



For Private Circulation only

GLORIA BRIDGE

Gloria Church, Byculla

March 2017

New Beginnings

Beginning today my mornings are Yours, The hopes that dawn in their light.

Beginning today my evenings and dreams: My gift to you is my life.

I am sure most of us have heard this familiar song sung at the start of a young couple's life together on their wedding day. It speaks of mornings and evenings as well as hopes and dreams. In a way, new beginnings can happen on any day and at any time. A mother giving birth, a young man or woman starting their first job assignment, a person or family leaving home for the first time to settle down in a new land, a young man being ordained to the priesthood etc., etc. Sometimes, new beginnings may not be of one's own choosing and liking. However, they all have two things in common; an end and a beginning. They also speak of hopes and dreams.

Come January and June of every year, we encounter the start of something new. While one month starts a new calendar year with New Year resolutions, the other month starts a new academic year. Students looking forward to new books, new classrooms and new friends. In church circles it is also the start of new appointments in parishes. This year our parish is blessed with two new and important appointments. We have a new Parish Priest in Fr. Jude Botelho and a new Principal in Fr. Antonio Fernandes to match, so to say the first name of the School. With gratitude we thank Fr. Denzil

Fernandes the outgoing Principal and Fr. Michael D'Cunha, who in spite of a short stint here left an indelible mark.

On Sunday 4th June, we celebrated Pentecost, the birthday of the universal church. A new beginning for the Catholic Church. At the start, all the disciples were extremely frightened. They had their own doubts and fears of the future. Would this enterprise succeed? How would they fulfil the great commission of their Master to proclaim the Good News to the farthest corners of the earth? Would they all have to pack up and go back to their original trade. The coming of the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus, and the anointing in the upper room, is what gave the apostles and all the other disciples new found courage to step out in faith.

As we embark on something new in our own lives, we all have our share of fears and anxieties, not knowing what the future holds. Fear of failure can very often; prevent us from putting our best foot forward. Whenever, an anxious thought crosses my mind in any circumstance, be it big or small, Jeremiah 29:11, where the Lord says "I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" gives me tremendous courage. The word of God is indeed a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. Could we ask for anything better?

~ Agnelo Fernandes



Welcome, our new Parish Priest

Our Parish Priest, Fr. Jude Botelho, describes his 47 years of priesthood as “a time filled with tremendous joy”, which is evident when he talks about his rich and varied assignments. After his ordination in 1970, he served in two parishes namely Our Lady of Dolours, Sonapur and St. Paul's, Dadar before getting involved in counselling for the Christian Life communities at Seva Niketan. Thereafter he was appointed as Director of the Pastoral Youth Center (now the Diocesan Youth Center, Bandra). Father says, of all the kinds of experiences he has had, he enjoyed his ministry with the youth the best. His firm belief in God's unconditional love and the need to advocate this to youngsters comes alive when he talks about the several 'Abba Experience' programs and Youth Leadership Camps he, along with a core team, conducted at the center. And as a Parish Priest too, he feels that it is his vocation to help his parishioners get a taste of this life changing experience.

Father's talent does not end here, but extends into media and the internet as well. After coordinating the youth ministry for Bombay, he was involved in the communications ministry and was the Executive Secretary for Unda/OCIC India (The Catholic Association for Radio, Television Cinema and Audio Visuals) and subsequently functioned as its Executive Secretary for Asia. At present he is also a member of the world board of SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communications, whose mission is to help transform our cultures in light of the Gospel by promoting human dignity, justice and reconciliation by way of training professionals, promoting films, juries at important film festivals, supplying specialized equipment, etc. Fr. Jude also served at the Catholic Bishop's Conference of India, (CBCI) Delhi, and is a founder member of the National Institute of Social Communications, Research and Training, (NISCORT) Delhi. He served in Delhi for five years before proceeding for his doctoral studies on 'The use of the Internet for Religion' at the University of Westminster, London.

Fr. Jude believes that 'a visual speaks a thousand words' and 'watching a film can be a powerful spiritual experience' and that's the reason

why he has used Cinema as resource material while giving sessions for priests of the Deanery and for church novenas as well! When asked about his favourite resource films, father promptly provides a list ranging from Charlie Chaplin's - The Kid, The Terminator, Wings of Desire to Bollywood's Guzarish. He acknowledges that since Cinema is a very powerful media, he's looking forward to starting something along this line for us here at Gloria parish.... 'An evening at the Movies' perhaps. He says, “Faith is a way of looking at life and Cinema is a way of looking at life. So if you wish, you can see spirituality in every film, and you can come back uplifted with the experience”.



“The Lord has a plan and He will make the way”, Fr. Jude says with certainty and conviction. His own case is an example; despite health issues... two heart attacks, an open heart surgery and walking difficulties originating from an accident, God is still using him in His Vineyard. After Father's ministries with the youth, communication and education, he was placed once again in a parish, this time at Our Lady of Health, Cavel. Here he was instrumental in the renovation of the church building. Fr. Jude highlights that since the church is meant to be a place of encounter with the Lord, we on our part have to make the Mass meaningful by singing beautifully, creating an atmosphere of silence and then God takes over. This church (Gloria Church) is a beautiful church by itself, we only have to restore it so that it becomes a House of God and people enjoy coming here. Father's message for the parishioners is simple... “From what I see, God is at work here, that I am certain. People are good and God is good. So the more we communicate the Good News, tell people how good they are, then God becomes real and alive in the community. I feel very hopeful that in His time, His work will get completed. And together, we can do wonderful things. There may have been mistakes, but let us not get hung on to the past but move ahead. I see a tremendous amount of potential in the people and together, we will make it work. God bless.”

~Sylvia Vaz

**WISHING ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS
A VERY HAPPY FEAST ON THE OCCASION OF THE PARENTS DAY
ALSO WISHING THE PARISH TEAM A HAPPY VIANNEY DAY**

Welcome, Fr Antonio Fernandes

The newest celebrity of Byculla by virtue of being Principal of ANZA High School has his schedule for the entire academic year already blocked out! "Work is Worship", says Fr Antonio as he expresses his dedication to his profession and vocation.

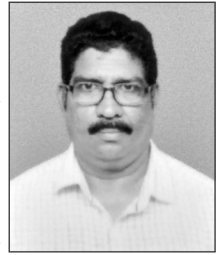
His home parish is St Anthony's Church, Vakola. His first calling was when he was as young as 10 years old. His great admiration for Fr Ignatius Colaco and support from now, Bishop Allwyn D'silva and Late Fr Lucian Miranda led him onward with the necessary guidance for his calling. His eldest sister, Virginia D'souza was also particularly supportive of his vocation and greatly instrumental in assisting him through the ups and downs of his brave choice.

A graduate of History and Psychology from St Andrews's College, Bandra, he has always been an avid music lover and bibliophile. His favourites being, Jim Reeves and the Bible respectively. Fr Antonio started his journey of being a priest on 12th April 1997. His first assignment was as assistant parish priest at Sacred Heart Church, Worli.

The following year he pursued his B.Ed from St Xavier's Institute of Education while residing at St Joseph's Church, Umerkhadi. He was posted as a teacher of History and English at St Anne's Church, Bandra for the next 3 years. In 2002, he was appointed as Principal at Our Lady's Home an Orphanage for Boys, Parel.

Being a principal for over 15 years has been

one of his greatest achievements. He gives us a peek into his work by saying, "I've always wanted to work amongst the people and grow in faith while helping others know Jesus. The field of education has given me numerous opportunities as I work with children and staff of different faiths, at the same time interact with parents as I make myself an example of Christian life to them."



Following that he went onto spending six years at Our Lady of Remedy, Poinisur, Kandivli-West. In 2014, he returned to St Paul's Church, Parel and is now in Byculla. "One of my best experiences of being a priest was at Our Lady's Home and Orphanage for Boys, where I have seen miracles happen through the prayers of the innocent. At the same time, the simplicity of the children strengthened my faith in the Lord. This was a learning experience for me of reaching out to people in small ways and giving a faith experience to them."

With a beginning of a new journey at Byculla, he is definitely excited about what's in store. He has strong faith in the parish as he hopes "to build and restore Gloria and ANZA to its former glory". He leaves a few words of wisdom, his personal favourites to his new parishioners "Grow in faith and let God take charge of the rest."

~ *Susanne Rodrigues*

St. Vincent de Paul (S.V.P) Report

We five S.V.P. members visited 'Shanti Bhavan', home for the aged in Kalyan on 23rd April, 2017. Contribution of Rs. 5,000/- was given.

'Shanti Bhavan' is run by Society of St. Vincent de Paul conference. Sisters of the congregation of the Helpers of the Mount Rosary, Mangalore help in the day to day running of the home. It was started to cater to the destitute, needy and aged. It provides shelter to senior citizens who have been abandoned by their families. They have both male and female inmates. They have to pay a monthly amount of Rs.1,500/- and medical expenses to be paid by them. They are well cared by the sisters in charge. When we visited there were eight gents and sixteen ladies. We visited the rooms of the inmates, spoke and inquired about their health, it brought cheer and happiness.



We members thank the donors. We are confident and hope that we along with the parishioners will strive and succeed in our journey of caring and supporting our adopted families.

~ *Mrs. Marina Fernandes, S.V.P. Secretary*

A Warm Thank You.....to Fr. Denzil and Fr. Michael.

With a feeling of sadness, parishioners bid goodbye to Fr. Denzil and Fr. Michael, at an Eucharistic celebration in May, before they left the parish for their new assignments.

FR. DENZIL FERNANDES

When **Fr Denzil Fernandes** came to our parish 8 years ago, he was a quiet, reserved person. Yes, we saw and met him at some of the parish functions, but his time and energy was devoted to his work as Principal of the school.

It was mainly in the last two years, that we saw a different side of Fr. Denzil. Gentleness and caring was visible as he often helped our unwell parish priest, the late Fr, Seraj, to the altar to celebrate the Eucharist. Attentiveness and concern was shown, as he would carefully escort Fr. Seraj to the lift and up to the parish house. But it was later, when Fr. Denzil gave the Eulogy at the Eucharist in the Parish, to celebrate the life of Fr. Seraj, that the warmth of this relationship, almost like father and son, came through. And yet again, we looked at Fr. Denzil with different eyes. Fr. Denzil acknowledged how much

he had learnt and grown as a person, while spending time talking and listening to Fr. Seraj. And the impact was very very noticeable!

We are happy, that we were able to experience Fr. Denzil, as the warm, friendly, caring person, he is. We are sure if we had time to speak to other parishioners, we would have uncovered many many more of his qualities and talents. However time and space being limited, we assure Fr. Denzil that we the parishioners, will always carry warm memories of him.

We thank Fr. Denzil for serving us for 8 long years, and we wish him good health and a fruitful Ministry in his new parish, Our Lady of Victory Church, Mahim. God Bless him abundantly.



FR. MICHAEL D'CUNHA

Two years ago, in June 2015, Gloria Church was blessed to have **Fr. Michael D'Cunha** sent to serve in our parish. New appointments are always of great interest to parishioners, and naturally, on reading of Fr. Michael's appointment, many of them put their investigative skills into action, and ferreted out scraps of information from various sources !!! Excitement and expectations were high !!

The first plus point was that he was young !! Revealing a deep yearning in the hearts of Glorians. Then we heard that he was an expert in Scripture. Oh! An added bonus. To receive such an abundance of blessings ?... Surely we must have done something good !!!!

It is said, "**Some priests want to go to a parish that is vibrant and alive. Whereas some priests, come to a parish, and Make It Vibrant and Alive**". The latter was Fr. Michael's charism. He (along with Fr. Raphael) yanked us out of our lethargic attitude and pumped an amazing enthusiasm

into the parishioners, who responded wholeheartedly.

Crowds at every church service, social function, youth gathering, scripture classes, gave parishioners a 'sense of belonging', and it felt like a return to the 'good ole days' !!!!

Thank you Fr. Michael, for deepening our spiritual life. For opening our eyes and hearts to know, to love and to draw us closer to our Heavenly Father. Most of all we thank God for blessing you with a cheerful smile, a great sense of humour, hearty laughter and the ability to get on with parishioners...not always easy!!!!

Enjoy whatever lies ahead for you, Fr. Michael, and may your talents glorify the Lord, always.



~ Maureen DeSousa

Induction of our Parish Priest, Fr Jude Botelho

on Saturday, June 3, 2017 by His Eminence, Oswald Cardinal Gracias

It was a privilege for Gloria Parish to witness the induction of Fr Jude Botelho which was such a solemn celebration having His Eminence, Oswald Cardinal Gracias in our midst. After almost a few years, we witnessed this solemn celebration. His Eminence first introduced and welcomed Fr Jude and gave us a short history of his background. He also introduced the Principal, Fr Antonio Fernandes simultaneously to the congregation.

The first part commenced with His Eminence handing over the Holy Bible to Fr Jude and as the Mass progressed, he renewed the vows taken at the time of his Ordination. The homily by His Eminence was very fruitful and thought provoking. He also mentioned that on the Feast of the Pentecost, “it is my privilege to present to you, your new Parish Priest, Fr Jude Botelho”. What other way than on this Feast Day to have the installation. Fr Jude was also very blessed and happy to be inducted on a day such as this.

Fr Jude, comes to us from a very small parish in Cavel, and said that he has been given the task of a bigger parish, like Gloria Church, and mentioned that he will do his best to restore it to its glory but with the help of us, parishioners and his Parish Team. He cannot do it on his own. We must appreciate his ideas and give him all the help he needs to continue to make Gloria Parish a vibrant parish.

After the Offertory and Communion, he was led by His Eminence to the Sacramentals, starting with the Baptismal font, the Confessional and the Tabernacle. Lastly, he was handed over the administrative books and the keys.

The whole ceremony was so beautifully organised and not forgetting the wonderful choir who made it even more enriching.



Fr Jude then thanked His Eminence for having taken the time out of his busy schedule to induct him on this beautiful Feast Day and promised to do his best for us parishioners.

He comes across as a very humble, soft spoken and patient priest and seems ever willing to listen to his parishioners. He has also undertaken to do his best and try to have the repairs completed on an urgent footing. No doubt he will be with us for only two years, but will give it his all.

Dear Fr Jude, we the parishioners of Gloria Church wish you a warm welcome and a fruitful stay during your ministry with us at Byculla. We also extend our best wishes to Fr Antonio Fernandes, and wish him every success in the administration of Anza School.

May Our Lady of Glory bless you and Fr Antonio with good health and help you complete the mission you have been given to shepherd your flock. God Bless you dear Fathers.

~ Charmaine Ferns

Quiz “All Shook Up”

Rearrange the “all shook up” letters below to spell some of the Kings. Then decide whether they ruled Israel or Judah.

- 1) MHOBOARE 2) SABAAH 3) SHPHTHJEOAA 4) HHEOAJAZ 5) AAAMIZH
 6) SMALULH 7) KAHAHIEP 8) SHAIJO 9) LAATHIHA 10) DEEKHAZ

Rush in your answers to gloriabridgebulletin@gmail.com or to the parish office...first three correct entries win prizes.

Answers to Quiz – 'Are You My Mother?' (No all correct answers)

- 1) Bathsheba. [2 Samuel 12:24] 2) Hannah. [1 Samuel 12:24] 3) Rachel. [Genesis 30:22-24] 4) Leah. [Genesis 29:35] 5) Ruth. [Ruth 4:17] 6) Haggith. [1 Kings 1:5] 7) Athaliah. [2 Kings 8:26] 8) Hagar. [Genesis 16:15] 9) Ahinoam. [1 Samuel 14:49-50] 10) Adah. [Genesis 36:4]

The Amazing Holy Spirit Working In Our Lives

As a school going youngster, the only time I prayed to the Holy Spirit was before an exam. That too, on the strict instructions of my mother, "before you start your paper, say the prayer to the Holy Spirit" ! How the Holy Spirit would help me, I had no idea ! But I guess it worked.

Like most Catholics I knew very little about the Holy Spirit. The idea of the Holy Spirit as a Dove was foremost on my mind. He is the third person of the Blessed Trinity. Beyond that---blank ! What role does He play in my daily life ? Another blank ! Have I received the Holy Spirit? Er...I don't know ! However all that changed in the month of May 1997, when I attended the Bombay Charismatic Silver Jubilee celebrations at Bandra reclamation, listening to the many eminent speakers.

Our CONSCIENCE is one of the main tools through which the Holy Spirit speaks to us. A friend told me that after attending a Retreat, his life changed. He gave up going with a certain group of friends, because he no longer felt comfortable spending so much time and money drinking and socializing. **That was the Holy Spirit at work in him ,tugging at his conscience, making him decide to give more time to his wife, children and in prayer.** Everyone was surprised at the change in him, some laughed and teased him. But this man stood firm. The Holy Spirit, his Friend, his Guide, gave him the courage to stick to his decision, to live his life according to God's standard of Holiness.

The Holy Spirit often tries to warn us of moral and physical danger. If a car driver, drives even though his gas tank is showing 'empty', is sure to land in trouble. The warning light on the dashboard is there for a reason, and the driver would be stupid to ignore it. **So also the Holy Spirit often warns us of danger.** He can see trouble coming. He often tries to warn us, through inner promptings or through advice from some friend.

A lady, a deeply spiritual person, was sharing with us about her broken marriage. When introduced to the boy and speaking to him, she said, she felt uneasy, doubts were in her mind. The boy was good looking and earning well. Parents were pressurizing her to accept. However something kept telling her to find out more, before she agreed. But in her desire to get married and not be a burden on her parents, **she ignored these "promptings" of the Holy Spirit,** and got married. Soon problems surfaced. She tried her

best to save her marriage, but to no avail. **This lady said, " as I look back, I realize it was the Holy Spirit, sending me signals. He knew the dangers in the marriage and was trying to warn me. But I had closed my ears to His prompting. I was not Listening".**

LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT,.. is the line we read and hear most often. Yes, He is constantly at our side, prompting us to do or not do certain things, through the day. **Are we silent enough to really listen or are we too busy with other things phone calls, whatsApp etc..**

I once had a strong disagreement with someone. Voices were raised, feelings were hurt. I felt extremely disturbed. I prayed and the Holy Spirit helped me reflect and look at the situation from the other person's point of view. That man was also correct in what he was saying. How I could insist that I was right ! I calmed down. **Then the Holy Spirit pushed me further ! " Now go, talk to him."** Oh No ! I wanted to ignore the whole incident and just move on. What if he was rude to me, it would be like a slap in the face. However after much prayer, the Holy Spirit gave me the courage and the right words to heal the relationship. I also believe the Holy Spirit touched the mind and heart of that man..to enable him to respond !!!!! Oh what peace I experienced. Thank you Holy Spirit.

With the Holy Spirit in Control...all things are possible ! Recently Maureen and I attended a Retreat at Vinalaya, Andheri. We wanted to be back on Sunday to attend Fr. Michael's Bible class at 5.00 p.m. **It seemed impossible. But we prayed in faith and asked the Holy Spirit to take over and make it possible.** The ensuing chain of events was amazing. For some reason the organizers preponed the afternoon sessions and the concluding Mass. We left Vinalaya at 4.00 p.m. Got an auto immediately ...zipped to Andheri station with no traffic jam....imagine that! There were only 2 persons in the line for tickets. Caught a fast train to Bombay Central...ready cab available to Byculia and the old driver even asked us, Gloria church ? But the miracle of miracles was, that the traffic signals were 'green' right through, till the cab entered the church gate at 5.10 p.m. **Yes the Holy Spirit was in control and made all things possible when we surrendered to Him. Nothing is impossible if we have faith.!**

No situation is too big or too insignificant

for the Holy Spirit. I had misplaced some documents. In desperation I said, " Holy Spirit I need these papers urgently..Help! Yes you're right ...I went to look for something at the back of the cupboard and there were the papers I needed ! Thank you Holy Spirit.

When I don't know what to speak...I say, Take over Holy Spirit. When traveling in Mumbai or out,... Take over Holy Spirit...he smoothens all the twists and turns.

There have been so many " amazing works of the Holy Spirit" in my / our lives but it would take too much space. **I could personally share of an impossible situation at Frankfurt airport last**

June, if you ask me whenever you meet me next.!

So just trust the Holy Spirit and walk with him in every area of your life. **He is your comforter, counselor, intercessor, guide , paraclete, giver of charisms and Spiritual Gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, loving fear of the lord. And your lives will "soar up like an eagle".**

And like the Burmah Shell slogan of old : "in India's life and part of it", **let us be involved in "The church's life and be part of it " . And may the Holy Spirit be our guide.**

~ Windsor DeSousa

Our Unforgettable Parish `Funday-Sundays' !!!

We thoroughly enjoyed our Parish Funday-Sunday Celebrations right through the Year 2016-17, which were so painstakingly organized by our Parish Cultural Committee.

The curtains fell with a grand finale which was the `Funday-Sunday Closing Ceremony' on Sunday 23 April 2017 at 10 a.m. on our Gloria Church Grounds. All the Zones assembled in their Zone Colours – resplendent with impressive Flags, decorative caps, balloons, ribbons and swirlers!

After a colourful March Past, each Zone had to participate, as a team, in 10 games which included :

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| -Cup Stack | -Stumping |
| -Rubber Band Stretch | -Needle & Thread |
| -Mine Field | -Hoopla Passing |
| -Pipe & Marble | -Puzzle, and finally |
| -Feeding the Clown | -A Grand Treasure Hunt! |

It was fun to see everyone scramble to finish first. The Treasure Hunt was the climax and each team was given a card with clues to find the `key to the treasure'. It was hilarious and thoroughly exciting as young and old all put their best foot forward to find the treasure before any other. And when the key was finally found, it led the teams to the `treasure' which,

low and behold, was a fantastic hamper full of Cake and `pop' and sweets and to crown it all, there was a prize for every Zone! The learning was, `In the end, we are all winners' ! That was a fitting message in the true spirit of `Community', for all of us who were actually participating as members of a community, of which the values of caring and sharing form the very foundation.

We thank our Parish Cultural Committee team members led by our `ever ready & full of ideas' Fr. Raphael together with the active participation of Edelwise, Victoria, Franchua, Kevin, Ermina, Alex & Dean. Thank you for all your unstinted efforts to make our Parish a vibrant community. God bless you immensely. A special thanks to Kevin who ensured the celebration was full of enthusiasm and merriment, with his brilliant compering!

We eagerly look forward to our next round of Funday-Sunday celebrations in 2017-18! We urge our parishioners to participate even more wholeheartedly and in larger numbers so that we continue to bring our Parish closer together as one big family!

~ Wendy Monteiro



Youth Camp 2017- Korlai, Maharashtra

Our group of youth came home tired and exhausted, suitcases remained to be unpacked and so did a thousand memories. On 28th April 2017, 20 youth of our parish accompanied by Fr. Raphael set out for a camp to Korlai, a small village after Alibaug. The village gets its name from Korlai Fort a Portuguese fortification around the year 1521. An amazing discovery was the people in the village speak a mixture of Portuguese and Marathi.

We assembled at Gateway of India at 6.30 am and set out for Mandwa and then enjoyed the tum-tum ride to Alibaug and onward to Mount Carmel Church, Korlai. After reaching we began with an introductory session which helped us know each other very well. After lunch we had an interactive Mass and left for the Korlai Fort which was a good trekking experience for us. Later that evening after supper we had games which have always been the most exciting part, once again 'Taboo' was our favourite.

Next morning, 29th of April we left for the Jazeera fort commonly known as Murud Janjira which is right in the middle of the sea. Travelling in those mini boats and walking in water was a thrilling experience. The fort had a full township within the walls, it was indeed a very nice historical experience. After refreshing ourselves with a glass of gola we left for Kashid Beach. GOOD VIBES GOOD TIDES, we ran bare foot on the sand and played in the water I wish I could stop the moment right there 'cause I knew how much I was going to miss that moment'. We returned, had our lunch and headed back to Mumbai later that afternoon with enough memories till we meet at the next camp. Time passes by differently at a camp, you can miss it the whole year and whenever you go back its like you never left. We would like to thank Fr. Raphael and all those who made this experience possible for us.

~ Angela Fernandes



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Call now to get your taste buds to sing: ooey.. gooey... delicious! **Tanisha D'souza 9619551948**

Summer Club 2017

Summer Club 2017 organised for children of our parish from 1st May to 15th May was indeed a bundle of beautiful memories. It was organized by the Youth Council with guidance from Fr. Raphael, all contributed towards the planning and conducting of the games. Each day had a different event planned and responsibilities were assigned to each person.

- 1st day we had Crazy games which kept everyone on their feet and wanting for more.
- 2nd day was Art and Craft, we learnt origami and Wendy Monteiro showed us how to make beautiful greeting cards.
- 3rd day we had Scavenger hunt which was again adventurous and new to most children and they had a lot of fun.
- 4th day we had Water games, once again exciting and lot of fun with water.
- 5th day was Cricket where children showcased their inner Sachin Tendulkars and Virat Kholis.

- 6th day was Treasure hunt, we had children running helter skelter searching for treasures.
- 7th day was Dance lessons, children enjoyed learning dance steps and dancing.
- 8th day was Board games, we had larger versions of board games on the ground.
- 9th day was Telegames, we had variety of telegames with different tasks.
- 10th and last day was the most enjoyable. We had a social, with snacks and dancing.

We thank all the children who participated and made this Summer Club a grand success. We thank all the youth council members who organized and conducted the Summer Club. And last but not least we thank Fr. Raphael for his support and encouragement.

~ Nicole Mathewson and Kenisha Pereira



A few thoughts and reflections on "OUR PRIESTS"

With the feast of St. John Marie Vianney, just around the corner, here is a compilation from a few sources, on this topic of 'OUR PRIESTS,' who are so much part of our lives.

Why would anyone want to be a priest today? Not an easy question to answer. For a good priest, who is willing to put himself out for the people he serves, the life is certainly not easy. The demands on his time are many and constant, the pay is minimal and the rewards are few. **Yet catholic people respond with a deep appreciation, to priests who show that they genuinely care for their people and are willing to do what they can to serve them.**

We need to realise, priests have the same needs as other men and women, i.e. need for affection and love in their lives, need for close friends with whom they can share themselves in an intimate way. Most important, **they must have the gift of a kind, loving heart, if they are to image, in their lives and ministry, the compassionate love of Jesus.**

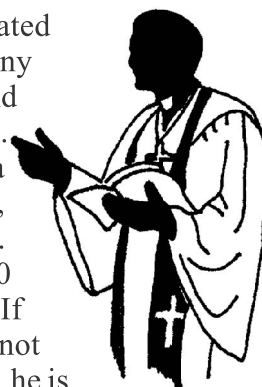
Many people think, marriage is what all normal people do. However, to quote Fr. Tom Lilly, St. Ann Seton church, Anchorage, U.S. "If I ever met a man, who during discernment process before joining the seminary, did not think he could also be a loving, caring and devoted father and husband, I would never encourage him to be a priest. Because **The same qualities are needed for both marriage and the priesthood.** I have come to realise, I can love others in a very powerful way, through the unique gift of celibate life."

We must realise, that like us, a priest is also a human person with flesh and blood. He is not a log of wood. He has feelings. He can become hungry and angry. He can weep and bleed. He can become exhausted. He has likes and dislikes. He can be impatient and anxious too.

The priest can also rejoice and be glad. He can have fun. He can love and would like to be loved in return. His humanity notwithstanding, **the priest has been called from among the people, so as to lead people back to God.**

People have often placed the priests on a pedestal, and consequently his humanness is often forgotten. A priest is expected to act like an angel and behave like a saint. But today's saints were all yesterday's sinners, as we all are. They were human beings who also struggled to be holy, while sometimes making mistakes.

The lives of our dedicated priests are full of challenges. Many demands are placed on them and much is expected of them. However no matter how hard a priest tries to do his best, somebody will try to find fault. If he preaches for more than 10 minutes, he is too long winded. If his homily is too short, he did not prepare!! If he mentions money, he is money minded. If he is young, he is inexperienced. If he is old, he should retire. Either way somebody will find fault!!!!



Dear friends, let us pray and support our Seminarians, and encourage our youth to start seeing religious life as an attractive option. We have often seen so many people unhappy with their jobs, careers, (or other choices) in which they are now locked. They don't enjoy a new day or can't wait for it to end so that they can escape from the office!!

Whereas for every priest, there are beautiful moments when he deeply experiences the presence of God working powerfully in and through him. Such as when bringing comfort to someone at their deathbed, or counselling and drawing a person back to God. Or helping a couple or a family to experience reconciliation and God's forgiveness. This does not mean that the priest's life is always easy. **But as with any person, only God can fulfill the emptiness of the human heart.**

The Pope said, " **the audacity of God who entrusts himself to human beings, who conscious of their weakness, yet considers them capable of acting and being present in His stead, is the true grandeur concealed in the word "priesthood".**

Our priests need you and me in order to be better ministers. They need to be valued, loved, appreciated, encouraged and welcomed. Let us thank God for blessing us with so many priests in the Mumbai diocese and for the excellent team of priests in our Gloria Church. God bless them abundantly.

~ compiled by Maureen DeSouza

Sunday School

It is the beginning of a new academic year and parents and children are always both eager to start their annual journey afresh. Nowadays, parents are encouraging their kids into music, art, sport and other activities apart from academics and the schedule is packed with a mix of these activities. It's a great feeling when you know that you have done your best to ensure your child's overall development and you can see how every activity brings about positive changes in your child's personality, behaviour and overall perspective of life. Isn't it an amazing feeling to know that we as parents are able to directly or through others, influence our children's lives? And yet dear parents while this takes care of the body and mind we often pay less attention to the spiritual growth of our children.

Sunday School starts at the age of 6 and it is at this time the child is very curious to learn more about Jesus. Children learn through bible stories, songs and activities. They develop an understanding of the Christian faith through role play and quizzes. Through the years, games and group interaction activities help the child think as an individual and a team. They contribute to class discussions and ask questions thereby help them develop a deeper understanding of Jesus's life, death and resurrection.

Children are taught to introspect on Jesus's teachings and put things into daily practice. They

develop more self-confidence and want to participate and contribute to the community. So many Sunday school goers volunteer as altar servers, lectors and on the choir and are already giving praise to God while enjoying and being part of the celebration. We should encourage them to continue doing so.

When children are encouraged to attend Sunday school regularly this becomes part of their schedule and no longer a task that they hesitate to attend. Sunday school attendance is not a decision you take on Sunday morning but at the start of the year that you will attend every class earnestly. Let's not look at 100% attendance as a license for First Holy Communion or Confirmation batches but ensure our children attend Sunday School irrespective of which grade they are in because we believe that this will reinforce what we as parents always want our children to be-good human beings.

In this world of instant gratification we also see disappointing cases where instant decisions change lives of many around us. Education and extracurricular activities will take you to the heights. Your spirit will also keep you strong through the troughs.

So parents, set the Sunday morning alarm. See you in church @8.15am for Mass followed by Sunday School.

~ Evonne Ferns

MILESTONES

BAPTISM

Child Name

Mayuri Kumbhar
Caresel Fernandes
Jesrio
Briana Braganza
Gracy
Rio Arockiya
Elvina Maria

Name of Parents

Dhirajlal / Leela Kumbhar
Gregory John / Sena Gregory Fernandes
Johnraj / Arockia Celestin Rani
Brian Braganza / Olive Braganza
Ruben / Jansi Rani
Stephen / Arockiya Vincent Praba
John Major / Maria Rubina

Baptised on

16th April 2017
16th April 2017
23rd April 2017
07th May 2017
25th June 2017
09th July 2017
09th July 2017



MARRIAGE

Names

Melvin Fernandes & Vienna Lobo
George D'Souza & Annie Fernandes
Neeraj Kumar Barnwal & Raylene Luiza Dias

Married on

23rd April 2017
29th April 2017
30th April 2017



DEATH

Name of the Deceased

Philomena Peter Lobo
Naina Francis Dias
Mario F. Bernard
Carmine Henry Menezes
PiedadeD'Costa

Died on

25th March 2017
20th May 2017
27th March 2017
22nd May 2017
30th March 2017

Name of the Deceased

Reginald Fisher
Carmelina S. Marshall
Francis L. Suares
Frank Peter Sequeira

Died on

05th June 2017
10th April 2017
10th July 2017
10th April 2017

Community Welfare Fund

Community Welfare Fund is a Diocesan project that is long overdue in our parish. We still follow the old system of Church Support which is good but not very organized. The Community Welfare Fund suggested by the diocese is more organized in collection, disbursement and transparency. All parishes were directed to start it by 2003. We are way behind, better late than never. We will be starting this process soon.

The Rationale for this Community Welfare Fund – Over the last few decades, in the Archdiocese of Bombay, our focus has been on **the parish as a community, a family of families**, based on the model community described in The Acts of the Apostles: “All believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another” (Act 2:44). Further, “the group of believers was one in mind and heart. No one said that any of his belongings was his own, but they all shared one with another everything they had; there was no one in the group who was in need” (Act 4:32). Our parish vision statement **“TO BE A VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF JESUS WITNESSES COMMITTED TO COMMUNION AND FULLNESS OF LIFE”**, will become a reality only when every single person in the parish is cared for and there is not a single person who feels unwanted or left out or in need. Rather everyone should feel a sense of belonging as part of a family. Parishioners sharing their resources should enable everyone to have the basic necessities of life and face emergencies.

How the Community Welfare Fund started?

It was the recommendation of the **2001 Bombay Synod** that there was a **need of generating funds for the welfare of the community** in each parish with a view that the poor could be cared for, so that no one would go to bed hungry at night, no child would be deprived of education because the parents could not afford the fees and no one would die for lack of basic medical aid.

To implement this vision, **it was suggested that every earning parishioner, even the smallest wage earner, contributes 1% of his/her gross salary**. The Bible lays down a 10% tithe and several Christian bodies are following this practice of tithing themselves. But the Synod settled on a 1% contribution. (Of course, those who would like to be more generous are most

welcome!) If a person is needy, he/she may receive back much more than his/her contribution; but everyone has the satisfaction of contributing towards the welfare of the community according to one's capacity. No one is merely a recipient, a beggar.

As Christians many of us have this deep desire to help and reach out to the poor and needy brothers and sisters of our parish, keeping in mind the mission and command of Our Lord Jesus Christ. *“Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do unto Me”*. The Community Welfare Fund is seen as one of the possible answers to this desire. Through this Fund, we systematically cater to the deserving in our community so that no one will be in need. Who knows one day you may be the beneficiary.

While the money currently obtained by Church Support is collected and spent mainly for the Church maintenance and administration. The collection and disbursement of Community Welfare Fund is to be run by the people, with the people and for the people.

Disbursement of Funds: There will be a lot of queries on how the fund is being utilized. The Disbursement of Funds is as per the diocesan guidelines and is approximately in the following percentage.

- **50%** Ration / Medical Aid / Education of needy in the parish
- **15%** Community Activities i.e. Parents', Teachers', Children', Senior Citizens' Day Celebrations. Community annual masses etc..
- **20%** Church maintenance and Parish related activities e.g. sending someone for training in catechetical, liturgy, youth animation. Youth and Sunday school activities etc..
- **15%** Parish Reserve Fund for emergencies

We plan to implement the Community Welfare Fund before the end of the year. In the meantime there are a lot of preparations to be done, committees to be formed and a system to be put in place. We look forward to your cooperation and support. It is our Christian obligation to reach out to our brothers and sisters and help satisfy their needs. The Community Welfare Fund encourages us to do what Jesus did – care for the poor, the weak and the helpless. Are you ready to cooperate and collaborate in this parish venture?

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