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Bulletin of St. Louis Church, Dahisar (West), Mumbai 400068 | For Private Circulation Only



**Celebrate Christmas with
Hope, Love, Joy and Peace**
Rev. Fr. Praveen Raj Bandula
Asst. Parish Priest

Christmas is a time of celebration; above all, it is a reminder of the boundless love and grace bestowed upon us through the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. During this season let us take a moment to pause and reflect on the message of hope, love, joy and everlasting peace that Christ brings into our lives.

The Message of Hope: Christmas, at its core, is a celebration of hope. The birth of Jesus Christ brought hope to a world in need. In the midst of challenges and uncertainties, the season serves as a reminder that hope is a powerful force that can overcome darkness. As members of the Christian community, let us carry the light of hope into our communities and share kindness and compassion with those around us. In a world that often feels troubled, let the hope of Christmas be a beacon, guiding us toward a brighter future.

The Message of Love: At the heart of the Christmas story is the profound message of love. God's love for humanity was manifested through the gift of His son, Jesus Christ. As we exchange gifts and express love to our friends and family, let us also reflect on the unconditional love that God has shown us. His love serves as a model for how we should love one another, transcending boundaries and embracing the diversity within our community.

The Message of Joy: Christmas is a time of joy and celebration. The angels proclaimed, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people (Luke 2:10).' This joy is not limited to circumstances in our lives but is rooted in the eternal truth of Christ's birth. As we come together to celebrate, let the joy of Christmas be contagious.

The Message of Peace: At the heart of the Christmas narrative is the gift of peace that Christ brings to humanity. The angels proclaimed, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased (Luke 2:14).' The birth of Jesus signifies the advent of peace between God and humanity, among individuals and communities. Let us embrace the gift of

peace with open hearts and extend it to everyone we encounter.

The Message of Giving: The act of giving is the central theme of Christmas. Just as God gave us the ultimate gift in Jesus Christ, we are called to be generous in our giving. This goes beyond material gifts; it extends to giving our time, love and compassion to those in need. During this festive season, let us open our hearts and hands to help the less fortunate. The spirit of giving defines the Christmas message.

In the midst of the festivities, may we never lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.

**“आशा, प्रेम, आनंद आणि
शांततेत नाताळ साजरा करा.”**

नाताळ हा उत्सवाचा काळ आहे, सर्वात महत्वाचे म्हणजे हा काळ आपल्याला आपल्या तारणाच्या येशू ख्रिस्ताच्या जन्माद्वारे आपल्यावर झालेल्या अमर्याद प्रेमाची आणि कृपेची आठवण करून देतो. या आगमनकाळात ख्रिस्ताने आपल्या जीवनात आणलेल्या आशा, आनंद, प्रेम आणि चिरंतन शांतीच्या संदेशावर थोडा वेळ काढून विचार करूया.

आशेचा संदेश: नाताळ हा आशेचा उत्सव आहे. येशू ख्रिस्ताच्या जन्मामुळे जगातील गरजवंतांना आशा मिळाली. आव्हाने आणि अनिश्चिततेच्या मध्यात, हा ऋतु आपल्याला आठवण करून देतो की, आशा ही एक शक्तिशाली ताकद आहे, जी अंधारावर मात करू शकते. ख्रिस्ती समाजाचे सदस्य या नात्याने, आपण आपल्या समाजामध्ये आशेचा प्रकाश उजळूया आणि आपल्या सभोवतालच्या लोकांसोबत दयालूपणा आणि करुणा सामायिक करूया. या त्रस्त जगात नाताळची आशा आपल्याला उज्वळ भविष्याकडे मार्गदर्शन करणारा दिवा बनवूया.

प्रेमाचा संदेश: नाताळच्या कथेच्या केंद्रस्थानी प्रेमाचा गहन संदेश आहे. देवाचे मानवावरील प्रेम त्याचा पुत्र येशू ख्रिस्त यांच्या देणगीतून प्रकट होते. आपण भेटवस्तूंची देवाण-घेवाण करीत असताना आणि आपल्या मित्रांवर आणि कुटुंबियांवर प्रेम व्यक्त करीत असताना, देवाने आपल्यावर केलेल्या बिनशर्त प्रेमाचा देखील विचार करूया. सर्व सीमा ओलांडून आपण समाजात कशा प्रकारे प्रेम केले पाहिजे हे देवाचे प्रेम आपल्याला शिकविते.



आनंदाचा सोहळा - नाताळ

नाताळ हा सण प्रभू येशूचा जन्मदिन म्हणून जगभर साजरा केला जातो. नाताळ जसजसा जवळ येतो तसतसे उत्साहाला उधाण येते. युरोप, अमेरिकेत ऑक्टोबर महिना ओसरत नाही तोच घराघरांवर नाताळची चाँदनी झलकू लागते. भारतात देखील नाताळ मोठ्या उत्साहाने साजरा केला जातो. भारतासारख्या मोठ्या देशात अनेक जाती-धर्माचे विविध सण साजरा केले जातात. भारतातील सण ज्या-त्या जाती-धर्मापूर्ते मर्यादित नसून आता सर्वजण एकत्रित साजरे करतात. प्रत्येक लहान मूलाला आपल्या घरी रात्री झोपल्यावर कुणीतरी यावे आणि आपल्या उशाशी छोटी भेटवस्तू ठेऊन जावे असे वाटत असते. सांताक्लॉजच्या कथेमुळे तो सर्वांचाच लाडका बनून गेला आहे इतकंच नाही तर १०-१५ दिवस आधीच सांता कॅप्स बाजारात दिसू लागतात. नाताळ लोकप्रिय असला तरी अनेक लोकांना त्याचा अर्थ आणि तो कसा साजरा केला जातो ह्याची फारशी कल्पना नाही.

नाताळ आनंद साजरा करण्याचा दिवस आहे एवढंच आपल्याला माहित आहे. नाताळ साजरा करण्या अगोदर त्याची पूर्वतयारी केली जाते. नाताळच्या जवळपास महिनाभर अगोदर चर्चमध्ये चार रविवार आगमनाची पुष्पचक्री लावली जाते. या पुष्पचक्रीवरील प्रत्येक रविवारी एक मेणबत्ती प्रज्वलित केली जाते. पुष्पचक्रीतील मेणबत्त्या आशा, शांती, आनंद आणि प्रेमाचे प्रतीक असतात. नाताळची तयारी करण्यासाठी कुमसारची पद्धत असते जेथे धर्मगुरूसामोर आपले मन आणि अंतःकरण शुद्ध होते. शुद्ध व्यक्तीसाठी नाताळचा सण म्हणजे आनंदाची पैरवणी असते आणि आनंद हाच नाताळचा स्थायीभाव आहे.

येशूच्या दर्शनाने मेंढपाळांची आर्थिक परिस्थिति बदलली नाही, त्यांना धन दौलत प्राप्त झाले नाही, न जमीन-जुमला मिळाला, तरीही त्यांच्या मनातून आनंद ओसंडत होता कारण त्यांना साक्षात भगवंताचे दर्शन झाले होते. आपल्याला सुद्धा त्याच आनंदाचा लाभ व्हावा ही नाताळची शुभेच्छा.

ॲंग्रेस सिरील डिसील्वा

**ख्रिस्ती समाज विभाग
दहिसरगाव**

फा. प्रवीण, CSC

आनंदाचा संदेश: नाताळ हा आनंदाचा आणि उत्साहाचा काळ आहे. देवदूतांनी घोषणा केली, “भिऊ नका, मी तुम्हासाठी आनंदाची बातमी आणत आहे, ज्यामुळे सर्व लोकांना आनंद होणार आहे.” (लुक २:१०). हा आनंद आपल्या जीवनातील परिस्थितींपूरता मर्यादित नाही तर ख्रिस्ताच्या जन्माच्या शाश्वत सत्यात आहे. आपण आपला आनंद साजरा करीत असताना, नाताळचा आनंद संक्रामक होऊ देऊया.

शांतीचा संदेश: नाताळच्या कथेच्या केंद्रस्थानी ख्रिस्ताने मानवतेला दिलेली शांतीची देणगी आहे. देवदूतांनी घोषणा केली, “स्वर्गात परमेश्वराला गौरव आणि पृथ्वीवर ज्यांच्यावर तो प्रसन्न आहे त्या सर्वांना शांती.” (लुक २:१४). येशूचा जन्म देव आणि मानवामध्ये, व्यक्ति आणि समुदायांमध्ये शांततेच्या आगमनाचे प्रतीक आहे. आपण शांततेची भेट उघड्या अंतःकरणाने स्वीकारूया आणि आपण ज्यांना भेटतो त्या प्रत्येकापर्यंत पोहोचवूया.

दानधर्माचा (देण्याचा) संदेश: देण्याची क्रिया ही नाताळचा मध्यवर्ती भाग आहे. ज्याप्रमाणे परमेश्वराने आपल्याला येशू ख्रिस्तामध्ये देणगी दिली, त्याचप्रमाणे आपल्याला आपल्या दानात उदार होण्यासाठी बोलविले जाते. हे भौतिक गोष्टींच्या पलीकडे आहे, ते गरजवंतांना आपला वेळ, प्रेम आणि करुणा देण्यापर्यंत विस्तारीत आहे. या सणासुदीच्या काळात कमनशिबी लोकांना मदत करण्यासाठी आपली हृदये आणि हात उघडूया. देण्याची भावना नाताळचा संदेश परिभाषित करते.

या सणासुदीच्या काळात मी तुम्हाला आणि तुमच्या कुटुंबीयांना माझ्या मनःपूर्वक शुभेच्छा देत आहे. नाताळचा खरा अर्थ आपण गमावू नये. ख्रिस्ताची शांति आज आणि येत्या वर्षभरात तुमच्या अंतःकरणात राज्य करे.

*Peace on earth,
Goodwill to all*



*Merry
Christmas*

In a world full of strife and the stress of daily life
Christmas brings the peace and joy, we desire!

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ST. LOUIS CHRISTMAS TALENT NIGHT

A Christmas Talent Night was held on 17th December 2023 at 7 pm in the Church Stilt area. The Parish Youth, Sunday School Children, English, Marathi and Konkani Choirs exhibited their talents in this beautifully conducted program. We had skits, songs and carols, dancing and even a mime act with Christmas at the heart of it. We thank all those who made this enchanted evening possible with their efforts and dedication.



Christmas Program Schedule

23rd December 2023 | Saturday
Christmas Star /
Christmas Tree Competition

24th December 2023 | Sunday
9:30 pm Carol Singing
10 pm Solemn Mass

25th December 2023 | Monday
8 am Service in Marathi
9:30 am Service in English
(No Mass in the Evening)

28th December 2023 | Thursday
The Day of Holy Innocents
Special Prayers for Children in both
Morning & Evening Masses.

31st December 2023 | Sunday
9:30 pm Adoration
10 pm Solemn Mass

01st January 2024 | Monday
8 am Mass in Marathi
9:30 am Mass in English
(No Mass in the Evening)

Caveat: The articles in the Louisian Samachar are the opinions of the writers. They do not necessarily reflect the thoughts of St. Louis Church or the Catholic Church. Please verify the claims made by the advertisements placed here. The Church and St. Louis Church shall not be held responsible, shall any issues arise. However, we do encourage you to patronise the business of our advertisers. 'Louisian Samachar' is published by St. Louis Church, Dahisar has no commercial value and is privately circulated.

The Parish Team & Parish Pastoral Council wishes parishioners a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2024. May baby Jesus bring Love and Peace into your homes.

संत लुईस याजक वर्गाकडून आपणा सर्वांना नाताळच्या आणि नुतन वर्षाच्या हार्दिक शुभेच्छा. बाळ येशुची प्रिती आणि शांती तुमच्या कुटुंबात सदैव राहो ही प्रार्थना.



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

AUGUST - DECEMBER 2023

BAPTISED IN CHRIST

Brielle Blaze D'Silva
Zavis Sergio Pereira
Denzil Rodrigues
Liam Henry
Aizel Dias
Nate Gonsalves
Jazneil D'Souza
Asher Filipe Fernandes
Daniella Naomi Borges

MARRIED IN CHRIST

Lennette Lawrence & Malcolm Fernandes
Welron Creado & Valentina Kinny
Aadish Gamre & Bhavika Mackwan
Richard Fernandis & Swapna Das
Neil Mendonca & Eleanor Colaco

RESTING IN CHRIST

Clifford Clarence Linch
Victor Pinto



AUGUST

Vianney Sunday: The feast of St John Marie Vianney, patron of priests engaged in the pastoral ministry, was celebrated at all masses on August 6. Parishioners expressed their appreciation and affection to our parish fathers, who were later presented bouquets.

Old age home visitation: SVP members visited the Sneha Sagar Aged Home, in Mira Road, on August 12 and interacted with the inmates and sisters working there.

Independence Day: Parishioners turned out in large numbers to participate along with the staff and students of St Louis High School in hoisting the National flag.

East Indian Dhamaka: On August 15, the East Indian community came together for the Thaanik Kristi Samaj's celebrations. Thanksgiving mass was followed by a cultural programme and community lunch.

Deanery faith formation: 25 five students from Grades 5 and 6 participated in a deanery faith formation session on August 20.

St. Louis Feast: The novena to our patron, Saint Louis, was held in Marathi and English from August 18 to 26. Preachers from other parishes enlightened parishioners with their homilies. Stalls offering delicious snacks were put up by the sectors. The theme for the feast day was 'One mind and One Heart builds our church'. On August 27, the feast mass at 8 am in Marathi was celebrated by Fr. Andrew Rodrigues. The English mass at 9.30 am was celebrated by Fr. Gilbert D'Lima.

SEPTEMBER

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady: The novena was held in Marathi and English from August 30 to September 7. The 7 pm English mass was animated by the Sunday School children, who engaged in the liturgy and brought along daily love offerings. The novena was also conducted at Our Lady of Velankani Mass Centre (Panki). On September 8, the Eucharistic celebration there was followed by a fellowship meal.

Nativity Stalls: From August 30 to September 7 the youth enthusiastically set up vibrant food stalls and engaging games each day, fostering a festive atmosphere.

Visitations: On September 17 students from Grade 4 preparing for Confirmation visited Don Bosco Orphanage Home, Mercy Home and Ankur Orphanage and distributed Nativity love offerings they had collected.

Teachers' Day: A joyous Teachers' Day get-together celebration was held on September 17 by the Sunday School children.

Widows' get-together: A celebration for widows of the parish was organised on September 24 by the women's cell. The attendees had a good time as they participated in games and song.

Feast of SVP: The SVP members celebrated their feast on September 27 with mass and a get-together.

OCTOBER

Rosary: As always, the Rosary was conducted daily in Marathi, Konkani and English in the church in October. The statue of Our Lady also journeyed to sector families and the Rosary was prayed in homes.

Recollection & festive meet: The gathering was organised for adopted families of the SVP on October 1.

Deanery Youth Day: Our parish youth participated in Deanery Youth Day on October 2. It was hosted by I C Church for parishes of the North Borivali deanery.

World Elders' Day: Conducted by the archdiocese at Salvation Church, Dadar, on October 2, the event was well-attended by Senior Citizens' group members. The day began with the Eucharistic celebration. What followed was inspiring talks by different speakers, games and lunch. The seniors also celebrated World Elders' Day in the parish on October 18 with thanksgiving mass and dinner.

Women's cell Deanery meeting: Our parish hosted the meeting on October 2.

Rosary Rally: On October 8, collaborating with the Sunday School, the youth took charge of planning and executing a heartwarming Rosary rally. It was a beautiful collective effort that brought the community closer through prayer and devotion.

English Praise and Worship: The parish Praise and Worship group members attended the 'Basic module' programme on October 8, at Salvation Seva Kendra,

TRAINING SESSION FOR PPC/ANIMATORS/LAY HEADS OF ASSOCIATIONS AND CELLS

A training session for PPC members, animators, lay heads of associations and cells was conducted in the parish by **Mr. Melwyn Sequeira, Secretary of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Lay Associations of the Archdiocese**, on August 13, 2023, at 11.15 am.

With the aid of a power point presentation Mr. Sequeira emphasised the role of the PPC.

Highlights of the presentation:

1. PPC - the light of Parish life
2. Community builder
3. Always on the move
4. Discovers talent/encourages training
5. Ongoing growth in maturity
6. Building families in the area into a genuine Eucharistic community.

Six groups were formed and the question put forth was: *What would be your vision for the parish?*

The responses:

- ▲ Uniting people in faith
- ▲ Have more activities for the youth
- ▲ More parishioners should attend cluster meetings
- ▲ Get more people involved in the parish
- ▲ Go beyond cultural and linguistic barriers

Members of the associations and cells were encouraged to attend the various courses/training programmes conducted by the archdiocese.

The groups were asked to make a pyramid with whatever material was available with them at the moment like boks, papers, umbrellas etc. All attendees came up with innovative ideas to make the pyramid.

The session ended at 12.30 pm with a vote of thanks by Cleston D'Costa.

**Cheryl Rego
St. Peter's Community (Dahisar East)**



COMMUNITY REPORTS

Mother Theresa Community: The entire month of October was dedicated to the circulation of Mother Mary's statue and praying the rosary Rosary house to house daily. On the 8th December, on the Feast of Immaculate Conception we distributed the food packages to the slum area's children and their families.

Jacintha Rodrigues, Councillor

Our Lady of Fatima Community: Our Lady of Fatima Community celebrated the feast of their patroness on October 13. Families from the area gathered in large numbers for the Holy Eucharist in church at 7:00 pm. Backed by its animators and a vibrant choir, they praised and gave thanks to God. After mass the community assembled in the KG class on the stilt area and recited the Rosary. The home-to-home Rosary was replaced by community Rosary in church. 69 members were present.

Our Lady of Fatima emerged overall champions in the Louisian Sports Meet, held on December 2-3. On Day 1 of the meet, our football team won three matches while the senior citizens scored 16 points in Tele-games and children won 5 points in snakes and ladders. On Day 2, our Community participated in volleyball, throwball and basketball. The girls' throwball team won five matches and basketball team three. With an aggregate tally of 32 points from the various tournaments Our Lady of Fatima was declared champions of the meet.

Deline Rodrigues, Councillor

St. Francis Xavier Community: In the true spirit of fellowship and community SFX organized a Multi-lingual Rosary for our Community on 23rd October 2023. We also extended invitation to St. Joseph Community to join in to pray to our Mother. The idea was to create a sense of inclusion among all language groups in our Community. We have over 50 people reciting the Rosary in English, Hindi, Marathi, Konkani and Tamil. We began with Processions and

Singing Hymns in different languages. Even though the language was different the air was very prayerful. At the end of the 45 minutes of prayer and hymns many people came forward and thanked us for the beautiful experience where even they felt part of the Community.

The month of November being Children's Day and World Day of the Poor saw us visiting an orphanage for destitute children in Madh-Island. There were over 19 children from broken homes, orphans, burnt victims, crippled, but all were welcome and lived together. We took ration, fruits, food, clothes and chocolates for the children. Some even donated for their education expenses. We played games with them, spoke to them and gave them some words of encouragement and had lunch with them. It was very beautiful to see such small children being inculcated with such good values and have so much of love in them.

Esther Michael Antony, Councillor



Our Lady of Lourdes Community: During our Sector house blessings visit by Rev. Fr. Praveen, our Sector Priest-in-charge along with the Councillor & link person Samantha we visited and spent quality time with them. One of the persons we'd like to mention is Mrs. Ethel Correa who is in her mid 90's, Mother of Glen Correa & Carol D'Sa. We feel blessed to have the opportunity to reach out to all from the youth to the senior citizens.

Pascal Dias, Councillor



English Charismatic prayer group: Members of the English Charismatic prayer group participated in the advanced praise and worship workshop at St. Michael's church, Mahim, on October 15.

Visit to Ankur Children's home: Our parish youth visited the Ankur Children's home on October 29. They brought smiles to the children's faces with games, song and dance. Additionally, their generous donations had a meaningful impact on the lives of the children.

NOVEMBER

Inter-parish Youth Week: From November 6 to 9 the St. Louis parish youth participated in I C church's Inter-parish youth week. Selika Pereira's remarkable third place win in singing and Anurag Ghorpade's fourth place in the Personality competition were moments of pride for the parish.

Children's Day: The Sunday School children celebrated Children's Day on November 12 with entertaining games and a lively dance party.

Workshop: The English Charismatic group members attended the workshop 'Growing with Charisms' at Vinalaya, on October 18.

Women's cell: Members of the women's cell attended the session conducted by the Archdiocese at St. John the Evangelist Church, Marol, on November 19. Sr. Annie Joseph, secretary, Conference of Catholic Bishops of India, gave a talk on 'Nurturing Relationships in the family', in a very fruitful session.

Feast of Christ the King: On November 26, Holy Hour was conducted in Konkani, Marathi and English. At 4.30 pm parishioners joined in procession with The Blessed Sacrament around the church premises. It was followed by homily and benediction.

Compiled by Cheryl Rego

St. Peter's Community (Dahisar East)



IN THE MANGER LIES OUR HOPE

A colleague once remarked, 'I don't go to church; I am a good person and that's what really matters.' The conversation stayed with me, and gnawed at my soul for a long time. This statement is absolutely wrong, as it rests on the premise that our own goodness is enough for our salvation.

If our own righteousness was sufficient to save us then we wouldn't need Christ, the stainless lamb, and his supreme and selfless sacrifice on the cross.

Jesus Christ said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me' (John 14:6). Christ was not the one to mince his words. Here, he strongly proclaims that He is the **only** way to our heavenly Father. No amount of self-righteousness, own goodness alone takes us to God our Father. We may think we are good people and we judge others for their sins, but the truth is that we just sin differently. We are all sinners and have faltered many times, but our forgiveness comes from Christ; our salvation comes from him. It is our repentance and His unconditional love that reconciles us through God the Son.

We go to church to receive the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the one who instituted the Holy Eucharist. We receive Christ at Mass in our hearts and souls, which is something that can't happen when we stay away from church.

God our Father gave us hope and a pathway for salvation through the birth of his Son as it was promised and prophesied for myriad years. The **word incarnate (John 1:14)** was born in a manger, which is the epitome of humbleness for someone who is the King of Kings!

Christmas is the time for rejoicing, as our Saviour is born. So let us come together to worship him as one Parish Community and members of the Holy Catholic church. Concluding with something I read somewhere: *No Jesus, No Peace - Know Jesus, Know Peace!*

Cleston D'Costa, St. Louis Community

Lousian Samachar Editorial Team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024

CHEERS TO A FEASTFUL DECEMBER!

In the wink of an eye, 2023 will come to an end. We land in December, the last month of the year. December has Christmas and a host of other feasts, including St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of Goa. He was a well-known missionary. It is followed by the feast of the Immaculate Conception in the womb of her mother.

Then we come to the 25th of December, the Nativity of our Lord. Jesus Christ was born in a manger, a humble place, among animals. This celebration is followed by the feast of St. Stephen. He was appointed by the apostles in the early church to serve the people. He performed great wonders and signs in the name of Jesus. The angry and jealous jews stoned him to death.

Then, on the 28th of December, is the feast of the Holy Innocents, the massacre of all male children two years old and under in Bethlehem and its vicinity. It showed Herod's anger on the Magi for not reporting the whereabouts of Jesus.

A few days later, we ring in the New Year. May you have a prayerful and prosperous 2024!

Freddy Miranda, St. Louis Community

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KONKANI ASSOCIATION REPORT

Monthi Saibinnechem Festh (MONTHI FESTH) was celebrated on SUNDAY, 10th September, 2023. The function commenced at 11.30AM with new paddy being blessed and offering of flowers to the Infant Mary, followed by procession to the church for Holy Mass, which was celebrated by guest priest Fr. Nelson Saldana and our Parish Priest Fr. Ronald Fernandes.

Blessed corn mixed with milk was distributed along with a piece of cake to the gathering. Parishioners of all age groups actively participated in a variety programme, comprising skits, dances and songs followed by lunch (Novem Jevonn), which comprised various vegetable dishes rice and payasam, served on green banana leaves (sirothi).

The celebration concluded by giving thanks to Almighty God.

Irene Lobo



FIND YOUR NEW SMILE



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YOUTH ACTIVITIES – AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2023

Nativity Stalls (Aug 30 to Sept 7): The youth enthusiastically set up vibrant food stalls and engaging games each day of the novenas, fostering a festive atmosphere during the Nativity period. It was a joy to see everyone come together and celebrate this special time of Mother Mary's birthday.

Deanery Youth Day (Oct 2): St Louis church participated in Deanery Youth Day (DYD), hosted by I C Church, for parishes of the North Borivali Deanery. It was a dynamic event, filled with games, fun and dance. Exploring the significance of good music was enlightening and added a vibrant rhythm to the activities.

Rosary Rally (Oct 8): Collaborating with the Sunday School, the youth took charge of planning and executing a heartwarming Rosary Rally. It was a beautiful collective effort that brought the community closer through prayer, rosary and devotion.

Visit to Ankur Children's Home (Oct 29): The visit to Ankur Children's Home was a touching experience. Our parish youth brought smiles to the children's faces with games, song and dance. Additionally, the generous donations made a meaningful impact on the lives of the children there.

Inter-Parish Youth Week (Nov 6 to 9): The youth represented St Louis parish in I C Church's Inter-Parish Youth Week. Selika Pereira's remarkable 3rd place win in singing and Anurag Ghorpade's 4th place in the Personality competition were moments of pride. Their achievements showcased the talent and spirit of a vibrant youth group.

Delanie Rodrigues
Youth Secretary



Deanery Youth Day



Anurag Ghorpade wins 4th place in the Personality competition



Selika Pereira wins 3rd place in the Singing Competition



Visit to Ankur Children's Home

नाताळचा आनंद

जगाचा तारणारा जन्माला येणार आहे असे भाकीत अनेक भविष्यवाद्यांनी, संदेष्ट्यांनी, निरनिराळ्या ठिकाणी वर्तविले होते कारण पापी जगाचे तारण करणे परमेश्वराची इच्छा होती. आदाम आणि एवेने परमेश्वराच्या आज्ञाभांगांचे पाप केले, आणि सैतानाच्या मोहाला बली पडून जगात पापाचा उदय झाला. परमेश्वर दयाळू आणि कन्हवाळू आहे, आणि म्हणूनच परमेश्वराने आपल्या पुत्राद्वारे जगाचे तारण केले. तारणकर्त्याला जगात पाठविण्यासाठी परमेश्वराने आपल्या योजनेनुसार योसेफ आणि मारियेची निवड केली. जगाचे तारण करण्यासाठी मरियेला परमेश्वराने जन्मापासून निष्कलंक ठेवले होते आणि योसेफ हा सज्जन मनुष्य होता, परमेश्वराने आपल्या दूतामार्फत वर्तविलेल्या सर्व गोष्टींचे त्याने पालन केले.

समाजात वाच्यता कशी करावी हे फार अवघड असताना तिला विवाहपूर्व दिवस गेल्याचे दिसून आले होते. मरियेला समाजातील लोकांच्या टीकेला, आपशब्दांना सामोरे जावे लागले असेल हे सत्य आहे. मरिया सर्व दुखांना, संकटांना नम्रतेने सामोरे गेली आणि देवाच्या तारणाच्या योजनेत सहभागी झाली. जी दुःखे, संकटे, अडचणी तिच्या वाटेला आल्या त्या सर्व तिने आपल्या हृदयात साठवून ठेवल्या. हे सर्व तिने तारणकर्त्याला जगात आणण्यासाठी सहन केले कारण त्याद्वारे परमेश्वराची इच्छा पूर्ण होणार होती.

नाताळची पहाट ही श्रद्धेची आणि विश्वासची पहाट आहे कारण ह्या दिवशी परमेश्वराने प्रीती, करुणा, शांती, न्याय, समानता आणि स्वातंत्र्य या मूल्यांना जन्म दिला. आपण श्रद्धा पेरतो आणि कृती उगवते, आपण कृती पेरतो येशूची मूल्ये उगवतात, आपण येशूची मूल्ये पेरतो आणि चारित्र्य उगवते, आपण आपले चारित्र्य पेरतो आणि आपले जीवन सार्थक, परिपूर्ण आणि ख्रिस्तमय होते. ख्रिस्तमय होणे म्हणजे ख्रिस्ती धर्म कृतिशीलपणे जगणे म्हणजेच नाताळ साजरा करणे होय. येशू जन्मावरील आपली श्रद्धा आणि भक्ति म्हणजे आपल्या जीवनात ख्रिस्ताचा साक्षात्कार होय. आपल्या प्रत्येकाच्या जीवनातील धागेदोरे, नातीगोती आणि

आध्यात्म यांचा समन्वय येशू जन्मातून झाला आहे. हा येशू जन्म आपल्याला परमेश्वराच्या निर्मितीची जाणीव करून देतो. आपण जेव्हा नाताळ साजरा करतो तेव्हा येशू ख्रिस्त आपल्याशी एकरूप होत असतो.

आपण दरवर्षी नाताळ साजरा करतो, आपण बाळ येशूचा कसा स्वीकार करतो? त्याचं स्वागत आपण कसं करतो? त्याच्या पुढे आपण कितपत नतमस्तक होतो? आणि त्याच्या चैतन्यमय प्रकाशात किती समृद्ध होतो? अशा अनेक प्रश्नांची उत्तरे आपल्याला आजही देता येत नाही. नाताळ हा फक्त श्रृंगार करण्याचा, बेभान नृत्य करण्याचा, धुंदीत मस्त होऊन केवळ मौजमजा करण्याचा प्रसंग नव्हे, तर ख्रिस्ताप्रमाणे आपल्या जीवनातील प्रसंगांना सामोरे जाणे, त्याग करणे, असुरक्षितांना आधार देणे, बेघरांना आश्रय देणे म्हणजे नाताळ खऱ्या अर्थाने साजरा करणे होय.

येशू जन्माद्वारे जगात स्नेहचा सुगंध दारवळला, सौख्य आणि समृद्धीच्या वाटा मोकळ्या झाल्या, आनंद, समृद्धी, शांती, प्रेम यांचा झरा वाहू लागला. नाताळच्या निमित्ताने आपल्यावर झालेल्या सर्व कृपादानांची आपण आठवण करूया. गोर-गरिबांबरोबर, निराक्षितांबरोबर येशू जन्माचा प्रकाश सामायिक करण्याचे धाडस करूया आणि नाताळचा खरा अनुभव घेऊया.

प्रीती डॅनी वैती
वेलांकणी माता विभाग
कांदरपाडा



Talent, Teamwork and Camaraderie at Louisian Sports Meet 2023

The vibrant youth of our parish orchestrated the 2023 edition of the Louisian Sports Meet on December 2-3. The event began on a solemn note as Fr. Ronald Fernandes led everyone in prayer and Fr Praveen lit the Louisian flame. On the first day, football and indoor games set the adrenaline pumping, while the air buzzed with the laughter of children and cheer of senior citizens engrossed in delightful tele-games.

Anticipation soared on the second day as basketball, throwball and volleyball took centre stage, each match a fierce battle for victory. The 13 dynamic sectors competing for the coveted overall championship kept spectators on the edge of their seats during the nail-biting finals. Cheers echoed, hearts raced and, in the end, it was a resounding victory for Our Lady of Fatima sector with 32 points followed by St. Louis Sector with 27 points. Our very own Holy Cross Fathers, a formidable force, made it a hat-trick of volleyball triumphs.

What really made the event spectacular was the sight of parishioners coming together as a single, close-knit family. Sincere appreciation goes out to the referees for taking time out from their busy schedules and ensuring smooth conduct of the matches. The impeccable teamwork showcased by our spirited youth in the 3 weeks of preparation and the execution undoubtedly transformed the event into a resounding success.

As the echoes of cheers and camaraderie linger in our memories, we extend sincere thanks to our parish fathers for their constant support, the church and school staff and everyone who contributed to make the Louisian Sports Meet a grand success. It was not merely a competition; it was a celebration of sportsmanship, unity and the indomitable spirit of our parish community.

**Andrea Sebastian
Youth President**

