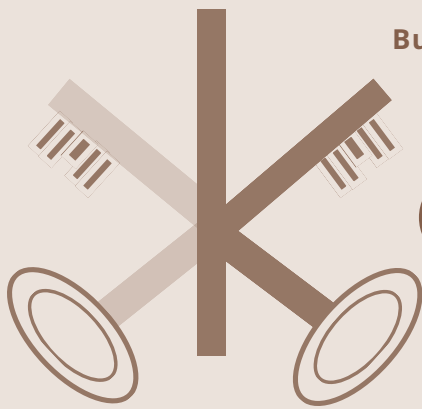


Building a Faith Community for Service



eySTONE

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



COMMITMENT LIVING FAITH INTEGRITY CONCERN (CLIC)

<http://stpetersbandra.com>

April 2026 - May 2026

The Risen Son

At the heart of our Christian Faith lies Easter, the greatest of all our Feasts. This is a celebration of life over death, a reminder that God's love is stronger than any other power. When Jesus rises from the tomb, it is not just one moment in history; it is a promise to all of us that new life is possible, here and now.

As a parish community, we are called to live as witnesses of the Resurrection. We experience and celebrate hope and new life through different moments of our lives.

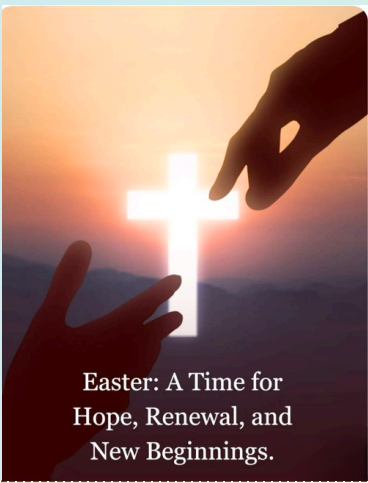
This is usually seen in the small little moments of daily life. Occasionally, we experience the power of renewal and new life in an extraordinary manner when faced with a life-threatening or life-changing situation. In this issue of Keystone, we bring to you three such testimonies. They share personal stories of moving from despair towards hope and then on to new life. While thanking God for the renewal they have experienced, we pray that their testimonies may bring renewed hope to others who are going through deep moments of darkness.

Easter is also associated with the gift of Peace, a divine gift that we need so much today. We earnestly implore the Prince of Peace to bring harmony and understanding to those parts of the world that are being torn apart by violence.

May this Easter renew our hope, bring us the experience of new life, and encourage us to become messengers of peace in our world.

- Fr. Luke Rodrigues S.J.

Wishing you a happy and blessed Easter



Easter: A Time for
Hope, Renewal, and
New Beginnings.

Three parishioners – Giles Taites, Genevieve Martins, and Veniska Barrow – share their inspiring, uplifting stories of moving from despair to new life.

Read on...



John1:5 "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome"

On the 19th of March 2025, I was admitted to Hinduja Hospital for a lung infection. As my situation deteriorated, I was rushed to the ICU and was unaware of what was happening. Complications arose with my kidneys and blood too and I was sedated and put on the ventilator.

While at the hospital, my family rallied around me. Relatives, friends, religious and innumerable well-wishers joined in. This was when we experienced GENEROSITY: in love, in moral support, in prayer, and in finance.

But with resources depleted, morale down, doctors helpless, I was given 24 hours to go to my FATHERS'S house. The ventilator was plugged off. The count down had begun...

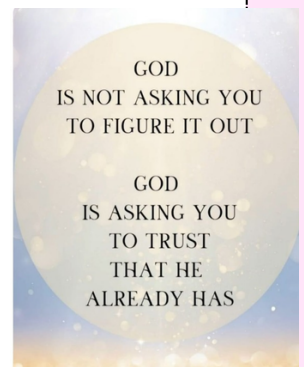
Heaven's doors were stormed. Twelve hours passed... and then twenty four... Still breathing... The doctors gave up, but darkness did not over shadow me.

Prayers were answered ! Heaven's door was opened. The doctors were awestruck. Said "this is a miracle and only God could have intervened". Finally, I was discharged from the hospital on 13th April 2025 directly from the ICU. I was home, where an ICU unit was set up.

Here I am in good health, though a little weak. We celebrated my son's wedding on 26th April 2025. I was a spectator, watching the proceedings from home.

My grateful thanks to Jesus Our Lord and Savior for healing me.

-Giles Taites





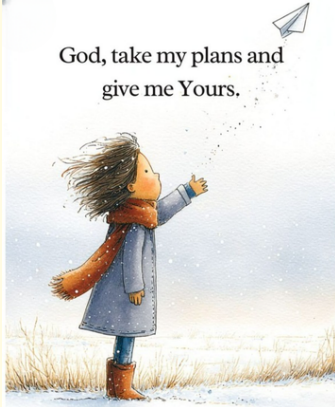
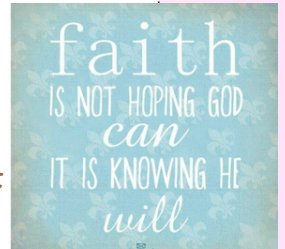
*We make our plans, but God determines our steps!
How true when I think of my own life.*

I had a knee replacement surgery in October. All went well, but on the day I was to be discharged from hospital, I threw up blood. Investigations revealed a ruptured tumour in my stomach. Tests showed it to be benign and it was taken out surgically.

*It was at this moment that I felt the hand of God over me.
It was divine intervention that the tumour was discovered in time.*

Why do I relate this incident? Because it is my faith in the Almighty that has kept me going. The journey has been tough and at times despair and frustration sets in. But I continue to persevere in the belief that God knows best. I know that I shall see the light at the end of the tunnel and that Easter for me, will be New Life.

-Genevieve Martins



"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." — Isaiah 41:10

Our lives changed in an instant when our family met with a serious accident. The days that followed were filled with uncertainty, hospital corridors, and moments when human strength felt insufficient. Yet, what began as suffering, slowly unfolded into a profound spiritual journey; one rooted in faith, hope, and surrender to Jesus.

Healing was not only physical, but deeply spiritual. In fear and confusion, prayer became our refuge. At every crucial moment we experienced the wisdom and gentle guidance of the Holy Spirit. When clarity seemed distant, a quiet peace carried us forward, teaching us to move with faith instead of fear.

Family, friends, and even strangers stepped forward with support, prayers, and kindness. Many "Simons of Cyrene" appeared to help lift the heavy burden. Throughout this time, Mother Mary was present as a loving mother. Through suffering, we discovered that new life often begins in surrender. Faith deepened, hope was renewed, and gratitude slowly replaced fear.

Our journey continues, carried by Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit, embraced by Mother Mary's care, and sustained by the love God placed around us.

-Veniska Barrow



The Nicene Creed

- Bunny Cardoz



I was so interested in the fact that the Nicene Creed was 1700 years old and hadn't been changed for all that time. Yes, it was adopted in 325 CE and was created to combat heresies by Arius and others and unify Christian doctrine, regarding the nature of God the Son and the Holy Spirit.

This Creed is widely accepted and recited in Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and many protestant liturgies. The key beliefs are emphasized, as in God the Father was creator of all things visible and invisible. Jesus Christ was begotten, not made and consubstantial (of the same being) with the Father, affirming His full divinity and work of redemption. The Trinity, His origin and His relationship with the Father and Son.

So why does this matter to us today ?

This Creed is the summary of our whole faith! Matthew 28:19 speaks about the Great Commission given by Jesus, to baptize all new believers in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This is a non-negotiable part of Christianity and continues to be since 325 CE. 1700 years has not changed one word in this profession of faith and that's what makes it so amazing. And added to this, is the fact that the Nicene Creed points us to the future, with the last line beginning with us looking forward, to the Resurrection of our bodies and eternal life in the world to come, ending with expectation and hope. We look forward to a life with the Triune God, the God that the Nicene Creed does so much to explain and honour.



Our Jesuit Way

Interior peace in a chaotic world

Self-denial, which disposes us for prayer and is one of its fruits, is not genuine unless, amid the confusion of the world, we try to keep our hearts at peace, our minds tranquil, and our desires restrained.

(GC31 d. 14n. 8)

Reflection:

In the midst of the busyness and confusion of apostolic life, how consciously do I practise true self-denial, so that my prayer remains authentic and fruitful ?

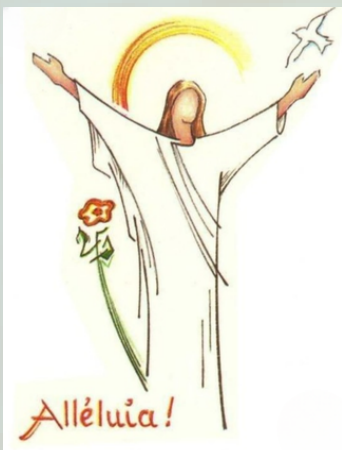
Make every day beautiful

- Roland Cardoz

At 95, I spend a lot of time praying and this is one prayer that I say that helps me through out the day. You can never say thank you enough, for all that God has blessed you with and hence I thought I would share this simple Morning Offering.

"O Blessed Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, I offer my "YES" to You, all through this day. Even when my feeble faith does not fully understand what You are asking of me."

Experience how your "YES" will make every day beautiful



Worth pondering on...

-Bunny Cardoz

When Christ rose from the dead, He didn't return to His disciples with pomp and glory, but His resurrection was marked by humility, appearing as a gardener or a passing stranger.

Where we, His disciples might expect special effects or powerful signs, Jesus does the opposite. His Resurrection is not a dramatic event, but a silent transformation that fills every human action with meaning, showing us that in the 'Mystery of Christ' even the most ordinary can become grace.

If you need a steady hand to guide you
If it seems you've somehow lost your way
If you feel there's no one you can turn to, just look to God and pray

On your knees or standing at a cross road
Late at night or in the light of day
In a crowd or closet or a chapel, just look to God and pray.
He is there when you're searching for the answers
He is there when you need a little grace anytime,
anywhere you have the chance to seek the one who knows the way, Just pray

just pray

-Shawna Edwards

When His love continues to amaze you. When you feel your heart
begin to change When you know He gave His Son to save you
Just look to God and pray. Bring your doubts, your worries and your faith:
share your hopes and dreams... he is listening
There's no time or distance in the way
The moment you begin, it's just you and Him

He is there when you're searching for the answers
He is there when you need a little grace
You're His child and His love will never fail you.
He is with you, He will hear you, He will stay

just pray



Parish life. Community first.

Read on for some of our activities. There's something for everyone

Celebrating our Faith journey

-Ayesha Ferreira

Our parish witnessed a beautiful celebration at the Annual Day of the Jesus Club. As a parent of a second grader and a fourth grader, it was truly heartwarming to see the children share their faith so joyfully and confidently.

The entire show was thoughtfully planned and wonderfully executed. It was evident that the teachers had made a great effort and sacrificed much of their personal time to train and guide the children. Their dedication truly shone through in every performance. A big shout-out and heartfelt thank you to all the Jesus Club teachers for their commitment and love. Most importantly, the children had a blast - and their joy was the greatest success of all.



Confirmed in Christ

Bishop Alwyn D'silva administered the sacrament of Confirmation to twenty of our youth on 1st February 2026.



Mother Dear
O pray for us



Feeling
His
presence

Walking the pilgrimage
on 19 February 2026



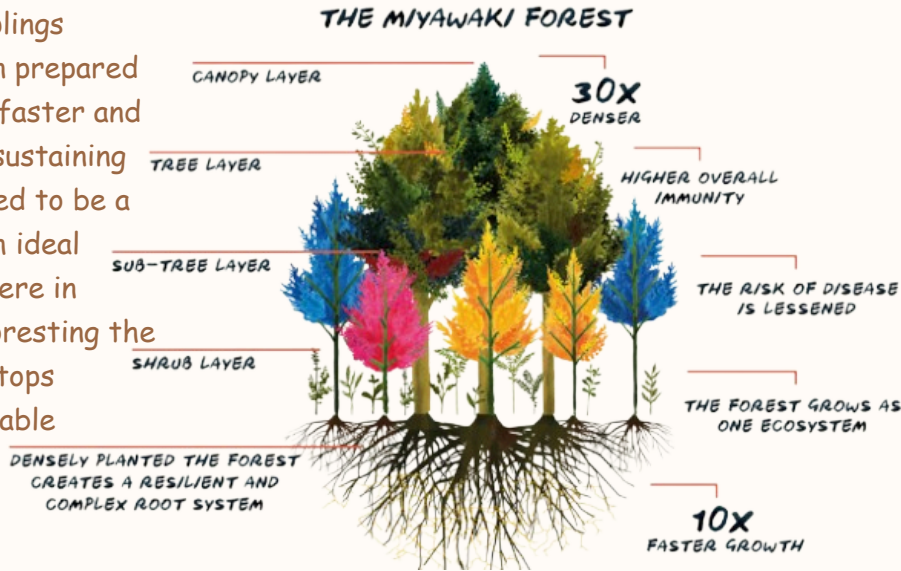
Tiny forest.. big impact

- Bunny Cardoz

The Care for Creation group visited Kune to see the unique concept of a Miyawaki forest or pocket forest that was started on the hill tops of Khandala.

The Jesuit Fathers at Kune undertook the task of reforesting the bare hill slopes near the Kune Mission into a dense, biodiverse, fast growing native forest (this concept was started by a Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki)

Planting native saplings closely together in prepared soil, so they grow faster and can become self-sustaining in 3-5 years seemed to be a great idea. Though ideal for urban areas, here in Kune it is the reforesting the bare denuded hill tops that is a commendable effort.



We were fascinated to see and walk through these areas. There were shrubs, sub trees, trees and canopy trees and they were happily co existing.

Kudos to Fr. Caesar who began this project.



Guarding the gates. A legacy of 35 years of dedication

- Louella Luis

Balrup Yadav was more than our caretaker. He was our quiet guardian and a comforting presence in our daily lives. He seemed to know everyone, often enquiring after anyone missing - a quiet gesture that showed he cared. As he retires, his absence will be deeply felt.

We thank him sincerely for his years of faithful service and wish him good health, peace and happiness in the new chapter of his life.



Cricket, picnic and memories to last a lifetime!



The Social Outreach Cell brings you highlights....

-Roselyn Rebello



It was a truly 'funtastic' day as our neurodivergent young adults took to the cricket field with enthusiasm, excitement, and big smiles.

With the banner up, stumps in place, and boundaries marked, the ground looked like a real cricket field.

A big thank you to Tracy, who patiently trained and encouraged everyone, helping our young adults play with confidence and enthusiasm.

The parents added to the wonderful spirit of the day, proudly cheering from the sidelines complete with their pompoms and loud encouragement! The players were thrilled to receive their medals, caps and vest.

The day was filled with laughter, encouragement, and joy—a beautiful reminder that the real victory was simply playing together and having fun.

With excitement written all over their faces, our neuro divergent young adults along with their parents gathered at St. Peter's Church grounds, ready for their overnight picnic to Lonavala, heading to St. Stanislaus Villa for a fun-filled getaway.

There was such joy in simply being together, enjoying each other's company. For Saahil, Deva and Aakash, it was a special milestone as they came for their first overnight stay without their parents. They were thrilled and clearly felt very grown up!

A special thanks to Fr. Baptist, who personally ensured we were well looked after.

We returned with hearts full of happy memories. The time spent together created a beautiful sense of bonding. It truly felt like we were one big family, making memories that will stay with us for a long time.



Health is Wealth

The dental camp was conducted by the Medical Centre on 1st February 2026. Drs Cheryl D'Souza and Tamara Lopez attended to the dental needs, while Dr. Bosco Pereira did the diabetes and blood pressure testing. Over 60 people got themselves checked.



Mission Accomplished - Agnes Taites

The Lenten Mission conducted by the Dominican Fathers Bineesh Macias and Cyril Walder was a spiritual treat. The priests shared life experiences on faith and how the faith of family had built up a strong foundation that led to their priestly vocations. We reflected and prayed for those who sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.

The power of prayer and how God answers all prayers in "His time" was a point to be remembered. Scripture and its importance was another topic they preached about. Ignorance of scripture could lead to an ignorance of God.

The daily Eucharistic adoration with appropriate hymns touched me deeply and was the high point of the evening. Four days of preaching, sharing, reflection, praise and worship gave me a Spirit filled experience that will stay with me and strengthen me daily.

Safeguarding our seniors

- Fr. Trevor Miranda

The Legal Aid cell conducted a seminar on laws concerning the protection and maintenance of senior citizens and the growing threat of Cyber Crime on Saturday 14th March 2026. Over 55 people attended.

The legal aspects of the senior citizen protection Act were well explained by Adv Nolencia Pereira Dharmai.

The cyber crime awareness segment was conducted by Kapil Shirsath (police sub-Inspector) and Dutta Kumbhar (Cyber Crime - Bandra Police Station), who addressed the growing threat of digital frauds and advised people to be cautious.



In memorium

Molly Cutinha, who was a volunteer in the Medical Centre for more than 20 years, passed away on 15th March 2026.

She was a lovable, kind and angelic personality and endeared herself to everyone.

May she rest in peace.



Spiritually rejuvenated

The Eucharistic Ministers had their Lenten recollection on 3rd March 2026 at St. Stanislaus villa, Lonavla, conducted by Frs. Aubrey Mascarenhas and Trevor Miranda.



Celebrating Love

(put together by the
Women's Cell and Family Cell
on 15th February 2026)

Family Day

Marriage Day

Stronger Faith
Stronger Families
Stronger Parish



The choir lifting hearts in song



Together
in
Christ



A musical treat from our priests



Musical notes from
Dr. Ashwin Correa



Our dynamic compere Neil
kept the evening alive



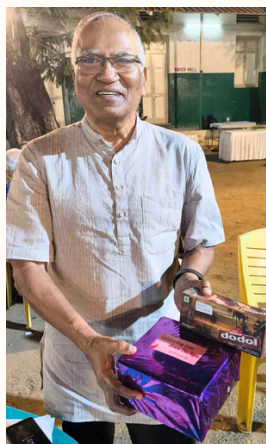
Celebrating
faithful love &
life long commitment



Graceful steps & joyful hearts marked the evening



Games and winning moments made the day memorable



Thank you

...and a good time was had by all..



Planning committee- the hands & hearts behind the celebration



A Tenebrae experience by the Newman choir was a meditative reflection on the Passion of Christ



EASTER Quiz

1. Where did the tradition of making Hot Cross Buns originate?
a) Israel b) U.K. c) USA d) Germany e) Turkey
2. Which flower is associated with Easter?
3. Which disciple is associated with an Easter Egg custom?
a) Simon Peter b) Thomas c) Judas d) Mary Magdalene e) Salome d) Martha f) Nicodemus

Correct answers: 1-b, 2-Lily, 3-d

Blessings from above

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Skyden Vaz | S/o Ralph Vaz and Saloni Bharat Shah |
| Rhys Lobo | S/o Ronald Lobo and Atlanta Fernandes |
| Atlas Micah Baptista | S/o Shanahan Baptista and Shreya Lobo |

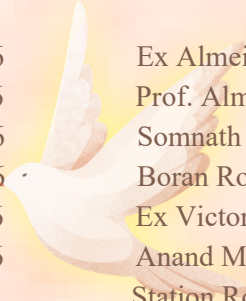
Wedding Vows



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fritz Almeida & Pearl D'silva | St. Martins Road |
| Jamshed Bulsara & Savia Fernandes | Prof. Almeida Park |
| Adriel George & Brinelle Valladares | TPS 4 |
| Suneet Kirtikar & Roanna Lewis | M.G Road |
| Kevin Barnes & Joella Rodrigues | Chinchpokli Road |
| Jeremy D'souza & Sailee Bharne | Ice Factory Lane |
| Lendyl Machado & Andrea Gonsalves | Bazar Road |
| Brendon Borthwick & Aashna Peerzada | Rebello House |
| Chiedon D'monte & Anaida D'souza | Somnath Lane |
| Denver D'souza & Natasha Vaz | Boran Road |

Safe in His hands

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|--|
| Eileen Mary Lopez | 02.02.2026 | Ex Almeida Park (Nishkalanika Seva - Old Age home) |
| Patricia Gwen Noronha | 10.02.2026 | Prof. Almeida Park |
| Malike Meleolem Andavan | 12.02.2026 | Somnath Lane |
| Julius Dominic Mathews | 05.03.2026 | Boran Road |
| Maria Menezes | 08.03.2026 | Ex Victory Blocks (Goa) |
| Brian Francis Michael | 11.03.2026 | Anand Mahal, Manuel Gonsalves Road |
| Meena Dias | 14.03.2026 | Station Road |
| Molly Bertha Cutinha | 14.03.2026 | Jumbo Apartments, TPS 4, 1 st Road |



We welcome your suggestions, if any.
Reach us on email
at
stpeterschurchkeystone@gmail.com