



Our Lady  
of the  
Visitation  
Church  
NERUL  
NAVI MUMBAI

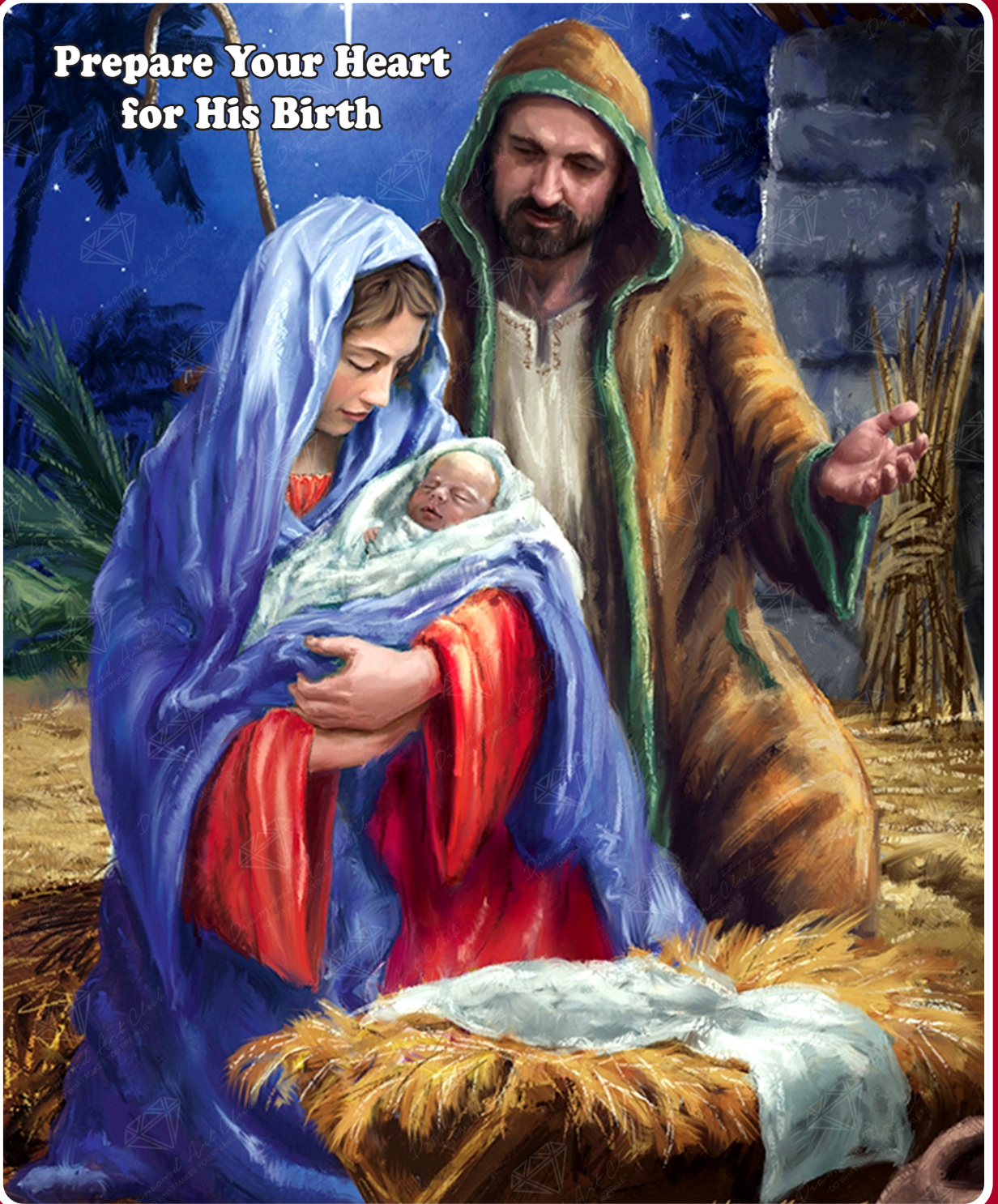
A Peep into Nerul Parish

# Reach Out

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY  
VOL.-XXII, No.-3, December 2023

Parish Newsletter

**Prepare Your Heart  
for His Birth**



# From the PASTOR'S DESK

## PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR HIS BIRTH

We bring to our memory at every Christmas the first coming of Christ and Church offers us with opportunity to prepare our hearts to experience the peace and joy at Christmas. There are several reasons why we need to make our hearts ready before Christmas. The essential reason in my opinion is that Christ prefers to live in our hearts. The gift God gives to His children is His love which was revealed through Christ at incarnation. God took human form because we belong to Him and that we should not be away from Him. In the plan of God for humanity, it was already time for His people to come close to Him. As St. Augustine says, our hearts are meant for Him. Fulfillment of our hearts are fulfillment of love which is made possible by God. Fulfillment of love takes place only through Him who offers infinite love. We reflect in Gospel of John Chapter 10:10, "I have come that you may have life, life in abundance." Fullness of love is His gift to us. We know that Jesus was born in extremely difficult and unsecured circumstances, that in no way reduces the mystery of His incarnation. We need to remember that He took birth not for Himself but for the world. The Heavenly Father sent His only Son into the world that the world might be saved through Him. Our hearts need to accept and acknowledge this reality of Christ incarnation that he is our redeemer. Letter of St. Paul to Romans chapter 10: 9 reminds us, "That if you confess with

your lips, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." The salvation which Jesus offers to us is experienced in our hearts. As herald of the Good News, John the Baptist made people ready by baptizing them with water and preached repentance and forgiveness of sins. In other words, he prepared people to recognize Jesus as Redeemer. Let Jesus take birth in our hearts at this Christmas that our hearts may share the joy of Christmas with our family members, parish community and in our neighborhood.

I Wish Everyone Merry Christmas And A Prosperous New Year 2024.

**Fr. Prem, O.Praem**



### PARISH SCHEDULE

#### Reach Out

Parish Bulletin of OLVC  
Nerul, Navi Mumbai

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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>

# Parish Youth Day: Beyond Distractions



**- Noel Varghese, John  
Bosco Community**

On November 5, 2023, our Parish witnessed a vibrant celebration of faith, community, and youthful energy during the Parish Youth Day. With the theme "Beyond Distractions," the event delved into the challenges faced by today's youth in navigating a world filled with distractions that can lead them away from God and His Church.

Approximately 80 enthusiastic young members of our Parish gathered after the 9:30 am mass to embark on a day filled with spiritual enrichment and togetherness. The morning kicked off with a hearty breakfast, setting the tone for a day of fellowship. Icebreaker games followed, creating an atmosphere of joy and connection among the attendees.

Fr Joyston Machado, the guest

speaker, delivered a compelling talk, weaving biblical examples of individuals who faced distractions but remained steadfast in their devotion to God. His words resonated with the youth, providing them with guidance on staying focused on their faith in the midst of life's diversions.

After the enlightening talk, everyone relished a delicious Chicken Biryani lunch, fostering a sense of togetherness around the dining table. The mood then transitioned to a lively note with a mesmerizing performance by the "Electric Sheep" band, whose music filled the air with joy and celebration. Adding an element of adventure, a Treasure Hunt was organized, encouraging teamwork and problem-solving skills among the youth.

The program concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks by Youth President Reon Rodrigues, expressing gratitude to all participants and contributors for making the

Parish Youth Day a memorable and spiritually enriching experience for everyone involved.

## PARISH YOUTH DAY



# The Navi Mumbai Deanery's Youth Day



## - Yannah Bird, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

The NMD Youth Day was held on September 24th, 2023, unfolded as a celebration of unity and diversity, with a unique theme focusing on the different cultures of countries. The event not only showcased the talents of the youth but also embraced the rich tapestry of global cultures, making it a memorable and culturally enriching experience.

Each parish took on the challenge of interpreting and presenting the traditions of a specific country through various performances. This theme added a distinctive flavor to the event, creating a dynamic and educational atmosphere. From traditional dances to musical renditions, the parishes brought the essence of different cultures to life on stage.

The event showcased the vibrant spirit of the community, highlighting the talents and enthusiasm of the youth.

Various parishes actively participated in organizing and performing, creating an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie. From spirited games to captivating performances, the day unfolded with a sense of unity and celebration.

The games played during the event not only provided entertainment but also fostered a sense of friendly competition among the parishes. Participants showcased their skills, contributing to the overall festive atmosphere. The variety of games ensured, there was something for everyone, enhancing the inclusive nature of the event.

The performances were a true highlight, with each parish bringing its unique flair to the stage. The creativity and dedication of the participants were evident, making the Deanery Youth Day a memorable showcase of artistic expression.

Beyond the entertainment, the event served as a platform for fostering community bonds and promoting a sense of belonging among the youth. It offered an opportunity for individuals to connect, share experiences, and strengthen the ties that bind the parishes together.

As memories were created and shared, the Navi Mumbai Deanery Youth Day proved to be a resounding success. The combination of games and performances showcased not only the talents of the youth but also the collective spirit of unity within the community. This celebration will likely be remembered as a perfect example of vibrant and close-knit nature of the parishes in the Navi Mumbai Deanery.



# RETREAT AT LONAVALA



## **- Iris Nalkara, Confirmant**

The confirmation batch of OLVC, Nerul had gone for a three-day retreat to Don Bosco, Lonavala from 15th September to 17th September, one which left a lasting impact on all of us. The retreat helped us in creating some of the most cherished memories we've ever had. From the moment we entered until we left, every detail was meticulously taken care of.

Fr. Joyston Machado, who mainly organised everything, deserves huge credit for ensuring there wasn't a single dull moment throughout the retreat. His excellent planning and execution, from engaging sessions to uplifting masses, made the entire experience beautiful. The games organized by Fr. Joyston were fun and remarkably creative, providing not only enjoyment but also valuable lessons on teamwork and deeper messages at the end of each activity.

The sessions conducted by other priests and brothers, including Fr. Blany Pinto, Fr. Velasli Bandy, Fr. Xavier Devdas, Br. Rohan D'souza and Br. Alfred Menezes, were both

insightful and enjoyable, offering a profound understanding of the Christian faith. Their passion for the topics they covered made the sessions truly memorable. Special thanks to Br. Royston Colaco and Fr. Ranson D'souza for their dedicated work behind the scenes, ensuring that everything ran seamlessly.

The Taize prayer undoubtedly provided a deep spiritual experience for us all. The singing, the reflective atmosphere, and the deep confessions during the prayer left a significant impact, creating lasting memories. Along with this, the evening trek to Tungarli Dam was full of enjoyment, as we were given various tasks to complete on route, which kept us engaged throughout our journey. It also helped us learn to work efficiently together as teams.

In conclusion, the retreat in Don Bosco Lonavala was a beautiful experience, and even after returning, the memories and teachings will remain unforgettable. I would

also like to express gratitude to our teachers and animators for their guidance throughout the course of the retreat. A heartfelt thank you to all the priests and brothers who played a role in making this retreat a truly memorable one for all of us.



## My Retreat Experience



## **Alvia Fernandes, Confirmant**

The Lonavala retreat trip was truly an unforgettable experience. At first in the morning Fr. Prem blessed us. Our journey started with rosary and excitement. After, we reached Lonavala peace and happiness were felt in the air. Fr. Joyston gave us a warm welcome and showed us around Don Bosco. The Taize prayer, confessions, the writing of things that hurt us, and on the last day burning of it brought solace in our hearts. My heart was joyful and free. The

rooms, the food everything was perfect. The sessions by the brothers and Priests were really Informative and beautifully presented. The trek was something to be cherished forever. The War zone game and shark tank were fun and my heart was enchanted. I didn't want to leave the place. What I gained was so beautiful. Moments spent with god built up life-long bonds. I understood the connection between the Holy Spirit and myself it was a time I never want to forget and I will relive every moment of it for the rest of the days of my life. Thanks to the priests, brothers, animators & teachers who took all those efforts to make it so beautiful to capture it in our minds forever.

# Preparing The Heart



- **Tina Ramachandran**  
**Immaculate Conception**  
**community**

What is preparing the heart? To me, it means preparing our hearts to agree with God.

There are two different aspects concerning the preparation of the heart. One is the preparation God does in preparing our hearts. The other is the preparation we do.

Psalm 10:17 says, "Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble. You will prepare their heart."

When God prepares our heart, He causes it to be firm, fixed, and stable and He directs us in a way that we will continue to align and agree with His word.

A prepared heart is not a one-time occurrence, it is an ongoing process. We must work to continually allow God to prepare our hearts and we must continually be willing to keep our hearts prepared to

agree with God's will and God's plan.

Keeping a prepared heart allows us to walk through seasons of change in faith and peace. It means holding our hearts out before the Lord, with a humble attitude. Asking Him and allowing Him to deal with any areas of our hearts that are not currently aligned with His plan and purpose.

A prepared heart helps us to embrace change when it comes our way. For if our heart is aligned with His, we will remain in peace no matter what comes our way. That's what God wants for us. A heart that is always prepared. A heart aligned with Him and His word. A heart...that is always at peace.

Today, my prayer for all of us is this; "Lord, prepare our hearts during this Advent season for whatever lies ahead. We trust that You have a good plan for us, one, for our prosperity and a good, pleasant, and peaceful future. Help us to lean into your plan for our life, which is always good and always full of unending hope. For this, we give You praise, in Jesus' name. Amen."



## Children's Day - at Matru Milan Day Care



day's importance and distributed cold drinks and sweets. The celebrations ended with a game of musical chairs. Ice cream, snacks, and cold drinks kept the children cheerful during the day.

Children's Day was celebrated on 14th Nov at the Day Care Centre. Mercy Itty organized a program. It was scheduled at 3 pm to accommodate the working mothers. The children arrived in their party wear and looked very enthusiastic. Activities like storytelling, poetry recitation, drawing, and singing kept the children entertained. Genevieve Coutinho with her mimicry and fun activity kept us all enthralled. Jocyie Fernandes informed the children of the



# The OLVC Green Cell's Sustainable Practices

**- Mrs. Annie Gomez, Eco Ambassador  
Mary Help of Christians Community**

## **Green Cell's Grotto Greenery Initiative**

The OLVC Nerul, Green Cell, dedicated to promoting environmental consciousness, implemented a greenery initiative by adding plants to Mother Mary's grotto.

The primary goal was to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the grotto while contributing to environmental well-being. By incorporating plants, Green Cell aimed to create a harmonious blend of nature and architecture, fostering a serene atmosphere for visitors.



Careful consideration was given to the selection of plants suitable for the grotto environment. Low-maintenance plants like poinsettia, hedge plants and spider plants were chosen to thrive in the specific conditions of the grotto, ensuring sustainability and longevity.

Green Cell collaborated with local nurseries to source a variety of plants, including flowering species and foliage to add diversity to the grotto landscape. A team of dedicated volunteers planted and nurtured the greenery, implementing sustainable practices to minimize environmental impact.

Initial feedback from visitors has been overwhelmingly positive. Many expressed delight at the enhanced visual appeal and the positive impact of the greenery on the overall ambiance of the grotto.

Green Cell's Grotto Greenery Initiative successfully achieved its objectives by transforming the grotto into a verdant and inviting space.

## **E- Waste Collection Drive**

An e-waste collection drive was organised by Our Lady of Visitation church, Nerul in the month of October, 2023 to address the growing concern of electronic waste in our parish community. The event witnessed an active participation by the Parishioners.

The Green cell collected around 100 kg of electronic waste including computers, smart phones and peripherals. The event was organised in collaboration with the Nerul

Rotary club and Navi Mumbai Municipal corporation.

The initiative not only facilitated the responsible disposal of electronic waste but also raised awareness about the environmental impact of improper e-waste management.



## **Green Cell's Sapling And Eco-friendly Products Sale**

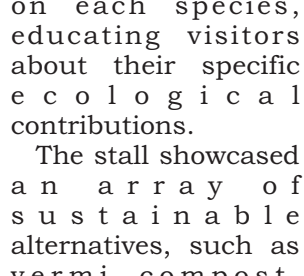
The OLVC Green Cell, organized a stall showcasing saplings and eco-friendly products on Mission Sunday. The stall was aimed to raise awareness about the importance of conservation and provide eco-conscious alternatives for daily living.

The stall featured an eye-catching display of various saplings, emphasizing the significance of planting saplings for a greener planet. Green Cell offered a diverse range of saplings, including indoor plants, succulents and plants known for their environmental benefits. Information cards provided details on each species, educating visitors about their specific ecological contributions.

The stall showcased an array of sustainable alternatives, such as vermi compost, organic plant vitalizer

and bio-enzyme.

The event served as a platform to connect with the local community. Green Cell initiated discussions on community waste management drives and promoted collaborative efforts to create a more sustainable and eco-friendly neighborhood. Cell's stall succeeded in inspiring individuals to adopt more sustainable practices in their daily lives.



# Medical Camp at OLVC

## ***Mrs. Mercy Itty***

The women's cell Nerul, on 12th November, organized a health camp at OLVC church. The highlight of the camp was the presence of a renowned Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Prof. Col. Dr. James Thomas MB, MS, MCh (Thor) MNAMS, Ph.D. FICS, FACS, FICC, FACC, D.Sc (Hon) . Principal Advisor & Former Vice Chancellor, Prof. & HOD CARDIAC SURGERY D. Y. Patil University & Group, Advisor Armed Forces Med. Services, Hon. Col. NCC

He was accompanied by his team. His team comprised Jeevan Singh ECHO Technician, Kailash Puri ECG Technician, Sr Bijitha, Sr Esther, Ms Shrutita, and Nandita.

Dr. Kavita Borde- MBBS: General practitioner also lend her services during the camp.

Dr James got to the task of consultation from the moment he stepped in. The patients were pouring in and all the members of the team got going before we could formally welcome and introduce them to the parishioners. Sr Bijitha and Sr Esther started with the blood tests for diabetes. Then with the result, patients met Dr James. It was surprising to watch the dedication of Dr James. He himself checked the BP and carried on with the task of consultation. The patients were then sent for ECG with their BP and sugar reports.

ECG was conducted by Mr Jeevan Singh, and Mr Kailash Puri, assisted by Nandita and Shrutita. There was a big queue for the ECG,

as the process took time. It was surprising to see the parishioners waiting patiently for their turn in a cordial manner. The environment was so charged with enthusiasm that the Dr and his team refused tea until the major crowd was settled. The women's cell members had to take time out and coax the team for an individual tea break.

Towards the end, our Parish, Fr Arul , met Dr James warmly welcomed him, and expressed his heartfelt gratitude. Fr Arul also spoke and welcomed all the team members and felicitated each and every member of the team. Mrs. Mercy Itty introduced the spectacular achievements of Dr James Thomas and all the parishioners acknowledged and applauded his efforts. Due to lack of time and waiting patients, Dr James had to cut short his talk on 'Awareness Required in the Post-COVID Times.' However, Dr James expressed that the Nerul camp was one of his largest turnouts.

Fr Arul abundantly praised and blessed Dr James and his team for their outstanding dedication to the service of the poor and needy.

Women cell member Mrs. Mercy Itty proposed a vote of thanks and specifically mentioned the support of members who worked behind the scenes to make it a success. Fr Arul had organized a grand lunch for the visiting team. Women Cell expressed gratitude and thanked the Parish Priest Fr Arul's warm and magnanimous support.





# Pre-Baptism Catechesis - Comes Full Circle For Us



**-Zarine and William  
D'Souza**

## **From Participants to Contributors:**

Joining Our Lady of Visitation Church (OLVC) Parish's 'Pre-Baptism Catechesis' course has been a nostalgic journey for us. A decade ago, we were the eager participants, absorbing the teachings that would guide us in nurturing our second child's spiritual journey. Little did we know that 10 years later, we would find ourselves on the other side, not as expecting parents, but as contributors to this enriching ministry as animators.

Our journey back to the course began when the ever-active church members, Rosy and Calist Rosario reached out to us inviting to the Pre-Baptism ministry. Their enthusiasm was contagious. We remembered the impact this vital ministry had on us, shaping our understanding of faith and family. Now, with our own lives enriched by the teachings, it was time to pay it forward.

The decision to join as contributors was an easy one. We were more than willing to share our experiences and insights with the latest batch of participating couples. The

opportunity to be part of this transformative journey for others was a calling we couldn't ignore.

As we embarked on this new chapter, memories flooded back. We fondly recalled our interactions with the guides who, a decade ago, patiently led us through our faith. In particular, we chuckled as we recounted the 'missing godfather' story that became a humorous yet serious lesson in always thinking with both our hearts and our minds about whom to choose as a godparent for our children – one who would stick around for the little one's entire life.

Sharing our personal and extended family experiences with three new participants alongwith godparents felt like passing down a cherished family recipe. We spoke not just as facilitators but as witnesses to the enduring impact of the course on our own lives. The camaraderie among the couples, the shared laughter, and the collective anticipation of parenthood created a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

In joining the 'Pre-Baptism Catechesis' course once again, we discovered that the beautiful cycle of learning, sharing, and growing knows no end. It's where each participant contributes to our collective faith, and we feel privileged to be part of this ongoing journey.



# Snippets of OLVC Konkona Group Activities

1. Konkani Outreach Program at The Shrine of Velankani, Uttan – A parishioner sponsored a bus that helped 62 parishioners make this pilgrimage. Everyone attended Mass at the shrine and entertained themselves with some good East Indian Food and Games.

2. Konkani Monti Feshth traditionally celebrated as one family at MMVK: Was celebrated on 17th September 2023. Around 150 members were present from various Navi

Mumbai Parishes who are a part of the Konkana group. Skits and songs entertained us, there were some spot prizes too. Thanks to donors especially food (noven Jevan) sponsored by the Fernandes brothers. Fr. Arul Fr. graced the occasion.

3. The Konkani Cultural Association of Navi Mumbai organised USMITAY a film depicting – In search of Konkani Identity, where we Mangaloreans and Goans are one in Amchi bass



Wishing you a Blessed  
Christmas Season  
and Happy  
New Year 2024



# St. John Bosco – Community Activities

**Maxima Serrao, St. John Bosco  
Community Coordinator**

## Rosary

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. It is this month that our community members volunteer to bring our Lady to their home and all of us gather for the rosary. The bonding was so strong among the community that everyone was looking forward to participating in the Rosary each evening and On Sunday, 29th October we had our community coming together for a get together in the Church after the 6pm mass. We started with the Rosary, followed by games with lots of fun, and ended the evening with the fellowship dinner.

We are grateful to our Parish priests – Rev. Fr. Arul and Fr. Prem, who could join in our celebration. A big thank you to all our community members, particularly the ones who helped in organizing the get-together, games, and the dinner arrangements.

## Picnic

The St. John Bosco community, went to Attasa Resort for a community picnic on Saturday, 11th November. Approximately 40 members from our community came for the picnic. The picnic not only provided a break from every day mundane life, but we also spent quality time with each other. It was a day of fun and frolic. All of us took part in various sporting activities and the best part was swimming and relaxing in the pool. During breakfast and lunch we were exchanging pleasant memories. Late afternoon we had archery competition and ended our day with damsharas. After the evening tea and snacks we left back for home. A big thank you to all who helped in organizing the fun filled picnic.



## Visit to Mount Mary Basilica

**- Lourdes Ramachandran,  
Senior citizen member**

The Bombay Archdiocese Senior Citizen's Association had arranged for the Holy Eucharist for the Seniors /Sick and homebound at 11.30 am on 11th September 2023 at Mount Mary Basilica, Bandra. The Senior Citizen's Association of our OLVC Parish arranged a bus to attend the Special mass. We were 31 in number. Before starting our journey from OLVC, Rev. Fr. Prem prayed for our safe journey and blessed us with Holy Water. We started our journey with the rosary and hymns. On the bus, we provided snacks and cold drinks for all members. The main celebrant was Fr. Aniceto



Pereira along with more than 20 celebrants. The sermon was inspiring and deeply touched us. There was a special prayer for all senior citizens. We were provided with candles to offer inside the church. After the mass, refreshments were given and we proceeded to the church for prayer. From Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, most of the parishes had arranged buses for their senior citizens to participate in this Eucharistic celebration. We were blessed to get this opportunity to attend the mass. We reached home safely. Mother Mary blessed us. For most of us, this was a wonderful first experience as a senior citizen. We thank our Parish Priest for his support.

## Visit to Our Lady of Velankani Shrine, Uttan

**- Maxima Serrao, Senior citizens  
Association member**

World Elders Day is celebrated on 1st October. With this in mind, the senior citizens association of our parish organized a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Velankani Shrine, Bhate Bunder, Uttan on 21st October 2023.

With the encouragement of our parish priest Fr. Arul Manickam, the trip was undertaken. The shrine is a miraculous shrine and many people from diverse castes and creeds come here. The shrine is along the sea coast and a huge statue of Our Lady is on top of a nearby hill. From the top, you can see the beauty of the sea and the fishing boats—the picturesque beauty of Uttan.

Around 32 senior citizens along with a few others totaling 42 along with Fr. Prem started our journey by bus. During the journey, we prayed the rosary, sang devotional hymns, and later continued with other filmy songs.

We first stopped at St. Joseph's Church, Mira Road to visit the church. It was followed by a superb breakfast arranged by a St. Joseph's Church

parishioner. Our journey continued to Uttan.

After we reached Uttan we refreshed ourselves. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr Prem. He especially prayed for the seniors of our parish and blessed us with Holy Water. After the mass, the seniors visited the statue on the hill. Later we entertained ourselves by singing, and dancing and also had ice gola to our heart's content.

This was followed by a sumptuous/tasty lunch which included typical East Indian cuisine prepared by a local lady.

We left the shrine with the gracious blessings of dear Mother Mary asking her to protect us and our parish.

Mother Mary pray for us.



# The Auxillary meeting of the Legion of Mary

- **Br. Donny David, Legion Of Mary**

On 11th November 2023 Legion of Mary celebrated the Auxillary meet at OLVC conference room. Our sincere thanks to Fr Arul for permitting us to conduct it.

We had approximately 230 Auxiliary members and 13 Active members in English and 16 Active members in Tamil Praesidium on roll. Auxiliary Members in the Legion of Mary are the praying wing of the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church.

At 4.45 PM Auxiliary and Legionaries assembled and started the function with the opening prayers followed by the Rosary. Our Legionary member spoke of the importance of Auxiliary members and their contribution. Fr. Arul enlightened and shared the role of

Mother Mary in our lives.

The praying of the Tessera only takes a few minutes but who can calculate the drip-by-drip effect it has on the interior life of the auxiliary and on the salvation of souls. Auxiliary members like active members are involved in the greatest mission of all the salvation of souls.

We had couple of games where all the auxiliaries took part. It was a wonderful sight to see the smiles and laughter on the Auxiliaries. To energize, refreshments were served. The Auxiliaries got to know our Legion better and deepened their devotion, as they got acquainted with one another.

Winners were awarded prizes followed by the concluding prayer and vote of thanks.

People were encouraged to join the Legion by submitting their personal details.



# FEAST OF ST. FAUSTINA COMMUNITY



**- Abhilash Mathew**

Thirty-three families of sectors 48 and 48A, came together on 8th October 2023 as one extended family to celebrate the feast of St. Faustina, our Patron Saint.

There was an overwhelming participation from all which was quite visible in the long procession for the offertory at the Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Arul Manickam.

After the feast Mass, we all gathered on 1st floor Hall of the Church, enjoying breakfast, games, dance, housie, etc. The games were planned by Ms. Olga and the team. It ended up with grace before meal prayer led by Fr. Prem. A sumptuous lunch (not to miss the

wide smile group photo time!) followed during which many danced, sang, and felt free to enjoy the family spirit! The new Coordinator Mr. Louis served the team members guiding them when needed. The program was well planned and conducted by our youth members, dynamic and cooperative, under the guidance of animators. It was through the presence of the Holy Spirit that we had a wonderful family time filled with jokes and laughter.

Also, October being the month of the Rosary, a Rosary Together was planned in every house in our community. Each day witnessed more than 30 Marian devotees, including children, youth, and seniors attending the Rosary. May Mama Mary intercede for us all.



# Little Flower Community Feast Day Celebration



**Ms. Trisha Sawant**

On 1st October 2023, the Little Flower Community celebrated its patron feast. As it was the first day of rosary month we began the event with the rosary followed by snacks.

Next, we had a lineup of wonderful games organized by the youth of our community under the guidance of our sector leader Mr. Anil Panicker. Everyone present at the gathering, regardless of age, enjoyed and actively participated in the games. All of them were enthusiastic throughout the event. We also had a

short orientation session where Mrs. Jyotsna Dsouza and Mr. Anil Panicker introduced our sector animators. There were two major events organized by the community and the work done through SVP. The best part about the event was when Mrs. Jyotsna Dsouza asked whether we had any new members in

the community, two of our community members introduced their newborn babies and they were the youngest new members of our community. Everyone welcomed them with great joy. We ended the event with our very favorite – Housie followed by dinner. After the event rosary was conducted regularly and members participated in large numbers.



# St. Jude Novena and Feast Day Celebrations

**- Rita Suresh**  
**St. Jude Community.**

After the birthday of our blessed Mama Mary, we the St. Jude Community eagerly await October the month of the Rosary and visit of our Beloved Virgin Mary to our homes, coupled with the Novena of our patron St. Jude.

This year too we met daily for rosary and Novena in various homes of our members.. We had hymns and prayers in the mother tongue..like Tamil, Konkani, English, and Hindi of the homes we visited.

Though we are a small community consisting of many senior citizens, the fervour and enthusiasm is immense. Young primary school students reading scripture and saying prayers touched our hearts.. we enjoyed the color-coded attire for the Novena and the yummy snacks

lovingly prepared. We celebrated the feast day on 28th October with mass at OLVC followed by a get-together, where our dear Fr. Prem kindly joined in spending some time with our community. We began with snacks and a few games where young and not-so-young joined in. The program ended with a sumptuous dinner and dessert.



## Events Undertaken by Sunday School Students/Catechists

**- Anna Fernandes, Catechist**

### **Stalls on Mission Sunday:**

On the 22nd of October, the Sunday Schools Students along with the parents and Catechists put up various stalls to collect a substantial amount for various mission activities. Children and parents along with the youth and Catechists participated in large numbers. The entire basement was full of the hustle and bustle of the stalls. Children, Youth, and the elderly wholeheartedly patronized the stalls. They all felt they must contribute their might to the missions. Fr. Praem prayed and blessed each stall before the sale began

Stalls with cakes and confectionary items, stalls with chaat-savory items, breakfast items, chicken snacks from Indian to

continental, and desserts with homemade ice-creams and homemade wine were the highlights of the day. Games and songs kept children busy and the entire ambiance joyful.

Everyone was of the opinion that the Objective of having stalls on the occasion of Mission Sunday was achieved as the collection amounted to Rs. 1,76,000/- Special word of thanks to the Confirmants who participated in large numbers and contributed to the success of the Mission.

### **Drawing, Recitation, and Singing Competition:**

All the Sunday School students were involved in the competitions which is a regular feature in our Parish. This activity showcases the talents, creativity, and confidence of students. These competitions are conducted in a very democratic way with jury members who are from the choir and various prayer groups. We believe in a Holistic approach that helps each student to develop their personality. The winners of these competitions are felicitated on special occasions as this is a proud moment for the winners.



# Activities undertaken by St. Joseph's Community

## **- Anna Fernandes**

### **Rosary in October:**

St. Joseph's Community is a large community of around 110 families spread across sectors 36, 44, and 44A. We are a community with exuberant potential, a contagious commitment to always walk the extra mile, and a genuine zeal to always reach out to people in need. We plan each activity meticulously. Be it a rosary, the Advent wreath Prayer, Carol singing, an Outreach Program or Feast Day. Suggestions are welcome from Children, Youth, Adults, and Senior Citizens. We truly believe in INCLUSION. Like all other years this year too we had a large group of children attending and praying the rosary. They participate wholeheartedly. There are times when we initiate and motivate them to conduct the rosary too. We are grateful to all parents who equally feel responsible for fostering the faith in children. At the end of October, each one of us realized the attachment that we developed for each other as we spent the evenings in community prayer and singing praises to our Loving Mother. At the end of the rosary, we have a practice of giving away small goodies or gifts to all those members who attended all the days of the rosary. Everyone looks forward to this day. A big thank you to Our Mother for always journeying with us and keeping us close to her son Jesus.

### **The Wreath Prayer and Carol singing:**

Our Community Animators work on a planned schedule and data to conduct the Wreath prayers. The homes of community members are identified for every activity or program so that each one gets an opportunity to host it. Being a large community each one of us gets a turn either every alternate year or once in 3 years time.

This year to avoid the rush at the last minute we planned our Carol singing in the 3rd week of Advent itself. Community members joined with the true spirit of Christmas. We sang carols, sharing the joy of Christmas with people in the neighborhood. We rang in this season of Joy and Grace to our own brothers and sisters of other Faith. Children all around were so happy to see Santa dancing and swaying and distributing sweets. A wonderful evening of sharing our Joy with others.

### **The Navi Mumbai Deanery Rally:**

The Navi Mumbai Deanery Rally for SCCs was held at Don Bosco School Nerul on 3rd December 2023. Parishioners or community members along with animators and coordinators of 9 Parishes of Navi Mumbai participated in this rally. The Airoli Parish was the host Parish for the Rally as Fr. Joe D'Mello, their Parish Priest is the SCC Coordinator for Navi Mumbai Deanery.

Bishop Barthol, the Bishop in charge for SCCs along with Fr. Mario D' Souza, the Parish Priest of Khopar Khairne Parish and Dean of Navi Mumbai Deanery presided over the program. The program began with each Parish Co-ordinator marching with the Parish Flag. Mr. Anil Pannicker, the OLVC Parish Co-ordinator represented our Parish, this march past was followed by a prayer dance by the youth of Kalamboli Parish. Thereafter the ceremonial lamp was lit to symbolize movement from darkness to light, followed by the Bishop's address. The Bishop called everyone present there as collaborators in the task of reaching out to community members. The theme of the Rally was "No one in Want". Every parish came out with a variety of ideas, from a talk show to a skit. Our Parish was represented by 50 parishioners, Of the 50, we were 22 members from our St. Joseph's Community who put up a skit on the theme. It was a beautiful experience, a proud moment for each one of us, as we represented our OLVC Parish in this activity on a Navi Mumbai Deanery Platform. Everyone enjoyed the skit, it felt so good when everyone applauded and appreciated our efforts. We had 9 children who participated in the skit from our community. They were the true jewels in our performance, so confident, loud, and flawless in their performance. Despite all the exams, taekwondo competitions, etc. They still made it happen. Our heartfelt thanks to parents who took the pains to motivate kids for the same. Our group comprised of children, adults, and senior citizens. It was a day that will be cherished throughout our life. We are happy that an opportunity came our way and we did not waste it. A big thank you to all our Animators who were an important part of this program.



# Advent Recollection at OLVC



## - **Sally Lazarus** **Little Flower Community**

The PPC Members arranged an Advent Recollection for Parishioners on 9th December from 6-9 pm with the Holy Eucharist as usual at 7 pm to prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Bro. Ralph D'souza from Khar who has 33 years of Preaching & Healing Ministry experience, was invited for the same. He gave us a talk on the theme 'JESUS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON'. Unfortunately, for most of us, preparation for the Birthday Celebration is more important than preparing our hearts for the Birthday Boy - our loving Saviour Jesus Christ, as was seen in the very poor attendance. It was even more disheartening to see the packed Church get empty after the Mass. Someone remarked, "The fewer the merrier" but I would add the words of the hymn, 'We'll be blessed because we came'. And right enough the 40+ Parishioners who were present and the neighbouring Church members who made use of this opportunity were truly Blessed at this meaningful Advent Recollection!

Bro. Ralph beautifully explained the 'PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS'. We are all trapped and sinking in sin and just as we have Specialist Drs. for various ailments, Jesus is the \*ONLY 'SIN SPECIALIST'. He left his Heavenly Glory/Dignity and became Man and suffered everything that we are going through today. He BROKE the sting of sin. Jesus came to restore us. Advent is the time of Visitation. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. 1 John 3:8 says, for THIS PURPOSE Christ was born - To destroy the works of the devil.

When Jesus visits us, He can enter our Hearts only through ONE DOOR - The Door of Repentance. Revelation 3:20 says, Jesus comes and knocks at our door. Are we ready to open the door of our hearts at the sound of His knock, to listen to the Good Shepherd's Voice? Repentance, coming from the Greek word 'Metanoia' means a change of direction; a reversal of our lifestyle.

Not justifying ourselves but making a firm decision to change. God wants a true change of heart and not a cosmetic change or patchwork. God wants a radical, genuine change from the root of our hearts.

Repentance has 3 parts:

- 1) Conviction
- 2) Conversion
- 3) Consecration.

So let's put into practice these 3 C's and open the door of our hearts to Jesus this Christmas. Let not our pride, our self-righteousness, wanting to have our way (My will not God's Will), or any other sin prevent Jesus from entering our hearts this Christmas. Psalm 51 says a humble contrite heart God will not spurn. May we receive the grace to humble ourselves. Unforgiveness is the biggest sin that takes us to hell because Forgiveness is what takes us to Heaven. It is the Beauty within us that makes it possible for us to recognize the beauty around us. The question is not WHAT you Look at but WHAT you See. So let us love one another by practically reaching out to those in need. Let us not simply wear out our knees in the Confessional but be truly sorry for our sins and make the decision to change ourselves and have a truly MERRY CHRISTMAS with Jesus, the Reason for this beautiful season in our heart.

Music acts like a Magic Key to which the most tightly closed hearts open. The session was ably supported by our wonderful Choir with a meaningful Praise & Worship time at the start, helping us to join in the worship. Fr. Prem Arokia concluded with a short exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Jesus directly asking us, "May I come into your heart?" We are indeed grateful to Bro. Ralph for all his above insights and for preparing us to receive Jesus our Lord and Saviour on His Birthday and to all involved in making this Advent Recollection possible.



# FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

## BAPTISM - BORN IN CHRIST

Sr	Date	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Address
1	01.10.2023	Ethan	Jolen Godinho	Vinita Godinho	E-1 37,A-9, Ekta ,Sec.10, Nerul (W)
2	07.10.2023	*Sudha Robinson Fernando	Ramakrishna Nadar	Premavathi Nadar	703, Avighna, Plot-157, Sec.17 ULWE
3	22.10.2023	Noah Bennett	Napoleon Edward	Tincy George	804, Tricity, Sec.38, Nerul(W),
4	25.11.2023	Denzel	Denis Correia	Delphina Correia	201, White Jasmine, Plot C-32, Sec.8, ULWE.

## MARRIAGE - UNITED IN CHRIST

Sr	Date	Bridegroom Name	Brides Name
1	26.10.2023	Ivan Pereira	Nikhat Khan
2	04.11.2023	Gary Louis Sequeira	Valentina Saldanha
3	19.11.2023	Saurav Mohanty	Juanita Shifali D'Souza
4	27.11.2023	Stephen Fernandes	Neha Sonawane
5	03.12.2023	Edwin David	Sharel Janice
6	10.12.2023	Clayton Johnson Pereira	Laveena Nambiar
7	10.12.2023	Arnold Andre Lewis	Shubhangi Shekhar
8	14.12.2023	Joakin Aruputharaj	Priya Hari Pillai

## BURIAL - RESTING IN CHRIST

Sr	Name	Date of Expiry/Burial	Age
1	Artimizia Lobo	09.09.2023	101 years
2	Peter Moraes	21.09.2023	86 years
3	Alice Pinto	02.10.2023	91 years
4	Lancy Paul Mendonca	06.10.2023	74 years
5	Philomena Burkman	01.11.2023	84 years
6	Mark Justin	21.11.2023	84 years
7	Suman Koyande	04.12.2023	58 years
8	Baptist Lazarus Crasto	06.12.2023	72 years

## Immaculate Conception Community



If the house isn't clean,  
it's still Christmas.

If desserts aren't made,  
it's still Christmas.

If there are no decorations,  
it's still Christmas.

If the gifts aren't purchased,  
it's still Christmas.

But if it's not about Christ,  
it's not Christmas.

JOEL SHUEMAKE

8779253305



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# MISSION SUNDAY

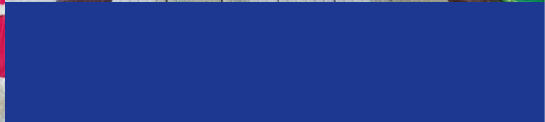


ROSARY

# St Joseph Community Activities



WREATH PRAYER



CAROL SINGING

# Navi Mumbai Deanery Rally

