



# GLORIA BRIDGE

Gloria Church, Byculla

December 2023

## The Jewish Origins of Christmas

Increasing numbers of Christians who value their Jewish spiritual heritage are turning away from Christmas, believing it to have been derived from a winter solstice festival established on 25 December in AD 274 by the pagan Roman Emperor Aurelian as *Natalis Solis Invicti*, the birth of the Unconquerable Sun. This is the time when the days start to become longer, and the sun god supposedly proves his strength. The argument about pagan origins for Christmas was first made by a mid-eighteenth-century Protestant theologian, who wanted to prove that Christ-mass was a degenerate Catholic superstition that should be rejected. A century earlier, Puritans had similarly banned Christmas as too boisterous and too Catholic.

Nowadays the supposed pagan derivation of Christmas has been taken up eagerly by atheists and pagans who want to take credit for the popular winter festival. But does history bear out their claim?

It is true that the (in) famous Emperor Constantine, who converted the Roman empire to Christianity from AD 312 onwards, had earlier been a keen worshipper of *Sol Invictus*. No doubt this influenced his observation of 25 December as the birthday of his unconquerable One, Jesus Christ. But Christmas apparently had good Jewish-Christian roots, long before its association with sun-worship.

Rabbis in the Talmud (b. Rosh Hashana 11a; b. Kiddushin 38a) observed

that Moses apparently died on the day of his birth (Deuteronomy 31:2, 32:48-50), concluding that this perfect numerical fulfilment is granted to all truly righteous people (Exodus 23:26). Early Christians were influenced by Jewish traditions, but in Luke 1-2 they also saw God's emphasis on the conceptions of John the Baptist and of Jesus six months later, both following angelic visitations. They recognised that God actually treats conception rather than birth as the beginning of life, since John the Baptist rejoiced in Jesus' presence even before birth. In that case, they decided that the accepted date of Jesus' crucifixion on 14 Nisan must have been His conception date too, since He was the righteous 'prophet like Moses' (Deuteronomy 18:15-19). In fact, Jesus is the "New Moses" who will redeem us by his Passion, Death & Resurrection!!!

Eastern (Greek-speaking) and Western (Latin-speaking) Christians differed over the date of the crucifixion in the Roman calendar, settling on 6 April and 25 March respectively. With this date for both His death and His conception, birth would happen exactly nine months later.

For Western Christians, 25 December became the official birthday of Jesus, but even so, we also acknowledge 6 January (Christmas Eve for Eastern Orthodoxy) as the Feast of Epiphany, resulting in the familiar 'twelve days of Christmas'. The conception of Jesus is likewise celebrated on 25 March as the Feast of the Annunciation (to Mary).



Evidence for Christian belief that Jesus was born on 25 December goes back at least as early as the Commentary on Daniel (4.23.3) by Hippolytus of Rome in AD 202: 'He was born in Bethlehem, eight days before the kalends of January [December 25th]... He suffered in the thirty third year, 8 days before the kalends of April [March 25th].' In that case, emperor Aurelian was not the first to choose this date, seven decades after Hippolytus. Earlier Roman sun worshippers had celebrated a couple of dates in August, but they seem to have had no interest in either solstices or equinoxes at all.

As for the other older Roman winter festival of Saturnalia, this ran from 17 to 23 December, so a Christian holy day on 25 December could hardly have been intended as its replacement.

Presumably it was Christians who first noted the solar significance of the date of Christ's birth, calculated independently but coincidentally falling on the winter equinox in the Julian calendar. Jesus was truly the 'sun of righteousness' who had risen with healing in His wings (Malachi 4:2). Aurelian was hostile to Christianity, since its success was damaging worship of the Roman Empire's traditional gods.

So what better way to re-unite the various pagan cults around one annual festival, and at the same time recapture the winter equinox from the 'heretical' Christians, than to celebrate the sun-god on 25 December as a picture of Rome's unconquerable paganism? Less than forty years later, Rome itself submitted to Christ.

So when was Jesus actually born? The date is not given in the Bible, and would sheep really have been out in the fields near Bethlehem in mid-winter? John 1:14 says that 'the Word became flesh and dwelt ("Tabernacled") among us', which many take as a hint towards Sukkot. However, Messianic rabbi Jonathan Cahn has recently noted that one (uncensored?) manuscript of Hippolytus' commentary in the Vatican Library also preserves a contradictory observation that Jesus was born in the springtime. He points out that there is another biblical 'tabernacle' date at that time of year. The 'Feast of Tabernacles' is actually about 'booths', whereas the true Tabernacle (Mishkan) was constructed by Moses on 1 Nisan (Exodus 40:2, 17), having been 'conceived' by God about nine months earlier on Mount Sinai. Jesus Himself compared His body to God's dwelling (John 2:18- 21). Nisan also happens to be lambing season, when shepherds keep watch for new births in the fields even at night; so those near Bethlehem were ready to welcome the Lamb of God.

Whenever Jesus was actually born, we do not need to worry that celebrating His birth at Christmas makes us complicit with paganism. Whether on 25 December or 1 Nisan, we can rejoice that the Light of the World and Lamb of God truly came into the world to be our Tabernacle/Temple and make atonement for our sins – Yeshua our 'salvation'.

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~ Fr. Lawrence A. D'Souza



## Christmas Customs and Traditions.....

**C**hristmas, the most widely celebrated of festivals is observed in every continent of the world. Yes, even the tiniest region of the globe, celebrates it with great pomp and festivity.

The excitement, the hustle and bustle that goes with Christmas is unique. The story of the birth of Christ has inspired numerous songs, legends and practices all adding to the general store house of Christmas traditions.

Trimming the Christmas tree and exchanging greeting and presents with family and friends are all part of the many ways Christmas is celebrated around the World.

Let's take a peep into the various customs and traditions of Christmas around



**Greetings Cards:** Families and friends scattered all over the globe keep in touch by sending beautiful and colourful cards at Christmas.

**Christmas Gifts:** It's a pleasure to give presents at Christmas time, since it is truly more blessed to give than to receive. This beautiful custom derives from the fact that Shepherds and the Three Kings gave gifts to Christ. So, every Christmas is a joyful occasion when we exchange gifts with one another as tokens of love.

**Italy:** The Christmas customs of Italy are entirely centered on the birth of the Infant Jesus. St. Francis of Assisi's famous tableau of the birth of Christ is the origin of our modern Crib scenes. They are to be credited for giving The World the first Christmas Scene.



**Austria:** Christmas in Austria means a whole month of joy and excitement. The Advent wreath a symbol of life and eternity, appears in many homes as the first outward sign of the season. Austria is the author of the words and music of the beautiful hymn 'Silent Night.'



**Ireland:** In Ireland on Christmas Eve, candles are lighted and placed in every window of the house, and doors are left ajar. The candle light and open doors are symbols of welcome and hospitality.



**Germany:** A great deal of Christmas tradition is Germanic in Origin. There's no Christmas without a Christmas tree and the world is grateful to Germany for spreading this custom to the rest of the world.

**China:** Only some sections of China celebrate Christmas. The vast majority of its large population has never heard of Christ. The Chinese have added their own attractive lanterns to the other decorations of the world.



**England:** For the English the Christmas season is also known as 'Yule-tide.' In England on Christmas Eve, the traditional Yule-log is brought inside and placed in the fire place. This is supposed to bring goodwill to the entire household in the New Year. The plum pudding forms an essential item of their Christmas dinner.



**Japan:** The Japanese Christian groups gather together for the Christmas service and after the service cakes are distributed. The Japanese brilliantly coloured Christmas decorations are very famous.





**Holland:** The traditions of hanging stockings on Christmas eve, springs from ancient Holland where the youngsters thought that St. Nicholas made his rounds on horseback and gave candies and toys. The children in turn have hay and carrots in their wooden shoes for St. Nicholas or Santa Claus.



**India and Arabia:** Indians and Arabs have not given anything special for Christmas to the world. But they have incorporated all the customs of the world. So, they can truly be said to have a very cosmopolitan Christmas.



**Hawaii:** Hawaiians celebrate Christmas as much as the Americans do everywhere. The festive poinsettia blooms naturally in Hawaii and it is used to



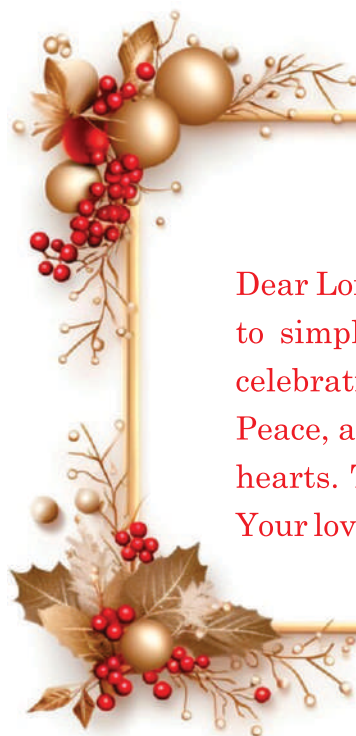
decorate homes during the Christmas season.

So, we see regardless of race or geographical location and within the wide orbit of Christmas faith the special magic of Christmas is everywhere and all receive the Angels message –

**“Peace to men of good will.”**



*~ Sr. Floripe D'silva  
Gloria Convent*



### **Prayer for the Christmas Season**

Dear Lord, Don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In your precious name we pray, Amen.



## Feast of Nativity - 8 September 2023

There are only three people whose birthdays have traditionally been celebrated by Christians. Jesus Christ, at Christmas; Saint John the Baptist; and the Blessed Virgin Mary. And we celebrate all three birthdays for the same reason: all three were born without Original Sin.

This year, the theme for the Nativity Novena in honour of our Mother Mary was "Mary Our Friend" and co-related to nine different flowers for each day.

Pre-printed poster of Mother Mary with the outlined design of the related flower for the day, were distributed to children. Everyday, the Children coloured the flower on the poster with that of the original colour of the flower. Three prizes in different categories were announced for the best coloured poster. Enthusiastically, the children submitted their completed posters on the feast day for evaluation, and the children with the best coloured posters were awarded.



It was overwhelming to witness the congregation dressed in colours matching to the colour of the flower for the day.

The most joyful moments for the children were to altar serve and be involved in the liturgy everyday.

Distribution of snacks to the children after celebration of the Eucharist, every evening was nothing less than a reward.

The feast day was celebrated with grandeur Eucharistic celebration and ended with singing the birthday song to Mother Mary and children cutting a colourful cake. Each child eagerly wanting to have a piece of the cake on their tiny palms feeling much satisfied.

May Mother of Glory bring us all closer to Jesus as one united community.

*~ Mrs. Joyce Alphonso  
Lay-Head - Glorian Faith Academy*

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

On 23th September, 2023 the SVP distributed to our 23 Adopted Families items like Oil, Rice, Sugar, Dal, Wheat, Soaps, Toothpaste etc. which were offered by the children of our Parish during the Novena of the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother. The items were given to the SVP by our Parish Priest Fr. Dennis Gonsalves.

On 27th September 2023, SVP organised St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day at Anza School Hall for 23 SVP Adopted Families and Donors.

It was a touching and heart warming experience as we mingled, chatted with them and Games were organised wherein we distributed snacks, gift hampers followed by

Dinner. Fr. Dennis Gonsalves gave a short talk on SVP, prayed and blessed them.

On 29th October, 2023 our Conference organised St. Vincent de Paul - Area Council (South) Festival Meeting where all 9 Conferences of South participated in the Function. 6 Members of different Conferences took a Pledge and Fr. Earnest Fernandes our Spiritual Director gave them blessing and prayed on them.

We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to all our Donors and our Parish Priest Father Dennis Gonsalves.

*~ Russel D'souza  
SVP, President*

## Super-centenary Celebrations of The Feast of Our Lady of Glory

**O**n November 12, 2023, we joyously celebrated the Super Centenary year of Our Parish, Our Lady of Glory, marking a century of spiritual milestones. The festivities were not just an occasion; they were a tapestry of joy, reflection, and communal spirit that will resonate in our hearts for years to come.

As a prelude to the grand feast, Father Lawrence devoted extra effort to curate a special theme for the Triduum and the Feast Day. The thematic focus traced Mary's transformative journey from the Annunciation to her profound moments with Jesus on Calvary. Notably, the enchanting portrayal of first holy communicants as angels and girls adorned as Mother Mary, orchestrated by Sr. Floripe and her dedicated team, evoked beautiful childhood memories.

The Feast Day morning unfolded with a magnificent Eucharistic celebration, a classical band, and the distribution of cakes to attendees after each mass. Associations set up stalls, the youth Council organized games, Gloria Convent Sisters hosted Housie, and a well-organized "weigh the cake" competition added to the vibrant atmosphere. The highlight was the release of rosary balloons by the Parish team and Convent Sisters, captivating audiences near and far with pictures and videos shared globally.

The evening celebration of the feast day was nothing short of spectacular. Fr. Dennis, the Parish Priest, delivered an inspiring message on the theme of 'Family Unity of



Love.' The Parish Fathers then cut the centenary cake, paving the way for a lively performance by a live band, offering everyone the chance to dance and revel in the jubilation. Various entertainment options, including eatery stalls, a selfie point, fireworks, and a painting competition, enhanced the festive spirit.

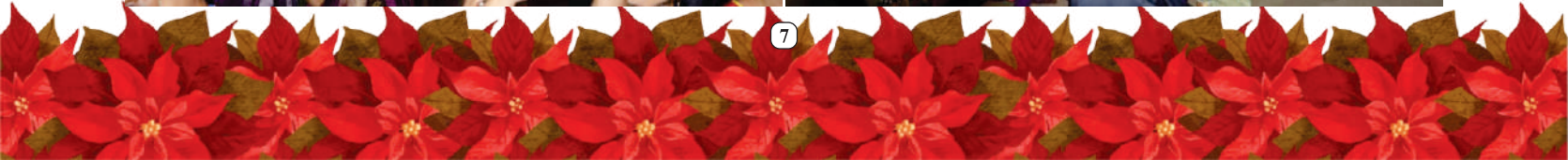
In commemoration of 110 years of Our Lady of Glory Church, a logo competition was held, and Ms. Gizelle Pereira emerged as the winner, duly recognized and honoured.

Adding to the festivities, a family dinner organized by the Food Committee, as suggested by Father Lawrence and the Execo Committee, served as the perfect culmination, bringing everyone together in a heart-warming gesture of unity.

Gratitude is extended to the Parish team, PPC members, Glorian Euphorian team, unseen members, sponsors, well-wishers, and workers, all of whom collaborated enthusiastically to orchestrate a grand celebration.

This Super Centenary Feast, I would affectionately name as "The Vodlem Feshth," carries a profound message: "We can accomplish more together." It was indeed a fitting conclusion to a remarkable celebration, leaving us with a sense of unity, joy, and gratitude as we look forward to the future with renewed spirit and purpose.

*~ Victoria Marshall  
Vice-President, PPC*



## Father Sachin: Cultivating Faith from Farm to Parish

**G**loria Parish opened its towering doors to its youngest priest, Father Sachin Lopes, whose ministry in faith beckoned him from Virar to Byculla.

Hailing from a lineage of farmers, his upbringing mirrors the biblical parable of the sower. His journey with the church began in the 3rd standard, coinciding with his first Holy Communion and set in stone with the construction of Our Lady Of Lourdes Church. This, he says, became a pivotal point, weaving his destiny with the fabric of faith.

From altar server to youth member and seminary, Father Sachin closely observed the lives of priests, drawing inspiration from their dedication and commitment to nurturing the spiritual harvest, especially the little children. His childhood desire to be a 'School Master', seamlessly blended his academic pursuits with his divine calling leading him to the first floor office of ANZA School, where he keeps a watchful eye on raucous boys as Principal.

As he tends to his school children and parish guided by faith and resilience, we trace the tapestry of Father Sachin's priestly service.

### Excerpts of my interview:

#### ***Father Sachin, tell us a little about the road that led you to Gloria Parish.***

I am from Virar, where my father and mother are still farmers. My three siblings and I were brought up with simplicity. My connection to the church began when I was in the 3rd standard, when I was receiving my first Holy Communion. At that time, our church, Our Lady of Lourdes was also built and it laid the foundation for my connection to the church. From that point on, inspired by the lives of priests, especially during my time as an altar server and youth member, I felt the calling to embrace the priesthood. The encouragement from the parish priest during my 10th standard further propelled me into enrolling in Vianney Ashram, a minor seminary, setting me on the path to where I am today.

***Making such a decision as a teenager must have been difficult. Did you face any moments of uncertainty?***

Enrolling in Vianney Ashram during the 11th standard presented challenges, especially with language differences as my education had been in Marathi. English, a foreign language at the time, triggered apprehension. The prospect of managing everything in English seemed daunting. So I felt that I required more time, and went back to college. See, this calling, never leaves you alone. In the 11th standard it troubled me so much that I thought of joining again. In the 12th, I joined the Jesuit society because this thought came back. Again, in my graduation year, this thought persisted - 'please move into the priesthood'. Even though there was this fear (of English), I believe God has his ways to give us the best.

#### ***What made you want to try again for the third time?***

One of my cousins who was already in the priesthood, suggested that I come and stay with him in Bombay and see what this can be. So I decided to give it a try and spoke to the priest in a seminary. I gave my final exams on June 7 and on June 10 I found out that I was selected and that I was joining the seminary. Then I said, 'Mummy, I am going.'

#### ***Who was your biggest support during your early priestly ministry?***

My brother! He supported me a lot. He stepped up and said, "Don't worry mummy, I am there, I will take care of the family, our two sisters and even his education. Let him go, please." That time onwards there was no turning back. I joined the seminary in 2000, got ordained with Fr. Lawrence in 2010, and now it has been 13 years of being a priest.





***When did you start your education ministry?***

Following my ordination, I completed my B.Ed. in 2011 and then served as an assistant teacher at St. Joseph's School in Vikroli for four years. Subsequently, I transitioned to Fatima School, as the principal. Within two years, I returned to Vikroli, assuming dual roles as an assistant teacher and an assistant HR due to a vacant position. This administrative experience spanned six years before my current posting.

***Do you find church ministry or the responsibility of nurturing young children more challenging?***

During my theological studies, a bishop was asked the same question. He emphasized that in schools; the chances for evangelization are broader, reaching beyond the Catholic community. The diversity allows for a significant witness value, inspiring many. Despite the challenges presented by government Interference and regulations, the satisfaction derived from spending the day with children makes you feel younger too.

***Over 13 years of service, where have you forged the strongest connections?***

St. Joseph is a significant experience. I spent 10 out of 13 years there. It became a major part of my life. When I joined that parish, the children who were admitted in Junior KG, graduated 10 grade with me. Whether interacting with the youth, elderly, or engaging in health cells, these connections continue to endure.

***What is your favourite part of the day being principal?***

Here is no favourite part but I like to start with Mass. I like getting up early morning, finishing the Mass, then coming to the school. You fill the petrol and then begin the day, it's like that.

***Dealing with children aged 4 to 14 all day and then transitioning to Gloria Parish might have been a challenge. What is your***

***vision for the people of Gloria Parish?***

When I was transferred here, they told me, 'Father, you're going to an old parish'. Initially, I misunderstood it to be an old-structured parish, but I found that the community consists of people mainly middle-aged people. I appreciate talking to them, drawing from my fond relationship with my aged grandmother. They seek affection and conversation, often feeling neglected by their busy children. I find joy in providing them a listening ear and a spiritual connection. The younger members here are also enthusiastic and open to guidance. In my six months here, understanding and connecting with the community has been a fulfilling experience.

***What has been your biggest learning here?***

Learning is to adjust (laughs). Also, unlike my previous parishes, Gloria Parish has convents around. This enriched my experience with the spiritual life of the sisters. Attending the first Mass with all the sisters has been inspiring, witnessing their devoted prayer life. It has served as a model for spiritual growth. It's a valuable lesson in adapting to new environments and finding inspiration in the spiritual practices of others.

***What is your vision for the parishioners of Gloria Parish?***

This traditional church I feel can benefit from embracing technology, providing the elderly with a richer spiritual experience. Although they may not actively use it, introducing technological elements can enhance their connection. It's essential for the younger generation to take the initiative. This approach could offer a blend of spirituality and modernity while preserving our core values.

***What is your Christmas message?***

This Christmas, let's focus on inviting Jesus into our hearts and homes with enthusiasm and preparation. Meeting Him is a transformative experience, so let's embrace

this opportunity for a meaningful and joyous Christmas.

**Rapid Fire Christmas Q&A:**

**Who Is the Star for You on the Darkest Nights?**

Parents, as a source of inspiration and light.

**If your life were a Christmas story, What would it be?**

A story centred on the joy and inspiration derived from parents.

**What's your favourite Christmas tradition?**

Being together with family on Christmas day. Ensuring all family members are together at least one day during the holiday season.

**A favourite Christmas memory you hold dear?**

My Birthday because it falls on Christmas.

**Favourite Christmas sweet?**

Karangie.

**If You Were a Christmas Ornament, What Would You Be?**

Joystick, for joy.

**Your favourite Christmas Tune?**

"Jingle Bells" - symbolizing joy and spreading laughter and cheer.

**Fr. Sachin Lopes was interviewed by Karen Pereira**

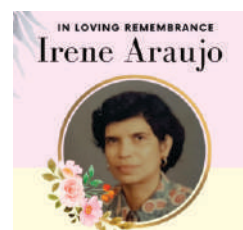
**A Tribute to our dear Irene**

**'Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end'**

Yes, indeed the Lord used our simple and loving Irene for His glory and Irene moulded herself perfectly into His plan. Irene was a very loving, soft-spoken and generous person. She went out of her way to help others. She was active and I was really surprised to know her age – 75 precious years! She spent hours tending to the needs of our Church. Every Saturday she would meticulously and beautifully set up the Altar and have the flowers arranged. If there was a wedding, she would willingly agree to decorate the Altar.

I am sure the Daily Mass she participated in, gave her immense grace and strength to do God's work willingly and joyfully. She made it a point to go for the Sacrament of Confession as, being a Eucharistic Minister, she wanted to give Jesus to his people in a worthy manner. "Whatever you did to the least of My brethren you did it to

Me", I guess this was Irene's guiding principle. Just few days before she could leave us for her heavenly abode, I had requested her to give communion to my aged Mother. She told me the name of the Eucharistic Minister who was in charge of the area where my Mum lived. She gently added that if it was required, she would do the needful. 'I have climbed many floors and given Holy Communion to the homebound' was her ever willing reply.



Irene went out of her way to ensure everything was done well for our Church, during Sam's absence. During her last few days, she was unwell but yet did her best and coordinated so that the work went on. She served in the Lord's vineyard till her last breath.

Eternal rest grant unto dear Irene, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

What a lovely example in Christian self-giving, for all of us to follow!

~ Janice Dsouza  
Little Flower Community, Zone 2

## Girl Child Day

**T**heme “ Young Mind – Concern for Safety” Organised by the Family and Women Cell, Gloria Parish on 3rd September 2023. The function commenced following the 8:15 am Novena Mass, congregating children at the ANZA School Hall. On entry the children were treated to refreshments which included a PINK pastry which was the colour theme for the Novena day.

The Chief Guest was Sr. Inspector of Byculla Police Station Nandkumar Gopale. The Guest of Honour was Sister Josefina Albuquerque, recipient of the award for the film 'D for Dumbo' which was an entry in the ALP International Film Festival.

The esteemed dignitaries – Sr. Inspector Nandkumar Gopale, Inspector Manju Parab, Fr. Sachin Lopez (Principal of ANZA High School & Spiritual Director FWC), Sister Josefina Albuquerque (Principal of St Agnes High School), Sister Fatima (Principal of Regina Pacis) & Mrs. Joyce (Sunday School Teacher) were warmly welcomed. They ceremoniously lit the Samai symbolizing enlightenment and progress. Sister Josefina was felicitated for her remarkable achievement.

Sr. Inspector Gopale delivered an enlightening speech emphasizing on the importance of safety of the girl child and imparting valuable insights on self-protection during adverse situations,

captivating the young audience's attention.

The students of ANZA High School and St Agnes High School showcased captivating dance performances trained by their teachers. These performances earned widespread appreciation.

Spot prizes and engaging games were arranged, infusing the event with a sense of fun and excitement, ensuring active participation from both the children and parents alike. The event witnessed an impressive turnout of children and actively engaged parents.

The presence of Fr. Dennis, Fr. Lawrence and Fr. Ernest alongside the enthusiastic participation of parents, added to the community spirit and the event's success. The success of the Girl Child Day function was a testament to the meticulous planning and dedicated efforts of the Family and Women Cell members, under the guidance and support of Fr. Sachin Lopez. The event not only celebrated the occasion but also raised awareness about child safety, leaving an indelible impression on the young minds and fostering community engagement. This function stands as a beacon of advocacy for the well-being and safety of the GIRL CHILD, encapsulating the spirit of empowerment and awareness.

*~ Patrick Mathewson  
(Family and Women Cell)*



## Glorious Glorians HOUSIE

Researchers around the world have found that playing Housie has multiple health benefits. It helps to build social connections and maintain cognitive abilities and focus of one's mind.

Keeping these benefits in mind the Glorious Glorians, the Senior Parishioners Association of our Parish, conducted the 'Crazy Housie' on Sunday, 15th



October 2023 at 10.30am in the Parish Hall, 1st Floor. There were about 60 enthusiastic people who participated. Mr. Olavo Lobo and Mr. Camillo Fernandes conducted it flawlessly. The whole managing committee worked in perfect unison right from the sale of tickets, down to the serving of snacks. Those who attended enjoyed the different variations that

were conducted in the Housie games. All in all, it was a relaxing morning much appreciated by one and all. The photographs say it all!

Similarly, Housie was conducted by the Glorious Glorians on Day 3 of the Tridum, on Saturday, 11th November, 2023, after the 7.00pm Mass on the Church Grounds. Two games of Housie were conducted. For the parishioners who waited to play the

Housie games, it was an evening to remember as attractive prizes were awarded to the winners. The proceeds collected from these housie games were handed over to the parish for the Super Centenarian Parish Feast Celebration.

~ Sandra Khan,  
Jt. Secretary,

## Christmas Recipe

### Coconut Cake

#### Ingredients :

2 scraped Coconuts  
1/2 kg Sugar  
1/4 kg Mixed Fruit Peel  
200 gms Cashew Nuts cut fine  
Baking Powder 1 tsp  
Salt to taste (1 tbsp)  
6 Eggs  
Vanilla Essence 1 tsp  
Wheat Flour 1 measure (1 level Milkmaid Tin)  
1/4 kg Ghee

#### Method :

Make Sugar syrup with 1 or 2 tbsps of water. Add Salt and Coconut and keep on low flame. Then add cut Fruit Peel, Cashew Nuts and Ghee on low flame. Keep vessel down after 10 minutes and let it cool. When cooled, beat eggs white and add, then add the yolk, then add the Flour, Essence and Baking Powder. Bake at 160 degree C, for 45-50 minutes or till done.

~ Josephine Fernandes  
St. Jude's Community

### Christmas Plum Cake.

#### Ingredients:

200 grams of Maida  
200 grams Margarine butter  
200 grams brown sugar  
4 eggs  
200 grams mixed chopped peels  
200 grams raisins  
200 gram sultanas  
200 grams cherries  
100 grams dried cranberries  
25 grams candied ginger  
A teaspoon of lemon peel  
Vanilla  
2to 3 teaspoons of Trickle (burnt sugar)  
1 ½ teaspoon of mixed spices powder  
½ a teaspoon salt  
50 grams of powdered almonds/cashew nuts  
50 grams of flaked almonds/cashew nuts.

#### Method:

Mix the butter and sugar with an electric mixer. Next break in the eggs one at a time adding a teaspoon of flour along with each egg to stop the mixture from curdling.

Keep beating the mixture. Now you got to sieve in the flour, spice powder and salt. Add the lemon peel and powdered almond powder and beat it all together to get a smooth paste.

In another bowl mix in all your nuts and fruits and mix well with a spoon.

Add it in the batter and mix well. Add your vanilla and trickle to it.

Now take an 8" baking pan, spread some butter and cover it with butter paper at the bottom and sides. Pour in the batter and spread evenly.

You need to bake it at 150 degree C for 1 ½ hour. Check it by piercing the Centre with a tooth pick to see if it comes out clean. If not keep it for another 10 to 15 minutes. Then put off the oven, cool and remove it out of the cake tin gently.

You now need to feed the cake with rum or brandy. So, pierce with a tooth pick making holes round the cake. Pour in a table spoon of liquor into the holes. Then cover it with butter paper and then foil paper and keep it in the fridge. This has to be done after every week till Christmas.

~ Sr. Floripe Dsilva  
Gloria Convent

## The Manipur Prayer Service At Gloria Church, Byculla

**S**AMANVAYAM – the Inter Religious Dialogue Cell of Gloria Church, Byculla conducted a Peace Prayer Vigil for Manipur on Saturday, August 12, 2023. Religious leaders from different faiths were invited to participate in the prayer service. The event was well attended by people from different parishes. After the brief introduction, the service began with the lighting of the Samai by the guests of honour followed by readings from scriptures of the different religious denominations that are part of our nation. The holy texts from Srimad Bhagavatam in Sanatan Dharma, the holy Quran, teachings of Gautama Buddha and Mahavir, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity and passages from Mahatma Gandhi; all pointed out to the path of peace, tolerance, acceptance of one another and non-violence. These texts serve as a reminder to us that every issue can be and should be resolved through dialogue and that violence does good to no one and conflicts the very essence of our Indianness which is to be united despite our ethnic, cultural and religious diversity. Fr. Lawrence did a wonderful rendition of the “Pasayadaan,” a melodic version of the poem

written by Sant Dnyaneshwar, a poet and saint of our own state, Maharashtra.

Each of the religious leaders present, said a prayer as per their own tradition and religious practice, for peace to prevail in Manipur as well as for all places in our country and in the world that are affected by violence. In their own way, through prayer, they emphasised the importance of being human and accepting of each other, despite our differences, unequivocally pointing to the path of peace.

Fr. S.M. Michael and Fr, Aniceto summarised the event and thanked the friends of other faiths for coming together in prayer. They spoke about the current scenario in the country and the world, explaining why it is important that we as a society remain united in peace against forces that attempt to divide and disrupt the peace of the resident communities.

The service ended with the congregation together saying the “Prayer for Manipur” by Cardinal Oswald Gracias. Ms. Geeta Ratnakumar gave the final vote of thanks to the guests and thanked everyone for their participation in making the event a successful one.

*~ Kenneth Dmello  
Samanvayam, IRD Cell.*



# Name That Christmas Song

A lyric from the song is given. In what song would you find the lyric?

1. "Round you virgin mother and child"
  - a. Jingle Bells
  - b. Silent Night
  - c. I'll be Home for Christmas
  - d. We Three Kings
2. "And Heaven and nature sing"
  - a. Away in a Manger
  - b. Joy to the World
  - c. While Shepherds Watched
  - d. White Christmas
3. "'Tis the season to be jolly"
  - a. Jingle Bells
  - b. While Shepherds Watched
  - c. Deck the Halls
  - d. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
4. "God and sinners reconciled"
  - a. O Come O Come Emmanuel
  - b. O come All Ye Faithful
  - c. Hark the Herald Angels
  - d. The First Noel
5. "Disperse the gloomy clouds of night"
  - a. O Come All Ye Faithful
  - b. O Come O Come Emmanuel
  - c. Hark the Herald Angels
  - d. The First Noel
6. "Joyful and triumphant"
  - a. O Come All Ye Faithful
  - b. Joy to the World
  - c. Deck the Halls
  - d. Ave Maria
7. "Looked down where he lay"
  - a. The First Noel
  - b. Little Town of Bethlehem
  - c. Joy to the World
  - d. Away in a Manger
8. "O tidings of comfort and joy"
  - a. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
  - b. The First Noel
  - c. Ding Dong Merrily on High
  - d. Away in a Manger
9. "On a cold winter's night that was so deep"
  - a. Away in a Manger
  - b. The First Noel
  - c. Ave Maria
  - d. Deck the Halls
10. "Hang a shining star upon the highest bough"
  - a. O Come O Come Emmanuel
  - b. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
  - c. Hark the Herald Angels
  - d. Frosty the Snowman
11. "City sidewalk, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style"
  - a. Joy to the World
  - b. Deck the Halls
  - c. Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer
  - d. Silver Bells
12. "Please have snow and mistletoe and presents under the tree"
  - a. Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas
  - b. Silent Night
  - c. I'll Be Home For Christmas
  - d. Jingle Bells
13. "Somebody snatched on me"
  - a. Bill's Christmas Treat
  - b. The First Noel
  - c. Nuttin' for Christmas
  - d. Deck the Halls
14. "Bearing gifts we traverse afar"
  - a. Jingle Bells
  - b. Silent Night
  - c. I'll Be Home for Christmas
  - d. We Three Kings
15. "Come on, it's lovely weather"
  - a. Deck the Halls
  - b. While Shepherds Watched
  - c. Jingle Bells
  - d. Sleigh Ride

- Answers
1. Silent Night
  2. Joy to the World
  3. Deck the Halls
  4. Hark the Herald Angels
  5. O Come O Come Emmanuel
  6. O Come All Ye Faithful
  7. Away in a Manger
  8. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
  9. The First Noel
  10. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
  11. Silver Bells
  12. I'll Be Home for Christmas
  13. Nuttin' for Christmas
  14. We Three Kings
  15. Sleigh Ride

# MILESTONES

## BAPTISM

Child Name	Name of Parents	Baptised on
Joael	Arockiya Jagan Raj / Rose Mary	08th January 2023
Royan	Manuel / Lavina	16th April 2023
Joywin	Steven / Devi	16th April 2023
Devi	Ramalingam / Usha Ramalingam	30th April 2023
Divya	Govindraj / Sumati	30th April 2023
Alaina Navin	Navin D'Souza / Kavita D'Souza	07th May 2023
Nathan Navin	Navin D'Souza / Kavita D'Souza	21st October 2023



## MARRIAGE

Name	Married On
Pushparaj & Deepa M	04th December 2022
Sunny Michael D'Souza & Sneha Ashok Kadam	18th December 2022
Yesudas Dias & Zaiba Shaikh	28th December 2022
Russell Joshua D'Silva & Nikita Shetty	22nd January 2023
Nigel Abraham Quraishy & Samantha Rita Fernandes	12th February 2023
Naveen Kumar & Kavita Kamraj	07th May 2023
Rovan Machado & Sneha Patel	14th May 2023
Jude Julius Dias & Susan Rosy De Sa	11th November 2023
Tyson Constance Trinidad & Marishka Fernandes	25th November 2023



## DEATH

Name of the Deceased	Died On	Name of the Deceased	Died On
Joaquim Manuel Fernandes	08th January 2023	Marian Sayar Farnandes	30th June 2023
Anthony Michael Nunes	10th January 2023	Jennifer Agnel Cardoz	07th July 2023
Anthony Xavier Fernandes	22nd January 2023	Anthony John D'Souza	23rd July 2023
Gilbert Andrew Fernandes	23rd January 2023	Nataline Denis Fernandes	25th July 2023
Anjinha Felix D'Souza	01st February 2023	Maria Joaquina P. D'Souza	05th August 2023
Alex Rodrigues	04th February 2023	Cyril Pereira	10th August 2023
Anthony Wilson Amanna	19th February 2023	Ivy Anthony Fernandes	02nd October 2023
Charmaine Baptista	26th February 2023	Libearian C. Fernandes	02nd October 2023
Thomas Avelin Pinto	25th March 2023	Doughlas Titus Pereira	07th October 2023
Alexis Ann Fernandes	23rd March 2023	Irene Costa Araujo	23rd October 2023
Claudio Manuel Louis Rocha	25th January 2020	Guilermima Valadares	18th November 2023
Philips Henry D'Sa	26th May 2023	Veronica Angelica Eriquida Dessa	14th November 2023
Dylan Darren Gomes	07th June 2023		



## COMMUNITY FUND UPDATE

**Amount collected and Expenditure for Community Fund from April 2023 to November 2023**  
**SVP & Medical Help given amounted to Rs. 1,52,000/-**  
**Community Fund Total Amounted to Rs. 3,10,481/-**



**The Parish Priest and  
his team wish all our parishioners  
A Happy Christmas and a  
Christ-filled New Year 2024**

## **Christmas Programme 2023**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| December 17, Sunday                        | – CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  |
| December 18th, 19th & 20th (Mon, Tue, Wed) | – CONFESSIONS 6 to 8 pm   |
| December 22nd & 23rd                       | – Visit to the Homebound & Poor<br>with Carol singing & gifts   |
| December 24, Sunday                        | – Masses in the morning as on Sunday.<br>NO EVENING MASS<br>– 11.15p.m. CAROLS by the Parish Choir<br>– 12 Midnight – Christmas Mass                                |
| December 25th, Monday                      | – CHRISTMAS DAY<br>– Masses at 7am, 8.15am & 9.30am.<br>NO EVENING MASS   |
| December 28th, Thursday                    | – FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS<br>– Mass & Blessing of Children at 5pm followed by<br>Christmas Party for Children from 6 – 7.30pm in<br>the Anza Parish Hall.       |
| December 31st, Sunday                      | – Masses in the morning as on Sunday.<br>NO EVENING MASS<br>11pm – 12 noon Thanksgiving Holy Hour<br>12 Midnight – Mass of the Solemnity of Mary,<br>Mother of God. |
| 1st January 2024                           | – NEW YEAR'S DAY<br>– Masses at 7am, 8.15am, 9.30am & 7pm.  |

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