



संत लुईस  
आम्हासाठी प्रार्थ  
St. Louis Pray for us

# Louisian Samachar

DECEMBER 2024



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## Decoding Christmas Fr. Bijumon Thomas CSC

Once again, it's Christmas, the season filled with hope, joy, faith and love. Christmas fills our hearts with anticipation. For some, it's a time to celebrate with festivities, including colourful decorations, shopping and outings. For others, it's a season of deeper spiritual preparation, a time for repentance and drawing closer to God. Yet, for some, it may feel like just another day of the year.

In this context, Christmas holds special significance for each of us at St. Louis Parish. How we perceive Christmas has a profound impact on our personal, parish and family lives. The evangelists described the birth of Christ in a dramatic way: darkness enveloped the world, and then a light shone. The good news was announced to the shepherds, a multitude of heavenly hosts praised God and the wise men from the East followed the star in search of the King of the Jews to pay him homage. On the other hand, King Herod and his followers sought to kill the newborn, leading to the tragic loss of many innocent lives. For some, it was a moment of hope, joy, and adoration; for others, it was a moment of bewilderment, fear, and unbelief.

As believers, what do we see in Christmas, if not the "littleness" of God - a scandalous truth? It is Baby Jesus, truly God and truly man, coming to us as one of us. The Creator of heaven and earth, who embraces the cosmos, is held in the hands of human beings. The one who placed the sun now needs the warmth of the manger; tenderness incarnate must be cuddled. The infinite and unconditional love of God is contained in a tiny heart that beats softly. The omniscient and omnipotent God is a homeless infant. The Bread of Life needs to be nurtured.

Christmas turns everything upside down - God enters the world in littleness. This paradox challenges us to ask ourselves: can we accept God's way of doing

things? He reveals Himself in the ordinariness of life, yet we often fail to recognize Him.

Therefore, as Christians, we should ask Jesus for the "grace of littleness" this Christmas. As Pope Francis expressed in one of his Christmas vigil homilies: "Lord, teach us to love littleness. Help us to understand that littleness is the way to authentic greatness."

## नाताळ समजून घेणे

पुन्हा एकदा, नाताळ आला आहे, आशा, आनंद, विश्वास आणि प्रेमाने भरलेला हंगाम पुन्हा आला आहे. नाताळ आपले अंतःकरण अपेक्षेने भरतो. काहींसाठी, रंगीबेरंगी सजावट, खरेदी आणि सहलीसह उत्सव साजरा करण्याची वेळ आली आहे. इतर काहींसाठी, हा पश्चात्ताप करून, देवाच्या जवळ येण्याचा, सखोल आध्यात्मिक तयारीचा काळ आहे. तर काहींसाठी हा वर्षातील आणखी एका दिवसा सारखा दिवस आहे.

या संदर्भात, संत लुईस धर्मग्रामात आपल्या प्रत्येकासाठी नाताळला विशेष महत्त्व आहे. नाताळ सणाची आपली समज आपल्या वैयक्तिक, धर्मग्रामीण आणि कौटुंबिक जीवनावर खोल प्रभाव पडते. सुवार्तिकांनी ख्रिस्ताच्या जन्माचे नाटकीय वर्णन केले आहे: जगात अंधार पडला आणि एक प्रकाश दिसला. मॅढपाळांना ख्रिस्तजन्माची बातमी घोषिविली जाते, स्वर्गीय दूत देवाची स्तुती करतात आणि पूर्वेकडील ज्ञानी लोक यहुद्यांच्या राजाच्या शोधात त्याला मुजरा करून, भेटी वाहण्यासाठी ताऱ्याच्या मार्गे येतात. दुसरीकडे, राजा हेरोद आणि त्याच्या अनुयायांनी नवजात बालकांना जीवे मारण्याचा प्रयत्न केला, ज्यामुळे अनेक निष्पाप जीवांचे दुःखद नुकसान झाले. काहींसाठी तो आशेचा, आनंदाचा आणि आराधनेचा क्षण होता; तर इतरांसाठी, तो गोंधळाचा, भीतीचा आणि अविश्वासाचा क्षण होता.

श्रद्धावंत लोक म्हणून, आपण नाताळमध्ये काय पाहतो, जर आपण देवाचा "लहानपणा" पाहत नाही तर मग एक निंदनीय सत्य पाहतो, हा बाळ येशू आहे, खरा देव आणि



खरा मणुष्य, आपल्यापैकी एक जो आपल्याकडे येत आहे. स्वर्ग आणि पृथ्वीचा निर्माता, जो ब्रह्मांडाला आलिंगन देतो, त्याला मानवांनी हातात धरले आहे. ज्याने सूर्य घडवला त्याला आता गोठ्याची ऊब हवी आहे; देवाचा अवतार ज्याला आलिंगणाची गरज आहे. देवाचे असीम आणि बिनशर्त प्रेम जे एका लहानशा हृदयात सामावलेले आहे ते हळूवारपणे धडकते. सर्वशक्तिमान देव एक बेघर शिशू आहे. जीवनाच्या भाकरीला पालनपोषणाची गरज आहे.

नाताळ सर्वकाही उलथून टाकतो - देव लहान बालक होऊन जगात प्रवेश करतो. हा विरोधाभास आपल्याला स्वतःला प्रश्न करण्यास आव्हान देतो: आपण देवाची कार्ये पद्धती स्वीकारू शकतो का? सामान्य व्यक्तीच्या रूपात तो स्वतःला प्रकट करतो, तरीही आपण त्याला ओळखण्यात अपयशी ठरतो.

म्हणून, ख्रिस्ती या नात्याने, आपण या नाताळच्या हंगामात येशूकडे "नम्र होण्याची कृपा" मागितली पाहिजे. पोप फ्रान्सिस यांनी त्यांच्या नाताळच्या जागरणविधीच्या एका प्रवचनात सांगितले आहे: "प्रभु, आम्हाला लहान आणि नम्र होऊन प्रेम करायला शिकव. नम्रता आणि लहानपणा हा अधिप्रमाणित महानतेचा मार्ग आहे हे समजण्यास आम्हाला मदत कर."

**फा. बिजूमोन थॉमस**

## Christ the Universal King

Our Parishioners came in large numbers to adore Christ the Universal King on 24th November 2024. We spent the day with our Lord through Holy Hour, Adoration, Prayer, Preaching and Benediction.







## December Delights

In the blink of an eye, we will see the end of 2024 and welcome the new year. December has three important events. The first was the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of Goa. His followers made a beeline to the coastal state for the exposition of his mortal remains.

Then followed the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. We have a girls' school with the name nearby and our neighbouring IC Parish celebrated the occasion with pomp.

Lastly, and the most important, is Christmas, the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Preparations are on to welcome the Master. Streets and homes are being lit up and decorated, and cribs are

getting ready in our homes. Children can't just hold back their ecstasy as they wait for Santa Claus to deliver the gifts they want.

It's also an important occasion for the Society of Vincent de Paul, which reaches out to the poor and needy.

The excitement continues till the feast of the Epiphany. So, here's wishing all of you a Merry Christmas.

**Freddy Miranda**  
**St. Louis Community**







## AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2024

### AUGUST

**Vianney Sunday:** The feast of St. John Marie Vianney, patron of priests, was celebrated at all masses on August 11. Parishioners expressed appreciation and affection to the parish fathers, who were later presented with bouquets.

**Sunday School Teachers' Recollection:** As many as eight teachers from our parish attended the recollection at the deanery level on the topic 'Prayer', on August 11.

**Independence Day:** Parishioners, along with the staff and students of St. Louis School, joined in the flag hoisting ceremony.

**East Indian Dhamaka:** The East Indian community came together for the Stanik Kristi Samaj's celebrations on August 15. A special thanksgiving mass was followed by a cultural program and community lunch.

**Deanery Faith Formation:** As many as 20 Sunday School students from Class 5 and 6 participated in the deanery faith formation session on August 18.

**St. Louis Feast:** The novena to our patron, St. Louis, was held in Marathi and English from August 17 to 24. Preachers from other parishes enlightened parishioners with their homilies. Stalls, offering delicious snacks, were put up by the sectors. The feast masses on August 25 were at 8 am in Marathi and 9.30 in English.

### 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 mass was animated by the Sunday School children. They offered love offerings, which were later handed over to orphanages and old age homes.

**Nativity Stalls:** From August 30 to September 7 the youth set up vibrant stalls and conducted interesting games each day.

**Monthi Fest:** This was celebrated on September 15, with a special mass, followed by a cultural program in Konkani and traditional lunch.

**Teachers' Day:** A get-together was organized for catechists on September 22 by the Sunday School children.

**Outreach Program:** More than 100 Sunday School children visited different orphanages and old age homes on September 29. They handed out the love offerings that were collected during the Nativity novenas.

**Recollection-cum-celebration:** The SVP members organized a recollection-cum-celebration on the feast of St. Vincent de Paul for the adopted families on September 29.

### OCTOBER

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

**Animators Training:** A training program for animators and coordinators was organized on October 2.

**Deanery Youth Day:** Our parish youth had an unforgettable time at the Deanery Youth Day on October 10 at I C parish, where they built bonds, shared smiles and grew together in Christ.

**Recollection:** On October 12, 96 SVP members from 11 conferences of the north-east area attended the recollection service on the topic 'Selfless service to the poor and needy with responsibility in humility and in unity with each other'.

**Rosary Rally:** Conducted on October 13, more than 150 Sunday School children attended the event. Fun games and activities were conducted. There was a special talk on 'The importance of rosary in our homes'. The program ended with delicious lunch.

### NOVEMBER

**Louisian Sports meet:** A four-day sports showdown was conducted for parishioners. As many as 13 sectors competed in indoor and outdoor games, organized by the parish youth.

**Feast of Christ the King:** On November 24, Holy Hour was conducted in Konkani, Marathi and English. At 5 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 Community, Dahisar East**



*The Parish Team & PPC on Vianney Sunday*



*1st prize winners of Throwball - St. Louis Community*



## Christmas Services Schedule

### Sector-Wise Star Competition

21st December 2024 (Saturday) at 7:30 pm

### Christmas Services

**24th December 2024 (Tuesday)**

9:30 pm Carol Singing

10 pm Solemn Mass

**25th December 2024 (Wednesday)**

8 am Mass in Marathi

9:30 am Mass in English

(No Mass in the Evening)

### New Year Services:

**31st December 2024 (Tuesday)**

9:30 pm Adoration

10 pm Solemn Mass

**01st January 2025 (Wednesday)**

8 am Mass in Marathi

9:30 am Mass in English

(No Mass in the Evening)

### Novena in Honour of St. André Bessette

2nd, 3rd & 4th January 2025 (Thu, Fri, Sat)

### Feast of St. André Bessette CSC

5th January 2025

## 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

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*Christmas Wishes  
from the  
Parish Team*

**May the miracle of Christmas  
inspire faith, bring hope, and fill  
you with the love of Christ.  
May His blessings be with you and  
your family this Christmas and  
into the New Year 2025.**

नाताळचा हा चमत्कार आपणा सर्वांना  
विश्वास, आशा आणि ख्रिस्ताच्या प्रेमाने  
भरून, नाताळ आणि नवीन वर्ष 2025  
मध्ये तुम्हाला आणि तुमच्या कुटुंबाला  
आशीर्वाद देवो ही सदिच्छा व प्रार्थना.

## St. Louis Church Records

### Baptised in Christ

Bryan Carvalho

Kylan Cordeiro

Maeve Fleur Lobo

Fiona Fernandis

### Married in Christ

Satish Rane & Mary D'cruz

Sherwin James Pinto & Wynalia Sequeira

Vivek Henriques & Erica Clarette D'Souza

Jude Pereira & Sweeta Macwan

### Resting in Christ

Benito Thomas Fernandes

Francis David Mendes

Olly Chandrakant Patel

Alexander D'Silva

Wavell Inas D'Cruz

Jacob D'Costa

William Rodrigues

Elizabeth D'Souza

Fiona Maria Stella Fernandes

Joseph Tolentine D'Souza

Sebastian Jerome D'Silva



## नाताळ

नाताळ किंवा ख्रिसमस हा एक प्रमुख ख्रिस्ती सण असून दरवर्षी २५ डिसेंबर रोजी येशू ख्रिस्ताचा जन्मदिन म्हणून जगभर साजरा केला जातो. रोमन सम्राट कॉन्स्टाईन यांच्या काळात ३३६ मध्ये पहिल्यांदा नाताळ म्हणजेच 'ख्रिसमस' साजरा केला गेला. पोप ज्युलियन यांनी २५ डिसेंबर रोजी येशू ख्रिस्ताची जयंती साजरा करण्याचा निर्णय घेतला होता. नाताळ हा ख्रिस्ती लोकांचा सण असला तरी सर्व धर्मीय आणि संस्कृतीचे लोक तो उत्साहाने साजरा करतात. बायबलच्या नवीन करारात नोंदवल्याप्रमाणे नाताळचा इतिहास येशू ख्रिस्ताच्या जन्माशी जोडलेला आहे. २५ डिसेंबरपासून दिवस मोठे होऊ लागतात म्हणून हा दिवस सूर्याचा पुनर्जन्म असा मानला जातो आणि यामुळेच युरोपियन लोक २५ डिसेंबरला उत्तरायणाच्या दिवशी सण साजरा करत असत. या दिवशी ख्रिस्ती लोक एकमेकांना विविध भेटवस्तू, शुभेच्छा पत्रे देऊन परस्परांचे अभिवादन करतात तसेच घरांना रोषणाई करून घर सजवले जाते. नाताळ वृक्ष सजावट ' ख्रिसमस ट्री ' नाताळसाठी सजवलेले सूचिपर्णी झाड हा या सणाचा अविभाज्य घटक आहे. या दिवशी सांताक्लॉज लहान मुलांसाठी भेटवस्तू वाटतो असे मानले जाते. या मध्ये अनेक गोड पदार्थांचा समावेश असतो.

देवाने गालीलातील नाझरेथ नावाच्या गावी राहत असलेल्या जोकिम आणि आन्ना या दाम्पत्याच्या पोटी एका निष्कलंक कुमारिकेला जन्म दिला. पवित्र मरियेचा जन्म ही मानवाच्या तारणाची मंगल पहाट होती. वयात आल्यावर जोकिम आणि आन्ना यांनी आपली सुकन्या जोसेफ नावाच्या सुताराला दिली. दोघांची सोयरीक झाली परंतु विवाह सभारंभा आधीच मारिया गरोदर असल्याचे दिसून आली. ती पवित्र आत्म्याच्या योगे गर्भवती झाल्याचे गाब्रियलदूताने स्वप्नातील दर्शना द्वारे योसेफाला सांगितले. मोठ्या आनंदाने त्याने मारियेला आपली पत्नी म्हणून स्वीकारले. योगायोगाने त्याच वेळी सीझर ऑगस्टस याने सार्या जगाची नावानिशी लिहिली जावी अशी

आज्ञा केली. जोसेफ हा बेथलेम या गावचा असल्याने त्याने आपल्या वाग्दत असलेली मारिया हिलाही आपल्याबरोबर घेतले. तेथे सर्व उतारशाळा (धर्मशाळा) भरल्या होत्या. त्यामुळे गाईच्या गोठ्यात त्यांनी आसरा घेतला. तिथेच मारियेने आपल्या पुत्राला जन्म दिला. कॉन्स्टाईन या रोमन सम्राटाने या सुमारास ख्रिस्ती धर्म स्वीकारला. त्याने ख्रिस्ती धर्माला प्रोत्साहन देण्यासाठी २५ डिसेंबर हा दिवस रोमन कॅथॉलिक ख्रिस्त सभेत येशू ख्रिस्ताचा जन्मदिवस म्हणून साजरा केला.

असे म्हणतात की त्या वेळी संत फ्रान्सिस असिसी याने पवित्र मिस्सा अर्पण केली व लोकांना भावस्पर्शी प्रवचन दिले. त्या प्रवचनाच्या शेवटी या संतांच्या हातात खरोखरच एक जिवंत बालक अवतरल्याचे लोकांनी पाहिले. त्या मुळे गोशाळा उभारण्याच्या प्रथेला बळकटी मिळाली. कॅथॉलिक ख्रिस्तसभेमध्ये ख्रिस्तजन्माची स्मृती म्हणून गोशाळा किंवा गायीचा गोठा तयार करण्याचा प्रघात आहे. ही परंपरा संत फ्रान्सिस असिसिकर यांनी १२२३ साली सुरू केली. ग्रेसिओ नावाच्या एका लहान गावा जवळ असलेल्या गुहेमध्ये त्याने गाय, उंट, मेंढरे, गाढवे इ. आणून असा देखावा निर्माण केला. ही प्रथा गावातील लोकांनी पूर्वापार चालू ठेवली आहे. अकराव्या व बाराव्या शतकात ख्रिसमस कॅरोल किंवा नाताल गीतांची प्रथा जर्मनीत सुरू झाली. दहाव्या शतकात ख्रिसमस ट्री सजवण्याची परंपरा सुरू झाली. अशा प्रकारे नाताळ किंवा ख्रिसमस हा सण ख्रिस्ती लोकांसाठी एक महत्वपूर्ण सण होऊन ख्रिस्तावरील श्रद्धा वाढविण्यास कारणीभूत ठरला. आपणा सर्वांना ख्रिसमस सणाच्या हार्दिक शुभेच्छा.



**मॅथ्यू जॉन मच्याडो**  
**सेंट लुईस विभाग**



## Goencho Saib – St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier (1506–1552), whose real name was Francisco de Jasso y Azpilicueta, was a Spanish Catholic priest and one of the founders of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Born in Navarre, Spain, he studied at the University of Paris, where he met St. Ignatius of Loyola and became one of his closest collaborators. Known as one of history's greatest missionaries, he was sent by Pope Paul III to spread Christianity in Asia.

Francis Xavier began his missionary work in Goa, India, in 1542. Over the next decade, he traveled to several countries, including Malaysia, Indonesia, and Japan, preaching the Gospel and establishing Christian communities. His approach emphasized learning local languages and respecting native cultures, which helped him connect deeply with diverse populations.

In Japan, he introduced Christianity and gained several converts despite significant challenges. His final mission aimed to spread Christianity in China, but he fell ill and died on Shangchuan Island near the mainland in 1552.

Canonized in 1622, St. Francis Xavier is venerated as the patron saint of missions and missionaries. His feast day is celebrated on December 3. He is remembered for his courage, humility, and tireless dedication to spreading the Christian faith across the world.

The mostly-incorruptible body of the Saint is now in the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Goa, where it was placed in a glass container encased in a silver casket on 2 December 1637. This casket, constructed by Goan silversmiths between 1636 and 1637, was an exemplary blend of Italian and Indian

aesthetic sensibilities. There are 32 silver plates on all four sides of the casket, depicting different episodes from the life of our beloved Saint.

**Compiled by Cleston D'Costa  
from various sources on the Internet**

In conformity with the long-standing practice the Solemn Exposition of the Sacred Relics of St. Francis Xavier occurs every ten years.

The 18th Exposition of the Sacred Relics of the beloved Saint began on 21 November 2024, Thursday, and will end on 05 January 2025, Sunday.

28 Parishioners of St. Louis Church along with Fr. Ronald Fernandes and Fr. Praveen embarked on a pilgrimage to Old Goa to pay their respect to St. Francis Xavier. The pilgrims reached Goa on Monday, the 9th of December and were back to Mumbai on Thursday, 12th December. May St. Francis Xavier bless us all.





## In Selfless Service to the Poor and Needy

The St. Vincent de Paul (SVP), St. Louis Conference is functioning since July 1997. It presently has 25 members and meets every Thursday, at 7 pm, at St. Louis church to discuss strategies, plan activities and report on the weekly family visits.

The SVP has 21 adopted families, both Catholic and non-Catholic. Monthly rations are provided to them. Medical and educational aid is also given to needy members and those who approach the conference. The Parish clergy assists in the smooth functioning of the conference.

Every week SVP members visit the adopted families to enquire about their well-being and assist them if they are facing any problems. The visit reports are discussed in the weekly meetings.

The President of the conference attends the monthly meetings of the Area council and submits a monthly report of accounts and activities of the conference to the Council.

The St. Louis Conference organized a recollection-cum-celebration of the feast of St. Vincent de Paul for the adopted families on 29th September 2024. Mr. Rajeshwar was invited to address the gathering and give spiritual insights to the families. The families then participated in a game of Housie (Tambola) and the winners were given cash prizes. This was followed by a sumptuous lunch for those present, including SVP members and the Parish team. 52 members of 17 families attended the function.

On behalf of the Area Council North-west-II, we hosted a recollection for the conferences of the zone on 12th October 2024. 96 members from 11 conferences of the north-east area attended. The topic for the recollection was 'Selfless service to the poor and needy with responsibility, in humility and in unity with each other'.

The programme began with the Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Agi T. Paul, CSC. Fr Agi then preached at the recollection. Later, 12 members took the Vincentian pledge. As is our mission, our Conference continues with the works of charity as well as regular visits to the adopted families.

**Margaret D'Mello**  
**President, Society of St. Vincent de Paul**  
**St Louis Conference**



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## Together in Prayer in Multi-lingual Rosary

31st October 2024 marked the end of the month of the Rosary. St Francis Xavier sector organized a multi-lingual Rosary with the aim of uniting everyone in prayer, regardless of their social or linguistic background.

A warm invitation was extended to neighbouring St. Joseph's sector, encouraging all to come together and honour our Blessed Mother. The idea was to foster a spirit of inclusion and togetherness among the diverse language groups in our community.

Over 50 people joined in this beautiful act of faith, reciting the Rosary in Hindi, Marathi, Konkani, Tamil and Malayalam. We began with a prayerful procession from Panki Gate, singing hymns in various languages. Despite the linguistic diversity, the atmosphere was deeply reverent and unifying.

The gathering was adorned with lilies, mogra, garlands and heartfelt offerings of flowers to our Mother, accompanied by joyous welcome hymns. The sight of flowers being showered on Mother Mary amidst singing of hymns created a profound sense of unity and devotion.

It was truly a day to remember. This serves as proof that prayer knows no language barriers.

**Esther Michael Antony**  
**Councillor, St. Francis Xavier Community**



**Dr. Teena Miranda**  
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## Konkani Association Report

The Konkani cell of our parish celebrated Monthi Fest on Sunday, the 15th of September 2024. The function commenced at 11.15 am with new corn being blessed and offering of flowers to the Infant Mary. The parishioners then went in procession to the church for Holy Mass, which was celebrated by guest priest Fr. Pradeep Pinto and concelebrated by our Parish Priest, Fr. Ronald Fernandes.

After the mass, the blessed corn, mixed with milk, along with a piece of cake, was distributed to the gathering.

Parishioners of all age groups then actively participated in a variety entertainment show, comprising skits, dances and songs. It was followed by a sumptuous lunch (novem jevonn), a spread of vegetable dishes, rice and corn. Around 250 Konkani and non-Konkani-speaking people made the gathering a memorable one.

**Juliana D'Souza**

### Message of the Holy Father Francis for the 39th World Youth Day 2024

'Those who hope in the Lord walk without tiring (Is 40:31),' says the Holy Father.

'Last year we set out on the path of hope towards the Great Jubilee by reflecting on Saint Paul's words, "Rejoice in hope" (Rom 12:12). In order to prepare ourselves for the Jubilee pilgrimage of 2025, this year we can take inspiration from the prophet Isaiah, who says: "Those who hope in the Lord... will run and not be weary" (Is 40:31).

'Today, we live in times marked by dramatic situations that generate despair and prevent us from looking to the future with serenity: the tragedy of war, social injustices, inequalities, hunger and the exploitation of human

beings and the natural environment. Often the ones who pay the highest price are precisely young people. You sense the uncertainty of the future and are not sure about where your dreams will lead. In this way, you can be tempted to live without hope, as prisoners of boredom, depression and even be drawn to risk-taking and destructive behaviours. For this reason, dear young people, I would like the message of hope to come to you, as was the case with Israel in Babylon. Today too, the Lord is opening a highway before you, and he invites you to set out on it with joy and hope.

The pilgrimage of life and its challenges "The prophet Isaiah speaks of "walking without tiring". Let us reflect then on these two realities: walking and tiredness.

'It is normal that, while we set out on our journeys with enthusiasm, sooner or later we will begin to feel tired. In some cases, anxiety and inner fatigue are brought on by social pressures, the need to attain certain levels of success in our studies, our work and our personal life. This tiredness is often accompanied by a certain ennui, the apathy and dissatisfaction that affects those who never set out, choose, decide, take risks, preferring to remain in their own comfort zone, closed in on themselves, seeing and judging the world from a distance, without ever "dirtying their hands" with problems, with other people, with life itself.

'The solution to tiredness, oddly enough, is not to stand still and rest. It is to set out and become pilgrims of hope. This is my invitation to you: walk in hope!

**Abridged from  
The Examiner Nov 23-29, 2024  
Walter Mendonca  
Our Lady of Lourdes Community**



## Born Again for Us

Reflecting on various Christmas themes, one that stands out to me is the relationship between Christ's birth and the need for humanity's spiritual birth.

Jesus answered, 'I am telling you the truth: no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again' **John 3:3**

Jesus is born so that we may be raised out of our spiritually dead condition and be "born from above", or "born again". Through Christ we are raised to new life.

I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. **Ezekiel 36:26**

Otherwise, we continue to be dead in our sins, without hope in this life or the life to come. **Ephesians 2:1**

"The Lord makes the sun to shine on the good and the bad alike" and His mercy and kindness

shown in the birth of the Christ-child is for all people whether they know Him or not. The gift of love is offered to all at this time, and its power to change hearts and help us find our way back to each other is not limited to a few but is open to all.

The Christmas spirit and the fun, the songs and carols, the gift giving and gift receiving, despite being commercialised, is a sign and a reminder that something special has happened and is happening. It lets us know, even if we do not acknowledge it, that our world is alive with the presence of He who has come, He who is with us, and He who comes anew in our hearts every Christmas.

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. **Proverbs 17:22**

Every Christmas brings new life. This is the invitation of Christmas: not passive belief but active becoming. It's taking the risk of new birth and becoming new.

**Neha Savio Lobo, Holy Trinity Community**



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## Adrenaline Rush at the Louisian Sports Meet 2024

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.” – **1 Corinthians 9:24**

The Louisian Sports Meet has always been a cherished tradition, uniting our community through the spirit of healthy competition and togetherness. Unlike every year, this year, the celebrations spanned across two weekends, 9th-10th November and 16th-17th November, offering an action-packed lineup of events that left everyone inspired and energized.

The first weekend saw the much-anticipated basketball tournament and telegames. The basketball matches were nothing short of thrilling, with players demonstrating their agility, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Meanwhile, the telegames brought smiles and laughter to participants of all ages, making it a fun and inclusive start to the celebrations.

The second weekend raised the bar with an exciting array of games including football, throwball, volleyball, tennis, carom, and chess. Football, as always, was the highlight of the event, with intense matches that had the crowd cheering on every goal and save. Each sport brought its own unique excitement, adding to the spirit of the meet.

Special thanks to Fr. Ronald, our parish priest, for his guidance and blessings, Fr. Nibin, the youth priest in charge, Fr. Praveen, Fr. Biju, and Br. James for their unwavering support. The dedication and hard work of the youth

behind the scenes ensured the seamless execution of the event.

The Louisian Sports Meet 2024 was more than just a competition; it was a celebration of faith, fellowship, and unity. We are grateful for the success of this event and look forward to many more joyful gatherings that strengthen our bonds as a community.

**Delanie Rodrigues**  
**Youth Secretary**







## **Youth Activities Aug - Nov 2024**

**Housie on St Louis Feast ( 25th Aug )** - On the feast day of St. Louis, the Parish Youth Group brought the community together by organizing an exciting game of Housie. It was a lively and joyful event that added fun and fellowship to the celebrations.

**Nativity Novena Stalls (30th Aug - 7th Sept)** - During the Nativity novena, the youth organized delicious food stalls and entertaining games each evening, creating a festive and joyous environment.

**Cycle trek (22nd Sept)** - The youth embarked on an exciting cycling trek to Sanjay Gandhi National Park, guided by Fr. Nibin and Br. James. It was a day filled with adventure, laughter, and unforgettable memories amidst nature!

**Deanery Youth Day (2nd Oct)** - The parish youth actively participated in the Deanery Youth Day (DYD), hosted by Our Lady of Assumption Church, Kandivali for the North Borivali Deanery. The event was an exciting mix of interactive sessions, games and dance.

**Interactive Session (6th Oct)** - Mr Shane Gomes from IC parish conducted an interactive session on “*Called to be Leaders everyday*” for our youth, inspiring them with practical insights and examples to lead with faith and purpose in their daily lives.

**Rosary for the Youth (12th Oct)** - The youth gathered in unity to pray the Holy Rosary, embracing a beautiful moment of reflection and devotion in the comforting presence of Mother Mary.

**Kairos (Pondicherry) - 31st Oct - 3rd Nov** - Four of our youth attended Kairos, a transformative retreat filled with worship, insightful sessions by esteemed priests, and powerful moments of healing through the Eucharist and adoration, leaving them renewed and inspired.

**Louisian Sports Meet (9th, 10th, 16th and 17th Nov)** - The Louisian Sports Meet 2024 brought our parish community together across two action-packed weekends, celebrating sportsmanship & and unity through thrilling games and joyful participation.

**Andrea Sebastian**  
**Youth President**



## Medical Health Camp: Prioritizing Wellness for All

The St. Louis Community Welfare Association with the support of the Parish Pastoral Council conducted a Medical Camp in collaboration with Lions Club of Mumbai Champs. About 120 persons were tested conducted were Bone Mineral Density test, Total Cholesterol, Haemoglobin, Random Blood Sugar, Thyroid and Eye Test.



## Christmas Word Search

G	A	X	H	T	Z	E	J	N	M	Z	K	K	X	V
T	Z	T	R	O	A	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
T	Q	E	M	T	L	J	M	Z	W	P	L	H	O	K
G	E	A	N	I	L	L	T	J	R	A	T	S	N	R
J	E	A	Y	D	S	S	Y	E	N	U	N	I	W	M
O	S	F	W	M	K	T	S	E	I	K	O	O	C	S
L	W	E	L	O	O	E	L	E	B	H	E	S	O	T
L	R	R	Q	O	N	Q	M	E	R	R	Y	W	W	H
Y	E	E	A	T	D	S	A	F	T	S	A	Q	B	G
E	B	I	S	J	P	U	M	L	O	O	Y	U	H	I
F	X	N	J	L	J	U	R	E	C	S	E	O	M	L
J	W	D	G	D	F	A	Y	Z	I	F	H	N	K	G
R	A	E	Y	S	D	F	A	M	B	H	N	Z	S	A
L	I	E	S	F	O	F	R	N	H	J	J	G	Y	A
W	S	R	Z	U	C	O	T	S	T	O	I	R	A	L

CHRISTMAS  
COOKIES  
ELF  
HOLLY  
JOLLY

LIGHTS  
MERRY  
MISTLETOE  
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