



Our Lady
of the
Visitation
Church
NERUL
NAVI MUMBAI

A Peep into Nerul Parish **Reach Out**

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY
VOL.-XXV, No.-1, April 2026

Parish Newsletter



Think you know your Bible? Let's find out!

Section A: Multiple Choice

1. Which Old Testament prophet foretold the "Suffering Servant" who would bear the sins of many?
A. Jeremiah B. Isaiah C. Ezekiel D. Daniel
2. How many days did Moses fast on Mount Sinai while receiving the Law?
A. 30 B. 40 C. 50 D. 7
3. In which wilderness did Jesus spend 40 days fasting and being tempted?
A. Judean Wilderness B. Sinai Desert C. Negev Desert D. Arabian Desert
4. Who carried Jesus' cross on the way to Golgotha?
A. Joseph of Arimathea B. Simon of Cyrene C. Nicodemus D. Barabbas
5. Which prophet confronted King David after his sin with Bathsheba?
A. Elijah B. Nathan C. Samuel D. Hosea

Section B: Fill in the Blanks

1. Jesus prayed in the Garden of _____ before His arrest.
2. The high priest who presided over Jesus' trial was _____.
3. The disciple who denied Jesus three times was _____.
4. The place where Jesus was crucified is called _____.
5. The Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to be crucified was _____.

Section C: Who am I?

1. I was sold for twenty pieces of silver by my brothers but later saved many people from famine.
2. I climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus passing by.
3. I doubted the resurrection until I saw Jesus' wounds.
4. I prepared the tomb where Jesus was buried.
5. I helped bury Jesus along with Joseph of Arimathea.

Section D: Scripture Knowledge

1. Which Psalm contains the words: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
2. Which Old Testament event is often seen as a foreshadowing of Christ's sacrifice when a father prepared to offer his son?
3. What was the name of the hill where Jesus was crucified?
4. Which book of the Bible contains the prophecy of the valley of dry bones?
5. What curtain in the Temple was torn in two when Jesus died?

***The answer key is shared later in this issue itself. Happy quizzing
- From the Editorial Team!***

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTICE:

An important information to all parents of our Sunday school children

Sunday school plans the following activities

1. Regular Sunday classes of Faith Formation
2. Competitions for all classes- Drawing, Recitation, Singing and Fancy Dress
3. Deanery level programs- Psalm Festival and Faith Celebration day
4. Various celebrations at the Parish level -

Christmas Tree Children's day, Grand Parents Day, Teacher's Day, St. John Marie Vianney Day, and Graduation Day

5. Activity books for each class
The registration amount collected from each child is used for the above mentioned purposes

***- Mrs. Lucy Nair
Sunday School Coordinator***

Parish Priest Speaks.....



Return, Renew, Restart: A Call to Begin Again

- Fr Sunil Tirkey, O-Pream

In the rhythm of our faith journey, we are often invited to pause, reflect, and realign our lives with God's purpose. The call to return, renew, and restart is not limited to a season—it is a constant invitation from a loving Father who never tires of welcoming us back.

To return is to come back to God with sincerity and humility, regardless of how far we may feel we have strayed. It is a step of courage, trusting that His mercy is greater than our failures. In returning, we rediscover the peace and strength that only He can give.

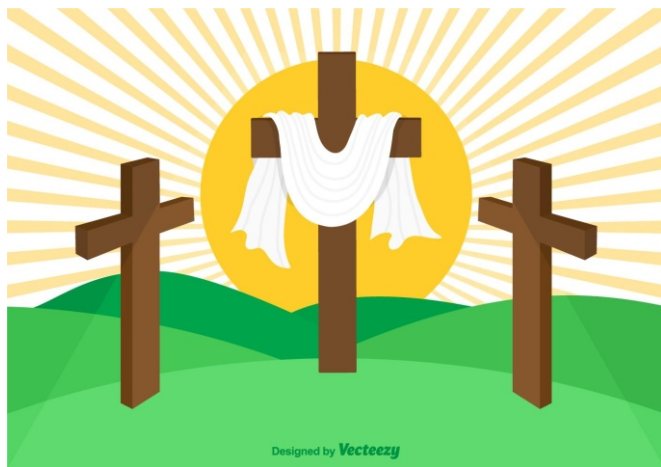
To renew is to allow God's grace to transform us from within. Renewal calls us to let go of past hurts, to forgive freely, and to grow in faith, hope, and love. It is in this renewal that our hearts are softened, our vision is clarified, and our lives begin to reflect Christ more deeply.

To restart is to embrace each day as a new opportunity. God, in His infinite mercy, grants us fresh

beginnings—moments to choose better, to love deeper, and to walk more faithfully in His path.

When we live out this call, it touches every part of our lives—our families, our communities, and our relationship with God. May we embrace this journey with trust, allowing Him to lead us as we **RETURN, RENEW AND RESTART.**

Wish you all a Meaningful EASTER



PARISH SCHEDULE

Confessions: Everyday half an hour before Mass and on request

Children's Sunday School:

8.00am Catechism Classes for Class 1st to 11th is conducted at OLVC after the 8:00 am Mass

Mass Schedule:

OLVC: Mon to Sat:

6:45am Mass in English

6:30pm Rosary (Daily)

7:00pm Mass in English

Note: The 7pm mass on Saturday is an Anticipatory Mass

Every Sunday:

8:00am Children's Mass (English-OLVC)

9:30am Mass (English-OLVC)

5:00pm Mass {Konkani (OLVC)

6:00pm Mass {English (OLVC)

4th Sunday: 6:00pm Mass in Tamil

Popular Devotions:

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel: is open on all days from 6:00am to 11:00am and from 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

Adoration on the First Friday: is conducted after the 7:00p.m mass

Every Wednesday after 7:00 p.m: Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Every Friday after 7:00 p.m Mass: Divine Mercy Novena

Every Tuesday after 7:00 p.m Mass: Praise & Worship by English Charismatic Prayer Group

Church Office:

Weekdays:9:30am to 12:30pm and 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Thursday & Sunday Office will remain closed. (In an Emergency contact the Parish Priest)

Parish Email:

olvisitation.church@gmail.com

REACH OUT TEAM

Reach Out

Parish Bulletin of OLVC Nerul, Navi Mumbai

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WORLD DAY OF THE SICK – A CELEBRATION OF FAITH, HEALING, AND SERVICE.

On 11 February 2026, Our Lady of Visitation Parish marked the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick with a special Mass offered for the sick, elderly, and homebound members of the parish. This solemn and grace-filled celebration began at 4:30 PM, preceded by the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4:00 PM, offering the faithful an opportunity for spiritual preparation and inner healing.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Maxim, with our Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Sunil Tirkey, and our Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Gabriel Xalxo, concelebrating, along with Rev. Fr. Benedict and Rev. Fr. Anand. The presence of the priests and the parish community made the celebration deeply prayerful and comforting for all in attendance.

During the Mass, special prayers were offered for those suffering from illness, mental anguish, physical incapacity, and the frailty of old age. A solemn blessing with holy water was imparted, and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was administered, invoking God's healing grace, strength, and peace upon those burdened by illness and age. The atmosphere was one of profound faith, hope, and trust in the Lord's compassionate mercy.

We, the Legion of Mary played a significant and commendable role in this initiative. Having been entrusted with the responsibility of reaching out to the sick and homebound, the legionaries personally visited the homes, to inform them about the Mass and encourage their participation. With loving care, we arranged transportation for those unable to travel independently, ensuring that no one was deprived of this special spiritual opportunity. After the celebration, arrangements were made to safely escort them back home.

Following the Mass, a brief fellowship gathering was held, fostering a spirit of warmth, care, and community. It was touching to see parishioners interacting with the elderly and infirm, offering words of comfort and companionship.

This meaningful celebration beautifully reflected the Church's mission of compassion and outreach. It reminded us that in caring for the sick and the vulnerable, we serve Christ Himself. May the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes continue to strengthen and console all who suffer, and may our parish always remain a beacon of faith, love, and service.

- Legion of Mary, OLOV-Praesidium



Parish Vision: That every parishioner works & grows towards a participative servant church in the Mission of Jesus

Pre-Baptism Catechesis – Parents/Godparents Speak.....

Pre – Baptism catechesis was held in our parish on 10th, 11th, 17th and 18th January 2026, attended by three couples and godparents. This course prepares parents and godparents for the baptism of the child, covers the religious significance of baptism and how to bring up their children in true Christian faith explaining the role and responsibility of godparents. This course is compulsory before baptising the Child...

Sharon & Jackson Lobo, godparent Richardson Lobo share their experience as:

We recently had the blessing of attending a four-day Pre-Baptism course at our parish for expecting parents and godparents. The sessions were truly enriching and offered valuable guidance on embracing parenthood with faith, keeping God at the centre of family life. The catechists beautifully explained the spiritual responsibilities of godparents and the role they play in a child's faith journey. We also cherished the opportunity to interact and share experiences with other couples.

Errol Dias – share his experience as godparent:

We walked through the door of faith, stood at the 'Lectern' to hear God's word, gathered around the 'Font' for baptism, and committed to supporting godchild's journey to the 'Alter'

of God. As a godparent, our role is crucial in raising the child in faith. Our prime responsibility include: Spiritual Guidance and support through prayer, being an example in guiding them in understanding God's love and teachings of the church as a mentor with positive influence in our godchild's life. We have to be there for them in celebrating milestones and navigating challenges of life.

Kevin & Bonita from Panvel Parish share their experience as:

The pre-baptismal course at OLVC Nerul was a great experience to us as first-time parents. The course has enlightened us on various topics shared by the catechists. They gave us an idea of our life after the birth of our child. This helped us to grow more deeper in faith in upbringing the child.



Milestones at OLVC



Celebrating **75**



25 Years together

You can now share your joy on your important milestones through the Reach Out with all our parishioners. You can share an appropriate picture, a short tagline, and date (e.g. 22nd May). There will be a charge of Rs 500 which you can pay in the parish office to defer the cost of printing the magazine. Please email your details to the editorial team at reachoutolvc2018@gmail.com with a copy of the payment receipt before the last date for each issue. In case of any queries, you may WhatsApp 7977036994.

A Day of Spiritual Rejuvenation at Infant Jesus Shrine, Nashik



- Ms. Abigail Gomes
St. Vincent De Paul
Community

The Annual Feast of the Infant Jesus at Nashik is held every second Saturday of February each year and this year it was celebrated on 14th February 2026. The Annual feast draws thousands of devotees of different faiths who gather to offer their petitions and thanksgiving for graces received. The Civic and Political Cell of OLVC organized a day trip to the shrine which is located next to St. Xavier's High School on the Nashik-Pune Road. I was very excited when my family decided to join this trip to Nashik. As instructed, we boarded the AC bus along with our fellow parishners at OLVC at 6:00 am. Our journey began with Fr. Gabriel saying a prayer for our safe journey and wishing us all a very Happy Valentine's Day. With great enthusiasm and prayerful hearts our spiritual trip began at 6:15 am. This was followed by the praying of the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet and then had some light refreshments served in the bus.

The bus halted for breakfast at the highway and we enjoyed the delicious home-made Medu vadas and Idlis with hot cup of masala chai. Due to the heavy traffic jam the bus arrived at the shrine at 12:15 pm and we decided to attend the Marathi Mass at 1:00 pm which was arranged in a large pandal on the grounds of St. Xavier's School. Fr. Gabriel also joined the team of Priests to say the Mass. The inspirational sermon of the Priest, the hymns, and the prayers all combined to create a sense of spiritual upliftment. I felt a deep sense of connection with the divine, and the message of love and compassion resonated deeply within me. Special announcement was made that the Annual Feast in 2027 will be held on February 6, 2027 due to Ash Wednesday being on February 10, 2027. We then entered the church for veneration and spent some silent time in prayer gazing at the

statue of Infant Jesus, who with its gentle smile, seemed to radiate warmth and blessings. A feeling of peace flowed over me. The beautiful church, adorned with stunning stained-glass windows, exuded a sense of calm and devotion.

After mass, we enjoyed lunch and yummy fruit flavoured ice cream at the shrine canteen. Since it was decided to meet at 3:30 pm near the bus, we explored the shrine and its surroundings. Various testimonials from devotees who had experienced miracles and blessings increased the faith of thousands who flock to Nashik from all over India to show their love and devotion to Infant Jesus on this feast day. It was heartening to see the impact the shrine had on people's lives. The surroundings were filled with stalls selling religious articles, souvenirs, toys, and local delicacies. We purchased medals and souvenirs to carry the blessings back home to our loved ones. I was happy to pick up my favourite fruit, black grapes which is grown in Nashik. Our journey back home began at 4:30 pm with a short halt to have evening tea with biscuits. Miss Anna Fernandes always very cheerful and enthusiastic informed us about the various Cells of OLVC and about the active participation of all the members of the Cell and also encouraged us to join any Cell and help in building the parish community. It was really nice getting to know my co-passengers and their contribution to our community & society as each one introduced themselves. We reached home by 9:45 pm with a contented & peaceful heart.

The Infant Jesus Shrine is a haven of peace and spirituality, and my visit left me feeling refreshed and renewed. This 1-day tour was a perfect opportunity to recharge my spiritual batteries and connect with my faith. A big thank you to Fr. Gabriel and entire team of the Civic and Political Cell of OLVC for arranging this memorable trip to Nashik.



ONE DAY LENTEN TAMIL RETREAT

A spiritually enriching One day Tamil Retreat was held on Tuesday, the 3rd March 2026 at Our Lady of Visitation Church (OLVC), Seawoods from 10.30 AM to 5.00 PM bringing together the members of Tamil Catholic community for a day of prayer, reflection, and renewal.

The retreat was led by Fr. Anto from Sakinaka, along with the dedicated team of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service (CCR), Mumbai.

The theme of the retreat was “Jesus is the True Lord – Put God First.”

In his inspiring message, Fr. Anto reminded the faithful that in today's busy world, people often place many things before God. However, a meaningful Christian life begins when we give the first place in our hearts to Jesus Christ. When Jesus becomes

the center of our lives, He guides us in our decisions, strengthens us during challenges, and fills our hearts with true peace and joy.

The retreat included moments of praise and worship, reflection on the Word of God, and prayer that helped participants deepen their relationship with Jesus.

The retreat concluded with Eucharistic Adoration followed by the Eucharistic Celebration, allowing the faithful to spend time in the presence of the Lord and receive His blessings.

The gathering was truly a grace-filled experience that encouraged the Tamil faithful about 200 people to renew their faith and continue placing Jesus as the true Lord and center of their lives.

- Mrs. Reji Anthony
St. Joseph Community



Return, Renew, Restart – A Lenten Reflection

The season of **Lent** is a season of transformation, a call to **return, renew, and restart** our relationship with God and with one another.

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”—Romans 12:2

In our busy life, we often drift away from prayer, compassion, and spiritual awareness. The season reminds us that no matter how far we have wandered, God's mercy is always waiting. It is a journey back to the loving embrace of God. Once we return to Him, Lent invites us to renew our hearts and minds. Renewal happens through spiritual practices such as prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. These reshape our lives and deepen our faith. Through renewal, our hearts become more open to love, compassion, and humility.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” – Psalm:

51:10

Lent is also a time to restart life with a new perspective. Just as spring brings new growth to nature, the Lenten journey prepares us for a fresh beginning. We are encouraged to start again—with renewed hope, renewed faith, and renewed commitment to living a meaningful life. It is a reminder that every day offers a new opportunity to grow and change.

“If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”-Corinthians: 5:17

The message of Lent is simple yet powerful: **Return to God, renew your spirit, and restart your life with faith and hope.** When we embrace this journey sincerely, Lent becomes more than a season—it becomes a path to inner transformation.

- Michael Arasu, St. Joseph Community

Konkani Lenten Retreat – A Time of Grace and Renewal

On February 21st and 22nd, Our Lady of Visitation Church, Nerul was blessed to host a spiritually enriching Konkani Retreat led by the dynamic preacher, Fr. Abraham D'Souza SVD from the Divine Retreat Centre, Mulki, Mangalore. Around 500 faithful from the parish and neighbouring communities gathered to prepare their hearts for the Lenten season.

The retreat opened with an inspiring teaching followed by a deeply prayerful adoration, inviting participants to reflect and reconnect with God. Fr. Abraham's vibrant preaching focused on God's blessings, healing, deliverance, and anointing. The soulful music led by William D'Souza Bela beautifully complemented the prayerful atmosphere, helping many experience God's healing presence.

The second day began with the Rosary, followed by reflections on the Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross, highlighting powerful lessons of love, forgiveness, sacrifice, and redemption. A touching testimony on the word "Tetelestai" – meaning "It is Accomplished" – reminded us that Christ has already conquered our burdens

and struggles.

Through action songs, engaging teachings, and special blessings for children, youth, and couples, the retreat brought joy and renewal to all. The retreat concluded with the Holy Eucharist and anointing, strengthening participants to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We sincerely thank Fr. Sunil, Fr. Gabriel, Fr. Anand, for their continuous support and Wilma Pereira and all the sponsors for making this grace-filled retreat possible. God bless us all.

**- Leera Sequeira
St Joseph Community**



Renewed in Christ This Lent



- Lourdes Ramachandran

As we journey through Lent, we're invited to RETURN to God, RENEW our hearts, and RESTART our faith. Jesus calls us to come back to Him, like the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). He welcomes us with open arms, ready to forgive and restore. In the midst of our busy lives, let's pause and return to what's truly important – our relationship with God.

"Renew yourself, renew your spirit," says the Lord (cf. Isaiah 40:31). Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we renew our commitment to follow Jesus. Let's shed our

old selves and put on the new, like changing into fresh clothes for a new journey (cf. Ephesians 4:22-24).

Jesus teaches, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). To restart, we need to turn away from sin and towards God's love. Like the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4), we can encounter Jesus and restart our lives. We can leave behind our past and become a new creation (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Let Lent be a season of transformation. Return to God's love, renew your heart, and restart your journey with Jesus. As He said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).

Think You Know Your Bible, Answer Key:

Section C 1. Joseph, 2. Zachaeus, 3. Thomas, 4. Joseph of Arimathea, 5. Nicodemus
Section D 1. Psalm 22, 2. Abraham offering Isaac, 3. Golgotha, 4. Ezekiel, 5. The Temple veil (curtain of the Holy of Holies)

Section A: 1. Isaiah, 2. 40, 3. Judean Wilderness, 4. Simon of Cyrene, 5. Nathan
Section B 1. Gethsemane, 2. Caiaphas, 3. Peter, 4. Golgotha / Calvary, 5. Pontius Pilate

Lenten Recollection



- **Sandra Mendes**

A Journey of God's Love, Forgiveness and Life in the Spirit

Our parish was blessed to experience a grace-filled three-day Lenten Recollection, led by Br. George, Br. Francis and Br. Augustin. Over these three days, the faithful were invited to encounter God more deeply through His love, forgiveness and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 1: Experiencing God's Love

The first day focused on the beautiful and unconditional love of God. We were reminded that God loves each one of us personally, beyond our weaknesses and failures. Often we struggle to experience this love because of sin, guilt or the burdens we carry. Through the Word of God and prayer, we were encouraged to open our hearts and allow the Lord to heal us. The message helped many realise that God is always waiting for us with open arms, calling us back to Him.

Day 2: The Gift of Forgiveness and Inner Healing

The second day centered on forgiveness and inner healing. We were reminded that unforgiveness and hurt can prevent us from

experiencing true peace. The Lord calls us to forgive others just as He forgives us. Through prayer and reflection, many were encouraged to surrender their pain, anger and wounds to Jesus. It was a powerful moment of healing as people were led into prayer asking God to cleanse their hearts and fill them with His peace.

Day 3: Living a Life in the Spirit

On the third day, Br. Augustin spoke about the importance of being part of a prayer group if we truly want to experience the works of God. He highlighted five important areas of spiritual growth: Fellowship, Personal Prayer, the Word of God, the Sacraments, and Service. These help us grow deeper in our faith and live as active disciples of Christ. The evening concluded with a beautiful time of Infilling of the Holy Spirit, led by Br. George, followed by Eucharistic Adoration, where many experienced the Lord's presence in a profound way.

We thank Br. George, Br. Francis and Br. Augustin for their inspiring preaching and ministry. We are also grateful to our Parish Priest Fr. Sunil, Fr. Anand and Fr. Gabriel for organising this meaningful Lenten mission. May the graces received during these days continue to transform our lives and draw us closer to the Lord.



Parish Vision: That every parishioner works & grows towards a participative servant church in the Mission of Jesus

The Easter Call to Love

Easter at its heart, is a profound invitation to change. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a living roadmap for how we can transform our lives today. This year, as we reflect on the theme of '**Return, Renew, and Restart**', we find that they are steps towards a life of "Holy Living" centered on others.

Return: Finding Our Way Home

To "return" we must recognize when we have drifted away. In the New Testament, we see this in the life of Peter. After he denied Jesus three times, Peter felt lost and ashamed. Yet, after the Resurrection, Jesus met Peter by the Sea of Galilee. He didn't meet him with anger; He met him with a meal and a simple question: "Do you love me?" (John 21:15).

Returning to God is about setting aside our selfish distractions and coming back to the basic teaching of Jesus: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart... and love your neighbor as yourself"* (Mark 12:30-31).

Renew: A Change of Heart

St. Paul tells us in Romans 12:2, *"Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

Renewal happens when we swap our "self-centered" lens for a "Christ-centered" one. It is the daily refreshing of our spirit where we

ask the Holy Spirit to help us see people as Jesus sees them—not as strangers or burdens, but as brothers and sisters worthy of care.

Restart: Living the Resurrection

The Resurrection was the ultimate "Restart" for humanity. It proved that death and selfishness do not have the final word. Because Christ rose, we can start over every single morning.

Living for others is the most practical way to restart our spiritual journey. When we live for others, we mirror the sacrifice of the Cross. We move from a life of "getting" to a life of "giving."

Your Take-Home Guide for Holy Living

To practice "Return, Renew, and Restart" in your daily life, try the "Three-One Rule":

One Moment of Return: Spend time in silence, telling God: *"I am yours today. Help me to return to Your love."*

One Act of Renewal: Identify one selfish habit and consciously ask the Holy Spirit to replace it with kindness.

One Practical Restart: Every day, do one thing for someone else that brings you no personal gain.

- **Francis Antony**

My Outreach Experience



- **Christlin Mathias**
St. Paul's Community

My outreach journey began with a moment of prayer at the St Joseph the Worker Church, Bandra East. This served as a spiritual anchor, reminding me that what we were about to

do was not just a social visit, but an extension of the love that Christ calls us to share.

The transition from the church to the neighbouring slum areas was a powerful reality check. Witnessing the cramped living conditions was deeply humbling, yet I was equally struck by the remarkable resilience and warmth of the residents. The visit challenged my notions of "need" and revealed that true wealth often lies not in material possessions, but in the strength of one's spirit and the sense of community. It served

as a powerful reminder to cultivate gratitude in my own life.

The atmosphere shifted as we arrived at the orphanage. Meeting the children was a deeply moving experience, and their joy was truly infectious. It reminded me that the most important gift we can offer them is our undivided attention and a compassionate heart.

Finally, we visited the museum depicting the life of Jesus, from his humble birth to His ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

This experience has been a meaningful part of my confirmation journey. It taught me that while we worship God within the beauty of a church, we serve Him in the faces of the poor and vulnerable. I leave this outreach with a renewed commitment to live out my faith through acts of service and genuine empathy.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM - BORN IN CHRIST

Sr	Date	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Address
1	27.12.2025	Felicia Aroza	Wilfred	Sharel	NL-1A, Bldg. No.19, Sec.10, Nerul(W)

MARRIAGE - UNITED IN CHRIST

Sr	Date	Bridegroom Name	Brides Name
1	28.12.2025	A.G. Daniel	Janet Veena D'Souza
2	30.12.2025	Savio Fernandes	Lenita Cross
3	26.01.2026	Kevin Berkman	Merlin Mary Varughese
4	14.02.2026	Blaise Fernandes	Michelle Jennifer Fernandes

BURIAL - RESTING IN CHRIST

Sr	Name	Date of Expiry/Burial	Age
1	E. Nesian Francis	29.12.2025	75 years
2	F.E. Singh	06.01.2026	95 years
3	*Adolf Benito Shepherd	08.01.2026	87 years *Cremated
4	Helen Ronald Saldanha	14.01.2026	50 years
5	Arolene Jonas	25.02.2026	78 years
6	Hilda Crasto	01.03.2028	68 years
7	Helen Rozario	07.03.2026	85 years

FAITH CELEBRATION DAY

Faith Celebration Day for Classes V, VI, VII, and VIII was conducted on 25th January 2026 at Don Bosco, Nerul, at 8:30 a.m. We had participants from various parishes. We were the host parish and Mrs. Zarine of OLVC, took up the responsibility of anchoring the program. Each Parish was given a theme for presentation and the kids did total justice to the same. We were a large group of around 200 people, including Catechists.

Session of Classes V and VI was animated by Ms. Sharlene Rebeiro and her team. The session was interactive, lively, and engaging, encouraging active participation among the children.

Students of Classes VII and VIII from the participating parishes presented the following topics assigned to them.

Kalamboli – The Preparation of the Gifts (Offertory)

Panvel – The Eucharistic Prayer

Belapur CBD – The Proclamation of the Word of God at Mass

Nerul – The Liturgical Cycle

Ghansoli – The Concluding Rite

Kharghar – The Introductory Rites of the Mass

Airoli – Understanding the Apostles' Creed

After each presentation, a brief question-and-answer session was conducted by the

compere. The children participated enthusiastically, and spot prizes were awarded for correct responses. This segment proved to be both informative and engaging. Eventually the photo session and the certificate distribution took place. Children were equally excited to be rewarded for their performance.

In the next half we had a special session by Mrs. Mamta Vats from FIAMC Biomedicals entitled “Holiness of the Human Body in Christ.” The session focused on relationships during adolescence, teenage years, and opposite-sex attractions. Sensitive concerns that children may find difficult to discuss within their families were addressed in a respectful, thoughtful, and meaningful manner.

This was followed by Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr. Gerard de Souza. The liturgy was conducted by children from various parishes, and the hymns were sung by the combined choir of the participating parishes. Faith Celebration Day was a joyful and enriching experience for all. The children remained disciplined, cooperative, and actively involved throughout the programme, contributing greatly to its overall success.

**- Jacqueline Rozario
Catechist**



HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS APRIL 2026

