



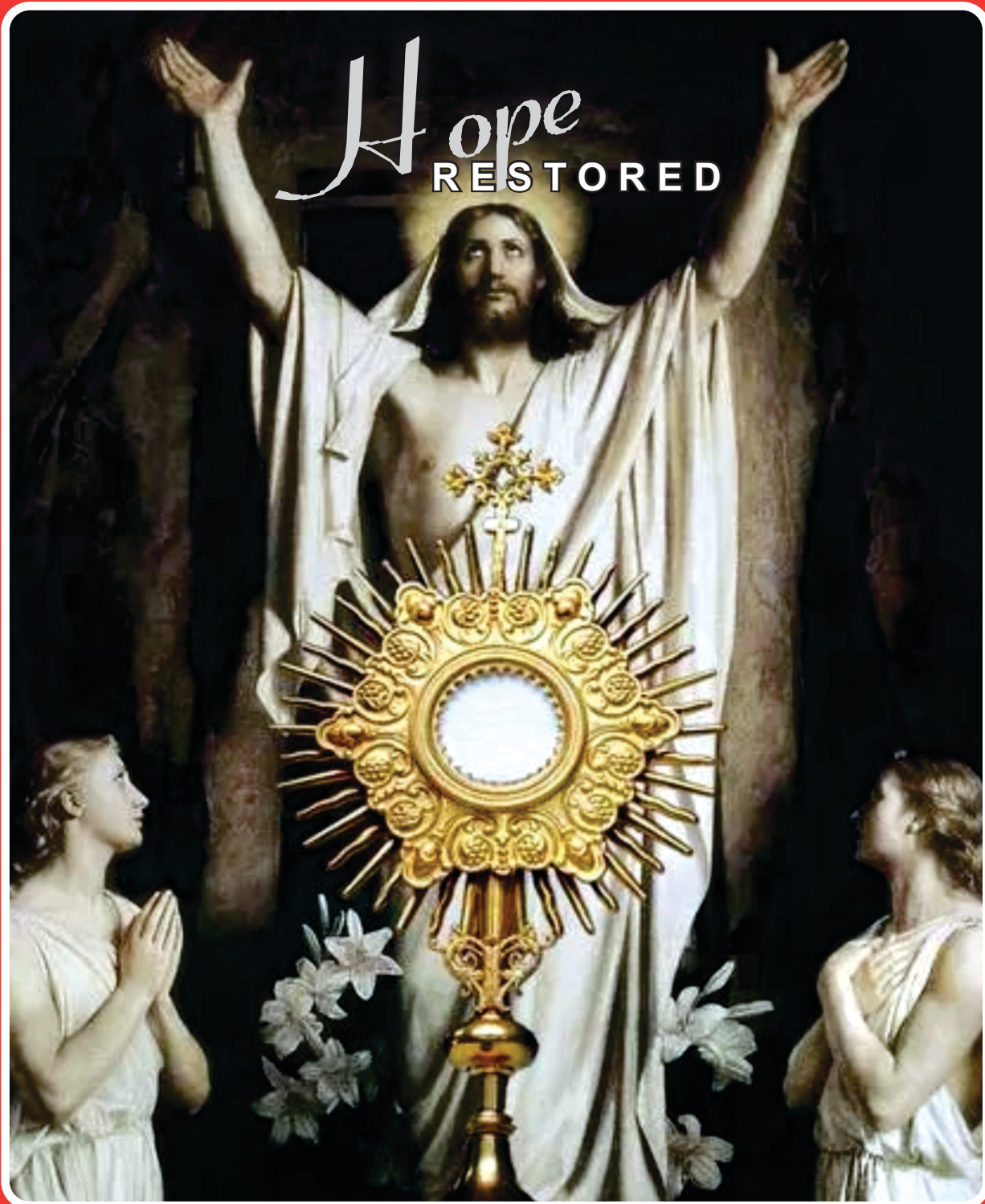
Our Lady
of the
Visitation
Church
NERUL
NAVI MUMBAI

A Peep into Nerul Parish

Reach Out

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY
VOL.-XXIV, No.-1, April 2025

Parish Newsletter





**Spreading joy
with Homebound Senior
Citizens
by the
Senior Citizen Cell Members**



**REPUBLIC DAY
CELEBRATIONS**



KONKANI LENTEN MISSION



**St John Bosco Community
Lenten Mass**



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

From the PASTOR'S DESK



**- Fr. Arul Manickam
O.Praem**

Hope -Fulfilled

In history of humanity, one can observe a well-longed and well-dreamt wish or yearning or craving truth to be long-lasting or everlasting in the human mind. The gift of immortality was well-thought of or hard-prayed for even by agnostics and even worse by atheists. The wish for immortality was so pervasive and ubiquitous that people like Sumerians in history-built stone-scrrolled tombs and Egyptians invented the method of mummification, constructed pyramids, Akkadians discovered herbs-extracted oil which they applied on the deceased hero or king before burial and etc. it still remains an elusive and evasive as well as ungraspable factor to the minds of the scientists both of the present and past. The aforementioned efforts in human history stipulates the earnest efforts to attain into the state of immortality and avoid the curse of ultimate carnal limitation termed as death.

Somehow, humans strive to escape death as it is the unbearable, and incomprehensible burden of human

existence. In history some of the races survived this phobia of death by invention of a lie said to oneself and others times and again, for instance, Romans and Greeks propagated that while taking a life of a human one gives the gift of immortality and by loosing one attains the same. Likewise, different cultures and philosophies had entertained different misnomers. But no one could fathom into death and offer viable soul-soothing solution to it. this shows how human efforts have at all levels of human existence frustrated human minds and hearts.

But Jesus through his own death, could delve to fathom the depth of Gehenna and by his rising to life He had transformed the temporalness of human existence into eternity cum the burden of life into bliss. By his ultimate sacrifice of his very self, he has become the source of eternal life for us all. Thus, the hope of the immortality or an escape from temporality or materialism of the body had been brought to fulfillment. This is the central truth and message of the resurrection of our lord Jesus. We can access him by our enduring faith and obtain our eternal life or immortal life in and through

(Continued on pg.-2)

PARISH SCHEDULE

Confessions: Everyday half an hour
before Mass on request

Children's Sunday School:

8.00am Mass in the Church followed by
Catechism for children

Mass Schedule:

OLVC: Mon to Sat:

6.45am (Mass followed by popular
devotions)

7.00pm (Popular devotion followed by
Mass)

Every Sunday:

7.00am Mass at St. Augustine

8.00am Children's Mass (English-
OLVC)

9.30am Mass (English-OLVC)

5.00pm Mass in Konkani (OLVC)

4th Sunday: Mass in Hindi at **4.00pm**

4th Sunday: Mass in Tamil at **6.00pm**

Little Flower: Mass on Saturday **7.30pm**

Intercessory Prayer (Eng): 4th Sunday
of the month: 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Night Vigil: 4th Saturday of the month
8.00pm - 10.00pm

Charismatic Prayer:

1st Monday (Tamil) - 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Wednesday (English) - 7.30pm -8.30pm

Thursday (Konkani) - 5.00pm - 6.30pm

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

Editorial Team

Fr. Arul Manickam
Ms. Anna Fernandes
Mr. Varghese Joseph
Mrs. Mavis Gonsalves
Mr. Bernard Pereira

Published By

Parish Priest
Our Lady of Visitation Church,
Sector - 42A, Nerul
Navi Mumbai - 400 706
Telephone: 27726333

Please send your articles and
reports with your name,
Sector/Community name and
relevant picture to:
reachoutolvc2018@gmail.com

Hope Restored



- Tina Ramachandran
Immaculate Conception
community

As the apostle Paul writes in Romans 5:11, "We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." This reconciliation brings us hope, a trust that God is always with us.

Life can be cruel, and our circumstances may seem overwhelming. But as 1 Corinthians 15:19 says, "If in Christ we have hope for this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." Hope gives us the courage to face life's challenges, to make our lives more beautiful despite the difficulties.

We live in a world where few people are trustworthy. But as Ephesians 1:11-12 reminds us, "In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory." God is just and holy, and we can cling to Him, trusting in His goodness.

Our faith in God satisfies our deepest desires. As 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 says, "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." God is a miracle worker, and our belief in Him fills us with gratitude.

As Hebrews 6:13-20 reminds us, "For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, 'Surely I will bless you and multiply you.'" God is not a selfish

God; He solves all our problems, taking away our insecurity, worries, tensions, fear, phobia, and anxiety when we are under His control.

This inner healing gives us hope, and hope wins. As 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." Love for God and God's love for us make us friends of God. During temptations, we depend on God and overcome our doubtful nature.

As Titus 2:11-13 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age." Confidence in God guides us and makes us good like Him. We start sinning less, correcting our mistakes and regrets, and entering into a new world.

When our mind and body rest on God, especially when we are weary, hope transforms us. Hope is kind and helpful. As the Psalmist writes, "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God" (Psalm 42:5).

We must renew our thinking, having a positive approach towards sorrows, pains, sufferings, problems, illnesses, and weaknesses. As Romans 12:2 says, "Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for the hope that you offer us through Jesus Christ. Restore our hearts and minds, and give us courage to share this hope with others. Amen.

Hope -Fulfilled (Continued from pg.-1)

him.

As we continue with Easter season in these days let us be inspired by the Mother Mary's example and let us reflect how we as the disciples of Christ live our faith in our life-situations. Let us be a community of believers lifting each other in prayer, helping each other in need, and sharing the love and joy of the risen lord live a life of commitment and contentment.

May the light of the resurrection of Christ shine through us to the rest of the world by the way we live our lives in the Lord. May this easter bring renewed hope to hearts, peace to our home cum communities, and bond of unity to our parish and to the world. Let us walk together as disciple of Christ, united in faith and love reflecting the light to the people as well as to world around us.

Blessings of joy and peace to you and to your loved ones in this Easter Season.

Sacramentum And Exemplum – Gift And Task:

The New Commandment

This article is a compilation from the book – JESUS of Nazareth- Part 2 – Holy week- from the entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection, by Pope Benedict XVI.

We focus on chapter 13 and 14 of Saint John's Gospel. Jesus washes the disciples' feet.

As Christians, we are familiar with this important event where Jesus washes His disciples' feet (John 13, 3-20). We can recall Simon Peter's question – "Lord do you wash my feet?", and we also get intrigued at Peter's lack of understanding at that instance, and we are also both amused and sorry for Peter that he is even indignant in his expression (John 13, 8) – "You shall never wash my feet", Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me".

Pope Benedict XVI tries to give us a good understanding of this event in his book, (pages 61 to 65), wherein he explains the **2 important pillars of how we can and should follow Jesus Christ and live a life of service to others, and this achievement is only made possible to us when we receive this Grace of Purity and Understanding as a gift from God Almighty.**

Jesus says to his disciples' that except Judas Iscariot (in whom devil had entered) all His disciples are clean.

The gift of purity is an act of God. Man cannot make himself fit for God, whatever systems of purification he may follow. "You are clean" – in Jesus' wonderfully simple statement, the grandeur of the mystery of Christ is somehow encapsulated. **It is Jesus Christ who comes down to us and who makes us clean. Purity is a Gift from God.**

Washing of disciples' feet is explaining both Sacramentum (gift) and Exemplum (an example)

1. Sacramentum- meaning the gift of God and the covenant between God and man realised through the entire life and death and resurrection of Christ-- in which He draws close to us, enters us through His Spirit, and the Holy Spirit transforms us to becoming like

Christ, brothers and sisters and rightful heirs to the Kingdom of God Almighty

2. Exemplum- the command to do as Jesus did is a moral appendix to the above mystery, by which the inner dynamic of the above gift, renews us, draws us to Him and equips us to serve others as He served His disciples in the "washing of disciples' feet".

This essential dynamic of gift, through which He now acts in us and our action becomes one with His actions, is seen with particular clarity in Jesus' saying (John 14, 12) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, will also do the works that I do, and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father".

This expresses exactly what is meant by "I have given you an example" from the account of the washing of disciples' feet: Jesus' action becomes ours, because he is acting in us.

Jesus gives us His new Commandment (John 13, 34-35), "A new commandment", I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another".

In Saint Augustine's homilies, we will find the important concept (closely resembling the washing of disciples' feet) of ourselves being repeatedly cleaned, "made pure" by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and thus can learn to act as He did, in union with Him.

It all depends on our "I" being absorbed into His, as given in Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer that I who live, but Christ who lives in me, and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me"

Thomas Aquinas observed -- "the new law (commandment) is the Grace of the Holy Spirit".

The gift-the Sacramentum-becomes an Exemplum, an example, while always remaining a gift.

To be a Christian is primarily a gift, which then unfolds in the dynamic of living and acting in and around the gift.

Compiled by Francis Antony



Walk with Mary to Calvary



The **Daughters of St Paul** enacted the **Way of the Cross** on 22nd March. This heart wrenching act was based on the theme Walk with Mary to Calvary and was accompanied by an apt background score and voiceovers. We are sharing a few snippets from the evening. - **OLVC Communications Cell**

OLVC Konkani Group at Nasik

Like every year this year too we OLVC The statue of Infant Jesus was beautifully Konkani group nearly 100 pilgrims had gone clothed giving a Royal look to our Infant Jesus. After the mass we visited the shrine to pray. The pilgrims enjoyed shopping for different items. We returned back home full of blessings & good memories.

We Thank the organisers for this prayerful pilgrimage.

- **Tressy Dsouza**



Gaudium et Spes (Joy & Hope)

Those who are well-versed with Ecclesial History and various church documents would know that this title is of a document on the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the modern world, that was promulgated at the Second Vatican Council (1963-1965).

But why this title? What significance does the title have in this day & age? It is very significant. Look around us, there's uncertainty everywhere from political uncertainty to economic uncertainty to even personal uncertainty in our identity. Why is there so much uncertainty? Sin. Sin brought forth hopelessness, death & destruction of body & spirit. The evidence of this hopelessness is seen in the decaying nature of our bodies no matter what we do to polish it. This decay is not limited to our bodies, it is seen in our minds and even in our souls, we experience this decay. BUT... We are an Easter People; we are people of Hope. The Resurrection of Christ brought us new life & Hope. It is not some mythical idea as seen among Gnostics (both ancient & modern), it is real and tangible like our bodies today. Jesus gave a glimpse of that hope on the mountain of Transfiguration even before His Passion & Death. When the apostles saw the LORD, they were overjoyed. Their

hopelessness after the Passion & Death turned to joy at the sight of Jesus. Yes, they were amazed and even doubted, they were still joyful. His Resurrection instilled in them Hope of the restoration of Israel. It was a flawed hope but was rectified on the feast of Pentecost when they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Hope is not being vainly positive. As St. Thomas Aquinas defined Hope as "a future good, difficult but possible to attain, by means of Divine assistance, on Whose help it leans". Therefore Joy & Hope are two sides of the same coin. It is to that theological virtue; our Holy Father has accorded the theme for this Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope. Let us set out on this journey we call life as Pilgrims with Hope in our eyes and Joy in our hearts.

Act of HOPE

O Lord God,

I hope by your grace for the pardon
of all my sins

and after life here to gain eternal happiness
because you have promised it
who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind,
and merciful.

In this hope I intend to live and die.

Amen.

The Wind Will Change

I sit with my thoughts,
they do not sit still.
Anxious hands, restless heart,
chasing dreams that always run faster than me.

The wind knew where to go,
now it hesitates, confused like me.
The seasons shift, the world spins too fast,
and I — I am caught between wanting and
waiting,
between hope and the fear of hoping too much.

Did I ask for too much?
Did I dream beyond my share?
Why does peace slip through my fingers?
like sand in a restless tide?

Then, like a whisper,
like a river finding its way home,
I hear—

"For I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the Lord,
"Plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
Plans to give you a hope and a future."
— Jeremiah 29:11

And so, I let go.
I let the wind change,
I let time be my teacher,
and I rest, knowing
that even the lost find their way
back home.

- Sandhya Noel Andrews



Pilgrimage to Karjat



- **Diana Martin**

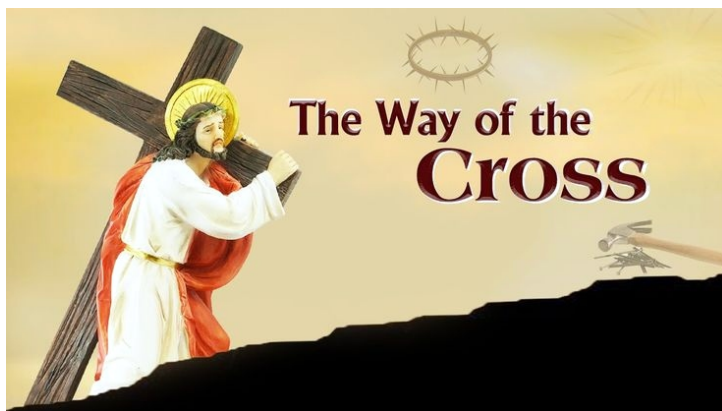
Lent is a time to Pray and find ways to participate in the life of Jesus. To make it more meaningful, Our OLVC Konkani Prayer group arranged a pilgrimage to Karjat, at Don Bosco Yuva Foundation Group with all stations Carved and installed giving a feeling of real journey. For me its the first time experience to walk the stations. Around 190 people from our parish started our Pilgrimage at 7am. We reached the destination at 8.30am. After refreshing ourselves we had a choice to join any Language group as per our wish. Each group was carrying cross and crown with thorns by taking turns, resembling the real feeling and connecting with Jesus's journey with Prayer, Hymns. However, Jesus was carrying the cross alone, with merciless soldiers making the situation harsh and ruthless.

At the end, when we reached the top all of us gathered together as one big family for a group photo, then started walking down and getting ready for next event of attending Holy Mass.

We attended 12 noon Mass. The Homily was on "Anger control". Most of the time our biggest weakness is 'No control on Anger'. If we take one step back and identify triggers, we will avoid many confrontations. It will bring peace within us and among us. Every Lent we need to focus on one correction which will make our lives worth living the Christian way.

The crowd was large at the Don Bosco grounds but the arrangements were well organized, and people maintained discipline. More than 20 parishes participated on that single day, Healthy and delicious meal was served, and all through it was peaceful. We reached back MMVK at 3.30pm.

A big thank you to Wilma Periera for flawless arrangements and the Sponsors.



In the lap of Divinity

The 1st Friday service at Tabor Ashram, Kalyan is when the retreat center witnesses one of the largest gathering every month, irrespective of caste or creed. This time, on March 7th at 7 am, around 80 people, majority from OLVC and other nearby parishes travelled in two buses to Tabor. We recited the Rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet on our way.

The moment we entered the place of worship, after a cup of tea, we felt the presence of Our Blessed Lord overflowing.

The services began with a Preacher, Ms Lucy, speaking on the invocation of the Holy Spirit, followed by an elaborate talk by Rev.Father Dibin Aluvaserry, a Vincentian Priest and Asst. Director of the Ashram. There was Praise and Worship, Preaching the Word of God, Eucharistic Adoration, and

Stations of the Cross. The experience was Divine. The entire day was spirit-filled with fasting and prayer.

Meanwhile Confessions were heard in different languages, followed by Holy Mass. The services ended by 4.30 in the evening.

We believe this place of worship is a blessing to people of all faith to experience that Jesus Christ is Lord.



PILGRIMAGE TO THE INFANT JESUS SHRINE, NASHIK

Our pilgrimage to the Infant Jesus Shrine in Nashik reflected a beautiful journey of faith, prayer, and community—aligning deeply with biblical themes of pilgrimage, unity, and joyful worship. Here's how I want to say it can be spiritually connected with the Scripture:

1. A Pilgrimage in Faith

Our journey mirrors the biblical call to pilgrimage, as seen in Psalm 84:5-7:

"Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs... They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion."

Like the Israelites traveling to Jerusalem, our parishioners set out with faithful hearts, seeking the presence of God at the shrine.

2. Prayer and Rosary on the Journey

Saying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Joyful Mysteries aligns with 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Our continuous prayer during the journey sanctified our trip, keeping our focus on Christ's mercy and the joy of His incarnation.

3. The Eucharistic Celebration and Communion

Attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion fulfills Christ's words in John 6:51:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever."

Just as Jesus nourished His disciples, we all were spiritually fed, strengthening our bond with Christ and each other.

4. A Well-Organized and Joyful Gathering

The cheerful and well-managed experience of the organizers resonates with Colossians 3:23-24:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters... It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving."

The joyful organization and spirit of unity reflected a community serving God through love and selflessness.

5. Returning Home in Joyful Fellowship

As we gathered for cheerful photos near our church, we reflected the unity described in Acts 2:46-47:

"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

Our fellowship and joyful spirit strengthened the bonds of faith within our parish, making this journey more than just a trip—it became an act of worship and community in Christ.

This pilgrimage beautifully embodied the call to prayer, worship, unity, and joyful service—a true reflection of a faithful community walking together towards God.

—Suresh Pillai



LENTEN MASS - Immaculate Conception Community

What a joy and privilege it was to host a Mass at my residence on March 26, 2025. This memorable occasion brought immense happiness to me and my family. We prepared our hearts to welcome Jesus into our midst.

Rev. Fr. Prem celebrated the Mass, delivering a wonderful sermon and thought-provoking insights on the Gospel (Matthew 5:17-19). He emphasized the importance of community bonding, appreciating the opportunity to celebrate Mass in our community.

Fr. Prem's warm interaction with everyone present made each family feel special. We're grateful for the experience.

Jesus, Son of the living God,

have mercy on us. Mother Mary, pray for us.

- Wilfred Fernandes

Immaculate Conception Community



Youth Voices Proclaim the Mystery of the Tridum



- Royston Dsouza
St. Joseph Community

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

- 1 Timothy 4:12

This year's Tridum took on a special resonance as the vibrant voices of our youth echoed throughout the liturgies. From the solemnity of Maundy Thursday to the expectant silence of Holy Saturday, young minds of our church stepped forward to proclaim the sacred scriptures. Weeks of dedicated practice culminated in powerful

and moving renditions of the readings, bringing a fresh energy and perspective to these timeless texts.

This active involvement went beyond simply reciting words. It was a conscious engagement with the Paschal Mystery, a tangible way for our youth to embody the story of salvation. Their commitment and preparation were evident, enriching the experience for the entire congregation. By entrusting this important ministry to our youth, we witnessed their deep reverence and their ability to lead us through the death, and resurrection of our lord. This year's Tridum truly showcased the power and impact of youth participation in the heart of our faith.

"Nosotros Somos El Futuro"



Rosary – St. Jude Community



- Rita Suresh.
St. Jude Community

October is the most awaited month for our St. Jude's Community..it's the Rosary month of our Mama Mary and novena of our patron Saint Jude....This year too we met daily for Rosary and Novena. We had prayers, hymns, Gospel readings not only in English, but, different languages like konkani and Tamil...

The youngsters too chipped in wonderfully for the readings or

litany...hymns in different languages..hindi too..

Each day the hosts had beautifully decorated the statues of our Mama Mary and St. Jude ..It was really nice to meet, pray and enjoy very yummy snacks .



The feast day mass was celebrated in OLVC. Thereafter we had a small get together . We had a fun time playing some games and there were some dance performances by our enthusiastic young ones...

Tasty snacks served in between the games...we ended with a good meal together and prayers to thank Jesus since everything went so well.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The Women's Day celebration held on 16th March at Our Lady of Visitation Church was a grand success, bringing together all the parishners to honor and recognize the achievements and contributions of women in different spheres of life. The event in the Church, highlighted the importance of gender equality, and women empowerment.

We aimed to guide those struggling with legal issues, especially senior citizens, about their properties, steps to be taken concerning the making of 'will' for their movable and immovable properties. The awareness required for the Heirship and Succession certificates. The gift deed and other similar challenges.

Advocate Prashant Prakash Chavan was our speaker for the day who is practicing in Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Thane, and Mumbai courts for the last 12 years.

The interactive crowd and the willingness of the speaker made the program a success. More than a hundred attended and benefitted by this program. The presence of the Parish Priest Fr. Arul and Fr. Prem and their blessings were greatly appreciated. Games and the zumba session with Naina Vasave from Panvel was the icing on the cake.

The event witnessed active participation from the parish members, and they expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation for the event.

Not to mention the delicious breakfast and lunch, which kept the crowd engaged

The event concluded with a vote of thank, expressing gratitude to all participants, women cell members, and sponsors for making the occasion, memorable and impact full.



Pilgrimage to Uttan – April 14, 2025

On April 14, twenty catechists and Eucharistic ministers from OLVC set out after the 6:45 AM Mass on a spiritually enriching pilgrimage to Uttan, for a day of prayer, fellowship, and reflection. As we journeyed together, we recited the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and lifted our voices in hymns, creating a beautiful spirit of fellowship and devotion.

Our first stop was the beautiful Divine Mercy Church. Mira Road. We were awestruck at its ornate golden altar which glowed beneath soft morning light. After breakfast and a moment of quiet reverence, we continued our spiritual journey, spirits refreshed.

By 12:50 PM, the sea breeze welcomed us as we stepped off the bus at Uttan Church. The altar captivated us: Our Lady of Velankanni stood at its center, flanked by statues of St. Peter and St. John on either side. Above, a mural of the Risen Christ radiated hope, while another depicted St. Stephen's martyrdom. Along the walls, the twelve apostles gazed down, and the podium bore the eagle, lion, ox, and angel—symbols of the four evangelists.

At the heart of this holy space stood the Pilgrimage Cross intertwined with the Anchor of Hope, inviting us into a moment of collective prayer and the recitation of the pilgrimage prayer.

From there, climbing 200 steps, we prayed the Way of the Cross, encountering life-sized stations along the path. At the summit, we paused before the awe-inspiring 108-foot

statue of Mother Mary.

Afterward, we cooled off with gola and lemon soda, followed by a delicious home-cooked lunch served with love and generosity.

In the afternoon, we journeyed a short distance to the Infant Jesus Church. Although the heat and climb left us weary, our excitement to enter another sacred space sustained us. Stepping inside, we paused in awe before the altar's serene statue of the Infant Jesus and the poignant depiction of Mary untying knots. At the centre of the altar was a mural of twelve disciples in a boat, with the cross aloft, symbolizing our shared pilgrimage of faith. Stained glass windows narrated Christ's miracles, on either side.

We closed our visit with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, hearts brimming with gratitude.

On the way back home, Lucy Ma'am surprised us with ice creams. April 14 was more than a day's journey; it was a testament to faith, community, and the beauty of God's creation. We returned to OLVC enriched by prayer, fellowship, and memories to treasure forever.



LENT - REFLECTION



-Lourdes Ramachandran Immaculate Conception community

As we journey through Lent, we're reminded of the transformative power of hope. In a world filled with darkness, hope can be a beacon of light, guiding us toward redemption and restoration.

Jesus' words in Matthew 9:22, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well," embodies the promise of hope that He brings. Mark 10:46-52 tells the story of Bartimaeus,

a blind beggar who cries out to Jesus for mercy. Jesus restores Bartimaeus' sight, giving him new hope.

Through the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), we're reminded of the hope of forgiveness. John 11:25-26 offers the ultimate hope: eternal life. May we hold fast to the hope that Jesus offers, remembering that He is always present, offering restoration, forgiveness, and eternal life.

Dear God, thank you for the hope that Jesus offers. Restore our hearts and minds, and give us courage to share this hope with others. Amen.

Pre-Baptism Catechesis – January 2025

Pre – Baptism catechesis was conducted in our parish on 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th January 2025. A pre-baptism course prepares parents and godparents for the baptism of a child. This course covers the religious significance of baptism and how to bring up children in true Christian faith and role of godparents. This course is compulsory before the baptism.

The course consists of four sessions of one and a half hour each. It is conducted on two weekends in our parish. We have 3 to 4 programs in a year. It is recommended that couple do this course while they enter the third month of pregnancy.

Angela and Wilson Mantri share their experience as:

Attending the four days pre-baptism classes was a spiritually enriching experience. It provided a deeper understanding of faith, the meaning of baptism and its importance in one's journey with God. The sessions were well structured, engaging and offered opportunities for reflection and

connection with others. The teachings inspired a renewed sense of commitment and purpose. Over all it was a meaningful preparation for this significant step in faith.

William – Godparent says:

After attending the course, I understood the role and responsibility of a Godparent. Godparents are not standby parents, but to provide for spiritual relationship. Like parents we too have to live our life watching overall the development of the Godchild in the faith formation of the child.



Spreading Joy and Love to Homebound Senior Citizens



- Lourdes Ramachandran OLVC Senior citizen's Association

The OLVC Parish Senior Citizen's Committee embarked on a heartwarming mission to visit homebound senior citizens during the Christmas and New Year season. This initiative aimed to reconnect with old parishioners, bring festive cheer, and demonstrate the parish's care and concern.

The committee visited an impressive 34 houses across sectors 1 to 42A, spreading love, joy, and warmth to those who needed it most. The senior citizens, eagerly awaiting their visitors, were thrilled to receive the committee members. The interactions were filled with laughter, nostalgia, and a deep sense of connection.

The committee members took a moment to pray with the senior citizens, sharing in their joys and concerns. As a token of love and appreciation, they presented each of them

with Christmas gifts, bringing smiles to their faces.

Living the Gospel Values

This outreach program embodied the spirit of Matthew 25:40, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." The OLVC Parish Senior Citizen's Committee demonstrated that even the smallest acts of kindness can bring immense joy and comfort to those who feel isolated or forgotten.

This initiative serves as a shining example of the parish's commitment to caring for its members, particularly the elderly and homebound. It highlights the importance of community, compassion, and outreach in building a supportive and loving environment.

As we reflect on this heartwarming experience, we are reminded that even the simplest acts of kindness can have a profound impact on someone's life. May this inspire us to continue spreading love, joy, and compassion to all those around us.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM - BORN IN CHRIST

Sr	Date	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Address
1	12.01.2025	Kenenza	Antony Pani	Ridone Amelia	307. Shiristi Paradise, Sec.18, Ulwe
2	25.01.2025	Destin Jonathan	Jude Harris A.R.	Deshril Cleetus	Coral Crest, Sec.23, Nerul (E)
3	26.01.2025	Ovi	Vikas Rafayal	Prajakta	E1-26, B.3, Panchsheel Apt. Sec.10, Nerul (W)

MARRIAGE - UNITED IN CHRIST

Sr	Date	Bridegroom Name	Brides Name
1	05.01.2025	Jin James	Sharon Fernandes
2	11.01.2025	Ankit Bhartiya	Chantelle George
3	12.01.2025	Pratik Noel Nazareth	Sonali Gondke
4	18.01.2025	Vinay Ashok Menezes	Audry Hailina
5	12.02.2025	Antony Selva Vinosh	Jharna Laheja

BURIAL - RESTING IN CHRIST

Sr	Name	Date of Expiry/Burial	Age
1	Jana Mandvikar	13.02.2025	79 years
2	Marie Sequeira	31.03.2025	95 years

Hope Restored

- **Michael Arasu**
St. Joseph Community

Though the leaves wither one by one and the branches look like a skeleton without leaves, the roots never lose hope. They wait, looking at the sky. When rainy drops kiss the mother earth, fresh leaves appear in the tree, flowers bloom and the tree is laden with fruits. The hope of the roots was restored by rain so do our lives. As a feeble human being we often fall down with the heavy burden of our sins, go away from the sight of God and lose Paradise but our soul longs and hopes for a time to wash away the sins and to get the

mercy of God again, get the fruits of God's promises, get the joy of salvation, eternal life and regain Paradise Lost.

"We have this hope as an anchor for our soul." - Hebrews 6:19

Lent season is the greatest gift Jesus has given us to look into our hearts and turn towards Him to restore our hope. Jesus' ultimate victory over sin and death gives us this hope.

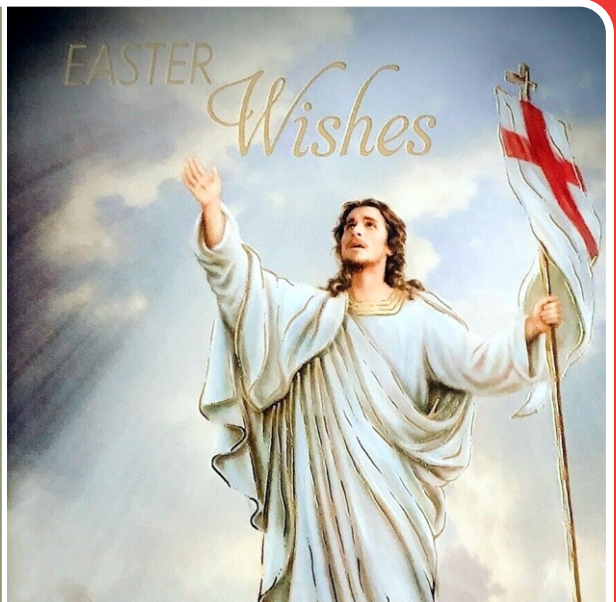
"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." - Romans 5:5



• Thank You Volunteers •



CHURCH CLEANING



St JOSEPH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Way of the Cross



Lenten Mass



St. Faustina - Lenten Mass

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