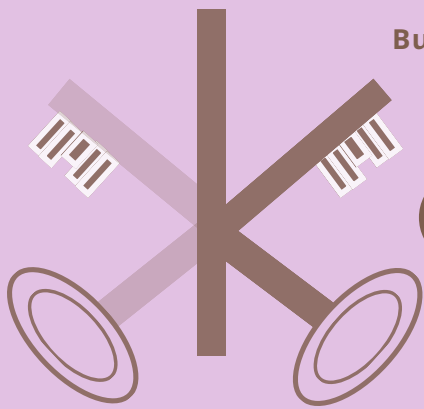


Building a Faith Community for Service



KEYSTONE

ST. PETER'S CHURCH BANDRA
NEWSLETTER

COMMITMENT LIVING FAITH INTEGRITY CONCERN (CLIC)



<http://stpetersbandra.com>

June 2026 - July 2026

From generation to generation

... onward to 175!

With the month of June come the rains, the re-opening of schools, and of course, our Parish Feast. As we celebrate the feast this year, we are reminded that our church will soon reach a significant milestone. Founded in 1853, we will be 175 years in 2028. By the way, what is the specific name for this Jubilee? (Turn to page 2 to see the answer.)

It would be nice to already begin remote preparations for this Jubilee, and more information on this will be sent to you in the months ahead. Right now, let us reflect on the special magnetic appeal that St Peter's has; the ability to captivate our hearts and command our loyalty, week after week, year after year.

What are those special features of St. Peter's that make us enjoy being a part of this community? Is it the ambience ... the architecture ... the parking ... the liturgies ... the fellowship ... the activities ... ?

Perhaps, it's a combination of all these things. But let's hear it from some of our parishioners themselves. In this issue, we have asked persons of different age groups what they like about being a part of St. Peter's. As you go through their responses, you will find your heart resonating with many of the things said there.

May St. Peter continue to intercede for us and show us how to follow Jesus more closely.

Fr. Luke Rodrigues s.j

Noticed this?



*It's above the entrance
to the church porch*

So, what's the term for 175 years ?

Dodransbicentennial.

Ouch! That's quite a mouthful.

But don't worry, we shall just use the simpler term
'175 years'



175 years

- Berna Mascarenhas

St. Peter's turns 175 and we're celebrating the faith and grit of the families who started it all.

Imagine this! It's 1849...1850...1851...1852

No bustling Hill Road. No imposing church building. No parking lot.

No church pews. (No pew cushions 😊) ...

Just gritty parishioners who had one big dream. A church to call their own. They petitioned the Bishop for permission to erect a Chapel and an attached house to educate their children. Only to be denied time and again. Finally their determination paid off. Their request was granted and a temporary Chapel made of bamboo and thatched with coconut leaves was erected in the fishing village of Koliwada. The early parishioners - fisherfolk - worshipped here. Fr. Antonio Jacques Pereira sj, entrusted with the care of the flock, ministered to them.

This was the nucleus of the St. Peter's parish.

Fast forward to today...

The heart of St. Peter's has always been its people. Countless stories.

175 years later, the story is still being written by YOU.

We asked. You answered.

Why are you proud to be a parishioner of St. Peter's?

Why are you proud to be a parishioner of St. Peter's ?

It is an inclusive and vibrant Parish. The different Cells cater to the needs of everyone, irrespective of caste or creed, be it the youth, the senior citizens, the hungry, marginalised, the homebound, the sick and those with special needs. It even has a cell to care for creation !

- Dolly Rodricks

St Peter's church is like my home - warm, welcoming and loving.

- Laxmi D'sa

Because St. Peter Church is tops in organising the church services on all feast days.

- Francis Athaide

I am a proud, happy member of the Jesus Club, the Altar servers and the children's choir. Our parish groups include persons of all ages and from all walks of life. Our priests are approachable and available - Fr. Juan encourages us at every programme, Fr. Aubrey blesses us after masses and Fr. Luke even tells us jokes in his sermons! Our Sunday school teachers give it their all. And...it's an acknowledged FACT! ... there's no better looking church than ours!

- Rehaan Pereira

Do I have a choice?

Born, baptised, FHC, confirmed, married - all here.

And ditto my wife. Ditto daughter. Moi of course. Dad started it by ticking all the boxes except the knotty one. But he tied mum to St. Peter's too.

Privileged & Blessed is our family.

- Terence Cardoz

More than the structure of St Peters Church - a magnificent model of architecture, more than the stained glass windows, ceiling, upright pillars - it is the closeness established by the Jesuit Community with their Parishioners that binds us together and makes me proud to be a member of St. Peters Parish. When I enter the church and see Jesus saying " COME " with outstretched hands, I enter with Thanksgiving in my heart.

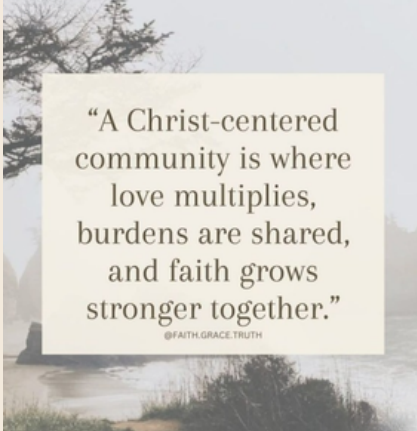
- Harry Dsouza (proud parishioner since 1941)

I was given the opportunity to establish the St. Peter's Youth Social Services (Y.S.S.) in 1970 and thus began my career in public speaking and public relations.

- Clarence Gomes

A parishioner of St. Peter's Church Bandra, from the age of 13 to 68 is a good enough time to be accepted and included in activities that this beloved institution offered to adolescents, young adults, families and communities. This is the gift that Jesuits continue to offer and I am a delighted beneficiary.

- Del Dsouza



"A Christ-centered community is where love multiplies, burdens are shared, and faith grows stronger together."

@FAITH.GRACE.TRUTH



Reviving our Small Christian Communities : restoring the vibrancy of parish life

A new Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will begin its three-year term in all parishes across the Archdiocese. This was an occasion for us at St. Peter's to review our current structures and the functioning of the SCCs. We noticed that a few zones had been severely depleted due to migration and redevelopment. Consequently, they lacked volunteers who could participate in various activities and were therefore missing out on experiencing the vibrancy of parish life.

After reflection and discussion, we decided to reduce the number of zones from fourteen to twelve. The communities of **Our Lady of the Wayside (JD Alves)** and **Mary of Nazareth (Elco Arcade)** have merged to form a new community. Similarly, the communities of **Queen of Peace (Boran/Bazaar Cross)** and **Mary Help of Christians (Bazaar Road)** now constitute one community, **QUEEN OF PEACE**.

Many thanks to the Coordinators and Animators for working out this new arrangement.

Let us always remember that administrative structures are not permanent features; they exist only to facilitate and animate the pastoral life of the parish.

Fr. Luke Rodrigues s.j

Census Code	Community Name/ Area	No. of Families	Priests	Sisters	Coordinator Dy coordinator
A	Queen of the Family (Station Road)	50	Fr. Adolf Muclar	Sr. Prisca Dias	Giles Taites Bimla Kujur
B	St. Martin (St. Martin's Road)	95	Fr. Baptist Pinto	Sr. Sonia Fernandes	Sheldon Miranda Joanita Ferriera
C	Holy Family (D'Monte Street/Chinchpokli)	100	Fr. Adolf Muclar	Sr. Lovenia Almeida	Prakash D'Souza Michelle D'Souza
D	Queen of Peace (Boran/ Bazaar Rd)	149	Fr. Trevor Miranda	Sr. Marita Furtado Sr. Anita Nune	John Fernandes Shaheen Fernandes
E	J.D. Alves / Elco Arcade	122	Fr. Evarist Newnes	Sr. Heather Aranha/ Sr. Usha Farrel	Meriel Braganza Glenn D'silva
F	Archangel Raphael (Almeida Park)	106	Fr. Aubrey Mascarenhas	Sr. Asha D'Sa	Celine Fernandes Louella Luis
G	Holy Rosary (Baba Nagar)	42	Fr. Luke Rodrigues	Sr. Mahima	Marie Dorell Lobo Radha Chauhan
H	St. Peter (St. Peter's Colony)	61	Fr. Aubrey Mascarenhas	Sr. Sangeeta Almeida	Neil Pais Marian Furtado
I	St. Joseph (M. Gonsalves Marg)	58	Fr. Luke Rodrigues	Sr. Yvonne Rodrigues	Carol D'mello Veena Crasto
J	Divine Mercy (Waroda Road)	44	Fr. Baptist Pinto	Sr. Vidhya Dandakar	Gail Vessaokar Anthony Rodrigues
K	Good Shephard (Rebello House)	48	Fr. Evarist Newnes	Sr. Martha K.	Christine Saldanha Maria D'Penha
L	Maria Goretti (Somnath Lane)	72	Fr. Fabian Barreto	Sr. Collette Pereira	Christina D'Abreo Rosy Baptista
	TOTAL	947			

Community Mass - nourishing our GLCs

The various zones in our parish celebrated their Community Masses praying for specific needs and people in the zone, thus building togetherness. Cajetan Baptista from the Maria Goretti community writes in...

“All in our community pitched in to make the mass meaningful. Members cleaned up the assigned area. The youth did the readings. Sr. Collette trained the choir..
A big Thank You to all who contributed to making this a meaningful evening.”



The Easter season is fifty days long. The Church treats the seven weeks from Easter Sunday to Pentecost as a joyful season, so celebrations get scheduled during this time. The Easter season ends with Pentecost, seen as the birth of the Church community. So Community Masses emphasize the Spirit gathering people together.

THE HEART OF A DISCIPLE

- Bunny Cardoz

Give me the heart of a disciple
With the courage to live like Jesus
To be His witness without any fear
To spread His message, both far and near.

Can I be a Paul or a Timothy
A Phillip, Thomas or John?
Or can I just be the 'silent one'
That others can lean on?

May my commitment, discipline and love
Become the bedrock of my life
With the help of the Holy Spirit
I can face all odds, pain or strife.

What does Christ ask of me?
Is the question I have pondered from the start
Sharing the Good News, serving others
Being steadfast, obedient and having a loving heart.

So, as I live my life, to Jesus I pray
That I may have the heart of a disciple every day
Help me deny myself, shoulder my cross, be strong
and true
And smile as I follow Jesus and help others
follow Him too.

THINK AND BE LIKE JESUS

- Veena Crasto

Every Christian is called to be a missionary disciple. Through Baptism, we are invited to follow Christ and share his love. Pope Francis reminds us in *Evangelii Gaudium*, authentic discipleship begins with a personal encounter with Jesus. Christianity is a joyful relationship with the living Lord.

The lifeblood of discipleship is Prayer, Scripture and the Eucharist. A disciple consistently shows up for Prayer, Mass, Confession.

True discipleship is about steady commitment. Small acts of fidelity lived daily, gradually shape us to become more like Christ.

Pope Francis also warns against spiritual pride, attachment to status, and empty religiosity. A true disciple radiates joy, hope, mercy, and humility. Mary is the perfect example of missionary discipleship showing us how to follow Christ with faith and courage. As Pope Leo XIV recently reminded the faithful while reflecting on *Lumen Gentium*, holiness is not a privilege for a few. Every Christian is called to imitate Christ and become His witness. Being a disciple of Jesus is essentially to be like the master. It is to think and be like Jesus.



May = holidays, relaxation, slowing down ...

Picnics, get-togethers, the summer holiday club, the rosary at the grotto ... zones and associations made the most of their carefree time.

Sun soaked picnic at Estrella

- Sr Lovenia Almeida

The D'Monte street/Chinchpokli zone spent a day of fun and fellowship at Estrella, Manori Gorai. 50 enthusiastic members, (including 97 year old Charlotte Gomes), reminded us that joy belongs to all ages. The swimming pool became the parish square 😊 delicious food, games, singalongs ensured that all were in good spirits. Strangers became friends. Generations bonded and both the zones truly became one family!



The community got together at the grotto every evening during May, reciting the rosary with great devotion.

The summer club children after the rosary.



Fun! Games! Teamwork!

With many first time volunteers taking responsibility, organising the summer club this year was challenging. But our senior mentors helped make the programme a resounding success.

From maintaining discipline, taking photographs, managing the sound system, looking after first aid, to organising activities to keep the children entertained, every volunteer played his part, thus forging new friendships, learning patience and responsibility, trust and teamwork.

Though tiring, the smiles and excitement of the children made every effort worthwhile. Ending each day with the Rosary led by children made for an enriching spiritual experience.

This summer club taught us that when we come together with willing hearts to serve, beautiful memories are created.

- Joylyn Gonsalves





Team Ekatvam collaborated with the Health Promotion Trust of the Archdiocese to conduct the year long 'Barefoot Health Worker' course on Preventive Health Care from June 2025 at St. Peter's Church. 84 people registered.



One year ago, we didn't just start a program. We made a promise — to ourselves and to each other — that health isn't something we postpone till tomorrow. At our last session we have honored that promise. With this foundation, the habits will continue for the years ahead.

As part of the course, we attended the Naturopathy Wellness Centre, Khandala and personally experienced various therapies and treatments. The field visit at the end of the course had a simple takeaway. Health often grows in our backyard. A reminder that nature has been our pharmacy for centuries.

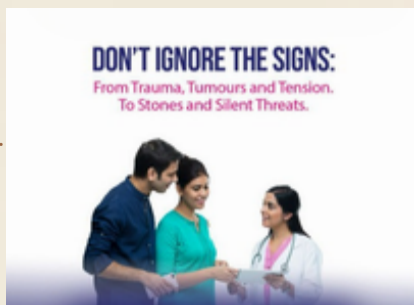


Senior citizens had an inspiring recollection given by Fr. A Menezes CSsR. The topic was "God so loved the world"



Bombay Catholic Sabha didn't take a break. Their focus included:

A **Health Seminar** conducted in association with the Health Cell and Holy Family Hospital.



Helpdesk for Census and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Electoral Rolls: 290 people were attended to and their applications completed. Thanks to the team of dedicated volunteers of the Sabha from the Bandra parishes.



Organising a free eyecamp in association with Ojas Maxivision eye hospital

Environment isn't just a word, it's our work

- Janet D'souza

World Environment Day is observed on 5th June every year.

It's purpose is to draw collective attention to environmental issues and inspire corrective action. Let's break it down so each of us can be part of the solution. Every day must be Environment Day



- No to earth-destroying habits
- Voice matters; let us walk the talk
- I am the change I want to experience
- Reduce, reuse, recycle, restore
- Our planet, our responsibility
- No to plastics, no to toxins no to non-biodegradables
- Mother Earth needs me
- Everyone of us can help heal the World
- Now or never totally in our hands



Candles in the wind

Candles spark so many emotions.

Birthdays @ Celebrations – who hasn't felt the joy of blowing out candles on a cake and making a wish! Or, those 'magic' candles that keep relighting , no matter how hard we blow, bringing us face-to-face with the flame and the fumes.



Petitions & Thanksgiving – we light candles at grottos – before an exam, or after landing a job, when praying for healing, or to thank God for prayers answered.



But have we stopped to consider the smoke? The soot, carbon dioxide and toxins released affect both, our health and God's creation. Do we have alternatives? Most definitely. LED candle or simply a silent intention can honor the same spirit without fumes.



Next time you reach for a match Think. Let's care for our creation.

As stewards of the Earth, may our worship heal, not harm.

The final farewell

- Janet D'souza

None of us have the privilege of knowing when or where, or even how we will breathe our last breath. We just die!

We stop living We become a “body”

A body to be disposed of, according to the final rites of our belief system.

Most families grappling with grief and sadness get inundated with the immediate formalities. That's where well-wishers, relatives, friends and neighbors step in and readily take over the tasks of sending out an Obituary, arranging an undertaker, etc.

Your final farewell gets totally hijacked by well-meaning people, and, in all likelihood, it may not reflect you!

Here's a dying wishlist of possible choices that you get to make in your living years.

Let's first start with your own mindset. How committed are you to respecting yourself and Mother Earth, who loved and nurtured you? If so, you can choose to leave minimal footprints on our already overburdened Mother Earth.

Your legacy is the life you lived, the people you loved, the kindness you showed.

And, in death, your legacy lives on in the simplicity of your final journey. You choose

Cremation



Shroud Burial



Body Donation



Again, you choose to opt for

- No flowers
- No candles
- No grandeur of any kind
- No eulogy

What baffles me is reading an Obituary where “viewing” before Mass becomes the norm. Have the dead become Art? Can we all agree to redefine “viewing” as “paying your last respects”. Please have the conversation with family and choose wisely.

Remember: you are dust and to dust, you shall return.

In life, as in death, can it then be said

I did it My Way

PS: Let's talk about death while we're still living!

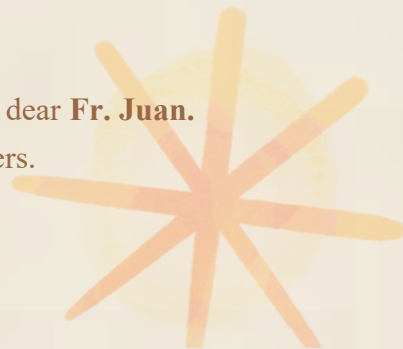
Celebrating life's joys and honouring a life well lived



A milestone

Your years of love and tireless service is a gift to us all, dear **Fr. Juan**. Thank you for showing us what it means to live for others. May the Lord continue to bless you.

- Berna Mascarenhas



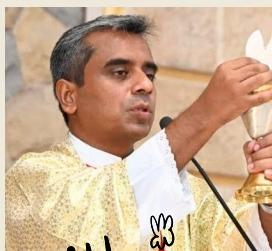
An achievement



- Rebeca Dsilva

In recognition of her outstanding contribution and dedicated service in the field of Bioethics and the Pro-life Ministry, **Mrs. Maria Dsilva** was given the FIAMC award for Lifetime Achievement.

We thank God for blessing her and pray that he continues to guide and strengthen her.



A fond farewell

- Fr. Luke Rodrigues s.j

Thank you, **Fr. Ivan D'souza** for your youthful and vibrant presence at St. Peter's. Your liturgical insights helped us deepen our reverence and understanding of the Sacraments. Your accompaniment of the youth has brought greater participation of young people in the life of the parish. We have been touched by your pleasant and cheerful demeanour and will surely miss you very much.

Best wishes for your new mission as Parish Priest of St. Ignatius Church, Ambadi Road. Well, Vasai is not too far away, and we hope you will continue to stay in touch. God be with you!

A legacy of kindness

"You can take the teacher out of St. Stanislaus, but not St. Stanislaus out of the teacher"

Mrs. Daphne Gabriel was an exceptionally gifted teacher who, in the 35 years that she taught in the school, endeared herself to her colleagues and students with her wisdom and kindness.

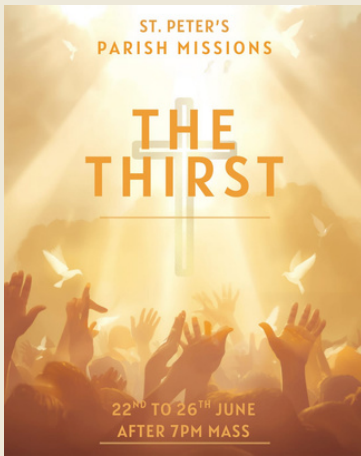
Teaching wasn't just what she did. It was who she was. Words fade. Grades fade. But a teacher who genuinely believed in you and told you so? That stays!

She truly lived the Magis, always striving for more. For her students. For herself. May she rest, knowing how loved and remembered she is.

Peace be with you, Mrs. Gabriel.

- Berna Mascarenhas





In preparation for our Parish Feast, we shall have a series of talks from 22nd to 26th June in the Church. Evening mass will be at 7pm on those days, followed by prayer and input from 7.30 to 8.30pm.

Details about the topics and speakers will be communicated later. For now, please keep those evenings free.



St. Peter's is a Jesuit parish, administered by the Society of Jesus. This Order was founded in 1540 by St. Ignatius of Loyola.

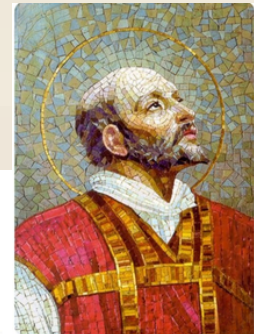
The feast of St. Ignatius is on 31st July - the day the church honours his life and the Order he started.

One spiritual and practical gift given to us by St. Ignatius is the Examen, a simple way to reflect and grow through our day.

It's less about guilt and more about noticing patterns in our lives that will help us to grow.

Let's pray it daily and see how it changes us !

*Happy Feast
of
St. Ignatius of Loyola*



Daily Examen

Gratitude

I recall some of the many blessings of this day, and I thank God for them.

Grace

I ask for light to see my day through God's eyes and to honestly recognize my sins.

Review

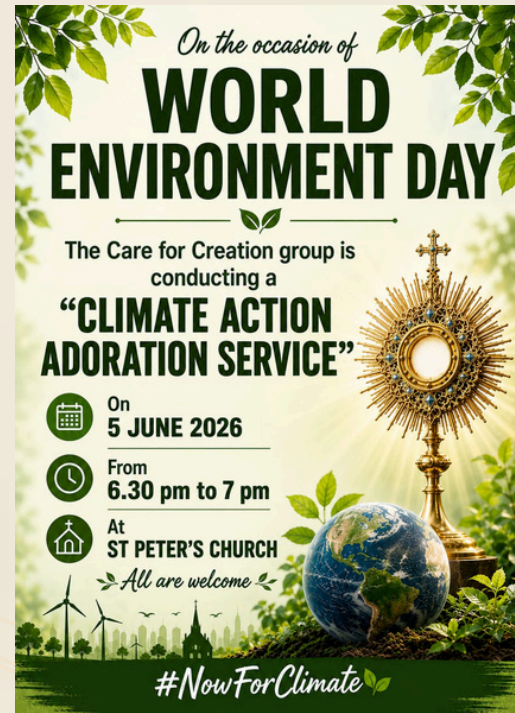
I recall some significant events of the day and what were my thoughts and feelings, words, and actions in those moments.

Repent

I ask God to forgive my sins and to heal those I've hurt.

Resolve

I plan to make tomorrow better in some particular way, and I ask for God's grace to make that happen. I slowly pray the Our Father.



Blessed by God

Adarsh Kujur

Son of Anup & Geeta Kujur

Blessed union

Nicholai Fernandes & Varsha Parmar

Station Road

Peacefully resting

Joseph Placid Pinto	22.03.26	Seatlite apartments, 9 th Road
Ivan Joshi	26.03.26	De Britto House, St Peter's Colony
Alice Saldanha	26.03.26	Anand Vihar, Dr Raghunath Road
Aylma Curry	30.04.26	Sealite apartments, 9 th Road
Franklynn Lopes	04.05.26	Nishkalanka Seva Home - (Ex Almeida park resident)
Juliet Saldanha	08.05.26	New Garden view, Prof. Almeida Road
Daphne Gabriel	12.05.26	Swarup Sagar, Prof. Almeida Road
Gerald Lobo	16.05.26	Chinchpokli Road
George Rodricks	20.05.26	Loyola House, St. Peter's colony
Margaret Pareira	22.05.26	Chinchpokli Road
Dr. Melville Mathias	21.05.26	Rebello House

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