LOUISIAN SAMACHAR

Bulletin of St. Louis Church, Dahisar (West), Mumbai - 400 068.

VISION : "Breaking the word of God in our families and sharing the bread with the needy"
"करूनी घेऊ कुटुंबी स्पष्टीकरण देवशब्दाचे वाटुनी घेऊ भाकरी गरजवंतांशी"

Easter: Celebration Of Life In A New Way

The temporary darkness that envelops the congregation gathered to celebrate the Easter Vigil is dispelled by the power of **ONE** candle. This is no ordinary candle. The Pascal candle lit from the Easter fire has the ability to illuminate the entire church and banish the darkness of our sins already redeemed by our Lord's supreme sacrifice. The flame from this one candle is shared and diffused throughout the faithful until hundreds of reflections of that light bathe the entire church in a warm glow. All this is a manifestation of the power of the resurrected Christ to cast out the darkness of our lives.

It is part of human weakness to despair and lose our way in the dark. On a personal level, a catastrophe can knock us off our feet like serious illness, accident or a bereavement. At the family level, we can engage in destructive behaviour because of feelings of ill-will and ego. At the community level, we can make impulsive decisions that endanger our long-term well-being in society.

A small boy who was consistently late coming home from school. His parents warned him one day that he must be home on time, but nevertheless he arrived later than ever. His mother met him at the door and said nothing.

At dinner that night, the boy looked at his plate. There was a slice of bread and a glass of water. He looked at his father's full plate and then at his father, but his father remained silent. The boy was crushed.

The father waited for the full impact to sink in, then quietly took the boy's plate and placed it in front of himself. He took his own plate of meat and potatoes, put it in front of the boy, and smiled at his son. When that boy grew to be a man, he said, "All my life I've known what God is like by what my father did that night."

इस्टर नवजीवनाचा सोहळा

पास्काच्या एका मेणबत्तीने पास्काचा विधी साजरा करण्यास जमलेल्या लोकांच्या जीवनातील तात्पुरता अंध:कार नाहीसा होतो. ही सर्व साधारण मेणबत्ती नाही. इस्टरच्या अग्नितून पेटविलेली एक मेणबत्ती संपूर्ण चर्च प्रज्वलित करू शकते आणि ख्रिस्ताच्या त्यागामुळे पापाच्या अंध:कारातून आपल्याला मुक्त करू शकते. ह्या एका मेणबत्तीने प्रज्वलीत केलेल्या अनेक मेणबत्त्या संपूर्ण चर्च प्रकाशमय करतात. ही मेणबत्ती आपल्या जीवनातील पापांचा अंध:कार नाहीसा करण्यासाठी पुनरूत्थित ख्रिस्ताने प्रकट केलेली शक्ती आहे.

पापात पडणे व पापात वाट चुकणे हा मानवी कमकुवतपणाचा भाग आहे. वैयक्तिकरित्या एखादा आजार दुर्घटना किंवा व्यसन आपल्या जीवनाची मोठी उलथापालथ करू शकते. कौटुंबिक पातळीवर आपल्या अहंकारामुळे आपण आक्रमक होऊ शकतो. सामाज़िक पातळीवर आपले चुकीचे निर्णय समाजासाठी धोकादायक करू शकतात.

एक लहान मुलगा नेहमी नियमितपणे शाळेतून उशिरा घरी येत असे. त्याच्या पालकांनी त्याला एकदा घरी वेळेवर येण्याची ताकीद दिली. तरीसुद्धा तो नेहमीप्रमाणे उशिरा येऊ लागला. त्याची आई त्याला दरवाजाजवळ भेटली;परंतु एक शब्दही बोलली नाही, रात्रीच्या जेवण्याच्या वेळी मुलाने त्याचा प्लेटकडे पाहिले तर त्यात फक्त एक पावाचा तुकडा व एक ग्लास पाणी होते. त्याने त्याच्या वडिलांची अन्नाने भरलेली प्लेट पाहिली त्यानंतर आपल्या वडिलांकडे पाहिले व तो थक्क झाला. त्याच्या वडिलांनी मुलाच्या प्रतिक्रियेची वाट पाहिली व हळूच आपली प्लेट मुलासमोर ठेऊन त्याची प्लेट आपल्याकडे घेतली आणि आपल्या मुलाला स्मित हास्य दिले. जेव्हा तो मुलगा मोठा झाला तेव्हा तो म्हणाला त्या रात्री माझ्या वडिलांच्या त्या एका कृतीमुळे देव कोण आहे ह्याची मला जाणीव, प्रचीती आली.

मार्ग चुकल्यावर आपण मदतीसाठी कोणाकडे धाव घेतो? अनेक

Where do we find the guidance to help us get back on track when darkness takes over? For many people struggling with darkness in their lives, associations such as SCC, Prayer Groups, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Legion of Mary, Youth Group, Ladies of Sodality and such other selfless associations of our parish animated by their faith could be the light that acts as a beacon of hope. Like the power of one candle, may these associations shine and dispel the darkness in another's life and be the light at the end of the tunnel. And, taken together, all of those candles have the power to bathe our communities in the warm glow of compassion that leads to opportunity for every fellow human being. A helping hand, a kind word, a necessary resource shared can be the spark that provides light where before there was none.

This Easter celebration of new life, of light overcoming darkness gives us the hope and faith that will show us the way throughout this coming year. Let us reflect the light of the Easter candle to all those we meet, especially to those of our brethren who are looking for a way out of darkness in their lives. Dear parishioners, let us celebrate life in a new way by being a spark that provides light for others by being a part of numerous cells and associations flourishing in our parish. May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you and family always. Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

Fr. Martin, C.S.C

लोक आपल्या जीवनातील अंध:कार नाहीसा करण्यासाठी मदत करतात जसे - एस सी सी, प्रार्थना संघ, सेंट विन्सेट दी पॉल, लिजन ऑफ मेरी, युवक संघटना, लेडीज सोडालिटी व आपल्या धर्मग्रामात कार्यरत असलेल्या अनेक संस्थांची मदत घेऊन आपल्या जीवनातील अनेक संकटांच्या अंध:कारातून बाहेर पडण्याची प्रेरणा घेतात. एका मेणबत्तीच्या प्रकाशाने ह्या सर्व संघटांनी दुसऱ्याच्या जीवनातील अंध:कार नाहीसा करून त्यांच्या जीवनात प्रकाशाची ज्योत प्रज्वलीत करावी. ह्या सर्व संघटांनी अनेक मेणबत्त्यांप्रमाणे एकत्र येऊन समाजातील अडीअडचणींचा, संकटांचा व दु:खाचा अंध:कार नाहीसा करून एक दिलासा समाज निर्माण करण्यास हातभार लावून लोकांच्या जीवनात प्रकाशाची ज्योत पेटवावी.

इस्टरचा हा नवजीवनाचा व प्रकाशाचा सोहळा येणाऱ्या वर्षात आपल्या जीवनातील अंधार नाहीसा करो अशी आशा व श्रद्धा बाळगू या. अंध:कारात चाचपडत आहेत त्या आपल्या बांधवांना आपण इस्टरचा प्रकाश देऊ जेणे करून ते अंधारातून बाहेर पडू शकतील.

प्रिय मित्रांनो, आपल्या धर्मग्रामात सक्रिय असलेल्या संघटंनामध्ये सहभागी होऊन दुसऱ्यांच्या जीवनातील अंध:कार नाहीसा करण्यास हातभार लावू या. पुनरूत्थीत ख्रिस्ताची शांती, तुम्हा बरोबर व तुमच्या कुटुंबीयांबरोबर सदैव असो. हीच त्या प्रभूचरणी माझी कळकळीची प्रार्थना.

आपणा सर्वांना इस्टरच्या हार्दिक शुभेच्छा.

फ. मार्टिन, सि.एस. सि.

Easter - resurrection of Jesus

Sportspersons warm up before a match to prepare themselves to face its challenges. So too, we need warming during these 40 days of Lent to prepare ourselves spiritually for Easter. During this period we engage in three spiritual excercises; prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Five Sundays of Lent help us in soul. Scarching and taking stock. The liturgy and the word of God on these five Sundays reveal the true spirit of the Lenten Season to faithful seekers.

On Good Friday, the disciples were deeply and bitterly disappointed when Christ was crucified. They had hoped that Jesus was the one to set them free. Today, our governance is in shambles. She state of security is in tatters. Health and poverty alleviation schemes are in bad shape. Violence against women, rapes, scams, vandalism, targeted attack on our Churches in Delhi and other parts of India. Religious right wing accussing Christians of forced conversions, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat ascribed motive to Mother Teresas' work, saying that her agenda was conversion.

All our dreams are in pieces. Darkness looms over the nation especially the Christians with no ray of hope in sight. Christ demonstrated by this life on earth that the 'death resurrection journey' is the only way of living the sacrificial love of God that is essential to the Easter Story of Christ's New and Eternal life. He is alive not just after death, but here and now, Christ is everywhere. The disciples found him in the breaking of the bread. He appeared to them and said, " Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in thier midst and also said that I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

With the risen Lord, we confront sickness, despair and come through that valley of darkness. We follow Christ himself in this pilgrimage from death to life, confident that god opens the way before us. Dying and rising are an integral part of undying love of Christ that we are committed to in order to stand on the side of justice, mercy and peace. The season of lent is time for us to open our hearts and allow Lord to transform our life.

Love is the eye, which enables us see and understand the resurrection. That is why, after the resurrection some saw Jesus but others did not, some understood the resurrection while others did not. Those with the eyes of faith saw and understood. Those without the eyes of love either didn't see anything or were perplexed or upset by what they did see.

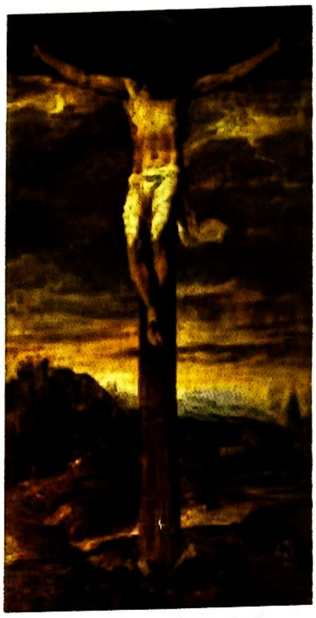
Christ is risen, though we might not see Him! Whether we see or not and what precisely we do see depends mainly in what's going on inside our own hearts. For Jesus' broken body will sanctify and blood will wash us clean of all our sinfulness on Good friday. This in turn will illumine and transform our old selves into new selves. Lent leads us to fulfillment and culmination in the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day.

Happy Easter!

Diago Tuscano

"बापा त्यांना क्षमा कर"

प्रजाकसत्ताकदिनाचे प्रमुख पाहुणे मनसोक्त उपभोगून झाल्यानंतर (अमेरिकेचे अध्यक्ष बराक ओबामा) यांनी जगातील 'धार्मिक असहिष्णतेवर' जी टीका केली होती, तिचा संदर्भ साहजिकच भारताशी जोडला गेला. भारतातील सध्याचे एकूण वातावरण लक्षात घेता असे होणे स्वाभाविकही होते.



समाजात ज्या कोणाविषयी कोणत्या ना कोणत्या तऱ्हेच्या संशयाचे बीज पेरत राहणे हा काही व्यक्तींच्या व संघटनांच्या कार्यक्रम पत्रिकेचाच एक भाग आहे. त्यातून गांधी, टिळक, नौरोजी आणि मौलाना सुद्धा सुटले नाहीत. त्याही पलीकडे ज्यांच्या विषयी असा संशय पेरायचा ती माणसे परधर्मांची असली की हे बीजारोपण आणखी सोपे होते. ख्रिश्चन मिशनऱ्यांचे व त्यांचे संत यांच्याविषयी विटंबना करणे सहज जमणारे आहे आणि संघाच्या कार्यक्रम पत्रिकेचा तो एक मुख्य भाग आहे. इंदिरा गांधीचा खून करणाऱ्या गुन्हेगारांचा गौरव अमृतसरच्या सुवर्ण मंदिरात पार पडला. तसेच गांधीजींचा खून करणाऱ्या गोडसेविषयी गुणगान केले. काही वर्षापूर्वी ओडिशाच्या अरण्य प्रदेशातील कुष्ठरूग्णांची सेवा करणाऱ्या ग्रॅहम स्टेनला त्याच्या दोन मुलांसह मोटारीत कोंडून जिवंत जाळणाऱ्याचा 'धर्मवीर' म्हणून 'गौरव' केला. काही दिवसापूर्वी कॉन्व्हेंट च्या ७१ वर्षाच्या नन वर 'गँगरेप' करण्यात आला त्यांचा ही ते गौरव करण्यात कदाचीत मागे पुढे करणार नाहीत यात काय शंका?

कलकत्त्याच्या झोपडपट्यांमधल्या गरिबांची सेवा करण्यासाठी मदर तेरेसा यांना 'मिशनरी ऑफ चॅरिटी' ही संस्था स्थापन केली. त्यांनी कामाचा आवाका, व्याप वाढत आंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तरावरही संस्था नेली. सुरवातीच्या अवघड परिस्थितीतून वाट काढत, अनेक बहुमान मिळवत मदर तेरेसा यांनी आपल्या सेवा व्रताची वीण घट्ट केली. १९६२ साली भारत सरकारने त्यांना 'पद्मश्री' बहाल केली. त्याच वर्षी त्यांना 'मॅगसेसे' हा पुरस्कारही मिळाला. १९७९ मध्ये शांततेचा नोबेल पुरस्कार मिळाला आणि १९८० साली मदर तेरेसांना भारतांचे सर्वोच्च बहुमान 'भारतरत्न' मिळाला. ५ सप्टेंबर १९९७ रोजी ह्यदयविकाराच्या झटक्याने वयाच्या ८७ वर्षी त्यांचे देहावसन झाले. एक समर्पित आयुष्य अनंतात विलीन झाले. अनेक कुष्ठरोगी, एड्सग्रस्त, दीनदुबळे अशा लोकांच्या सर्वार्थाने माय ठरलेल्या मदर तेरेसाचा हा जीवनप्रवास नक्कीच स्तिमित करतो.त्यांनी देवाच्या आज्ञेसाठी आपला देश आपली माणसे, आपली भाषा, आपल्या आवडी-निवडी, आपला पोशाख, आपली माणसे, आपले व्यक्तिमत्त्व यांचा त्याग करून परकी बोली, व परकी माणसे त्यांच्या पोशाखासकट आपलीशी केली.

व्हॅटिकनच्या धर्मपीठाने जिला संतत्त्व प्रदान केले आणि देशाने जिचा 'भारतरत्न' या सर्वोच्च नागरी सन्मानाने गौरव केला त्या सेवामूर्ती मदर तेरेसावर छुप्या पध्दतीने धर्मांतर घडवून आणल्याचा राष्ट्रीय संगम संघ्याच्या श्री. मोहन भागवतांनी केलेला आरोप म्हणजे भारतरत्न सन्मानाचा घोर अपमान होय. भारत हे हिंदू राष्ट्र आहे हे व त्यांचे विधान मान्य नसणारे इतर धर्मीय सारेच त्यांच्यामते धर्मद्रोही व देशद्रोही आहेत. भागवत व संघ या दोघांचीही मानसिकता त्या प्रकारची आहे. मात्र सेवाधर्माचे अनुकरण करणे, त्यासाठी अरण्यप्रदेशात राहून, जेथे कुणी जाणार नाही अशाही ठिकाणी पोहचून आदिवासींची व वंचितांची खरी मनापासून सेवा करणे त्यांना मात्र काहीजमले नाही म्हणून त्यांच्या मनात या सेवाधर्मी माणसांविषयी नेहमीच एक विषाक्त असूया राहिली आहे.

मदर तेरेसांविषयी कोलकत्ता शहरात व बंगाल मध्येच नव्हे तर साऱ्यादेशात श्रद्धेची व प्रेमाची भावन आहे. त्यांच्या निर्वल सेवाकार्याचा गौरव सर्वत्र आदरभावाने केला जातो.श्री. भागवतांनी मात्र मदरचा हा सेवाभाव खरा नसून तो त्यांच्या धर्मप्रसाराच्या कार्याचा भाग होता असे मदरच्या मृत्यूनंतर १७ वर्षांनी सांगून त्याच्याविषयी अनादर भावना उत्पन्न करणाचा अनर्थ प्रयत्न केला आहे. मदर तेरेसा यांच्या कामाविषयी जाण असणाऱ्यांनी श्री. भागवतांचा तत्काळजगभरातून निषेधही केला. त्यांच्या सेवाभावाने भारावून जाऊन एखाद्याने बर त्यांचा धर्म स्वीकारला असेल तर त्याला त्यांनी विरोध केला नाही. पण धर्म प्रचाराची सक्ती करण्याची किंवा जाणीवपूर्वक कोणाचे धर्मांतर घडवून आणण्याचे धार्मिक पापही त्यांच्या हातून कधी घडले नाही.हेही एक सत्यच आहे.कारण त्यांचे कार्य लोकांच्या साक्षीने व जनतेच्या डोळ्यांसमोर झाले.

२०१४ च्या निवडणुकीत भाजपाला सत्ता मिळाल्यापासून दिल्लीतील ख्रिश्चनांच्या श्रद्धास्थानावरचे हल्ले वाढले. श्री. भागवतांच्या तेरेसावरील टीकेनंतर कर्नाटकातील मंगलोर परिसरातल्या चर्चेसवर हल्ले झाले. या आधी एकट्या ओडिसामध्ये १२०० पुजास्थाने जाळून भस्मसात करण्याचा लोण झाला. हे डांग परिसरात झाले, कर्नाटकात झाले आणि गुजरातेत त्याचा कहर झाला. अशामुळे सामाजिक एकोप्याला तडे जाऊन व त्यातूनच राष्ट्रीय एकात्मतेची भावना दुबळी होते.

वस्तुत: भारताच्या १२५ कोटी लोकसंख्येत एक-दोन टक्काही ख्रिश्चन नाहीत. त्यामुळं ते धर्मांतराची मोहीम राबवतील आणि सर्व भारत ख्रिश्चन बनवतील या प्रचाराला वस्तुस्थितीचा सुतकाम आधार नाही, तसं काही दर्शवत नाही. तरीही हा भयगंड पसरवला जातो. तेव्हा तो केवळ कडवी धर्मवादी मनोभूमिका आकाराला आणण्याचा आणि भारतातील बहुसांस्कृतिकता वहिंदूधर्मातील सर्वसमावेशकता कायमची संपवून टाकण्याच्या दूरगामी उद्दिष्टाचा एक भाग असतो.हे लक्षात ठेवायला हवं.

माझ्या अख्रिस्ती बंधू भगिनींनो, तुम्ही ख्रिश्चन शाळेत, कॉलेजमध्ये शिक्षण घेतलं. काय आहे तुमचा अनुभव? धर्मांतराची सक्ती तुम्ही कधी अनुभवली आहे का? नसेल तर का नाही तुम्ही आवाज उठवता आणि जबाब देता त्या श्री. भागवंताला? हिंम्मत दाखवा व ख्रिश्चन शाळा - कॉलेजात शिक्षण घेतलेल्या कृतज्ञतेने सामोरे जा त्या श्री. भागवंताकडे. हीच माझी कळकळीची विनंती सर्व भारतीय अख्रिस्ती बंधू भगिनींना ज्यांनी ख्रिश्चन शाळा कॉलेजांचा,मध्ये सरस्वती देवीची आराधना करून सत्य भावनेशी स्वत:ला समरूप केले. उपयोग करून घेतला आहे त्यांना.

"ते" नरेंद्र दाभोलकर यांच्यासाठी आले,
त्यांचा खून केला तरीही आम्ही शांत राहिलो,
कारण आम्ही अनिस कार्यकर्ते नव्हतो.
काल ते कॉम्रेड पानसरे यांच्यासाठी आले,
त्यांचा खून केला,
तरीही आम्ही स्वस्थ राहिलो,
कारण आम्ही काही कम्युनिस्ट नव्हतो.
उद्या ते आमच्यासाठीही येतील,
हल्ला करतील,
मदतीसाठी आम्ही सभोवार पाहू,
सगळे शांत राहतील,
सगळे शांत राहतील, कारण ....?

मदर तेरेसांची प्रार्थना हीच असायची
जिथं तिरस्कार आहे, तिथे माझ्याहातून प्रेम पेरले जाऊ दे,
संशल असेल तिथे श्रध्दा, निराशा असेल तिथे आशा,
अंधार असेल तिथं प्रकाश आणि
दु:ख असेल तिथे आनंद पेरला जाऊ दे. आमेन!

डायगो तुस्कानो

(CLASS I TO CLASS IX)

FROM 20TH APRIL TO 15TH MAY, 2015

Forms will be available in the parish office from April 1st, 2015.

संत लुईस मंदिरातील उपवास काळातील घडामोडी- (कार्यक्रम)

उपवास काळ म्हणजे परमेश्वराच्या जवळ येण्याचा काळ. उपवास, दानधर्म व प्रार्थना करण्याचा काळ. आंतरिक शुद्धीकरणाचा काळ होय.

आपण परमेश्वराच्या अधिकाधिक जवळ कसे जाऊ शकतो? त्याचा अनुभव आपण कसा घेऊ शकतो ? तर तो केवळ दररोजच्या मिस्सेद्वारे व प्रभूशब्दाद्वारेच हे घडू शकते.

ह्या वर्षी आपल्या धर्मग्रामात प्रमुख धर्मगुरू फादर रॉनी ह्यांच्या मार्गदर्शनाने व संत लुईस परिवारातील काही सभासदानद्वारे बरेच असे आध्यात्मिक कार्यक्रम पार पाडण्यात आले. उदा:- आठवड्याच्या गुरूवारी-कोकणी, शुक्रवारी-मराठी, शनिवारी-इंग्रजीमध्ये क्रुसाच्या वाटेची भक्ती प्रत्येक झोन मधून दोन व्यक्तीच्या सहकार्याने पार पाडण्यात आली. क्रुसाच्या वाटेच्या भक्तीनंतर लगेच पवित्र मिस्सा. ह्या मिस्सेसाठी बाहेरून फादर येऊन अतिशय सुंदर सोप्या भाषेत उपवास काळाचा अर्थ समजावून दिला.

तसेच प्रभूशब्द आपणापर्यंत व्यवस्थित पोहचावा म्हणून संत लुईसच्या काही सभासदांनी फादर रेमण्ड ऊमाव ह्यांच्या समवेत दीड तासांचे मार्गदर्शनपर प्रबोधन ठेवले होते. वाचन करताना कसे करायचे. माईकचा वापर कसा करावा इत्यादी गोष्टी वाचकांना समजावून सांगण्यात आल्या. ह्या मार्गदर्शनासाठी ७० ते ७५ लोकांनी भाग घेतला होता.

दरवर्षी प्रमाणे ह्यावर्षी देखील संतलुईस सोड्यालिटी संघटना सि. लीना ह्यांच्या समवेत उत्तन- वेलकनी भाटेबंदर येथे क्रुसाच्या वाटेची भक्ती करण्यास नेण्यात आले. तेथल्या वातावरणात कालवारिटेकडीची आठवण येऊन क्रुसाची वाट अगदी भक्तीमय पार पाडली. ह्या भक्तीसाठी ४० ते ४५ स्त्रिया हजर होत्या.

मराठी गायन विकास संघटना - गायन स्पर्धा ह्यावर्षी उत्तन भाटेबंदर येथे आयोजित केली होती. दरवर्षी प्रमाणे ह्यावर्षी देखील आपल्या गायन मंडळाने सहभाग घेतला होता. गेल्या वीस वर्षात अनेक वेळा बक्षिसे मिळविली होती. ह्यावर्षी देखील बक्षिस मिळाले. त्याबद्दल संत लुईस गायनमंडळाचे हार्दिक अभिनंदन.

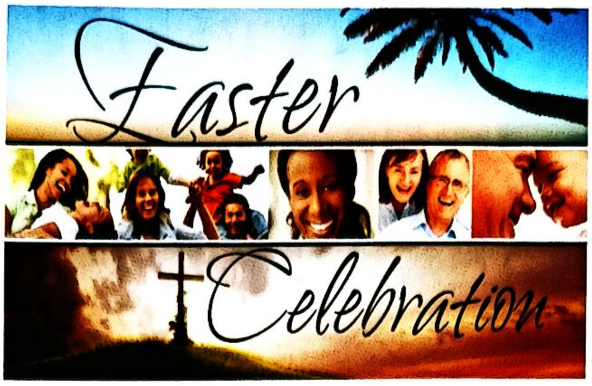
तसेच संत लुईस इंग्रजी प्रार्थनासंघ ह्यांनी ७ आणि ८ मार्च ह्या समयी मि. मारियो व फादर ऑल्वीन मिस्क्टा यांच्या समवेत रिट्रीट आयोजीत केली होती. व मराठी प्रार्थना संघाच्या सदस्यांनी २२ मार्च रोजी फादर ॲण्ड्रू जाधव व फादर ऑल्वीन मिस्क्टा ह्यांच्या समवेत संपूर्ण दिवसाचे शिबिर अगदी भक्तीमय रित्या पार पाडण्यात आले. ह्या शिबिराने खूप लोकांना आध्यात्मिक भोजन व शांती प्राप्त झाली. ह्या उत्तम शिबिराबद्दल इंग्रजी व मराठी प्रार्थना संघाचे आभार.

आपण संत लुईस धर्मग्रामातील लोक खूप भाग्यवान आहोत. संपूर्ण वर्षभरात आपल्या चर्चमध्ये काही-ना काही आध्यात्मिक कार्यक्रम चालू असतात. ह्यासाठी आपले प्रमुख धर्मगुरू फा. रॉनल्ड फर्नांडिस व सर्व सहकारी धर्मगुरू ह्यांचे मनापासून आभार.

संत लुईसचा आशिर्वाद. पवित्र मरियेची मध्यस्थि व प्रभू येशूची कृपा आपल्यावर व आपल्या कुटुंबावर नेहमीच राहावी हीच प्रार्थना.

सभासद - लीना वैती.

EASTER: CELEBRATION OF LIFE IN A NEW WAY



The temporary darkness that envelops the congregation gathered to celebrate the Easter Vigil is dispelled by the power of **ONE** candle.This is no ordinarycandle. The Pascal candle lit from the Easter fire has the ability to illuminate the entire church and banish the darkness of our sins already redeemed by our Lord's supreme sacrifice. The flame from this one candle is shared and diffused throughout the faithful until hundreds of reflections of that light bathe the entire church in a warm glow. All this is a manifestation of the power of the resurrected Christ to cast out the darkness of our lives.

It is part of human weakness to despair and lose our way in the dark. On a personal level, a catastrophe can knock us off our feet like serious illness, accident or a bereavement. At the family level, we can engage in destructive behaviour because of feelings of ill-will andego. At the community level, we can make impulsive decisions that endanger our long-term well-being in society.

A young wife had become gravely ill, then suddenly passed away, leaving the big man alone with a wide-eyed, flaxen-haired girl, not quite five years old. After the burial at the small cemetery, the big man and his little girl returned to what now seemed an empty, lifeless house. The man brought his daughter's little bed into his room so they could face the emptiness of first dark night together. As the minutes slipped by that night, the young girl was having a dreadful time trying to sleep...and so was her father. What could pierce a man's heart deeper than a child sobbing for a mother who would never come back? After a while, the little girl managed to stop crying—but only out of sorrow for her father. Thinking his daughter was asleep, the father looked up and said brokenly, "I trust You, Father, but...it's dark as midnight" Hearing her dad's prayer, the little girl began to cry again. "I thought you were asleep, baby," he said. "Papa, I can't even see you, it's so dark." Then, through her tears, the little girl whispered, "But you love me, even if it's dark—don't you, Papa? Enlightened by the words of the girl, the man prayed "Father, it's dark as midnight. I can't see You at all, but You love me, even when it's dark and I can't see, don't You?" From the blackest of hours, the Lord touched him with new strength, enabling him to carry on.

Where do we find the guidance to help us get back on track when darkness takes over? For many people struggling with darkness in their lives, associations such as SCC, Prayer Groups, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Legion of Mary, Youth Group, Ladies of Sodality and such other selfless associations of our parish animated by their faith could be the light that acts as a beacon of hope. Like the power of one candle, may these associations shine and dispel the darkness in another's life and be the light at the end of the tunnel. And, taken together, all of those candles have the power to bathe our communities in the warm glow of compassion that leads to opportunity for every fellow human being. A helping hand, a kind word, a necessary resource shared can be the spark that provides light where before there was none.

This Easter celebration of new life, of light overcoming darkness gives us the hope and faith that will show us the way throughout this coming year. Let us reflect the light of the Easter candle to all those we meet, especially to those of our brethren who are looking for a way out of darkness in their lives. Dear parishioners, let us celebrate life in a new way by being a spark that provides light for others by being a part of numerous cells and associations flourishing in our parish. May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you and family always. Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

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Catechism Annual Day

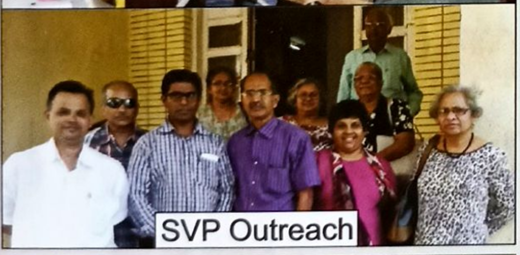
Crib Competition

Boys from St. Francis Orpanage

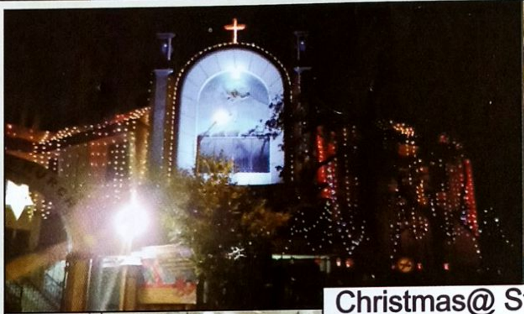
Confirmation

First Holy Communion

SVP Chirstmas Gathering

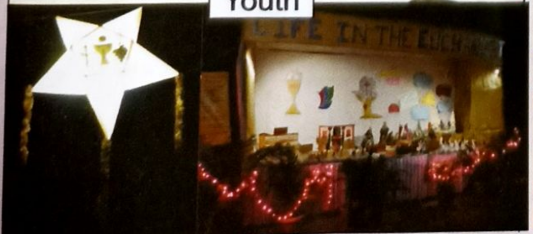


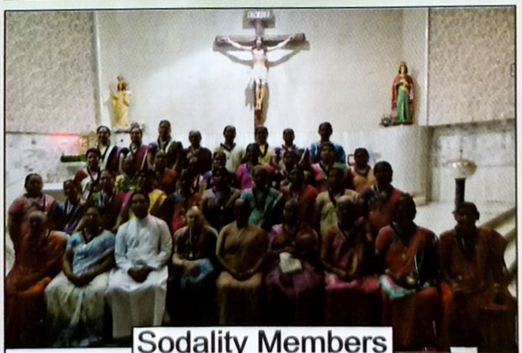
SVP Outreach



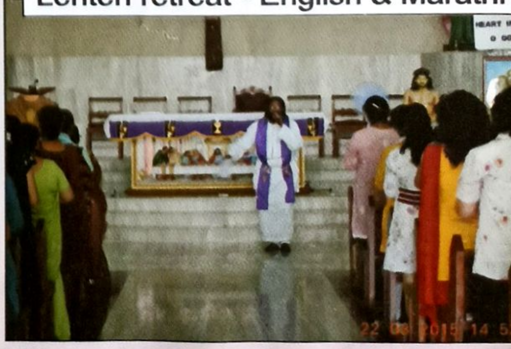
Christmas@ St. Louis Church

Youth

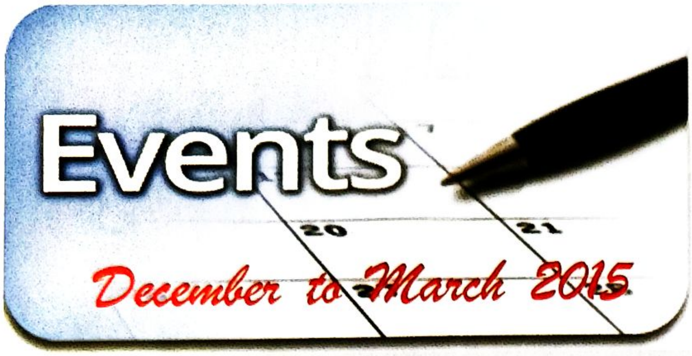




Sodality Members



Lenten retreat - English & Marathi



December 2014

Sodality Picnic: The sodality members along with Fr. Ronnie and Fr. Terrance went for a trip to Goa and Mangalore from 8th to the 13th.

SVP Christmas get-together: On 21st December, the SVP members organised a get-together for their adopted families after the 9.15am mass. They were entertained with games, followed by lunch. A Christmas gift of Rs.1, 000/- was given to 40 families.

Crib competition: All the sectors of the parish participated in the crib competition whereby St. Francis community (Dahisar East) bagged the first prize and Holy Family community (Kanderpada) got the second prize and Mother Teresa Novagaon received the third Prize.

Sunday school Christmas party: It was held on December 28. The children sang the Christmas carols melodiously. The children enjoyed the biblical housie and found it very interesting. The party ended with snacks.

January

Feast of St. Andre Bessette: From 8th to the 10th |Novena masses in preparation for the feast of were at 6.30 p.m. in Konkani, Marathi and English. The feast was celebrated on 11th of January.

Mass and Holy hour for students of Std. X and XII: On the 18th at the 9.15 a.m. mass, the students took part in the liturgy prepared for them by the catechists followed by holy hour for the success of the students.

Republic day: Parishioners participated in the flag hoisting along with the students of the school after the 7 a.m. mass.

February

First Holy Communion: On 1st around 27 children received the sacrament. The liturgy was well prepared by the catechists and each child participated in the liturgy and the action song.

Faith formation: Students of Std VII and VIII had faith formation on the 8th at St.Anne's School, Borivli. Various projects were taken up by different parishes. Our parish presented the project on "Bonded labour". Thanks to the catechists for their support and guidance.

Session for lay heads and asst. heads of associations and cells: The III Extraordinary General Synodal Assembly, which will take place in Rome in October 2015, came out with the Lineamenta on the family. This questionnaire was filled by all the heads and asst heads of associations and cells on the 22nd. Three groups were formed; each group was animated by the OLCM members Mrs. Christine Thomas, Mr. Thomas Theknath and Mrs.Jacinta Vales.

March

Recollection: On the 1st a recollection service was organisedd by the SVP members for the adopted families.

Sunday school annual day: The Sunday school children put up a cultural programme with skits and dances based on topics from their syllabus. Certificates were also given to them.

Retreat: On the 8th and 9th a retreat was organised by the English Charismatic Prayer group of our parish from 5.30 pm to 9.30 pm Fr. Allwyn Misquitta, SDB, conducted the way of the cross, rosary and celebrated the Eucharist. Br. Mario Joseph from Divine Retreat Centre, Potta, enlightened us on family values, citing on his own personal testimonies and stressed on giving God a prominent place in our lives by devoting more time in prayer. The healing service was also conducted by him. Mr. Harry Menezes made the retreat more meaningful with the power point presentation and singing. It concluded with an adoration service on both the days.

Human chain: A 15 minutes peaceful protest was held on the 14th from 6pm to 6.15pm to urge the government to stop hate campaigns against Christians and focus on the country's development and good governance. A human chain called "We are one" was formed by parishioners of all parishes in the Bombay Archdiocese. Parishioners were seen with placards and banners with statements saying stop atrocities against Christians.

Confirmation: 42 students received the sacrament of confirmation by Bishop John Rodrigues on the 15th at the 8.30 am mass. The liturgy was well prepared and organised systematically by the catechists.

Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers: A recollection service was organised by the archdiocese for the Borivli and Bhayander deaneries at St. Pius seminary on the 15th. Seven of us attended the session. Fr. Gavin, a professor from the seminary, spoke on the role of Eucharistic Ministers in the church. He said that the purpose of the Eucharistic Minister was not merely to administer Holy Communion in the church and to take it to the sick and homebound, but also to carry the passion and love of Jesus to them by showing our love and concern towards them. The recollection concluded with an adoration service, followed by the answering of queries by Fr. Barthol Barreto from I.C. Church.

— Compiled by Cheryl Rego

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

29th MARCH: PALM SUNDAY

8.00 A.M – MARATHI
9.00 AM – BLESSING OF PALMS (STILT AREA)
9.15 AM – PANKI MASS CENTRE
9.15 AM – ENGLISH
6.00 AM – BI–LINGUAL MASS FOLLOWED BY ENACTMENT OF VERONICA AND PREACHING

CONFESSIONS : 30th & 31st (From 5 pm to 8 pm)

THE EASTER TRIDUM

02nd APRIL – MAUNDY THURSDAY
04.00 PM – CONFESSIONS AND MASS FOR SICK AND THE HOME BOUND.
07.00 PM – LORD'S SUPPER FOLLOWED BY ADORATION

03rd APRIL – GOOD FRIDAY
WAY OF THE CROSS
07.00 AM – KONKANI
08.00 AM – MARATHI
09.15 AM – ENGLISH
6.00 PM – GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

04th APRIL – HOLY SATURDAY
08.00 AM - DEVOTION TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS
09.00 PM – EASTER VIGIL SERVICE

05TH APRIL – EASTER SUNDAY
08.00 AM – MARATHI
09.00 AM – PANKI CENTRE
09.15 AM – ENGLISH
NO EVENING MASS

EASTER BLESSING: (FROM 4.30 PM TO 9 PM)

Monday, 06th April – St. Francis Sector, Dahisar East
Tuesday, 07th April – St. Joseph Sector, Dahisar East
Wednesday, 08th April – St. Peter Sector, Dahisar East
Thursday, 09th April – Our Lady Of Lourdes Sector
Friday, 10th April – Infant Jesus Sector
Monday, 13th April – Christi Samaj Sector
Tuesday, 14th April – Velankani Mata Sector
Wednesday, 15th April – St. Louis Sector
Thursday, 16th April – Holy Family Sector
Friday, 17th April – Holy Trinity Sector
Monday, 20th April – Mother Teresa Sector
Tuesday, 21st April – Our Lady Of Perpetual Succor Sector
Wednesday, 22nd April – Our Lady Of Fatima Sector

- During the Summer Vacation, we will have one mass in the morning at 7.00 a.m. in English and in the evening at 6.15 p.m. in Marathi from 6th April to 12th June.
- In the month of May, there will not be English and Marathi prayer meetings.
- There will be no Konkani Mass in the Month of May. Konkani mass will resume on 14th of June.
- 1st May to 31st May, Rosary at the Grotto.

Dear Parishioners,
Wish You All A Happy Easter And A New Beginning.
Parish Clergy Team & Bro. Siju.

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Can There Be an Easter Without A Good Friday ?

I am not asking you to have negative thoughts on the caption, but would like you to ask the toquestion to yourself.

"Can there be an Easter without a Good Friday?"

When someone asks us as to name them the greatest feast of them all that the Christians celebrate. We are convinced to give them the vibrant reply as Easter. Everyone believes in this answer and the Church profoundly proclaims the same.

Yes Easter is the greatest feast of all. It is undoubtedly the greatest of all celebrations. It is perhaps more than a celebration. It is the announcement of resurrection to the whole universe and to the whole creation.

It is no doubt that **Easter** is the only fact that has saved mankind. It is the only phenomenon that has earned us salvation. It is the solemn truth about Christianity. It is the thing which gives life and soul to the greatest book of all times that is the **BIBLE.** If Christianity is real, if it is true, if its is meaningful it's only due to the fact of RESURRECTION and that is Easter. If there was no resurrection there would have been no Christianity.

It is good to be absolutely happy about Easter and celebrate it. When we religiously involve ourselves in this activity we are bound to get lots of graces from heaven. The feast of Easter itself will make us more holy and sanctified when we truly believe in its reality. But...but...but at the same time it is a time to sit down and ponder and contemplate about the price which was paid in order to earn this great feast called Easter.

Jesus Christ has done everything and enough for us and we do not have to do anything more. If we still say that Jesus has to do more for us then our faith is shaking. He has lived and died according to the will of his Father. He lived for us, He died for us, He suffered for us. He was crucified for us, and he bore all the pain for us only to purchase 'resurrection'. This is the ultimate truth about Christianity without which it would have been meaningless and the Bible would have been useless. Jesus literally purchased redemption and salvation for us through his life and death and he does not have to give us anything more. This mission is complete. Of course it was the will of His Father. It was not necessary for Him to obey Him. But he humbled Himself before his Father and before the whole heaven and earth only to allow the love and affection of his Father to flow to the whole of creation through him. But Jesus suffered like a man, was emotional like a man, bore insults like a man, wounded and hurt like a man and died a shameless death on the cross like any other punished person of his times.

It was through pain, passion and crucifixion that Jesus earned us Easter. It was through rejection, disrespect, loneliness that Jesus purchased for us redemptional. It was through Good Friday that Jesus gifted us Easter.

Easter is not possible without Good Friday

Life cannot be lived without problems.

A game cannot be enjoyed without a tough fight.

A war cannot be waged without courage.

A precious metal is put in the fire in order to make it shine, in order to make it more precious, in order to make it more valuable and beautiful.

A most difficult circumstances become the crucibles (melting pots) that forge our character and develop the internal powers, the freedom to handle difficult and different circumstances.

Jesus has redeemed us, has taught us redemption and made us his co-redeemers. Now it is our bounden responsibility to continue this redemption and redeem ourselves.

God wants us to redeem ourselves from the ordinary problems of life. He does not put us in too many big problems and challenges but gives us just enough so that we can bear them and solve them. He has a reason behind this. He wants us to do His will just like Jesus submitted to His will humbly. Though small problems, small crown of thorns, small mountain of cavalry and little Good Fridays he provides us, the Great Easter in our life and gives great meaning to our life.

Through the problems he disciplines us, builds our charecter, organizes us, repairs us, renews us, warns us about the future, gives a sense of fairness in our lives and through these clings to us only to provide all of us a wonderful Easter.

Do you know what it means when you plant a tree? That means you have absolute faith in tomorrow, that's what God has done in our lives by planting a tree of Easter in our lives. He has made all our tomorrows hopeful and by all the small little crosses and Good Fridays he has given us the Right soil and Nutrients for the plant of Easter to grow and reach its full potential.

By Mrs. Jacintha Diego Rodrigues.

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