



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"

"Alone we can achieve nothing, both in game and in life", are the words of Pope Francis. Looking back at our life and looking forward in hope towards a harmonious future, we are rather weary and are wavering. The words of Pope Francis are true in all walks of our lives. All the great achievers are part of and contributors to the building up of a strong team and a parish community. Ethnic violence and violations of human dignity, lack of peace and progress in communities and families are all due to some group of people or a few individuals imposing their goals on others, thinking in a selfish way, being detrimental to the common good. The spirit that was in Cain (Old Testament), spirit of jealousy and unhealthy competition continues to prevail upon such persons and communities.



Every celebration at the parish level is meant to bring one and all together, forgetting all differences, putting our hearts and minds together towards building up and strengthening our bond with the parish community. The following months are going to do the same to all of us. In August, we celebrate Independence day to show we are all one in our Indianness and celebrating the Parish feast, we all admit that we are all one in heart and mind, trying to walk in the footsteps of our Lord. Celebrating the Nativity of our Mother on the 8th of September, we say that we are all the children of one heavenly mother on earth. We observe the month of October as the month of Rosary, honouring our Mother Mary and in November, we will be concluding the liturgical year, honouring Jesus as the king of the universe. All these celebrations are meant for all of us, to come together with one heart and one mind, respecting each one's identity as well as upholding each one's human dignity. Let us all strive to work hard hand in hand, trying to build a united human community, setting an example to one and all, to be the living witnesses of walking in His footsteps.

Wishing one and all a grace filled parish Feast and the Feast of Nativity. May Patron St Louis and Mother Mary, continue to intercede for all of us. God bless one and all.

Fr. Ronnie, CSC

"एक टयाने कोणतीही गोष्ट साध्य होत नाही मग तो खेळ असो किंवा जीवनातील संघर्ष असो." हे शब्द पोप फ्रान्सिस यांचे आहेत. जीवनात मागे वळून पाहताना किंवा आशेने समृद्ध भविष्याकडे पाहताना आपले मन चलबिचल, अस्वस्थ आणि विचलीत असते. पोप फ्रान्सिस यांचे हे शब्द जीवनात पदोपदी सार्थ ठरतात. प्रत्येक

थोर यशस्वी व्यक्ती हे बळकट हिस्सा आहे. जातीय हिंसा आणि मानवी मूल्यांचे उल्थन ह्यामुळे शांती, सुख, समाधान आणि प्रगती यांची पायमल्ली होते. काही लोक आपले ध्येय दुसऱ्यावर लादण्याचा प्रयत्न करतात (स्वार्थ भावनेने) जुन्या करारातील केन यांच्यामध्ये मत्सरी अंतःकरण, भावना यांची पुनरावृत्ती होत असते आणि हीच भावना लोकांसाठी बाधक आहे.

पॅरिशमधील प्रत्येक उत्सव, समारंभ, सणसर्व धर्मग्रामस्थांना एकत्र आणण्याचाच ध्येय आहे आणि हेच येणा-या महिन्यामध्ये आपणाला याच गोष्टींची अनुभूती येईल. आपण सगळे एक दिल्याचे, एक मनाचे आहोत. ह्याच हेतूने आपण प्रभू येशूच्या दाखविलेल्या मार्गावर व पदचिन्हांवर चालण्याचा प्रयत्न करतो. १५ ऑगस्टला स्वातंत्र्यदिन साजरा करून आपले भारतीयत्व, एकी दाखवतो. ८ सप्टेंबरला स्वर्गीय माता मरीया हीचा जन्मदिन साजरा करतो. आपला असा विश्वास आहे की, आपण स्वर्गीय मातेची लेकरे आहोत. ऑक्टोबर महिना हा आपण रोजरीचा महिना म्हणून पाळतो. नोव्हेंबर महिन्यात येशूख्रीस्त हा जगाचा राजा आहे असा संदेश देऊन उपासना वर्षाची सांगता करतो. ह्या सगळ्या सोहळ्यांचा हेतू हाच आहे के आपण सर्वांनी एक दिलाने, एक मनाने एकत्र येऊन प्रत्येकाची एकरूपतेचा मान ठेवून एकत्रित व्हावे. हातात हात घेऊन, खांद्याला खांदा लावून एकत्रीपणे संपूर्ण पॅरिश संघटित व्हावे, असावे. अशाप्रकारे ख्रिस्ताच्या पावलावर पाऊल ठेऊन चालणारे आपण सर्व जीवंत साक्षीदार बनण्याचा प्रयत्न करूया.

आपणा सर्वांना पवित्र मरियेचा जन्मदिन आणी आपल्या चर्चचा सण, आपला आश्रयदाता संत लुईस आणि पवित्र मरीयेच्या मध्यस्थिने आनंदाचा, कृपेचा, प्रेमाचा, वात्सल्याचा जावो हीच प्रेमपूर्वक सदिच्छा.

फ. रोनी, सि.एस.सि.

ST. LOUIS NOVENA MASSES - Dahisar West
16th August to 24th August 2014

Date	Theme	Marathi	English
14th (Thur)	Mass & Flag Hosting मिस्सा आणि ध्वज वंदन	6.00 pm	Solemnity Mass 7.00 pm
15th (Fri)	Assumption of blessed Virgin Mary & Independance Day मरियेचे स्वर्ग नयन स्वातंत्र्य दिन	8.00 am	9.15 am
16 th (Sat.)	Baptism makes us Members of the church बाप्तीस्मा द्वारे ख्रिस्त सभेचे सभासद	6.15 pm	7.15 pm
17 th (Sun.)	Sharing His body broken for us; we become His Body ख्रिस्त शरीर संस्कार सहभोजन व त्या ख्रिस्ताचे अवयव	8.00 am	6.00 pm
18 th (Mon.)	Reconciliation...Call to Conversion समेट - परिवर्तनासाठी आमंत्रण	6.15 pm	7.15 pm
19 th (Tues.)	Christ - source of Grace in a Marriage Covenant प्रभु ख्रिस्ताची विवाह संस्कारात अमर्याद कृपा.	6.15 pm	7.15 pm
20 th (Wed.)	Eucharist - As Praise and Thanksgiving मिस्सा, बलीदान स्तुती व आभार	6.15 pm	7.15 pm
21 st (Thurs.)	Eucharist - As Sacrifice मिस्सा त्याग बलीदान (पवित्र मिस्सा)	6.15 pm	7.15 pm
22 nd (Fri.)	Eucharist - As Life ख्रिस्त शरीर संस्कार एक जिवन	6.15 pm	7.15 pm
23 rd (Satur.)	Eucharist - As Mission ख्रिस्त शरीर संस्कार ध्येय	6.15 pm	7.15 pm
24 th (Sun.)	Eucharist - Source of Building up Parish Community पवित्र मिस्सा - धर्म ग्रामाच्या बांधणीय साधन	8.00 am	9.30 am

Hearty Welcome

To St. Louis Parish Community

Dear



Fr. Martin



Br. Siju

We wish you a fruitful Ministry



**The Parish Fathers,
Sisters & Brother
wish each one of you a Very
Happy Feast**

चिंता पर्यावरणाची ।

परमेश्वराने या जगात मानवाला निर्माण करून आपल्या मानवजातीवर अनंत उपकार केले आहेत. परमेश्वराने सर्व प्राण्यामध्ये आपल्याला तल्लख बुद्धीमत्ता दिली, विचार करण्याची शक्ती दिली. परंतु आपल्यामध्ये असलेल्या काही वाईट सवयीने आपण ते विसरलेलो आहोत. मानवाने या पृथ्वीतलावर इतर प्राणी आहेत त्यांची काळजी घ्यावी आणि आपले इतर प्राण्यांचे जीवन सुखमय करावे असा उदात्त हेतू होता. परंतु मानवाने आपल्या स्वार्थीवृत्तीने इतर प्राण्यांची शिकार करून या पर्यावरणाचा समतोल विघडवण्याचे काम करित आहे याचे गंभीर परिणाम मानवाला भोगावे लागतील.



आज सभोवताली नजर टाकल्यास मानव आपला स्वार्थी हेतू साध्य करण्यासाठी मुक्या प्राण्यांवर तसेच पर्यावरणावर अन्याय करित आहे असे दिसते. "मानवी विकास" हे गोंडस नाव पुढे करित पर्यावरणाचा समतोल विघडवण्याचे काम करित आहे. विकासाच्या नावाखाली जंगलाची होणारी वारेमाप जंगलतोड ही कधीही न भरून येणारी आहे. मानवी विकास जरूर व्हावा परंतु पर्यावरणाचे संतुलन राखून केले नाही तर त्याची जबर किंमत आपल्याला द्यावी लागेल असा इशारा तज्ज्ञांनी दिलेला आहे. ५ जुन हा दिवस "जागतिक पर्यावरण दिन" साजरा केला जातो. या दिवशी आपल्या देशात विविध शाळा कॉलेज तसेच निरनिराळ्या कार्यालयात या दिनाचे औचित्य साधून विविध जातीच्या रोपट्यांची लागवड केली जाते परंतु त्या रोपट्याची वाढ होण्यात आपण किती जागरूक असतो हा मोठा प्रश्न आहे. भावी पिढीला आणि आपल्यालाही सुखाने श्वास घ्यायचा असेल तर हजारांच्या संख्येने झाडे लावून ती जगवण्याचा प्रयत्न करणे गरजेचे आहे. राजकीय नेते आपल्या वाढदिवशी काही लोकोपयोगी उपक्रम राबविताना त्यामध्ये रोपट्यांची देखील लागवड केली जाते ही खरोखरच स्पृहणीय बाब आहे परंतु रोपटे मोठे होईपर्यंत त्यांची देखभाल करण्यात किती प्रमाणात यशस्वी होतात हा प्रश्न आहे. आपल्या वाढदिवशी एखादे उपयुक्त रोपटे लावून त्याची वर्षभर काळजी घेतली तरी आपण पर्यावरण संतुलन राखण्यात मोठे काम करू शकतो. एखाद्या चांगल्या हॉटेलमध्ये आपल्या कुटुंबियांसोबत तसेच मित्रांसोबत पार्टी करून वाढदिवस साजरा करण्याकडे आपला कल असतो ह्यामध्ये गैर काही नाही, परंतु पार्टीचा आनंद लुटताना अन्नाची नासाडी होणार नाही याची कितीजण काळजी घेतात ?

प्राणी या विषयाकडे गंभीरपणे बघण्याची गरज निर्माण झाली आहे. प्राणी कधीच शिके होत नसते त्यामुळे घरात साठविलेले प्राणी ओतून देणे चुकीचे आहे. आपल्याला प्राणीपुरवठा करणाऱ्या धरणांमध्ये,

तलावांमध्ये प्राणी महिनोन्महिने साठलेले असते हे लक्षात घेणे गरजेचे आहे. साठवून ठेवलेल्या पाण्याचा वापर अंधोळ करणे, कपडे-भांडी धुणे, फरशी पुसण्यासाठी केला पाहिजे. तोंड धुताना, दाढी करताना पाण्याचे नळ सुरू ठेवू नका. अंधोळीसाठी शॉवर ऐवजी वादलीचा वापर करावा. फ्लश टॅकमध्ये साधारण १० ते १५ लिटर प्राणी

असते. त्यामुळे त्याचा कमीत कमी वापर करावा. फ्लश टॅकमध्ये १ लिटर पाण्याच्या दोन वाटल्या भरून ठेवल्या तरी फ्लश करताना प्राणीबचत होऊ शकते. भाजी धुताना साधारण एक लिटर प्राणी वाया जात असते. त्यामुळे भाजी धुतल्यानंतरचे प्राणी कुंड्यातील झाडांना वापरता येते. गाडी धुण्यासाठी पाइपमधून येणाऱ्या पाण्याचा वापर टाळला पाहिजे. त्यामध्ये अनेक लिटर प्राणी वाया जात असते. त्याऐवजी छोट्या वादलीत प्राणी घेऊन ओल्या फडक्याने गाडी पुसल्यावर मोठ्या प्रमाणात प्राणी बचत होऊ शकते.

झाडांना पाहिजे तेवढेच प्राणी देणे गरजेचे आहे. पाइपने थेट झाडांना प्राणी देण्याऐवजी वादली प्राणी घेऊन केवळ माती ओली होईल तेवढेच प्राणी द्यावे. जास्त दिलेल्या पाण्याचे वाष्पीभवन होत असल्यामुळे ते प्राणी वाया जात असते. सोसायट्यांनी झाडांना ठिबक सिंचन पद्धतीने प्राणी द्यावे तर घराच्या अंगणात बाल्कनीमध्ये असलेल्या झाडांना प्लॅस्टिक बाटलीला छोटे छिद्र पाडून झाडाजवळ टांगून ठेवल्यास दोन-चार दिवस झाडांना थेंबथेंब व आवश्यक तेवढेच प्राणी मिळते. अनेक घरांत हमखास बंद केलेल्या नळातून पाण्याची गळती होत असते त्यामध्ये रोजी १५ ते २० लिटरपर्यंत प्राणी वाया जात असते त्यामुळे अशा नळांची तातडीने दुरूस्ती करावी. अनेकदा नळाभोवती व्हॉल्ड खराब झाला असल्यामुळे पाण्याची गळती होते. व्हॉल्ड हार्डवेअरच्या दुकानात २ त ५ रूपांपर्यंत उपलब्ध असतो. अनेकदा प्राणी पिताना ग्लास भरून प्राणी घेतो मात्र प्रत्यक्षात अनेकदा अर्धा ग्लास प्राणी पितो. त्यामुळे बाकीचे प्राणी फेकून दिले जाते. त्याऐवजी पिण्यासाठी गरज असेल तेवढेच प्राणी घ्यावे. पाण्यासाठी छोटे ग्लास तसेच बाटलीचा वापर केल्यास प्राणीबचत होऊ शकते. हॉटेलचालकांनी पिण्याची बॉटल टेबलावर भरून ठेवल्यास ग्राहकही पाहिजे तेवढेच प्राणी घेतील. घर सोसायट्यांवर पडलेले पावसाचे प्राणी साठविण्यासाठी रेन वॉटर हार्वेस्टिंग सिस्टीमचा वापर करणे आवश्यक आहे. पावसाचे पडणारे मुबलक प्राणी सोसायट्यांतील पाण्याचा टाकी बोअरवेलमध्ये सोडल्यास मोठ्या प्रमाणात पाण्याची बचत होऊ शकते.

नोबेल पारितोषिक विजेत्या मदर तेरेसांनी म्हटले आहे की प्रत्येकाने जरी आपला परिसर सुंदर ठेवण्याचा प्रयत्न केला तरी हे जग सुंदर

दिसेल. परंतु दुर्दैवाने असे होताना दिसत नाही. मोठी माणसे सहज मोठी होत नसतात तर त्यांची विचार करण्याची पध्दत त्यांना यशाच्या शिखरावर घेऊन जात असते. त्यामागे त्यांची जिद्द, चिकाटी, मेहनत करण्याची तयारी अशा गुणांचा समावेश असतो. शिकली सवरलेली माणसे देखील आपला बसचा प्रवास झाल्यानंतर तिकीट रस्त्यावर टाकतात आणि परिसर अस्वच्छ करतात हे कितपय योग्य आहे? प्लॅस्टीकच्या पिशव्या आरोग्य तसेच पर्यावरणाच्या दृष्टीने अपायकारक असतात आणि कित्येक वर्षे नष्टही होत नाही हे माहित असूनही आपण प्लॅस्टीक पिशव्यांचा गैरवापर सर्रासपणे करत असतो. कायम घराबाहेर पडताना आपल्या ऑफिस बॅग/गाडीच्या डिब्रिकट/खिशात/पर्स मध्ये एक कापडी पिशवी ठेवल्याने आपल्याला कॅरी बॅगची आवश्यकता भासणार नाही. चांगली सवय लावणे हे कठीण जरी असले तरी अशक्य अजिबात नाही.

परदेशात स्वच्छतेचे नियम अगदी काटेकोरपणे पाळले जातात. माझ्या वाचनात आलेली एक घटना आठवते. फुटबॉलच्या सामन्यात पराभव झाल्यानंतर, सामना बघायला आलेल्या जपानी प्रेक्षकांनी सामना संपल्यावर थांबून त्यांच्या भागातील कचरा प्लॅस्टिकच्या पिशव्यांत भरून साफसफाई केली. या पिशव्या बरोबर नेऊन शहरातील कचरा टाकण्यासाठी केलेल्या जागांवर नेऊन टाकला. हा झाला संस्कार आणि संस्कृतीचा भाग. देश मोठे होतात ते अशा नागरिकांमुळे..... ट्रकच्या मागे "मेरा देश महान" असे लिहून नाही. त्यासाठी कृती करणे

महत्वाचे असते. आपल्या देशात "मला काय त्याचे" किंवा "फक्त मी केल्याने काय फरक पडणार आहे" ही मानसिकता जोपर्यंत बदलत नाही तोपर्यंत आपल्या देशातील गलिच्छपणा कमी होणार नाही. तलावात पडणाऱ्या प्रत्येक थेंबाने तलाव भरत असतो. म्हणून तलावात पडणारा प्रत्येक थेंब हा जितका महत्वाचा असतो तितकाच आपला देश जगाच्या नकाशावर एक स्वच्छ देश म्हणून आपल्या देशाची जगाला ओळख असावी यादृष्टीने सतत जागरूक असणे आपल्या सर्वांचे कर्तव्य आहे तसेच आपल्या सर्वांचा सहभाग आणि सहकार्य फार महत्वाचे आहे.

पर्यावरणाचे रक्षण करणे एक ख्रिस्ती म्हणून आपले कर्तव्य आहे. आपण रोज चर्चमध्ये गेल्याने ख्रिस्ती होऊ शकत नाही त्यासाठी ख्रिस्ती मूल्ये आत्मसात करणे फार महत्वाचे आहे. काही वर्षांपूर्वी वसईतील एका पर्यावरण प्रेमी धर्मगुरूंनी मयत प्रसंगी लाकडी पेटीचा वापर केल्याने पर्यावरणाचे होणारे नुकसान या वावत प्रबोधन करून वसईतील भाविकांचे मनपरिवर्तन केले. त्यानंतर आता वसई धर्मग्रामात मृत व्यक्ती कितीही श्रीमंत असो अथवा गरीब असो सर्व मृत व्यक्तींसाठी एकाच पेटीचा वापर केला जातो. असे केल्याने आपण पर्यावरणाचे रक्षण करीत असतो. ही पध्दत मुंबईत जरी अवघड वाटत असली तरी अशक्य नाही. यावर विचार विनिमय होणे ही गरज आहे. (पाण्याविषयी संदर्भ - लोकसत्ता दैनिक)

विल्यम गॉन्साल्वीस

९९६९-२२९-४५७

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I am a Beautiful Person

by Eleanor Roosevelt

Many people will walk in and out of your life,
But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

To handle yourself, use your head; To handle other, use your heart,
Anger is only one letter short of danger...

If someone betrays you once, it is their fault;
If they betray you twice, it is your fault.

Great minds discuss ideas;
Average minds discuss events;
Small minds discuss people.

He who loses money, loses much;
He who loses a friend, loses much more;
He who loses faith, loses all.

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature,
But beautiful old people are works of art.
Learn from the mistakes of others.

You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.
Friends, you and me...

You brought another friend...

And then there were 3...

We started our group...

Our circle of friends...

And like that circle

There is no beginning or end...

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is mystery.

Today is a gift.

I am a Beautiful Person

And So Are You



Compiled by : **Ronnie Almeida**

I HAVE A DREAM Who had these dreams?

1. He saw a statue whose feet were smashed by a stone.
2. Four winds of heaven stirred up the sea in this man's dream.
3. A giant tree had enough fruit for everybody.
4. They were warned in a dream about Herod's evil scheme.
5. He was warned to take his family to Egypt.
6. He saw angels going up and down on a ladder.
7. His brothers were annoyed with his dreams, one of which involved the moon and stars.
8. This ruler dreamed about some hefty cows eating some scrawny ones.
9. He saw a vine produce grapes and squeezed their juice into a cup.
10. She had an unpleasant dream and blamed it on Jesus.

Name: _____

Class _____ School _____

Sector _____

Parents' Name: _____

Telephone No: _____

This quiz is meant only for children who are studying in class 4th to 10th Std. You need to give exact reference of the bible verse and name of the dreamer. If there are more than one correct entry, the winners will be decided by lots. You need to submit the correct answers by the **30th of August** to Fr. Ronson D'souza csc in a separate sheet of paper. The prizes will be given on the 8th September, 2014 during the 9.15 am mass.

My Mother



O'mother so good, O'mother so kind,
Whenever I need you, you're always there at my side
Your touch is so gentle, your words so kind,
Enriching my heart day and night.

Whenever I fail to put in my best,
or lose my hope thinking nothing is well.
You pull me up and raise me high,
Putting on my wings, helping me to fly.

I love you my mother,
You're the true friend by my side,
Jotting down your qualities,
Will take a whole long year to write.

A man loves his sweetheart,
Very much and the best,
But he loves his mother the longest,
Better than anyone else.

Sharina Rudolf D'Silva
Christi Samaj - (Dahisar Gaonthan)

BIBLE QUIZ BIBLE CELL

New Testament Books :

- 1) What book of the Bible records the visit of the shepherds when Jesus was born?
- 2) What book of the Bible starts with the ministry of John the Baptist?
- 3) What book of the Bible is the second book written to Tehophilus?
- 4) What book of the Bible records the missionary journeys of Paul?
- 5) Which book is specifically written to a lady?
- 6) What book of the Bible contains an entire chapter devoted to "faith"?
- 7) What book of the Bible was written to the |Seven churches of Asia ?
- 8) Tells us that the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive shall meet the Lord in the air?
- 9) What book gives more information regarding Paul's sufferings than any other?
- 10) Which book gives the most complete description of the whole armor of God?
- 11) Which book shows that the older women should instruct the younger women?
- 12) Which book is Paul's final epistle, where he charges the reader to preach the word?

Correct Answers :

- 1) Luke
- 2) Mark
- 3) Acts
- 4) Acts
- 5) 2 John
- 6) Hebrews
- 7) Revelation
- 8) Thessalonians
- 9) 2 Corinthians
- 10) Ephesians
- 11) Titus
- 12) 2 Timothy

St. Louis Community Welfare Fund

St. Louis Community Welfare Fund was established with the major objective that WE as a Parish Community, reach out to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. In concrete terms this means, that no one in our parish community, goes to bed hungry for want of food, no sick person is left suffering for want of medical assistance and no child is denied basic education, for lack of finance.

As Christians, all of us are duty bound to take care of our neighbours (Ref:Mk 12:31). However, not many of us can do so due to our preoccupation. Here's how the Community Welfare Fund comes in. You contribute your mite like the poor widow in the Gospel, and the Welfare Committee, ensures that your contribution is well administered as per the guidelines and above objective.

While the Tithe (contributing 10% of one's earning) is the noble practice suggested in the scriptures (Malachi 3:10), our target is very modest ie only 1% of the earnings of the family. For example, if a family as a whole (including all earning members) earn Rs.10,000/- per month, they need to contribute Rs.100/- per month or Rs.1200/- per year. Regrettfully, this has not been so, in most cases.

During the last year, ie April 2013 to March, 2014, we have the following details of the contribution to the Community Welfare fund in our Parish:

Sr. No.	Name of the Sector	No. of Fly's	No. Fly Cont.	%	Amt. Cont. Rs
01	St. Louis	60	36	60	1,06,390/-
02	Christi Samaj	81	68	84	42,460/-
03	O.L.P.Help	73	25	34	23,487/-
04	O.L.Lourdes	50	46	92	1,17,056/-
05	Infant Jesus	45	26	58	55,800/-
06	Mother Teresa	35	33	94	1,29,851/-
07	O.L.Fathima	65	59	91	1,78,290/-
08	Holy Trinity	77	61	79	1,94,150/-
09	Holy Family	71	40	56	1,09,770/-
10	Velankani Mata	49	20	41	16,940/-
11	St. Joseph	80	75	94	1,41,071/-
12	St. Peter	52	26	50	51,100/-
13	St.Francis Xavier	65	36	55	63,550/-
Total		803	551	69	12,29,915/-

In Galations 6:10, St. Paul tells us "...As often as we have chance, we should do good to everyone and especially to those who belong to our family in faith". **From the above data, we see, about 252 families ie 31% of our parishioners are not availing this opportunity to be of help to our own bretheren. This therefore, is an earnest appeal to all the Parishioners**

- a) **Let us ALL, contribute 1% of our Family Income for this noble cause.**
- b) **Let us ALL, specially the Parish Counselors and Link Persons, identify, those in need of assistance and reach out to them.**
- c) **Let us make St. Louis a model Christian Community as per our Vision statement :
BREAKING THE WORD OF GOD IN OUR FAMILIES AND SHARING THE BREAD WITH THE NEEDY**

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND			
(2013-14)			
Receipts		Payments	
To Contribution	1229915	By Medical	309858
To Donation	4459	By Education	40900
To Bank Interest	49611	By Poor & Needy	25000
		By Other Charities	25000
		By Church Support	239406
		By Zonal Expenses	67361
		By Youth & Children	19620
		By Senior Citizens	13600
		By St Louis Ch Trust	500000
		By Stationery	3050
		By Prof Charges	6000
		By Farewell Exp	6363
		By Meeting Exp	3770
		By Bank Charges	244
		By Bal C/F	23813
Total	1283985	Total	1283985

Thank you and may St. Louis Pray for each of us.

David Prakash, Seretary, SLCWF



Patron of Pastors

St. John Marie Vianney's life and ministry of the cure of Ars has been recognized by the Church as a Paradigm for priest forever. He is the patron of Pastors and a model for all priests. He was extraordinary in ordinary things.

As a young priest, he was sent to Parish where faith was dead. By word and example, he transformed the entire Parish. He had edifying holiness, boundless, dedication to duty. He spent long hours in the ministry of Reconciliation. His prayer life was deeply connected to his priestly vocation. He inspired his parishioners to approach to Holy Eucharist with real faith and deep reverence. He found his pastoral joy in selfless service.

St. Vianney's example can inspire the priests who are involved in active pastoral service. They can feel this

model of holiness closer to themselves. Today is the day of rejoicing both for us as Parishioners and for your fathers. For us because it is an opportunity to express our gratitude for all you are into a vibrant Christian community. It is day of rejoicing for you (Priests) as the Parishioners express their feelings of gratitude and assure their affection, loyalty and support all the times through thick and thin. We admire a life long commitment of service and sacrifice you made of your lives. We are filled with deep admiration for you and your generous response to Christ's challenging call.

We pray that God may shower his blessings upon all the Priests who served us in St. Louis Church and all the priests serving us especially Frs. Ronnie, Ronson, Oliver and Fr. Martin., Thank you fathers.

Happy feast and God bless.

Diago Tuscano, Dahisar

करिअर निवडताना

असे म्हटले जाते की, Efforts may fail but don't fail to make efforts because great things always come late." म्हणून आपल्याला यशसपादन करायचे असेल तर मनापासून प्रयत्न केले पहिजेत. जागतिकरणाच्या आणि स्पर्धेच्या युगात जर आपल्याला आपले व्यक्तिमत्त्व, नेतृत्व व कर्तृत्व घडवायचे असेल तर योग्य अभ्यासक्रमाची निवड करणे अतिशय आवश्यक आहे. जागतिकीकरण, उदारीकरण, खाजगीकरण, आद्योगीकरण इ. गोष्टीमुळे संपूर्ण जग हे करिअरच्या मागे धावत आहे. पूर्वी अगदी मर्यादित विद्याशाखा अस्तित्वात होत्या. पण आज परिस्थिती बदलली आहे... दररोज गरजे प्रमाणे नवनवीन व्यावसायिक अभ्यासक्रमांच्या शाखांचा उगम होत आहे. विद्यार्थ्यांचा बुद्धिगुणांक, त्याची समायोजन क्षमताम त्याची आवड, व्यक्तिमत्त्व, गुणवत्ता, बुद्धिमत्ता, अभियोग्यता आणि अभिवृत्ती या सर्वांचा संकलित विचार मानसशास्त्रीय कसोट्यांच्या मापनाने केला जातो. करिअर निवडतानासुद्धा जागरूक असणे गरजेचे आहे... If you dream to fly with eagle don't waste your time in swimming with ducks because whatever we do we must remember our 'AIM' at every moment.

आपल्या ध्येयापासून अजिबात विचलित होऊ नका. आपल्या परिस्थितीचा विचारही विसरून चालणार नाही. कोणती शाखा निवडायची, यामुळे मोठ्या प्रमाणात आपला गोंधळ होतो, गाईडन्स घेणे आवश्यक आहे. मेहनत आणि चिकाटीशिवाय आपण आपल्या ध्येयापर्यंत पोहोचू शकत नाही. यासाठी तीन गोष्टी कायमस्वरूपी लक्षात ठेवल्या पहिजेत. त्या म्हणजे Devotion, त्याग Determination निश्चय and Dedication निष्ठा. आपल्या कामामध्ये चिरंतन विचारशक्ती, निर्णय दक्षता व प्रसंगी जोखीम पत्करण्याची वृत्ती असावी लागते.

हे जग कटघोट स्पर्धेचे व गुंतागुंतीचे आहे. या स्पर्धेत जो टिकला तोच प्रगती करू शकतो. त्यासाठी आपल्या आवडीच्या व्यवसायाची निवड करण्यासाठी योग्य व्यवसायाचा अभ्यासक्रम निवडणे गरजेचे आहे आणि तेच त्याच्या यशस्वी वाटचालीकडे येणारे पहिले पाऊल असेल. स्वतःची ध्येये आणि उद्दिष्टे निश्चित करून सुरवी आणि संपन्न जीवनाकडे वाटचाल करण्याचा प्रयत्न करा त्यामुळे स्वतःच्या सर्वांगीण विकासाबरोबरच देशाच्या विकासात नक्कीच भर पडेल. प्रथम स्वतःला आळखण्याची नितांत गरज आहे. एकदा तुम्हाला मार्ग सापडला की मग ती स्वप्नांचे पंख लेवून हवेत झेपावता येते. ध्येय ठरवल्यावर ते गाठण्यासाठी लागणाऱ्या, असंख्य गोष्टी आत्यगौरव, आत्मविश्वास, शुद्ध चारित्र्य, संपर्क आणि संभाषण कला, ताणतणावांचे व्यवस्थापन, मनावर ताबा मिळविणे, सर्जनशील अशा असंख्य गोष्टींचा उपयोग होतो. हाच आशेचा धागा पकडून आपलं स्वप्न साकार करा.

डायगो तुस्कानो, दहिसर



Good Bye, Rudy

No one's death comes to pass without making some impression and those close to the deceased inherit part of the liberated soul and become rich in the humaneness - HERMANN BROCH

Rudolph Rodrigues (fondly known as Rudy) was the epitome of dedication and quiet efficiency. His involvement in various Parish activities, spoke of his love for St. Louis.

He served in the PPC and was instrumental in bridging the gap between the Church and the community. His contribution ensured that the zone was in the forefront of all the initiatives taken by the church.

As the Vice President of the St. Louis Community welfare Fund, his immense experience in handling the I.C. community Welfare Fund, was instrumental in framing the guidelines and allocation of Funds for various needs of the Community. From the inception to the last day, he carried the role of V.P. and successfully steered the Welfare community Fund. One can say, he literally died in harness

As an active Member of the Senior Citizen club, his presence motivated others to join in and ensured mutual support and bonhomie.

St. Louis wishes to place on record his selfless contribution, in various spears of Church activities, specially, in building a community of Love as per our Parish Vision.

May his soul rest in Peace, and may the Lord give strength to his near and dear ones to bear this irreparable loss.

Prop. Paul R. Pathare
(Comp. Tech) Mumbai

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AUGUST

Holy Father's General Intention: (For Refugees) That refugees, forced by violence to abandon their homes, may find a generous welcome and the protection of their rights.

Missionary Intention: (For Christians of Oceania) That Christians in Oceania may joyfully announce the faith to all the people of that region.

Main Feasts of the Month:

- 04 - St. John Vianney - M
- 08 - St. Dominic Savio - M
- 15 - Assumption of the BVM & Independence Day
- 21 - St. Pius X - M
- 22 - The Queenship of Mary
- 25 - St. Louis - Parish Patron
- 27 - St. Monica - M
- 28 - St. Augustine - M
- 29 - The Beheading of St. John the Baptist - M

SEPTEMBER

Holy Father's General Intention: (For differently Abled) That the mentally disabled may receive the love and help they need for a dignified life.

Missionary Intention: (Poor and Suffering) That Christians, inspired by the Word of God, may serve the poor and suffering.

Main Feasts of the Month

- 08 - The Nativity of the BVM - F
- 14 - The Triumph of the Cross
- 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows - Patroness of The Fathers of Holy Cross.
- 27 - St. Vincent De Paul - M
- 29 - Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, archangels - F
- 30 - St. Jerome - M

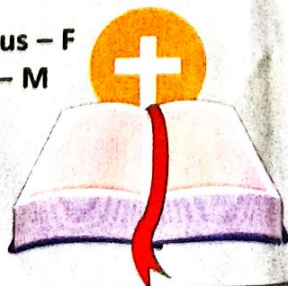
OCTOBER

Holy Father's General Intention: (For Peace in the World) That the world may grant peace to those parts of the world most battered by war and violence.

Missionary Intention: (World Mission day) That World Mission Day may rekindle in every believer zeal for carrying the Gospel into all the world.

Main Feasts of the Month

- 01 - St. Theresa of the Child Jesus - F
- 02 - The Holy Guardian Angels - M
- 04 - St. Francis of Assisi - M
- 07 - Our Lady of Rosary - M
- 15 - St. Teresa of Avila - M
- 19 - MISSION SUNDAY



NOVEMBER:

Holy Father's General Intention: (For the lonely)

That all who suffer loneliness may experience the closeness of God and the support of others.

Missionary Intention: (For Seminarians and Religious) That young seminarians and religious may have wise and well-formed mentors.

Main Feasts of the Month

- 01 - All Saints - Sol
- 02 - All Souls
- 21 - The Presentation of the BVM - M
- 30 - 1st Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER:

Holy Father's General Intention: (To All People of Good Will) That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.

Missionary Intention: (For Parents) That parents may be true evangelisers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

Main Feasts of the Month

- 03 - St. Francis Xavier - Sol
- 08 - Immaculate Conception of the BVM - Sol
- 25 - The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- 26 - St. Stephen - F
- 27 - St. John - F
- 28 - The Holy Family - F

Youth In Action

'The youth is the present, not only the future' said President Franklin Roosevelt. This statement has been agreed to by social, political, and religious leaders all over the world. Even in the Church, the emphasis is on empowering the youth to work first for a better today, and then also for a brighter tomorrow.

In our very own St. Louis Parish, three important events in the past few months were organized and coordinated by the youth. The first was the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning beautifully brought out through a live enactment of the Way of the Cross to Mount Calvary. The active participation of the whole youth group, supporting casts and actors (with Mr. Ryan Ferrac as Jesus) did well in establishing a prayerful memorial of the Good Friday English Way of the Cross. The second event was the Louisian summer camp 2014, which commenced on the 21st of April, up till the 16th of May. It was a grand success with over 100 kids as campers and the assistance of around 25 youth volunteers. The camp went on under the watchful guidance and support of Br. Terrance Abranches, Fr Oliver and Fr. Ronson D'souza. The third and most recent event, the Parents' day, was celebrated on the 27th of July. A cultural program was organized by the youth group in collaboration with the Sunday school team and students. The program, comprising of songs, dances and skit, wound up by 9:30 pm and was followed by a fellowship meal. The success of these events has definitely contributed in making the Parish more active and vibrant.

Alicia Tauro.

EVENTS March – July 2014

MARCH

Marathi singing competition: The Marathi Gayan Vikas Sanghatna organised their annual singing competition on 23rd March. The programme began with prayers by His Eminence Cardinal Oswald Gracias. Choirs from different parishes took part in the competition. The first six choirs won the prizes. It ended with lunch.

APRIL

Mass for sick & homebound: On 16th April a special mass for the sick & homebound was organised by the Eucharistic Ministers, Legion of Mary and SVP members. The members made arrangements to bring the sick for the mass. Around 25 sick persons attended the mass.

Live way of the Cross: On Good Friday, parish youth conducted "Live Way of the Cross"

Souvenir : On 19th April after the Easter Vigil mass the souvenir for the school project was released by Mr. Simon and Mrs. Irene Lewis

Easter Blessing mass: Was held in the respective sectors from 21st April to 2nd May followed by a fellowship meal. The sector priest visited and blessed the homes of the families.

Summer Camp: Was held from 21st April to 17th May under the guidance of Frs. Ronson, Oliver, Br. Terence and the youth. The theme was "Together towards tomorrow". The campers participated in the activities and competitions conducted for them. The camp concluded with the final day programme put up by the campers followed by a picnic to Royal Garden Resort on 19th May.

MAY

Rosary: From 1st to 31st May Rosary was prayed daily at the grotto. Rosary is also recited daily before the 7 a.m. Mass.

Welcome to Fr. Martin: On 25th May Fr. Martin CSC, the new assistant priest and Principal of the school was welcomed to St. Louis Community

JUNE

Training programme for parish councilors, link persons and heads of associations and cells: Was held on 15th June. Fr. Sandeep Borges, Asst. Parish Priest of Holy Magi Church, Gorai conducted the session. He started by reading a passage from the Acts of the Apostles Chap. 4, v. 32-35. The members actively participated in the group discussion and games. He showed clips on unity, another clip on how Jesus is always with us even though we cannot see him. The programme concluded with a member of the group passing

on a lit candle to all the members as the song "I have a dream" was being played. Fr. Sandeep distributed a key chain cross to all the members. The most important words of the programme were "KNOW JESUS KNOW FAITH, NO JESUS NO FAITH".

Welcome to Bro. Siju: Bro. Siju csc, was welcomed by the parishioners on 15th of June. He will be with us for one year for his regency experience

Recollection: On 21st June the Eucharistic Ministers had recollection conducted by Rev. Fr. Oscar Mendonca of IC Church concluding with confession for the members.

Recommissioning: 19 Eucharistic Ministers were recommissioned at the 8 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. Masses on the 22nd of June. The members once again renewed their commitment of rendering their service at the daily Eucharist and to the sick and homebound in the parish.

Lay Sunday : The members of the Lay heads & Asst. heads of associations and cells were commissioned at the 8 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. Masses on 29th June. The members also attended a programme at St. Andrew's auditorium, Bandra organised by the archdiocese OLCM team (Office of Lay Collaboration in Ministry) from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Farewell to Fr. Johny: Fr. Johny csc was given Farewell by the parishioners on 28th and 29th during the Sunday masses. Fr. Johny served the parish and school for 6 years as an Assistant parish priest, Principal and acting parish priest.

JULY

Commissioning: The catechists were commissioned on 6th July at the 9.15 a.m. Mass. They also attended the recollection at St. Anne's, Borivli conducted by Fr. Vincent Barboza of I.C. Church on the topic "THE EUCHARIST".

English Charismatic group: Celebrated their 6th anniversary on 7th July with mass followed by praise and worship and a talk given by Rev. Fr. Melroy of I.C. Church ending with dinner.

Marathi Charismatic group: Celebrated their 6th anniversary on 8th July with mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Robin Dias followed by prayer along with his team from Vasai. Around 200 people participated in the praise and worship which ended with dinner.

Parents day: On 27th July the youth and the catechism children gave a beautiful programme for their parents that included dance, singing, skit and speeches followed by dinner.

COMPILED BY
Cheryl Rego



(A Poem for Fr. Ronald on His Blessed Birthday 06/07/2014)



Far from a hill top
 Shone a Light
 A Bright luminous "star"
 Created by God;
 Said God "I send you down
 for Human to see,
 How wonderful, dedicated and
 illuminated face;
 One of the Many Stars twinkles
 and fall,
 Right near the gates of
 St. Louis to hold;
 Thank you God, for gifting
 this Precious "Star",
 Whose sincerity, hard-work and
 generosity seen;
 Cheerful & Evergreen smiles fading
 all fears & gloom,
 ends but |As firm "A Light
 To us All...
 ... dear Fr. Ronnie !
 God Bless you.....

Composed & Written
Joanna Alleluia, Dahisar (East)

An open letter to Fr Johnny



Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nest , but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head. This is the plight of every missionary. This is currently your plight dear Fr. Johnny.

When you arrived at St Louis, the church was already built, but the huge task of erecting the school was ahead. The work for the school indeed started but funds dried up , you were not overwhelmed by the task, but offered whatever you could do (two fishes and five loaves). God was faithful. In the wilderness He made a way and in the dessert rivers started flowing. There was a brief period of rejoicing as the school neared completion. Time had come to lay back and admire all the work that was done, but it was also time to leave. Don't feel bad. Did He not say " some one sows, some one else reaps " ?

Also remember what Jesus said when his disciples asked Him to remain back, " I have other towns to visit " .

We wish you love and courage dear father. We will miss you. Do drop by now and then and each time you are passing Mumbai.

Love & Regards
Brazil Colaco.

Louisian Samachar

सेत लुईस
आम्हासाठी प्रार्थना कर
ST. LOUIS
PRAY FOR US

Bulletin of St. Louis Church, Dahisar (West), Mumbai 400068



**ALLELUIA,
THE LORD
HAS RISEN!**

Dear Parishioners, it is once again time to sing, "Alleluia, the Lord has risen indeed." After spending almost six weeks of Lent, now we are all set to celebrate this great Victory over Sin and Evil by Christ. I am sure all of us are well-prepared spiritually to celebrate Easter. We call Lent "a season of grace". The ash we applied on Ash Wednesday is a burnt product, while the wax candle we hold at the Easter Vigil mass is a burning product. Burnt Ash of Wednesday signifies DEATH, whereas wax of the Pascal candle signifies LIFE. Lent calls us forth to die for our sins. Without burning our sins during Lent, we cannot see the light of Easter.

Easter is the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus from the tomb, the highest point of the Catholic faith. Easter is the fulfilled prophecy of the Messiah who would be persecuted, would die for our sins and rise on the third day. Remembering the Resurrection of Jesus is a way to renew our daily hope that we have victory over sin.

Most of us still think that Christmas is the biggest feast of the Church. No, it is Easter that sowed the seeds for the beginning of the

church, based on the personal experience of the followers of Jesus. It was on Easter day, as the disciples moved from the hidden room to see the empty tomb, that the church also started making a forward march. This is very important for us, especially to those who sometimes tend to doubt the Resurrection of Jesus. We doubt because we do not experience Jesus in our senses. The meeting of Mary Magdalene, the epic episode of Emmaus, encounters with the disciples in the upper room and the tangible touch of Thomas are some incidents enough to keep our faith alive. With this personal experience, the disciples were not scared to preach that Jesus has victoriously overcome death.

I wish one and all a grace-filled Easter. May the Risen Christ dwell with all of us in our families, and shed his Light and guide us.

पुन्हा एकवार आलेलुया

माझ्या प्रिय धर्मग्रामस्थांनो, पुन्हा एकवार आलेलुया, ख्रिस्त विजयाचे गीत गाण्याची वेळ आली आहे. सहा आठवड्यांच्या प्रायश्चित काळानंतर आपण ख्रिस्ताने पापावर व दुष्टपणावर मिळविलेला विजय साजरा करण्यास सज्ज झालो आहोत. आपण सर्वजण आध्यात्मिक रित्या हा सोहळा साजरा करण्यास तयार आहोत अशी माझी खात्री आहे. आपण प्रायश्चित काळाला कृपेचा काळ असे संबोधितो. आपल्या कपाळावर लावलेल्या राखेतील आण विझली आहे परंतु इस्टरच्या मेणबत्तीचे मेण जळत आहे. जळून गेलेली राख मरणाचे प्रतिक आहे तर पास्काच्या मेणबत्तीचे मेण हे जीवनाचे प्रतिक आहे. प्रायश्चितकाळ आपल्या पापांचा सर्वनाश करण्यास आपल्याला आमंत्रित करीत असते कारण जर आपल्या पापांचा सर्वनाश झाला नाही तर आपण पास्काचा प्रकाश पाहू शकणारच नाही.

Cont'd on Page 2

ख्रिस्त मेलेल्यातून पुनरुत्थित झाला हा आपल्या विश्वासाचा केंद्रबिंदु आहे व हाच ख्रिस्ता पासकाचा सण आहे. इस्टर मसीहा बद्दल केलेले भाकीत पूर्ण झाल्याचा दिवस आहे कारण मसीहा आपल्या पापांसाठी बळी दिला जाईल व तिसऱ्या दिवशी पुन्हा वैभवाने उठेल. ख्रिस्ताच्या पुनरुत्थानाची आठवण करणे म्हणजे आपल्या आशेचे पुनर्नकरण करणे होय.

आपल्यातील अनेकांना वाटते की नाताळचा सण हा चर्चचा सर्वात मोठा सण आहे. परंतु ते तसे नाही कारण शिष्यांच्या अनुभवाद्वारे चर्चची स्थापना झाली. इस्टरच्या दिवशीच शिष्य पुकांत खोलीतून धडव्याकडे गेले व त्याच वेळी चर्चची प्रगती झाली. अनेकदा अनेकांना ख्रिस्ताच्या पुनरुत्थानावर संशय येतो कारण आपल्याला ख्रिस्ताचा अनुभव आलेला नाही. मरीया मागदालिनाची भेट, आमाऊसच्या मार्गावरील दर्शन व थोमाला झालेला स्पर्श आपला विश्वास मजबूत करीत असतात. वैयक्तिक अनुभव झाल्यामुळे पुनरुत्थानाची घोषणा करण्यास शिष्य झाले नाही.

मी धर्मग्रामीन सल्लागार समिती व सर्व संघटनेत कार्य करणारे सभासदांचे आभार मानीत आहे. गेले तीन वर्ष त्यांनी या धर्मग्रामाला प्रगती पथावर घेऊन गेले आहेत. माझ्या प्रियांनो, तुमच्या बरोबर कार्य करणे हे मी माझे सौभाग्य समजतो. तसेच जे नवीन सल्लागार समितीत कार्य करणार आहेत त्यांना मी सुभेच्छा देत आहे. तुमच्या सहकार्यांने संत लुईस धर्मग्राम आदर्श धर्मग्राम होईल अशी माझी आशा आहे.

मी तुम्हा सर्वांना इस्टरच्या शुभेच्छा देत आहे. पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्त तुमच्या कुटुंबात वास करो व त्याचा प्रकाश तुम्हाला मिळो ही माझी सदिच्छा आहे. ख्रिस्ताच्या प्रकाशाद्वारे आपल्यामध्ये पुक्य नांदावे हीच माझी प्रार्थना.

**Fr. Ronald Fernandes CSC
Parish Priest**

नवजिवनाची पहाट

प्रायश्चित काळ म्हणजे पश्चातापाचा काळ, केलेल्या चुकांची, पापांची जाणीव होऊन पाप करून नंतर झालेला जिवाला ताप म्हणजे पश्चाताप किंवा परिवर्तन होय. पश्चाताप म्हणजे आपल्या पूर्वीच्या पापाबद्दल रडत बसणे नव्हे तर आपल्या पुढच्या येणाऱ्या जीवनामध्ये बदल घडवून आणणे होय.

आपण सर्वजण पापी लोक आहोत. आपल्याशी दयेने व प्रेमाने बोलावे अशी आपली योग्यता नाही. तरी देखील देवाने आपल्याला प्रेमाने निवडले आहे. जेव्हा लोक आपल्या चुकांकडे पाहतात, तेव्हा आपल्या चुकांबद्दल दोष लावण्याची लोकांची प्रवृत्ती असते. लोक आपल्या

जिवनाकडे वाईट प्रवृत्तीने बघतात आणि आपल्याला दोषी ठरवितात. प्रभू येशूला ठाऊक आहे की, पापी माणसाला दोष लावणाची किंवा त्याचा तिरस्कार करण्याच्या शब्दांची गरज नाही तर त्याला प्रेमाच्या शब्दांची गरज आहे. ईश्वरी दयेच्या रक्षेशाचा हाच मुळभूत अर्थ आहे. त्याच्या दैवी दयेची भक्ती आपणांस आठवण करून देते की, त्याची दया आपल्या हृदयाला सांत्वन देईल आणि आपल्या आत्म्याला नवी उभारी देईल.

आपल्या मृत्यु नंतरचे जीवन आणि आपल्या मानवी शरीराची स्थिती यावर येशू ख्रिस्ताच्या पुनरुत्थित शरीराच्या विजयाने प्रकाश टाकला आहे. ख्रिस्ताचे पुनरुत्थान हे अखील मानवजातीसाठी आहे. मृत्यु नंतर आपल्या मानवी शरीराचे काय होणार आहे? ह्याचे उत्तर आपल्याला केवळ पुनरुत्थित येशूच्या जिवनाद्वारे प्राप्त होते. त्याचा झालेला स्पर्श, त्याने घेतलेले भोजन आणि शिष्यांसोबत झालेला त्याचा संपर्क या द्वारे येशू त्याच्या शिष्यांना पटवून देतो की, मी भूत नाही. तर आपणही पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताच्या शरीरामध्ये असलेल्या दुःख सहनाच्या जखमांना स्पर्श करून हे समजून घेतले पाहिजे.

जो मनुष्य येशूच्या नावाने देवाकडे आपल्या पापांची क्षमा मागतो त्याला क्षमा मिळते व शिक्षेपासून त्याचा बचाव होतो. मनुष्य जेव्हा पाप करतो तेव्हा तो देवाच्या आज्ञा नाकारतो. मनुष्याने पाप केल्यावर परमेश्वर काय करतो? परमेश्वर त्याच्या पापांकडे दुर्लक्ष करतो हा भ्रम आहे. प्रत्येक पापी मनुष्याला त्याचा हिशेब द्यावाच लागतो. संपूर्ण मानवजातीने आजवर केलेली पापे व भविष्यात घडणारी पापे प्रभू येशू ख्रिस्ताने आपल्या शरीरावर घेतली आहेत. येशू ख्रिस्त पूर्णपणे पवित्र होता. आयुष्यात एकही चुक एकही पाप त्याने केले नव्हते. जो कोणी येशूवर विश्वास ठेवतो व पित्याशी समेट करतो त्याला पापांची क्षमा मिळते. येशूचा स्विकार करणे म्हणजे पापक्षमा, देवाशी समेट व सार्वकालिक जीवन होय.

आपल्या सर्वांसाठी देवाकडे मध्यस्थी करणारा येशू आपला तारणारा आहे. बापा त्यांना क्षमा कर ही हाक अजुनही पृथ्वीवर घुमत आहे. प्रत्येक माणसाला पश्चाताप करण्यासाठी व येशूला स्विकारण्यासाठी देव बोलावीत आहे. कोणाचा नाश व्हावा अशी देवाची इच्छा नाही, तर सर्वांनी पश्चाताप करावा अशी देवाची इच्छा आहे. मृत्युनंतर तिसऱ्या दिवशी ख्रिस्त जिवंत झाला. चाळीस दिवस पृथ्वीवर शिष्यांसह राहिला आणि नंतर सदेह स्वर्गात घेतला गेला. जगाचा न्याय करण्यासाठी तो पुन्हा येणार आहे. पुनरुत्थित ख्रिस्ताला तुम्ही प्रभू व स्वामी या नात्याने तुमच्या जीवनात साकारा. पापाचा त्याग करा म्हणजे येशू तुमचे परिवर्तन करील व तुम्ही पवित्र आत्म्याने भरून जाऊ. प्रेम, शांती, आनंद तुम्हामधून उफाळून वाढू लागेल व इतरांपर्यंत पोहचेल. तुम्ही ख्रिस्ताचे शरीर असे प्रकाशमय व्हाल. आपण प्रायश्चित काळानंतर ईस्टर साजरा करण्यासाठी हर्षाने तयारी करूया.

Priti Vaity



December 2018 to March 2019

DECEMBER

Sunday School Christmas Party:

A Christmas party was organized for the SSC students on 16th December.

Talent Nite: Talent Nite was held on 16th December in the Church in which each sector performed dance and skits.

SVP Christmas Party: On 23rd December the SVP members organized a get together for the adopted families of the parish.

Star Competition: The stars prepared by the sectors were judged on 27th Dec. The first prize was bagged by Holy Trinity, followed by Our Lady of Lourdes and Kristi Samaj and Mother Theresa.

JANUARY

Feast of St. Andre Bassette: Novena Masses were conducted on 3rd, 4th and 5th in Marathi and English. On the 6th which was the feast day, the priest anointed the parishioners with blessed oil.

Christmas Party: The senior citizens enjoyed a fun filled party with games and dinner held on 16th January.

First Holy Communion: 21 children received the sacrament on 20th January at the 9.15am mass.

Republic Day: Parishioners participated in the flag hoisting, along with the school students after the 7am mass.

Youth outreach: 22 youth from the parish attended the youth outreach at Don Bosco Borivali on 26th January.

Mass for students of X, XII and graduation:

On 27th January a special Eucharistic celebration was held for the students who were preparing for the exams.

FEBRUARY

East Indian singing competition: On 3rd February Dahisar- Borivli East Indian association organized the competition. East Indian singers from all over Mumbai and Thane participated in the competition.

Confirmation: 22 youth were confirmed by Bishop Percival Fernandez on 10th February.

SVP recollection: A recollection was held for members on 16 February in the Church.

World Marriage day: On 24th February couples attended the 6pm mass, followed by get together and dinner.

MARCH

Women's Day: The women's cell organized a programme for the parishioners on 3rd March with dance, skits, Fashion show and songs. The children of "Ankur" a home for street and slum children run by the Sisters of Charity of St. Anne, Mira road entertained everyone with their beautiful skit and songs.

Sports Day: Was conducted for the children attending "Kids for Christ" on 10th March.

Sunday School annual sports meet: Was held on 17th March.

Institute Visitation: The members of the women's cell visited "UPLAT" orphanage, a home for girls, at Bilard on 21st March. They also visited 5 villages of the poor and marginalized.

Recollection: 15 members of the Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion attended the recollection service on 23rd March at IC Church, Borivali. It was organized by the Archdiocesan Core group of Eucharistic ministers.

Compiled by: CHERYL REGO

Repent - Renew - Return

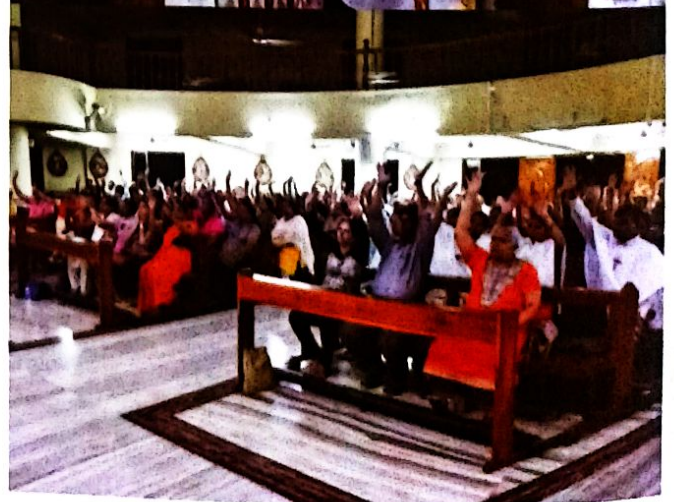
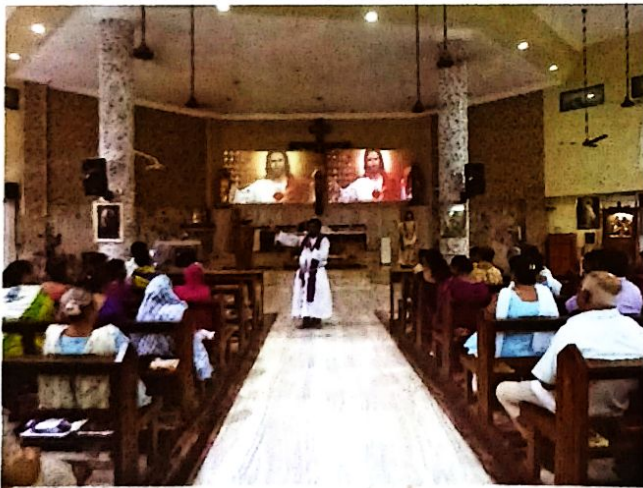
In autumn, trees experience change and renewal. They shed their leaves and even look dry in January-February. As spring begins and summer approaches, the transformation is even more noticeable. New leaves start growing and trees look green and colourful with flowers blooming. This natural process of nature occurs every year.

Likewise, our God is a God of compassion and love. He gives us many chances and opportunities to change and renew our lives. Repentance and renewal of our lives is what God wants from each of us during the season of Lent. He wants us to repent, renew and return to Him.

Lent is an opportunity given by God every year to turn back to Him. St. Louis Church, Dahisar, used the occasion to organize three-day retreats in Konkani, English and Marathi. The Konkani retreat, from March 18 to 20, was preached by Fr. Richard OFM Cap; the English retreat, from March 25 to 27, by Fr. Augustine VC, and the Marathi one, from April 1 to 3, by Fr. Benjamin OFM Cap.

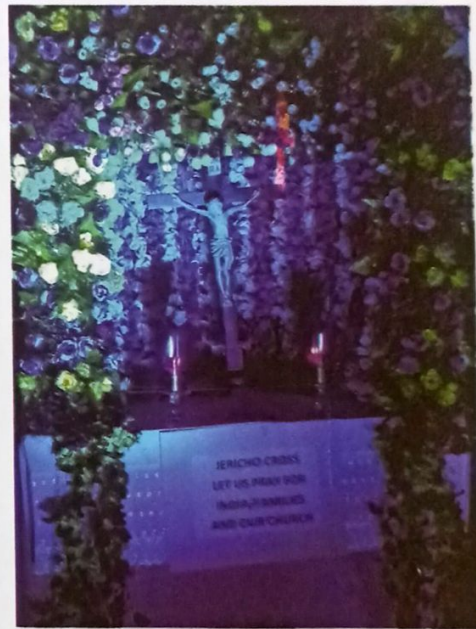
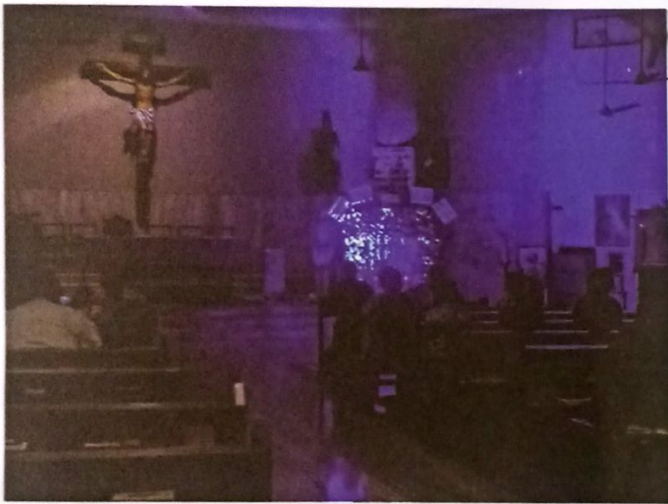
A large number of people participated in the retreats and experienced the love and compassion of God through physical and spiritual healing. The overwhelming response from the parishioners was a deep sign of repentance and desire to return to the Lord.

Dn. S. Chinniah



The Jericho Cross

The Jericho Cross has been going from parish to parish and we, at St. Louis Church, have been blessed to welcome the Cross too. Our Parish received the Jericho Cross on the 8th day of April and it was handed over to Don Bosco Parish on 10th April. We prayed for India, our parish and families. The three days were witness to various services like Holy Mass, vigil, silent adoration, confessions, Divine Mercy Prayer, Rosaries etc. and were led by many cells and associations. We thank our parishioners for devotedly coming in large numbers and venerating the Holy Jericho Cross. May our Lord Jesus bless you all and may His radiant face bring you love and peace.



My Journey as a Catechist

It's a beautiful thing when career and passion come together.

My journey as a catechist began when I chose to volunteer for Sunday School in my confirmation commitment sheet. I wasn't sure if I would be able to fulfill my commitment, but Mrs. Christine Thomas, my confirmation teacher, encouraged me to join as an animator.

In 2013 I began as an animator, and from there my learning journey began too. The following year, Fr Ronald Fernandes, our Parish Priest, enrolled me for the Catechist training course, conducted by the diocese. Through this course my interest in teaching grew. I learnt more about our faith.

With trust in God and the right attitude, new doors open for you. As my final year of management studies came to an end I realised that I did not want to make a career in the management field but teaching instead. Sunday School inspired me to take up teaching as a profession. I'm happy that my love for teaching continues to grow each day and grateful to all those who helped me in my faith journey.

I conclude with these inspiring words of Pope Francis: "Yes, when we open ourselves to God's grace, the impossible becomes a reality. If God is for us, who can be against us?" Yes, God's grace touches the "now" of your lives, "takes hold" of you as you are, with all your fears and limits, but it also reveals his marvellous plans!

Joylin Fernandes, St. Francis Xavier Sector

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When 'Luke, Matthew, Mark & John' competed

The annual Sunday School sports meet was held on March 17. After the usual Sunday class and Eucharistic celebration, the children assembled in the stilt area to pit their talents against each other.

The children were divided into four groups: Red, Yellow, Blue, Green, named after our evangelists Luke, Matthew, Mark and John respectively. After having snacks and soft drinks, they proceeded to the activity area. It was the beginning of a fun-filled day. Our tiny tots of KFC (Kids for Christ) too participated in the races conducted for them. Like the others, they too had a whale of a time.

Throwball and basketball were organised for the higher-class students. Besides prizes for the winning teams, there were awards for best 'Class performer', for which the class tests conducted earlier were taken into account. Awards were also given to students for 100% attendance during the year.

Sports Day ended with a vote of thanks to our Parish Priest, Fr. Ronald, Fr. Arun, Fr. Gordon, Fr. Martin, Bro. Naresh, Dn. Chinnaiah parents, students and Sunday School teachers.

Deline Rodrigues, Sunday School Teacher

Confirmands, Parents renewed in Retreat

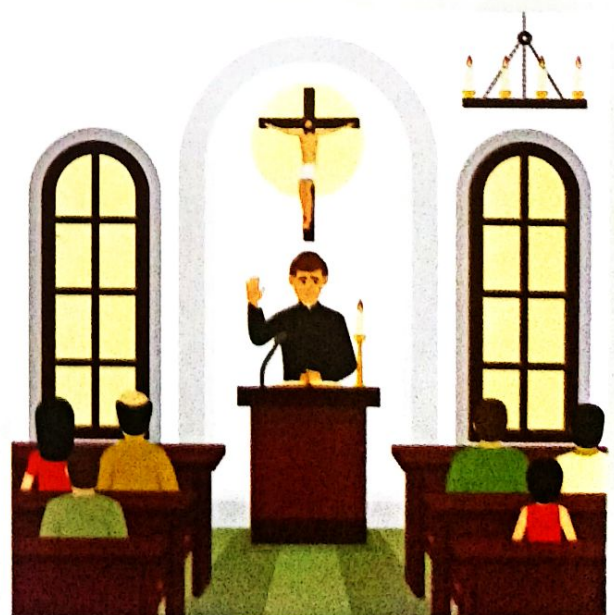
Our parish confirmands and their parents experienced the love of God in a retreat on February 2-3. It was an eye opener in understanding our children better. It helped us identify our children's emotions and how much they cared for us.

An act of self-giving and a strong bond was experienced during the 'washing of the feet'. All present at the retreat experienced the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

Our heartfelt thanks to the fathers of St. Louis, the English Prayer Group and confirmation teachers, Ms. Paskin, Ms. Thelma and Sr. Payal,

who spared no effort in helping us and our children grow spiritually and realise how blessed we all are to receive the gift of life from our Heavenly Father.

Anita Pereira



My Papal Experience

I am overjoyed and privileged to be writing this article about my visit to the U.A.E for the papal visit. I was elated to be present for such a monumental event. I would like to share my experience with my fellow Louisians about my visit.

After hearing the news of the papal visit in February I was excited to know that they would be distributing tickets for people who living outside the U.A.E as well, as soon as the ticket registration had begun we applied for it and were waiting anxiously for the response. The tickets were emailed to us early one morning and I could not contain my excitement it was finally becoming a reality.

I also applaud the U.A.E government and the apostolic vicariate of Southern Arabia (AVOSA) on the tremendous work and effort. The whole process from the start of the news till the time I landed in Abu Dhabi was surreal, the feeling of anxiousness, nervousness and excitement was evident in the St. Joseph Cathedral when we went to collect our tickets.

We arrived at the venue at 1:30 am and you could see the people walking in large numbers, the excited chatter all around. The U.A.E government made the whole process extremely smooth the government provided us with breakfast and to see the level of coordination and support for the Catholic community was beyond belief.

The wait from the time we entered the venue to getting our assigned seats was filled with interesting persons as I interacted with

different people from various parts of the world, I got to know about how they travelled just to be there for the event and it was insightful to see the faith and diligence with which people had gathered to witness the papal mass.

As morning dawned the excitement and chatter around the stadium grew with people doing the wave and cheering till the arrival of The Pope. At 10:00 a.m. as the Pope mobile was in sight you could hear the crowds announcing his arrival through their tremendous screams, shouts, and chants. However, when he actually came into sight, I was overtaken with joy and happiness. I wasn't speaking to him, nor had he laid his hands on me in blessing. All it took was for me to see him drive by, for five seconds, and I felt a joy inside that I can still not put into words to describe. I still have a hard time wrapping my head around that feeling; I would truly like to believe it was a miracle.

Looking forward to the next part of the Holy Mass and the homily, I was overcome with the fact that we were listening to the Pope's words that had come directly from the Holy Spirit. The fact that the Pope was addressing us directly, was a tremendous grace and privilege to experience.

The experience I got to have was a rare one. I felt fulfilled in that moment because I thought about the times I persevered whenever I turned to my Faith. Getting the opportunity to see this icon that is highly regarded as the leader of the Catholic Church made me feel immensely blessed.

Jacinta Diego Rodrigues
Exc. Member, PPC

The Holy Time of Lent

We have stepped into the season of lent. It's the time where we reflect on the sufferings of our Lord. We must try to imitate our Creator and we must make small sacrifices which helps us to be drawn to Him. On Ash Wednesday, ash is applied to our forehead which marks the beginning of a period of fasting, repentance and reconciliation. During this season you are to be solemn and make some sacrifices in accordance with the days of lent.

If you're a smoker you can keep away from smoking. Yes, you can do it. You may choose to reduce the number of cigarettes you smoke or resolve to give it up completely. Similarly,

if you're a tippler you can give up on drinks. Sacrifices like these go a long way and also helps begin new chapters in your life.

During lent we have way of the cross held in Our parish. Adjust your schedules, make time to partake in the suffering of Jesus. Children are also encouraged to participate in the way of the cross so they are introduced to various stages of Jesus's sufferings and his death for our sins. Some parishes conduct missions and retreats which one should make the most out of it. Both children and adults can benefit by doing their bit and make the Lenten season a fruitful one.

Leave Every Negative Thought

Freddy Miranda, St. Louis sector



DAILY PRAYER REQUEST

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin {Never Know to Fail}

O Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful, Vine Splendor of Heaven Blessed Mother of The Son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. On Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein You are my Mother.

O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I Humbly beseech You from the bottom of my Heart to succor me in my necessity (make your request). There are none that can withstand Your Power. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee (3 times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days. You must publish, and it will be granted to you.

Infant Jesus Sector Annual Report

During Lenten Season on every Sunday way of the cross was conducted in the homebound families in our sector. Parents' day was celebrated in the month of July by our sector NYG group with great enthusiasm and joy. In the month of October on the final day of rosary all sector members came together to recite the rosary at church stilt area which was followed by dinner.

In November we had sector picnic at Green Village Resort, Malad which was filled with fun and games. During Christmas our sector members along with youth actively took part in talent night and start competition. Indeed, our sector had an amazing year with support of link person and sector members.

**Gretta D'Sa
Councillor - Infant Jesus Sector**

St. Louis Church Official

Priestly Ordination



Deacon Saripudi Chinnaiah who has been serving in our Parish will receive his Priestly Ordination

conferred by **Most. Rev. Dr. Chinnabathini Bhagyaiah, Bishop of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh** on 30th April 2019. We wish him well and assure him of our thanksgiving prayers at this holy milestone of his life.

I take this opportunity to thank all the **Parish Council members** and all the **Heads of all Cells and Associations (2016-19)**, who have contributed their time & talents for the past three years. It was a blessing to work with you all. Thanks a lot for contributing towards the growth of our parish. I also wish the new Parish Councilors who will be chosen to lead the communities from the front. May we all have a fruitful ministry and may we all together march forward to build a vibrant parish community of St. Louis at Dahisar.

Fr. Ronald Fernandes CSC
Parish Priest



Parish Vision

Breaking the Word of God in our Families
and sharing bread with the needy

धर्मग्राम दृष्टीकोन

करुनी घेऊ कुटुंबी स्पष्टीकरण देव शब्दाचे

वाटुनी घेऊ भाकरी गरजवंतांशी

St. Louis Church Records December 2018 to March 2019

Baptised in Christ

Isaac Darell Mascarenhas
Monish Macdamet Coutinho
Zian Anil D'Silva
Neil Nitin D'Silva
Amaira Barretto
Elston Monteiro

Married in Christ

Kenneth Mathew Sutari & Cindrella Gracy D'Cruz
Ashwin Jason Roche & Perpetin D'Souza
Santosh Peter D'Souza & Clementia D'Souza
Sydney Fernandes & Gitanjali Gummadi
Robin Chettiar & Nikita Melinda D'Costa
Elmer Suraj Coelho & Saniya Carmel Crasto
Allwyn Anthony Cardoz & Leanna Emily Gomes
Wilfred D'silva & Ancil D'Costa
Aakash Stephen Pereira & Sheetal Maru
Edison Gordon Fernandes & Deborah Agnes Mendes
Sean Lindsay D'Silva & Tanya Vera Rapose
Alexander Savio Lobo & Anita Milagrine D'Aouza
Jerome D'souza & Sherol D'Silva

Resting in Christ

Andrew Xavier Fernandes
Nelson Augustine Miranda
Francis Victor D'souza
Anthony Xavier Challayahan
Pritam John Fernandes
Maria Afra Rebello
Joe Dominic D'silva
Philomena Alfred Rebello
Gregory Polycarp Coutinho
Mandakini Ghorpade

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St. Louis Church Official

Holy Week Services 2019

Palm Sunday | 14th April

7 am: Mass in Konkani

8 am: Blessing of the Palms followed by Mass in Marathi

9:15 am: Mass in English

6 pm: Mass (Bilingual) followed by the Singing of Veronica

9 am: Mass at Valankanni Mass Centre, Panki

Easter Triduum

Maundy Thursday | 18th April

4 pm: Confessions & Mass for the sick and homebound in the stilt area

7 pm: Mass (Bilingual) of the Last Supper followed by Adoration

Good Friday | 19th April

7 am: Way of the Cross in Konkani

8 am: Way of the Cross in Marathi

9 am: Way of the Cross in English

5.45 pm: Divine Mercy prayer

6 pm: Good Friday Service (Bilingual)

Holy Saturday | 20th April

8.30 am: Devotion to our Lady of Sorrows & Divine Mercy Novena

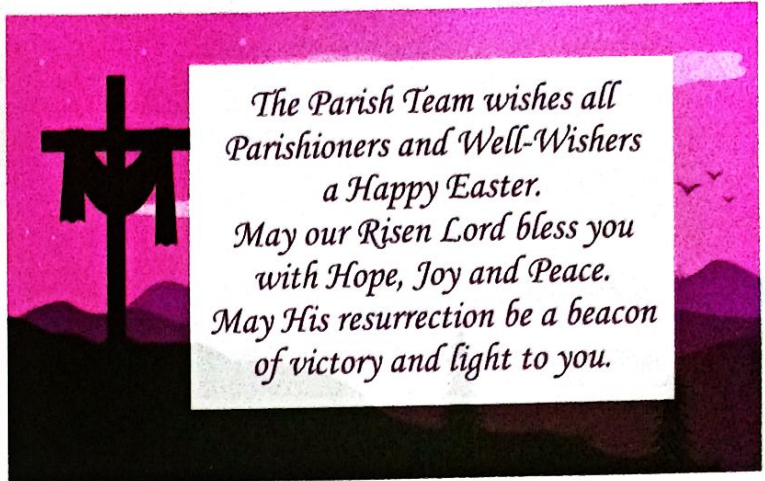
9.30 pm: Easter Vigil Mass (Bilingual)

Easter Sunday | 21st April

8 am: Mass in Marathi

9.30 am: Mass in English

9 am: Mass at Valankanni Mass Centre, Panki
(No Evening Mass)



The Parish Team wishes all Parishioners and Well-Wishers a Happy Easter. May our Risen Lord bless you with Hope, Joy and Peace. May His resurrection be a beacon of victory and light to you.

SECTOR-WISE EASTER BLESSING MASSES SCHEDULE

Monday | 22nd April

**Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
Our Lady of Fatima**

Tuesday | 23rd April

**Holy Family
Holy Trinity**

Wednesday | 24th April

**St. Louis
St. Peter**

Thursday | 25th April

**Christi Samaj
Vellankani Mata**

Friday | 26th April

**Infant Jesus
Our Lady of Lourdes
Mother Theresa**

Sunday | 28th April

**St. Joseph
St. Francis Xavier
(At Panki)**

Get in touch with your Sector Councillor for further details

St. Louis Community Welfare Fund – Report

Being a Christian community, we are obliged to reach out to each other in time of need - be it material, moral, spiritual or emotional and is enshrined in our Parish Vision statement.

While the first part is taken care of by the SCC coordinators, link persons, councilors, the second is entrusted to the St. Louis Welfare Community. This team, guided by the Parish Priest and assisted by the sector councilors and link persons, has been endeavouring to reach out to those in our midst, who might need material help by way of medical assistance, educational support, rationing supplement etc. The objective: NO ONE in our Parish community goes to bed hungry, suffers for lack of medical assistance or is unable to pursue basic education for lack of financial support.

To meet the above goal, the Parish Community had decided at the very beginning that we set aside just ONE PERCENT (*even though the Bible encourages tithe i.e 10%*) of the family's income for this noble cause. This good practice has been followed over the years and we are happy to report that this year (2018-19) 702 parishioners came forward to reach out to the community and contributed a total sum of Rs. 21,79,463/-

In addition to the above, we also received Rs. 5,50,000/- from the Archdiocesan Health Fund, for cases of major medical expenses, when we approached them.

During the year, we assisted 19 students, their educational fees amounting to Rs. 3,77,040/-, and 48 patients, to meet

their medical bills, by contributing Rs. 12,37,282/- (including Rs. 5.5 lakh from the archdiocese).

Other details of the disbursements, such as Church Support, Youth and Children, Sr. Citizens, Cells and Associations etc, are in the appended Receipts and Payments statement, for your kind perusal.

Communication and availability are the initial steps in reaching out to people. To this end, each sector representative has been visiting families in their sector with the councilors and link persons. This has helped us identify and reach out to those vulnerable and, perhaps, reluctant to seek assistance. Further, every Sunday, between 9.00 and 10.30 am, two Welfare Committee members are available by rotation in the Parish Office.

We are also happy to report that during our term in office, we organized a Blood Donation Camp and General Health Check-Up Camp, for our parishioners and others in the neighbourhood, which was much-appreciated.

As the term of the present Welfare Committee comes to an end, we would like to place on record our sincere thanks to our former parish priest – Fr Lancy and Fr Ronald, our Parish Priest, for their support and guidance. We greatly appreciate the efforts of all the sector councilors and link persons who have walked with us hand in hand in this journey to build a better community.

Finally, our grateful thanks to YOU, dear parishioners, for your generous help. Without you, our efforts to reach out to our brethren would not have been possible. God Bless You, abundantly.

**David Prakash
Secretary, SLCWF**

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY WELFARE FUND
COLLECTION & DISBURSAL DURING 2018-19

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT Rs.	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT Rs.
To Contribution received from Parish Community (702)	2179463	By Audit & Accounting Charges	17700
To Assistance received from Archdiocesan Health Fund	550000	By Cells & Associations	44200
To Interest Received from Bank	38077	By Church Support	500000
		By Medical Camp /Admin	3464
		By Educational Support (19)	377470
		By Sr. Citizens	12312
		By Medical Assistance (48)	1237282
		By Poor & Needy	25961
		By Printing & Stationery	2950
		By Sector Activities	319725
		By Youth & Children / Sports	61217
		By Bank Charges	1117
		By Balance transferred to Contingency Fund	164142
Total Rupees	2767540	Total Rupees	2767540

Parish celebrates the 'Gift of Love'

World Marriage Day was celebrated in the parish on February 24. The Family cell took up the responsibility of celebrating the sacrament of marriage and couples were invited to participate in it. Needless to say, the response was good and all made it an evening to remember.

Celebrating the commemorative mass, Fr. Ronald, our Parish Priest, spoke about the inception of World Marriage Day in his homily and stressed on the role played by husband and wife in family fortification.

As marriage vows were renewed, memories of that day when husband and wife said 'I do' and 'for better or worse' came flashing back. After the mass a get-together was held in the school hall. It started with the wedding march and when all were in the mood games were played to keep the spirit going. A delicious dinner, topped with *kulfi*, was served.

The couples went home contented, having enjoyed themselves to their brim, after a vote of thanks and distribution of prizes.

Freddy Miranda, St. Louis Sector

World Marriage Day celebrated at St. Louis

On 24th February 2019, the St. Louis Parish Family Cell organized World Marriage Day. The day honours husband and wife as the foundation of the family. The evening began with a special Eucharistic celebration for all married couples, dedicated to reviving and strengthening their marriage bond. Following Mass was an evening of fun which was nothing short of a wedding reception by itself with fun-filled games, music, entertainment and dinner.

The celebration brought back cherished memories of the beautiful moments experienced on our wedding day. It also served as an inspiration to live the vocation of marriage and family more meaningfully.

Mancy D'Souza, St. Louis Sector

KFC Bible Stories Session

A Bible story telling session was organised for the children attending Kids for Christ (KFC). Children shared stories from the Bible and it was overwhelming to see how confidently the children narrated the Bible stories. This activity was conducted to help our children to share the knowledge acquired by them at Kids for Christ.

Mancy D'Souza, St. Louis Sector

Youth Retreat



Talent Nite December 2018



World Marriage Day



First Holy Communion



The Sacrament of Confirmation



Pope's Lenten Message



Pope Francis is calling on the faithful not to let the Lenten season of grace pass in vain, and to live as children of God acknowledging and obeying His law, in particular in regards to our brothers and sisters and to creation.

In this year's Lenten message, the Pope invites believers to prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed, warning that "Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests".

The Pope's Lenten message was released on Tuesday during a press conference at the Holy See Press Office. The theme chosen this year is "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Rom 8:19)

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 6 March, and will conclude on Holy Saturday, 20 April, the day before Easter.

"Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them".

This is one of the key passages of Pope Francis' Lenten Message for 2019. Reflecting on a verse from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, the Pope highlights how the season before Easter must be a time to "welcome Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives", and attract "its transforming power to all of creation"

Fasting, Prayer, Almsgiving

Appealing to the faithful to not allow this season of grace to pass in vain, Pope Francis says that if, "the Lent of the Son of God 'was an entry into the desert of creation to make it become again that garden of communion with God" that it was before the original sin, Christians today are invited "to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving."

Fasting, the Pope says, means turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity; Prayer teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego; Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us.

If we follow this journey, he said it "is possible to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness".

Conversion of Hearts

The path to Easter, therefore, demands that "we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness" the Pope said pointing out that it is a call that involves the whole of creation.

This "eager longing", this expectation of all creation, Pope Francis says, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the "travail" that conversion entails.

**Credits: Linda Bordoni
VaticanNews.Va**