



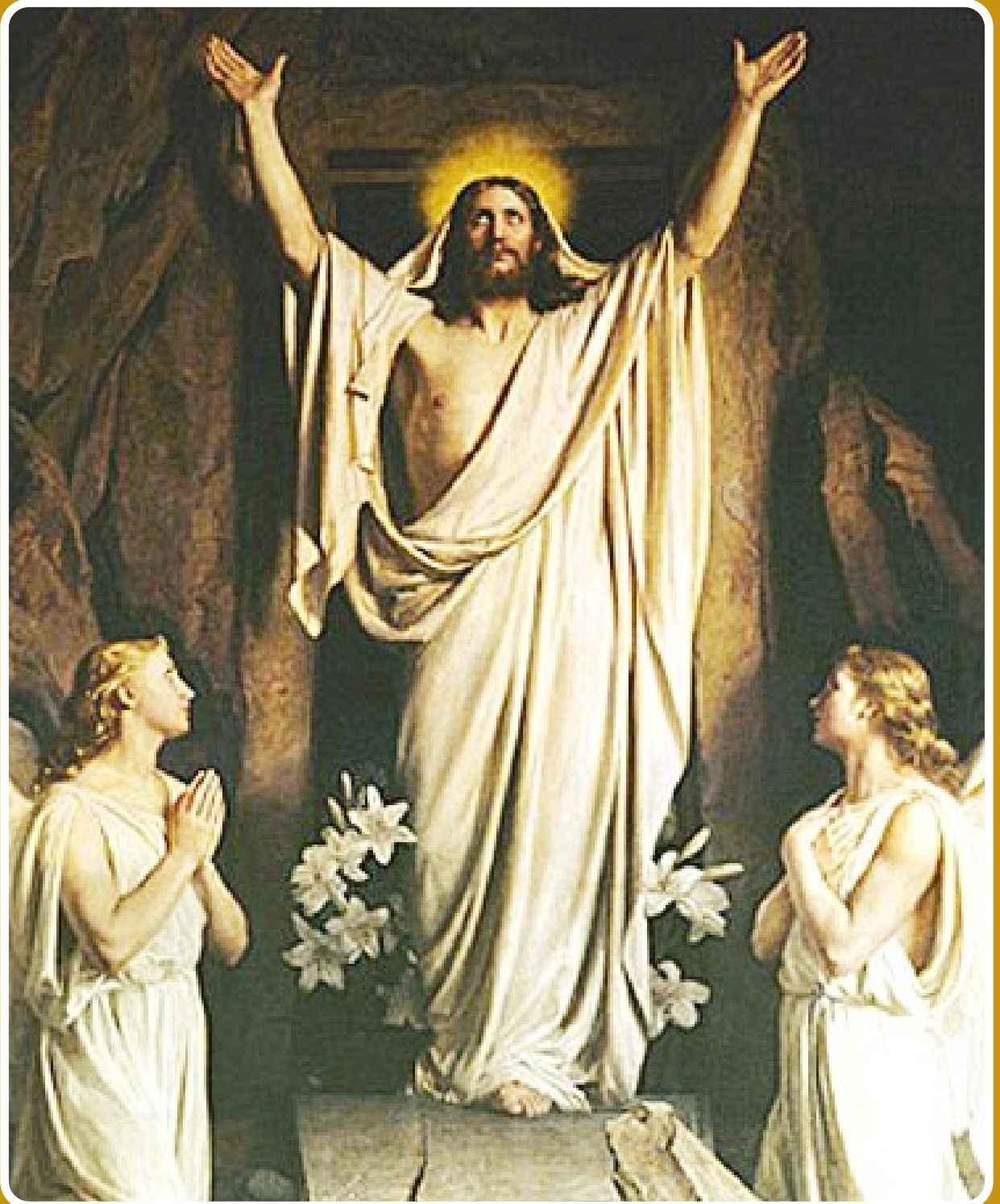
Our Lady
of the
Visitation
Church
NERUL
NAVI MUMBAI

A Peep into Nerul Parish

Reach Out

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY
VOL.-XXII, No.-1, April 2023

Parish Newsletter



From the PASTOR'S DESK

Called to Renew our Life in Christ

We are called to renew our life in Christ. Christ offered Himself to the Father in order to die for our sins and that we be filled with His life. Our faith and life in Christ urges us to renew our lives on a daily basis so that we enjoy His life in us in abundance. His life and love in us is nothing but resurrected life. It takes place through a process of putting to death sin, in our life (Colossians 3:5-9). Resurrection of Christ enables us to put off the old man of sin (Colossians 3:9) and put on the new man (Colossians 3:10). The renewal is caused by the knowledge and experience of Christ who is Risen. The renewed life is seen explicitly when we exercise mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, suffering, forbearing, forgiveness, and love (Colossians 3:5-14). This is the resurrected life; this is the renewed life. This knowledge and experience is made possible through gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit. This renewal is not a one time event but an ongoing process. We are spiritually renewed

every day by the sacramental grace we receive in our daily participation in the Holy Mass and through the Sacrament of confession, through works of Mercy, sacrifices and penance.

How to lead a renewed life. Following methods will help us in this: 1) Learn about Christ through reading of the Bible 2) Lead a Sacramental life, never miss sacraments, 3) Obey God's Holy will at all circumstances and 4) the Holy Spirit is its ultimate source, call on to the Holy Spirit. Let's strive to live each day renewed in the knowledge of the image of Christ.

May this Easter bring us the blessing of new life in Christ and unity in the church.

He is not here; He has Risen.
Happy Easter!

-Fr.Praem, O. Praem.



PARISH SCHEDULE

Reach Out

Parish Bulletin of OLVC
Nerul, Navi Mumbai

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Please send your articles and reports with your name,
Sector/Community name and relevant picture to:
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For Parish Mass schedule, Church Office
timings and Holy Week Schedule kindly
refer to the church website:

<http://www.olvcnerul.org>

First Holy Communion Batch 2022-23

The first communion batch this year had 17 boys and 13 girls. Throughout the year, the children were well trained in the teachings of the church specially on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. The parents of each child supported well, though the times were slightly tough due to the Covid -19 still in the air. Without their whole hearted support, it would have been not possible to have children on each Sunday to attend Mass and the Class. This is evident from the testimonies of some the children stating their experience of receiving Jesus in the Holy Communion for the first time. I wish and pray that the children continue to experience Jesus all through their life.

- Mary Renjith, Catechist

Communicant's experience on receiving Jesus in first holy communion



- Kiera Olivera

When I received Jesus first time I felt Jesus come in me. There is an excited feeling. I always wait for the next time to receive Jesus in the Holy Communion.



- Sienna Goes

When I received Jesus I felt excited, very fresh and joyful. I felt happy knowing that it is not a simple bread, but it is Jesus himself and I eagerly wait for the next opportunity to receive Jesus.



- Rhea S Kumar

On 12th February the day of my first communion, I felt very excited as I was going to receive Jesus in my heart for the first time. When I received Jesus I felt like a different person in both heart and mind. I enjoyed my communion party very much as this was the best day of my life .



- Kriselle Anthony

On the day I received Jesus into my heart, I felt like a different person and I felt very special to have Jesus in my heart. After I received my first holy

communion, I whispered a short prayer thanking Jesus for protecting me all my life. The whole day I was very excited. I loved the dance that we all communicants did.

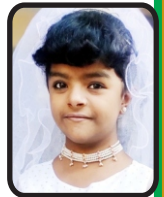
- Allan Panicker

I was overjoyed to receive Jesus on my first holy communion. I was excited to receive Jesus in his body and blood. I look forward to receive Jesus every Sunday. I was delighted to receive my own Bible, which I read everyday.



- Lisa T. Aby

I thank my Lord Jesus for finding me worthy to received his Body and Blood through the sacrament of Holy Communion. I fondly remember the preparation classes when we were taught the importance of Confession and Holy Communion. Our Sunday School teachers taught me the prayers. I also prepared myself to go for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was truly an enriching experience for me. On the day of communion, I was delighted and happy, dressed in a lovely white dress, I felt like an angel. My friends and I prepared a group dance which expressed the feelings of our hearts.



Finally I remember my loving family, parish priests, Sunday school teachers for their blessings, hard work . I would conclude by taking inspiration from Neil Armstrong's first words after setting foot on the moon "A SMALL EVENT FOR THE CHURCH, BUT A GIANT LEAP FOR ME TOWARDS MY CHRISTIAN FAITH"



Confirmation Batch 2022-23



- **Trisha Sawant**

The Sacrament of Confirmation for the students of batch 2022-23 was administered on 26th February, 2023 at 9.30 am at our church Our Lady Of Visitation. Rev Bishop Allwyn Dsilva and the Priest In-Charge Fr. Arul Manickam (O. Praem) along with Fr. Prem Arockia (O. Praem) were the main celebrants.

After the lockdown, our batch was the first one to have proper offline classes beginning from the month of July'22. We were a total of 28 candidates and on the Confirmation day 3 more joined us. This year, being the last year of my Sunday school, I was excited for the classes to begin. We were divided into groups during discussions which helped us know each other way better. Our catechists and animators were on their toes throughout to make our sessions interactive and made sure that every Sunday when we went



back home after the class we became closer to the Holy Spirit. They even encouraged us to take part in various youth activities and Mission Sunday stalls so as to involve us in the church activities. In the month of September we had a three day Confirmation retreat at Don Bosco Lonavla, where we got all the answers to our doubts. The sessions were lively and alongside we participated in a lot of fun activities which helped us understand the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. We also had adoration and were prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. One thing which stuck with us throughout was the Taize Prayer.

As days passed by the Confirmation day finally arrived and everything went very well and was well planned. It indeed was a memorable day in all of our lives.

A word of appreciation to our catechists Mrs. Mavis Gonsalves, Mrs. Fancy Almond and Mr. Theo Dsa along with our animators Neil Pinto and Ruben Nadar and our Sunday school incharge Mrs. Lucy Nair.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Thirty years ago in 1992, Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick on 11 February. Our parish too celebrated this day with holy Mass for the sick, aged, home bound, those with health issues and all in need of healing. Legionaries along with volunteers made arrangements to provide pick & drop service for those who desired to attend.

This day coincides with the commemoration of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

During Mass, Sacrament of Anointing of the sick by oil was offered by the priest, laying his hands in silence on the head of those undergoing illness, pain, sufferings, who have grown weak and disabled. They anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. (Mark 6:13); followed by Penitential sprinkling of Holy Water on the congregation by the priests.



It is true that we all are in need of healing in various ways. Getting together and assisting the sick gave us immense joy and reciprocity. Everyone is in need and everyone can give and receive something, can be just a smile. When we work together as members of one body of Mama Mary, the suffering of one becomes the suffering of all, and the contribution as a blessing.

After the mass all were served a light refreshment by our Legionaries. As assigned the sick were safely dropped back to their homes with care.

When we look into the eyes of our suffering brothers and sisters we are reminded of the Good Samaritan. Take care of him and do not be discouraged.

All of us were united in a common commitment for the good of people that alleviated the sufferings of the sick on this day. In fragility, we are close to the heart of God.

- **DonnyDavid**

FAITH CELEBRATION DAY

Every year the Sunday school students of Class 5 to 8 are encouraged to attend the Faith Celebration Day (FCD) which is conducted on the deanery level. While the students of class 5 & 6 attend sessions (which includes talks & activities) based on topics related to faith formation, the students of class 7 & 8 are given a project for which they prepare themselves with sessions in their respective parish, culminating in a performance based on the given topic on FCD. This year, the FCD was held at Don Bosco School Nerul on 22nd January 2023 in which four parishes of the Navi Mumbai Deanery, namely, Vashi, Sanpada, Airoli & Nerul participated. The program began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Frankie Crasto from Vashi parish who is also the Deanery coordinator for the NMD

The topic for this year's session for class 5 & 6 was 'The Eucharist'. Sessions were conducted in parts by the catechists of each of these parishes. The projects for class 7 & 8 were based on 'Care for Creation'. The students presented skits based on topics like Water Conservation, Air & Land Pollution and Ecosystem. And they had come well-prepared on their topics with charts and props to spread the message of 'Care for Creation'. This year the students of class 9 & 10 from Airoli & Vashi parish also participated in the FCD by presenting skits based on "Vocation". The FCD is a great learning experience for the students to apply the values of their faith in day-to-day life. The program ended with a sumptuous lunch.

- **Diana Pinto, Catechist**



PRE-BAPTISMAL CATECHESIS

- **Mrs. Rosy Rosario**

Pre-baptismal catechesis was held in our parish on 21st, 22nd, 28th and 29th of January, 2023. There were four couples and godparents who shared their experience as below:

Mrs. Vinsha and Shibin Renjith say:

Pre-baptism course is a crucial step in the journey of a person towards their faith. This course helps couples to understand the significance of baptism and prepare themselves for this life changing sacrament. Through this course, we had an opportunity to reflect on our beliefs, deepen our knowledge of the Christian faith and develop a stronger relationship with God. This course not only provided a foundation of spiritual understanding but also fostered a sense of community and belonging among the participants. The sharing of experiences and the support of others on the same journey was a powerful source of encouragement and inspiration. This course is a testament to the transformative power of faith and the commitment to living a life in accordance with God's will. It is a celebration of the gifts of grace and the promise of eternal life. For those who complete this course, the sacrament of baptism marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith, hope and love. All the four sessions helped us to see a new perspective on how the Word of God can build new parents in bringing up their child in Christian faith.

Mr. Maurus Rodrigues says:

It was a real pleasure to attend the pre-baptism course organized by our parish and conducted by the team catechist couple Mrs. Rosy Rosario and Mr. Calist Rosario, Mr.Theo D'sa and Mrs.Mary Renjith whom I know from my childhood. I wish, I could attend this course along with my spouse and our child's would be godparents who had already done before I could come down from my job on the ship. However, I consider myself fortunate to attend this course just before the baptism of our baby. This course is very informative and I learnt how to give more time to the baby not only by giving materialistic things but help in bringing up our child in true Christian faith by practicing it.

Mr. Amit D'souza says:

The four sessions on Pre-bap catechesis conducted by the team catechists was amazing. I appreciate their commitment and dedication to their ministry in serving the young couple who are preparing for the baptism of their child.



Relic of Carlo Acutis Visits OLVC



THE NAVI MUMBAI DEANERY SPORTS DAY



- Yannah Bird

The NMD sports day for all the youth of our deanery, where our parish youth also participated

was held on the 15th of January 2023. The sports included were Football, Box Cricket, Dodgeball, Carrom and Table Tennis.

The final trials and selection began in December 2022, which was not an easy process as the talent was in abundance. After we had a team for every sport, the enthusiastic practices started with full energy. With a little over two months to practice, we had built strong connections amongst our teams

and great support along with new friends. Each person worked hard throughout and had a good

time which prepared us for the matches in high spirits. A day before our tournament, we received blessings from Rev. Fr. Arul Manickam who also gave us our Jersey's. Everyone was thrilled and excited as we received our Jersey's. The final day which everyone was eagerly waiting for had arrived. Everyone gathered at the Sacred Heart ground, Vashi, with excitement and enthusiasm; ready to finally put all our hard work into execution.

The tournament started with all the players from each parish gathering for a short prayer and a little talk by the priest. The first sport to be played was box cricket followed by dodgeball and football; simultaneously the indoor games were taking place, which was exciting and lively to watch. Everyone present was cheering for their teams with all the energy they had that morning. Later on came my sport, Dodgeball. It was then time to give all the energy we had. We had practiced with a great spirit, enthusiasm, hard work and energy and it was now time to showcase and prove ourselves. We played 3-4 matches in which we won all of them and secured the First place amongst all the parishes.



Finally we got the second place in the overall championship trophy. The feeling is very hard to describe. After all the hard work and injuries we finally bought the trophy and medals to our parish.

Overall it was an amazing experience seeing all the parishes play with all the energy they had for the medals and trophies.

- Ken Gonsalves



The NMD sports day was announced in the month of November '22 and the energetic youth were invited to participate in the event which was going to be held on 15th January '23. The games were Cricket, Dodge ball, Football, Carrom and Table tennis.

Our regular practice and hardwork made look the trails and selection very difficult. Youth brought in their talents and showcased their skills which made the task tough for the coaches.

With practices over 2 months we built a strong squad which created strong bond and connection among new players. Every one was giving their best throughout the practices which prepared us for matches.

The players gathered for a short prayer followed by blessing of all players after which the event started. The first sport was cricket. Players gave all they had in all the matches and played with winning mentality which ensured us to grab the second position. This became possible with the help of our coach. We were expecting a gold medal but it didn't go in our favor, so we decided next time we'll grab the first place and make the parish proud. The rest of sports were enjoyable to watch and quite exciting.

Thankful for the parish for letting us play and offering a pleasant time with the teammates.

(Continued on pg.-08)

NMD Sports Day... (continued)...

(Continued from pg.-07)

- **Mikhail Fernandes**



- **Ruben J Nadar**



It was a foggy morning when our youth gathered at Sacred Heart High School, Vashi for the annual sports event conducted by the Navi Mumbai Deanery. After weeks of practice, dedication and

hard work we were ready to represent OLVC with a motive of winning it all. We were thrilled to get started with Table Tennis, Carrom, Dodgeball, Cricket and Football. As time passed, although we felt tired and exhausted, our fighting spirit was burning bright. We secured the first place in Dodgeball (Girls), second place in Cricket (Boys), third place in football (Boys) and fourth place in Table Tennis (Mixed Doubles).

12 Parish teams participated in the event and our Parish Team secured second position claiming the Runners Up trophy. With a feeling of excitement and joy, we returned to our parish in the evening to share our joy with our priests.

We know, there were a lot of youth who were unable to join us in this victory. Next year, we hope to see more enthusiastic and dedicated youth to join us in this journey and help us conquer the summit. I would be very happy if sports is promoted in our parish by conducting parish tournaments so that we have the essence of olympism to grow stronger, together. Viva Abba, Viva Yuva !!

The NMD sports day was announced during November and all the youth of our parish were invited to participate in the exciting event supposed to take place on the 15th of January. The types of sports included were football, cricket, dodgeball, carrom and table tennis.

The tryouts and selection began which was not an easy process as the talent was in abundance. After we had a team for every sport, the strenuous practices began.

With a little over two months to practice, we had built a strong connection amongst our teams and great support along with new friends. Each person worked hard throughout and had a good time which prepared us for the matches in high spirits.

During the D-Day, everyone gathered in the sacred heart ground, vashi, with excitement as to what the day would bring.

The event started with all the players from each parish gathering for a short prayer and a little pep talk by the priest. The first sport to be played was cricket which was exciting and lively to watch. Everyone present was cheering for their teams with fervor.

The football team started out great and won third place in the tournament.

Of Course we were hoping to win it all and gave our best performance but the results did not go our way.

We came back with the promise of working harder and making it happen next year!

Really thankful to the parish for giving us an opportunity to connect and have a pleasant time through sports.



CASUAL LITURGY

I have been studying the Roman Liturgy along with its history and its communal & personal implications, for the last two years through the courses conducted by the Archdiocese of Bombay (Basic & Advanced). Given that training, one of the many mis-readings of the Sacrosanctum Concilium (SC) or the Dogmatic Constitution on Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council, I found amongst our people is, anything goes in the Liturgy under the guise of glorifying God. The Liturgy we celebrate is first & foremost communitarian. It is NOT personal. It has its personal implications but as we read in the writings of the Fathers and even in the Constitution, it is primarily communitarian. The People of God come together to participate in the Work of God. The instructions that we see in the Novus Ordo (and recommendations in the SC) did not make the Sanctuary common-place and neither did it make the Liturgy common. It is even today as it has always been, set apart or HOLY. Everything we do and say in the Liturgy is HOLY. The reason? The Mass is the PRIVILEGED ENCOUNTER with Jesus of Nazareth: the WORD made Flesh, who is God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father. It is the same liturgy that St. John saw in the Apocalypse, going all the way back to the "First Mass" at Emmaus.

It is unfortunate that we have somehow forgotten this essential truth regarding the Liturgy. When God was "distant", Nadab, Abihu (sons of Aaron) & Uzzah faced the wrath of God for their



casual approach to the Holy Place and the Ark of the Covenant (Lev. 10:1-2 & 2 Sam. 6:6-7). With accessibility given to all of us as Kingdom Priests by virtue of our baptism (through the death & resurrection of Our Lord), how much more must we be cautious in our approach to the Holy of Holies, to God Himself in Christ Jesus? Many a times, we are "scolded" about our attire and rightly so, but what about our attitude? After all, it is God's work in us and for us and not our work alone even individually. It is not about me. The Book

of the Hebrews & Revelation makes it is very clear, it is Christ who offers and is offered, and we are called to participate in that sacrificial offering but not like the Israelites who were made to stand outside the Holy Place or the Temple but as children of the Most High. This should not make us feel privileged; for this "privilege" came at a price for "we owed a debt we could not pay and Christ paid that debt which He did not owe." (Dr. Scott Hahn).

Non nisi te, Domine! – St. Thomas Aquinas

- Sheldon Dsouza,
Parish Liturgy Team

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LEGION OF MARY - OUT REACH

- **Wilma D'souza**

We, the Legionaries, visited Florin Bal-Ashram in Taloja during the Christmas season. It was a significant experience. There were around 22 children, all boys of the age group 5-15. They greeted us with great enthusiasm. We also met the priest incharge Fr. John Paul & Fr. Terry Pinto & their caretaker.

The children introduced themselves and welcomed us with song followed by Christmas carols. It was all a very angelic environment. The joy and desire to spend time with us reflected in their eyes when we decided to play games with them. We entertained them with new and enthusiastic games. Gifts were awarded to the winners. This pleased them.

We then distributed snacks, which we had carried with us. They were ecstatic on receiving the snacks. The happiness on their

faces was priceless. Little help from us meant so much to them and their loving reaction was equally important to us.

The very thought that, we are used to eating varieties of food of our choice but we never realize how lucky we are to get that much of choice to eat.

We sang, danced and played games with them. They seemed very happy and excited. The visit was not only about a short-term happiness, it was about a life-long lesson about how we should never take things for granted. Happiness for them lies in little things while we complain about even the good things we get. They have their own happy little world. And we have a lot to learn from them. We segregated ourselves and went to talk individually to everyone. We had a heart-touching and amazing experience.

Fr. said a beautiful pray and blessed us. With great joy we wined up our visit.



Visit to Don Bosco Yuva Sanstha

- **Wilma D'souza**

The legionaries of OLVC & OLOGC Praesidium Nerul parish visited the Don Bosco Yuva Sanstha at Karjat as part of Lenten campaign organised by the Morning Star Curia Navi Mumbai on 11th March 2023. 7 Praesidium of Navi Mumbai and a total of overall 55 legionaries participated. We started at 7:30am. The journey started with the legion prayers. We were welcomed by Fr. Anthony Santarita with a small refreshment. Later we started our journey of the way of the cross. Each praesidia were allotted 2 stations. The 1st & 2nd Station was allotted to OLVC praesidium, 7th & 8th station was allotted to OLOGC praesidium. All the stations were beautifully hand crafted in metallic colour as if it was a live experience, well placed on the mountain at a particular distance. The statue of the resurrection of Jesus Christ stood right on the top of the mountain, as if Jesus was blessing all of us. This spiritual walk amidst the beauty of nature was an experience which brought peace, tranquillity and a deeper understanding of Christ sacrifice for us. The life like tableau depicting each station, made it easy for us to imagine ourselves walking

with Jesus on his way to Calvary and helped inspire deep prayer and reflection. It was complete with picturesque stations, a makeshift cross and crown of thorns which each member carried in turns. The journey to Calvary lasted for more than 2hrs, but we did not feel exhausted. It was difficult due to health issues but all the support of our dear legionaries made it a wonderful journey to be remembered. All our senior citizens put a great effort in joining the passion of our Lord. Rev. Fr. Victor Louis, Curia Spiritual Director shared a session on the topic for recollection "Repent and believe in the Gospel" followed by catena recited by all. We enjoyed the Lunch. Fr. Anthony Santarita took us for some site seeing which included a small rosary garden of 4 Mysteries, which was Beautiful. We participated in the mass celebrated by our spiritual director. We thanked the priests of Don Bosco Yuva Sanstha for their hospitality. We started back home at 4 pm reciting the Legion concluding prayer. We reached safely by the blessing of Mother Mary. It was a blessed and unforgettable journey. We would surely suggest all to visit this beautiful place at least once a year.



Experiential Way of the Cross at Don Bosco Centre

**- Bernard Pereira
(St. Lawrence Community)**

The Senior Citizens' Association of OLVC Nerul organized a Way of the Cross at Don Bosco Centre, Karjat on March 22, 2023. A bus filled with 48 parishioners of all ages left at 7am for Don Bosco Centre, Karjat. After a light breakfast, Fr Allwyn gave us a few pointers on what to expect and how to make our experiential Way of the Cross truly enriching. Each group was provided with an actual cross and a crown of nails that was to be worn by the person carrying the cross, as we moved towards each station. It dawned on us that this was going to be very different from the Way of the Cross we have been used to where we generally rotate 360 degrees in our church pews. We were actually going to trudge uphill and relive the last moments of Jesus Christ before He gave His life for us on the cross. Fr. Prem Arockiya O'Praem shared spiritual insights at each station which enriched our pilgrimage.

A few participants, including I, got the opportunity to carry the cross for one station. The cross seemed light to bear but it was definitely less than half the weight of the actual cross. Jesus carried the cross alone for most of the way and Simon of Cyrene only helped him for a brief while when the burden was too much to bear. Each of us had a 'Simon' to help us carry our cross for the more or less 70 metres that we bore the cross. As the crown of nails was placed on my head, I twitched and wondered why it felt so uncomfortable. 'Did the person who placed it on my forehead actually press it down?' I wondered. As I looked up I realized it was just the weight of the crown that made it

feel that way. The crown of thorns was literally pressed against Jesus' skull, he was jeered at and flogged even before he began his final journey. I realized I was already complaining in my head about the little discomfort even as I had just begun carrying my cross. I realized how easy and natural it was to focus on our mundane, everyday problems and how important it was to surrender our problems to Jesus while we become more aware of the troubles of others. How many times did I pause during the Way of the Cross to be a 'Veronica' or a 'Simon' for the elderly or fatigued members of my group as we trudged uphill?

Yet, as Jesus was doing the will of His Father willingly, He was filled with compassion for those around Him who seemed to lose hope. He symbolically gave his mother to his most loved disciple and with this gesture He gave his mother Mary to be our Mother. He gave His life for us, an act of perfect love, and yet with his dying breath He asked our Father in heaven to 'forgive us, for we know not what we are doing' even today. God's mercy is true and available for all of us. One of the thieves who hung beside Jesus, repented for his sins and Jesus promised him that He would see him in paradise. This forgiveness of sins is freely available for all of us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation through the Precious Blood of Jesus, the Lamb that was slain for our sins, once and for all.

After we completed the 15th station at the top of the hill, we returned to our starting point. Fr. Allwyn celebrated the mass for us and after a simple yet satisfying lunch we returned home a little more aware, much

humbled and renewed in our Christian Faith.



Lent: Renewal of Faith

-Rosary Joseph Chettiar

If I have taken a Medical insurance policy, it has to be renewed every year, otherwise it lapses and I cannot avail the benefit when I fall sick, am hospitalized and incur large expenses. Without the insurance, sickness leads to a drain on finances, stress and strain on the near and dear ones. One is affected physically, emotionally and also spiritually.

If physical sickness affects me so much, how much more will my spiritual sickness, caused due to my sins which breaks my relationship with God, my brothers/sisters and also the nature which is God's creation. Lent is a time to do a complete health check up of my soul. To step back from fast paced life, to retreat, introspect, look within.

Be still, and know that I Am God (Psalm 46)

In the stillness, I can experience the revelation of who I am. What have I done? Why am I created? Plan and purpose of my life etc. If I continue to run the race of life, sitting in the driver's seat, I may fail to enjoy the beauty of God's creation. When I drive, the focus is on the road, the traffic signals and so on. If a driver is driving I can enjoy the journey, the beauty of nature. To enjoy the drive, when a driver is driving, I also need to

trust the driver. Have the faith that he's driving safe. If not, I will not be able to enjoy the journey. However good a driver he may be, I need to have faith in him, then the driver will do his job well. If I drive him mad with my constant chatter/instruction, he'll not be able to do his job well.

Life too is a journey. If I drive on this journey of life, I'll miss the joy of life or maybe I'll even mess up this life. If I have a driver, God who is driving, I can be safe and enjoy this life too. For this I also need to trust Him. Put my faith in Him. He'll do his job well. Instead of instructing Him, I'll listen to Him. I'll truly be able to "Be still, and know Him".

Lent is the time to renew The Faith in Him, like the renewal of the annual health policy and be rest assured to have a lasting relationship with Him. Through the sacrament of reconciliation be healed. We may be able to enjoy the Eucharist, receive Him, and say to him," Stay with me Lord, I need YOU"!

"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36.

May this Lent lead us to a deeper experience of The Resurrection of our Lord, with renewed Faith in Him!

Happy Easter.

Republic day celebration

The civic and Political Cell of OLVC organized the Republic Day Celebration on 26th January 2023 after the 6.45 a.m mass. A good number of parishioners attended the hoisting of the flag at the hands of Rev Fr. Thomas Anthony O Praem who was the chief Guest for this occasion. Fr. Thomas Anthony is a well read personality with impressive credentials. He has a Masters in Media and Communication Studies from Pune University. He is presently working as an Assistant Director at Jogni Technical Training Institute and in charge of the Norbetian Media centre, Jabalpur.

He addressed the gathering on this occasion by sensitizing them on the importance of an Individuals Rights and Duties, he stressed on the cultural diversity of our

country and the need to nurture it and respect it by every Indian. Fr. Pream Arockia was also a part of the celebration. We are grateful to our Parish Clergy for their relentless support at all times and in every situation. The day's celebration ended with some light snacks. This was a platform for people to exchange pleasantries which eventually fosters a spirit of community living.

**-Anna Fernandes,
Civic and Political Cell**



SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing the word of Christ” (**Romans 10:17**). This “word” is ultimately from God, “inspired” (*literally “breathed out”*) by God through the work of the Holy Spirit.

5 Steps for Spiritual Renewal

- Develop a deeper understanding of God's word. ...
- Pray regularly and seek God's guidance. ...
- Seek accountability and support from other believers. ...
- Practice spiritual disciplines. ...
- Surrender to God's will. ...

5 Bible Verses to Renew Your Mind in Christ.

Ephesians 4:22-24 -“To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

If we don't constantly recharge the batteries, our electronics are useless. Without power, the tools we rely on to do business every day are worthless. Their power source must be renewed.

Without the spiritual power God gives us, we're not as effective as we can be for his glory and the good of others. Lack of spiritual power limits our effectiveness, our endurance, and our output.

Most modern Bible translations reference “renewal” among the verses: Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator (**Colossians 3:10**)

Renew your thoughts and attitudes (**Ephesians 4:23**)

Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength (**Isaiah 40:31**).

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (**Romans 12:2**).

God expects us to renew who we are — our knowledge, our attitudes, our strength, and our mind. Like a battery, we must turn to him — plug in, get connected, spend time — to recharge. We aren't built with long-term energy storage. We are made with a constant need for daily renewal and recharging.

The way to recharge is by allowing God to fill you with the Holy Spirit and Christ's resurrection power.

**-Lourdes V Ramachandran
(Immaculate Conception Community)**

St Andrews Community Way of the Cross



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

- *Mercy Itty*

International Women's day was celebrated with great enthusiasm by all the women of the Parish and the cell members. The main celebrant was Fr Barnabe, Rector, Don Bosco, Nerul. The Liturgy for the day was shared by Archdiocese Women Commission.

The program started with a warm welcome and introduction of all Women Cell members. All present joined in recitation of the women's creed. All were jubilant, dressed in vibrant colours of the IWD - purple, green and white signifying the dignity, justice, hope and purity of the women.

The Chief Guest was Mr. Anson Thomas, a recipient of CNN IBN Real Heroes award for WOMEN EMPOWERMENT (as he had rescued over 800 women and children as young as 12 yrs all over India). He is a former Customs Officer, a national level hockey player turned social activist turned film actor/producer.

Mr Thomas was felicitated by Fr Barnabe and he spoke about his life's mission to rescue commercial sex workers and their children. He carries out this dangerous life

threatening mission with only a Bible in his hand.

We were informed that he had been presented by BISHOP BARTHOL BARRETO, Chairman, The Archdiocesan Human Life Committee, Mumbai Catholic Sabha with THE KEVIN & HILDA award.

He has produced a biopic Hindi Bollywood movie on Human Trafficking "PLEDGE TO PROTECT." This movie was released on you tube on 8th March, International Women's Day.

<https://youtu.be/uTvyAJIYxOp>

Lillian with her games and fun filled activities brought us into a jovial mood. Spot prizes and team games were conducted and prizes distributed. The annual report was read by Gretta and a delicious lunch was served with vote of thanks by Mercy.



CLERGY HOME VISIT by Women Cell



The Navi Mumbai Marathi Samaj Lenten Program



- Anna Fernandes

The Navi Mumbai Marathi Samaj met on the 22nd of March for a Prayer cum Praise and Worship Session at OLVC. Mr. Karlos Kasbe, Mr. Dinkar Adhav, Mr. Yohan Bagul and Mr. Ajay Sawant had organised an entire day's program. Fr. Nigel Fernandes, a Redemptorist Priest was the preacher of the day with Praise and worship. It was a great opportunity to learn new hymns in Marathi. It was led by the choir members of all the Navi Mumbai Parishes. This was followed by Preaching by Fr. Nigel Fernandes who spoke on the Family and the need of the hour- the importance of parents to discipline their children. During the session he narrated many incidents of yesteryears when children feared their parents, he recalled the many incidents of today that lead to rift between parents and children. He insisted upon making Jesus a centrifugal force of our families. He also spoke on the different types of love and

highlighted Jesus love for humankind.

His session was interspersed by Action songs and meaningful hymns. It was wonderful to see Fr. Nigel preach and sing too. It was good to see around 100 people from all around Navi Mumbai gathered together at OLVC to pray as one family of believers of Christ. After lunch, we had Intercessory prayers for various intentions, both local and for the universal church. This was followed by the way of the cross and the Holy Eucharist.

It was a wonderful experience for me personally with my knowledge of Marathi to unite in prayer with the Vernacular group. A day of holiday – well spent. All praise and Glory to God.



NAVI MUMBAI ZONAL B.P.N. EVENING VIGIL AT OLVC CHURCH

- Theo D'sa

On Saturday 25TH Mar 2023 from 5.30pm to 10pm the Navi Mumbai Charismatic Prayer Group had an Evening Vigil at OLVC Church. This was a spirit filled occasion where all of us present really felt the anointing of the Holy Spirit on each and everyone.

It started with the Rosary by one of the parishes in Navi Mumbai followed by Praise and worship which was led by Josena and David and with our energetic youth. It was truly a blessed time. This was followed by the Eucharist led by Fr. Prem. After the Eucharist we had an inspiring talk by Bro. Arun from Bandra. He really explained to us how it is important to be an intercessor and invited us all to receive the gift of tongues which is very essential as part of intercession. This was followed by intercession carried out with different parishes in Navi

Mumbai. With the exposition of the blessed sacrament the Divine Mercy chaplet with intention was done by the Vashi Prayer group. We ended the session with a healing service and adoration done by Bro. Arun. Once again a very anointed session. We at OLVC are truly blessed to have this evening service in our church as it was another wonderful time with the Lord during the Lent season. Would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parish priest Fr. Arul and Fr. Prem for their support and encouragement. A TRULY BLESSED EVENING. PRAISE GOD.



The White Elephant Stall - A Charity Sale



**- Annie Gomez
Eco Ambassador**

OLVC organised a White elephant sale on 26th March 2023. The second hand goods generously contributed by the parishioners were sold by the Green cell as a fund raising for charitable deeds.

The sale was a grand success! We could encourage people to participate in re-using and recycling and more over to generate fund from trash!

The second-hand goods have a big positive social and environmental impact by reducing carbon emissions, save lots of resources,

water, and energy. They also prevent old clothing and other materials from ending up in landfills or incinerators. The environmental benefits of second-clothing are not negligible.

Mrs. Deepa Paul an active member of Green cell commented, "By shopping for more second-hand clothing, the money you spend won't go toward supporting a highly polluting fashion industry rather could be used for noble deeds like charity."

This makes a huge difference by supporting a community of recycling and up-cycling. The sale was a profound effort to reach out to the underprivileged inter religious community from in and around Karave gaon and other nearby places.



FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM - BORN IN CHRIST

Sr	Date	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Address
1	08.01.2023	Janelle	Justin Jacob	Jasmine	Sector 10, Nerul(W)
2	14.01.2023	Samara	Farokh Daruwala	Steffi	B-101, Mayuresh Trinity Sec.16A, Nerul(W)
3	04.02.2023	Mirelle	Maurus Rodrigues	Rochelle	A-3/8, Balaji Krupa CHS, Sec.28, Nerul(W)
4	12.02.2023	Urja	Nikhil Lokhande	Joycee	NL-4/56/11, Sec.11, Nerul(E)
5	12.02.2023	Jowin	Edwin Nadar	Josephine	85/1 NL-1B, Shree Ganesh Apt, Sec.10, Nerul(W)
6	19.02.2023	Evlyn	Erril Pravin Dias	Jennifer	203/204, Alak CHS, Sec.19A, Nerul(E)
7	19.02.2023	Azriel	Naveen Carlos	Diana	503, Sukham Avenue, Plot 277, Sec.19 ULWE

MARRIAGE - UNITED IN CHRIST

Sr	Date	Bridegroom Name	Brides Name
NIL			

BURIAL - RESTING IN CHRIST

Sr	Name	Date of Expiry/Burial	Age
1	Norman Steven Menezes	03.01.2023	70 years
2	John Lazarus Martis	09.01.2023	66 years
3	Anthony Swami	12.01.2023	75 years
4	Edward George	21.01.2023	73 years
5	Alice Rego	24.01.2023	70 years
6	Francis Vaz	25.01.2023	72 years
7	Monthi Britto	02.02.2023	91 years
8	Nathaline Saby Kinny	05.03.2023	72 years
9	Anthony Harry D'Cruz	06.03.2023	76 years

St. John Bosco Community Activities

St. John Bosco Feast

St. John Bosco community came together to celebrate the feast of their patron St. John Bosco on Sunday, 29th January 2023. The feast mass was at 9:30am and thereafter all the community members had a get together in the church hall. Fr. Prem graced the function. There were plenty of games and all the members present had a wonderful time.



Advent Mass

St. John Bosco community celebrated their Advent mass at the residence of Mr. Antony Jonas on Friday, 31st March 2023 at 8:00pm. Fr. Prem celebrated the mass. The mass was well attended by the community members which was followed by fellowship dinner.



Don't put all your
eggs in one basket!



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&

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WITH

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Happy  Easter



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HOLY WEEK - 2023

