



Our Lady
of the
Visitation
Church
NERUL
NAVI MUMBAI

A Peep into Nerul Parish

Reach Out

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY
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Parish Newsletter

EMMANUEL

God With Us



From the PASTOR'S DESK

EMMANUEL, GOD IS WITH US

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

once the famous historian namely Philo of Alexandria said in his philo-centric terms that The God of Christianity should be and can be only understood in his Ishness and he was right in every sense of that word. The God whom we believe as christens is a unique God and our God is not one who resides in the firmament of heavens or confines of the temple or to the intonations of the temple priests.

Our God is not to be found in the beyondness of philosophy or theodicy but rather he can be simply found in his "isness" of Himself. It means that our God can be found and experienced in our day-today living and He is available in present-moment-awareness. In short, Our God makes himself available within the confines of human Empricality. That is the greatness of our God and therefore in our



scriptures He is named as Emmanuel or God-with-us.

The advantages of our God being in the state of God-with-us is that He is available easily to our human facilities, to heart(so that one can feel his presence and His divine fragrance),to our human minds(so that Human intelligence can feel Him philosophically and theologically cum rationally) and to our human souls(so that our souls may feel His holiness, sacredness and tremendousness of his Being).

When our scriptures define God as Emmanuel, it means that our God can be discovered or uncovered in the very existence of Himself and of his believer and it means that our God as Emmanuel is intrinsically connected to the being of everyone who believes in him. God as Emmanuel is no more rational reality to the few privileged one but rather a physical, spiritual and more so intimate reality to the believers. The season this advent calls us to contemplate on this God of ours and wait for him in hope, faith and patience. As a Trapist monks says " let us await for God – Emmanuel with total worthiness of our hearts, total sanctity of our minds and blamelessness of our souls so that infant of Bethlehem may find a worthy home in our existence" that's my prayer for you my brothers and sisters.

May infant Jesus bless each and every one of you with his holiness and innocence. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Yours in Christ

- Arul Manickam, O. Praem.



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Reach Out

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Nerul, Navi Mumbai

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For Parish Mass schedule, Church Office
timings and Holy Week Schedule kindly
refer to the church website:

<http://www.olvcnerul.org>

"Emmanuel" God is with us



- **Fr. Prem Arockia O.Praem**

Christmas is a feast of our Salvation, heralds the second coming of Christ and marks the inauguration of the kingdom of God. Birth of Christ fulfils the promises of God for humanity, "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light". God in His Mercy longed to be with His children and it was Mary our Blessed Mother who sensed this desire of God and responded to God in a total self surrender, expressing her desire to be with God. She made a convincing choice to be with God thereby Mary helped humanity to have the presence of God with humanity for eternity. What does it mean by "God with us" (Emmanuel) for us today? It means His



living and ever abiding presence is with us in order to remove darkness of sin caused by the evil. God sent His only Son into the world in total poverty in order to suffer with humanity especially with those who suffer. God's presence with us means His purpose to unite everyone into Himself, that we may live in love and harmony, to live our life in communion with the Lord. It means that we are called upon to form one body in Christ who is the embodiment of God's love (Col. 3: 12). In our relationship with one another we are expected to live as members worthy of Christ's love and His presence in us. Let our lives reveal the presence of God to everyone at this Christmas.

"May your heart be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and joy He brings to our lives"
Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas
&
Blessed New Year 2023

CHRIST THE KING FEAST



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The confirmation batch of 2022 left for the retreat to Don Bosco, Lonavala on 2nd September. The 27 confirmands were accompanied by their teachers and animators. The journey started with Fr. Prem praying for the confirmands and blessing them. On the journey, the confirmands and the animators played games and interacted with each other to entertain themselves.

On reaching Don Bosco, we were greeted by Fr. Joyston Machado SDB, the retreat coordinator, Fr. Blany Pinto SDB, the rector, and Fr. Godfrey Dsouza, the vice-rector. Fr. Joyston explained the schedule for the three days and helped the confirmands get settled in before beginning with the sessions.

After breakfast, we began with the Eucharist, where, in the homily, Fr. Joyston talked about the 4 Gs – Gather, Grasp, Grow and Glow and the 6 Cs – Compass, Context, Content, Concern, Capacity, and Completion. After the Eucharist, it was time to begin the sessions. First, the theme of the entire retreat – “Spirit of God, Shine Down on Us” - was explained. The sessions of the first day focused on the three aspects of the Creed – “I Believe in God the Father”, “I Believe in Jesus Christ” and “I Believe in the Holy Spirit”. These sessions helped the confirmands understand the true meaning of the Creed and take the first step in their faith journey. In the evening, the confirmands enjoyed a trek to Tungarli dam during which they bonded together, getting to know each other a little better. The trek also was a way for the confirmands to reflect on “Learnings from Nature”. Post the trek, the Confirmands were shown a movie titled 'God's Not Dead' which was a wonderful movie that forced all of us to examine how true to the faith we really were.

The second day also began with the celebration of the Eucharist and the recitation of the Rosary, post which the sessions of the day were conducted. The first session of the day was an interactive Q and A session where the Priests and the Aspirantates answered the confirmands' doubts regarding the Church's rules and the Church's decisions on various topics. The next session, conducted by Fr. Velasli, the Province Vocation Animator, focused on the next two pillars of the Church, namely, the Liturgy and the

Commandments and Sacraments of the Church wherein all the Commandments and each part of the Liturgy was explained. Father then prepared the Confirmands for the Sacrament of Reconciliation by leading an Adoration service and explaining the parable of “The Prodigal Son”. In the evening, the Confirmands partook in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After the Confession, the final session of the day was the Taize prayer where we focus on the Cross and chanted hymns and prayed for various intentions.

The final day also began with the celebration of the Eucharist. For the first session of the final day, Fr. Joyston asked the Confirmands to describe their Retreat experience by equating it to a thing in nature. The next session had the confirmands, teachers, and animators sharing their Retreat experience with each other. This session also included the 'Shark Tank' activity where each group had to sell one gift of the Holy Spirit as a product to the 'sharks'. The lesson learned from this activity was to not compromise on your faith, no matter what the consequences. The next activity for the day was Adoration followed by Animated Rosary. The confirmands also got a tour of the Don Bosco Lonavala campus. The final session by Fr. Velasli focused on “Personal Prayer”.

Once all sessions were done, we proceeded for tea and snacks and it was finally time to bid adieu to our home away from home. We were sad to leave it behind but glad that we got to experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which has completely changed our perspective of life. We thank the team at Don Bosco Lonavala for providing us with such an amazing retreat experience which we will cherish for life.



SUNDAY SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

In the month of October 2022, Our Lady of the Visitation Church, Nerul, Seawoods conducted class wise singing, recitation and drawing Competitions. Children were very excited to participate in the competitions and won the prizes.

After the long break of COVID lockdown,

Church activities for children were in full swing. They were meticulously judged by various members of the church choir and charismatic prayer group. Our children enjoy such activities during faith formation classes on Sundays.

- Calist Rosario



LEGION OF MARY - Annual Reunion & CENTENARY closure function

On the 18th of December 2022 The Legion Of Mary of Navi Mumbai MORNING STAR CURIA had organised the AGR (Annual General Reunion) for the year 2022 & The closing ceremony of the 101 Centenary year of the formation of the Legion. Since it was not possible to celebrate the centenary (100 years) celebrations due to lockdown, it was done now. We have 11 Praesidia, 2 Isolated Praesidia & 1 Outstation Praesidium which are under the care of Morning Star Curia, Navi Mumbai. It was a Beautiful occasion. The Eucharistic Celebration, at 6pm was celebrated by Rev Fr. Prem. The vexillum and Mother Mary's statue was carried to the altar in a procession. All the Praesidia were welcomed in our parish by Rev. Fr. Prem. The Legionaries of all Praesidia participated in the Eucharistic Celebration.

A get-together was organised on the 1st floor of MMVK at 7 pm onwards. Fr. Prem the guest of honour shared a short and sweet encouraging talk to the Legionaries. Followed by the Legion Tessera Prayers.

Entertainment included games, skit, Carol singing, hymns & Poster competition on the Topic : Church journeying Together in : Fellowship, Participation & Mission. A talk was shared on the same topic. There was also a display chart of all activities summary photographs of every Praesidia.

An exhibition of the various Tessera cards (Legion Prayer) from all over world was displayed, a copy of the 1st minute of legion meeting etc.

It was a marvellous participation of great efforts share by all the praesidia in making this day special. Everyone were joyful. All enjoyed and participated in every activities. The day ended with a delicious meal.

This was possible only with the kind support of Our Parish Priest Rev Fr. Arul and Rev. Fr. Prem. We are grateful to them.

We thank Our Loving Mother Mary for always guiding us and leading us by the Holy Spirit and interceding for us to her son Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ave Maria

Auxiliary Rally of the Legion of Mary



- Wilma D'Souza

'The Legion of Mary' celebrated its 100th anniversary on the 7th Sep. 2021. In Our Lady Of Visitation Parish we have 2 Praesidia. English : Our Lady of Visitation (15 Active

Members & 149 Auxiliary Members) & Tamil : Our Lady Of Good Council (13 Active Members & 15 Auxiliary Members). The Auxiliary Members are our prayer warriors, they recite the prayer of the Tessera Card which includes the rosary every day. Their prayers give the active legionaries the grace and courage, to go out and interact with the world, visiting and reaching out to every home possible, share the word of God and increase the discipleship of our Lord through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary. It has also been brought to our notice that many families have been blessed in many ways by reciting this prayer. As it is said when we pray for others we are blessed in double by our Lord.

We the active members of Legion had

organized an "AUXILIARY RALLY" on the 12th of November 2022 at 4.45 p.m. on the 2nd floor of MMVK. This annual event is an occasion where we come together firstly, to thank the auxiliary members for their prayer support. Secondly, to know each other by our interaction. Many members both young and old enthusiastically joined in to make this event a success. The mainstay of the evening was the Spiritual interaction. It was indeed a lovely evening spent in prayer and entertainment. Games were organized, where everyone actively participated and had a lot of fun. Prizes were honored to the winners of the games. Delicious snacks were served to wrap up the evening's celebration. The event became memorable, as many members were present.

We thank Our Mother for always guiding us in our service to her son and for making this event a great success.

We hope and pray that many will join us as, Active & Auxiliary soldiers in Our Mother Mary's 'BATTALION' to bring back the many lost souls.

Matthew 9 : 37 "The Harvest Is Plentiful, But The Laborers Are Few"



LEGION OF MARY
Auxiliary Rally

English Praesidium

Tamil Praesidium

PRE-BAPTISMAL CATECHESIS

- Mrs. Rosy Rosario

Pre-baptismal catechesis was held in our parish on 8th, 9th, 15th and 16th of October 2022. There were two couples and godparents. The brief experience shared by them is as below:

Mrs. Jennifer Dias says:

The first session: "Growing in Love" had one on one interactive session with the Catechists who helped us to understand the importance of family and the spiritual relationship that parents help to inculcate in their children through daily prayers and scripture reading at home. The relationship between husband and wife at home strongly influences on their children and new parents create a healthy family environment at home sharing their responsibilities with each other. Parents must keep three C's in mind such as commitment, communication and common values. Parents must give the first priority to each other though it makes difficult to spend time with each other. With the new born baby parents have to make a lot of adjustments with their understanding.

Second Session : Living our baptismal promises – Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist makes our Initiation into Christian life. When we make baptismal promises, it should not be just verbal but with full understanding and keep the promises made, First three promises to reject satan and profess our faith in Holy Trinity. In this session I have made up my mind to spend more time in reading the scripture and have regular confession.

Third Session: Witnessing to our children – Parents are the role models to our children. Through our life experience children learn what they witness based on the spiritual and family values. Home is our domestic Church and faith

formation begins from the womb itself and there is no end, it is beyond our grave passed from generation to generation.

Fourth Session: Baptism, the First Sacrament of Initiation - was held together with parents and godparents explaining the role and responsibilities of godparents have to play in upbringing of the faith journey of their godchild. The life of godparents also influences the child. The four structures and symbols used during the baptism and its significances enlightened both the parents and godparents.

Mrs. Steffi & Mr. Farokh Daruwala share their experience as follows:

Being first time parents attending this course has been a new and different experience for us as we have got to learn more about how we can come more closer to God spiritually, mentally and physically prepare for the arrival of the baby. We also learnt about how satan tries to tempt us in our difficult times and how we can overcome this temptation by remembering the temptation of Jesus. We were convinced about the responsibility of the faith formation of our child by practicing our own faith which will help our children to walk their faith journey with us. We do not often witness the baptismal ceremony, hence were not fully aware of the structures and symbols used during the baptism. This aspect was made clearer to us and it was great learning experience for both of us, the new parents would be.

Godmother Miss. Selina Vaz said it was a very informative session that helped me in giving a better insight and broadening our perspective on various situations that may arise in upbringing the faith formation of my godchild.



WORD BECAME FLESH



- **Tina Ramachandran,**
Immaculate Conception
community

The name Immanuel appears twice in the Hebrew Scriptures and once in the New Testament. In Greek, it is rendered Emmanuel. One of the most comforting of all the names and titles of Jesus, it is literally translated with us is God or, as Matthew's Gospel puts it, God with us. When our sins made it impossible for us to come to Him, God took the outrageous step of coming to us, of making Himself susceptible to sorrow, familiar with temptation, and vulnerable to sin's disruptive power, in order to cancel its claim.

In the Scriptures - Isaiah said,

"Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of human beings? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel." — Isaiah 7:13-14

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel"* (which means "God with us"). — Matthew 1:22-23.



Christmas means that God loved us so much he came to live with us, and die for us so that we can live with Him forever.

Merry Christmas to everyone, and all glory to Immanuel, the God who is with us, and will be with us forever

CCR Golden Jubilee (Konkani)

- **Wilma Periera**

The Christian Charismatic Renewal celebrated its golden jubilee in Konkani on October 22, 2022, at Shanmukh-ananda Hall, Sion. Brother Prakash led this service along with His Excellency Bishop Barthol Barretto and a delegation of priests from the Archdiocese of Mumbai. Over 2500 participants from parishes all over Mumbai and Navi Mumbai attended this event from 9am to 5 pm. This convention motivated us to

get connected with God in prayer and to trust him completely knowing that our faith is our life's journey. 30 parishioners from OLVC attended this event and a special thanks to Mr. Roshan D'mello who sponsored the bus.

All our parishioners are also invited to join us on the second Friday of each month for a bilingual charismatic prayer service conducted in Konkani and English by Brother Prakash at MMVK (OLVC) from 7pm to 9.30pm. Dev borenkaru. Devache ashirwad tumka sakdank.



MONTI FEST

- **Wilma Pereira**

Monti Fest is the celebration of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in the Mangalorean Catholic community it includes blessing of Novem (new crops). The **Konkana Cultural Association** of Navi Mumbai organized the Monti Fest celebration on September 25, 2022. There was a mass celebrated in Konkani followed by a cultural program and dinner at MMVK. Over a hundred parishioners attended this event and showered flowers on Mother Mary. Our

beloved parish priest, Rev Fr. Arul Manickam, O'Praem, as well as Rev. Fr. Francis Noronha and Rev. Fr. Maxim graced us with their presence, and we felicitated them with a shawl and a bouquet as a token of love. It was indeed a wonderful and enriching evening which came alive through skits, song and dance. In keeping with the tradition, paddy was distributed to all those present. The evening came to an end with a traditional vegetarian meal that was served by Lawrence Fernandes.



The Missionary Families for Christ (MFC)



- **Sandra Mendes**

The Missionary Families for Christ Ministry held a series of talks - Christian Life Seminar, (CLS) which began on September 18, 2022, intending to lead new couples into an understanding of God's call to them as Christians, and to help them build Christ centred families. Couples and singles (those who could not attend with their spouses), were invited. The CLS has a total of 6 sessions held once a week on a Sundays. The CLS talks were followed by the Covenant Recollection talks. We received a good response and were happy to welcome 5 new couples to the MFC ministry in a commitment ceremony, which was held on November 6th 2022.

On November 13, 2022, we had an agape, where the old and the new couples along with their families, came together for a fellowship dinner. The most beautiful thing about the agape was, that all the couples brought mouth watering dishes prepared at home, and we had a grand and assorted menu on the table. Each of us had a wonderful time of Praise/worship and fellowship together. The kids and adults had fun as we played few games. Fr. Prem was present for the blessing and encouraged all couples to actively be involved in this ministry.



Report on Parish Youth Day



- Rosita Dsouza, Sector 44

"We cannot always build the future for our youth but we can build our youth for the future", keeping these words in mind, the youth of our Church celebrated Parish Youth Day on 2 October, 2022.

The theme of the event was 'CROSSROADS- What to do when you don't know what to do'.

The programme began with a message given by our parish priest, Fr. Arul Manickam O. praem. He enlightened the youth on what happens when one finds himself to be on a crossroad, what challenges he faces and how we must overcome it. Everyone felt related to his words as today's youth are often confused, especially with the world growing this fast, we tend to stand at a crossroad, finding difficult to balance our life with the pace of life.

Thereafter the youth were divided into different teams and several ice breakers and

games were conducted to evoke the qualities of oneness and teamwork. Some youth then performed an action song and everyone swayed with it.

The most remarkable part of the event was the fashion show, wherein the youth reminisced the nostalgic era of the late 90's and early 21st century by dressing up in a retro Bollywood theme.

The programme was concluded by the youth socializing, mingling and dancing enthusiastically. The program was successful by the tireless effort of the youth who planned, arranged and coordinated together along with the support of Fr. Arul-parish priest, thus creating a memorable day for all. Indeed, everyone enjoyed a lot and dispersed with a sincere thanks to God and hope that such events keep on happening.



CROSSROADS



- Melrisha Dsouza

The youth group of OLVC arranged PYD (Crossroads) after 4 long years. As a kid I saw PYD being celebrated with dance, memes, band music, treasure hunts, etc. and all I could think of was

when will I get to be a part of it? Finally, this year I got to be a part of this amazing event.

Around mid - September the poster for Crossroads was out. The tagline of the event being "What to do when you don't know what to do". What got to me were the highlights which said there was going to be music, insight, games, Bollywood fashion show and the classic treasure hunt. The Instagram handle of the youth group (@olvcyouthgroup) kept us updated and entertained with memes and daily reminders about the event. As the days to the event got closer the set up for the event began too. A very unique and creative set up indeed, with a colourful backdrop, an amazing ramp and the most memorable photo booth with fun props. There wasn't a single person who did not take pictures in the

photo booth.

Every event is incomplete without ice breakers and games. There were ice breakers at every interval so that everyone interacted. The first game played was called the "Balloon Stomp" wherein each player was given a balloon and toothpick with which they had to stomp other players balloons and save theirs. This game for sure increased everyone's spirits. The Bollywood retro themed fashion show was the most anticipated and was indeed a sight to see. From Bunny (YJHD) to Chhote Pandit (Bhool Bhulaiya) a wide variety of characters were portrayed and everyone had a hearty laugh. The other games played were "What's in the bag?" And "Deck up". What in the bag was all about describing without sight and Deck up was a mini fashion show in itself.

Last but not the least the most amazing part of the afternoon where everyone gathered on the dance floor and danced their hearts out to the beats played by the DJ. PYD 2022 - Crossroads overall was an enthralling event and a great success, wonderful experiences and new memories!

THE DYC FOOTBALL EVENT



- Venita_Rego

The hazy morning, the gentle mist in the air, the damp lawn—the weather seemed to embrace the day's pleasant, joyful, and positive beginning. It was a DYC football event in which each deanery had to compete with one another. Each deanery had the inter-parish competition and whoever was the winner had to represent the entire deanery. And on the 25th October, it was the Navi Mumbai Deanery tournament.

Twelve parishes from all over Navi Mumbai participated in the football tournament that was held at Don Bosco on October 25. As members of each parish gathered and exchanged greetings. Warm-ups were conducted, and a competitive mood was beginning to emerge. The game's rules were simple but different from those of a typical football game, in which each team had to consist of 5 boys and 3 girls in order to win, and only the girls were allowed to score.

Before the game, all of the teams were assembled in line, and their captains were

required to take the oath of sportsmanship. Panvel and Rasayani faced off in the first match, followed by their third playoff match against Nerul.

The OLVC youth won the quarterfinal match against Panvel Parish by a score of 1-0 without resorting to penalties. The game went very well; a few of our players were injured after the game, but everyone was overjoyed with the victory.

It was a 10-minute halftime in the semi-final matchup with Uran with no scores at 0-0. After the game was tied, there were penalty shots taken. We lost against Uran by a score of 2-3. As Uran proceeded with the finals against Vashi Parish, the game was again taken to penalties, which Vashi had won by 1-0.

Due to the fact that it was the finals, Uran was disappointed to lose the game. But as Vashi was announced as the winner, everyone applauded them for a superb performance since they were now going to represent Navi Mumbai Deanery in front of all other Deaneries. The awarding of prizes to the top male and female players brought the event to a close. The event ended successfully.

BRIDGE THE GAP

The Youth of Our Lady of Visitation Group organized an interaction of parents and youth, called 'Bridge the Gap', on November 13, 2022. The purpose of this interaction was to help parents and youth overcome the struggles they faced in relating with each other, by getting to know the other's point of view.

A panel of parents and a panel of youth, each consisting of 5 members were invited to the interaction. Fr Arul Manickam OPraem, our Parish Priest, was the moderator. The members in the panel of parents were Josena Varghese, Vinod Punjabi, Pia Goes, Nancy Sawant and Deepa Paul. The members in the panel of youth were Merwyn Rodrigues, Pratik Nazareth, Meg Fernandes, Nikita D'souza and Immaculate Pallikkal.

Each group had a set of questions (parents to youth and youth to parents). Depending on their turn, a member from each group had to pick a question being asked by the other panel, and answer it within the stipulated

time. Fr. Arul made sure that the questions were answered properly, and the time taken did not exceed the limit.

The interaction was very beneficial, because it helped both parents and youth to share their views and opinions on the question at hand, in a healthy, respectful manner. It helped in the realization that through proper dialogue, many issues can be resolved, and sometimes it is possible to come to an understanding of things, even when parents and children have a difference of opinion.

We thank Fr. Arul Manickam for his constant support and guidance. Without his blessings this initiative would not have been so fruitful. The hard work and dedication of the youth of our parish who have tirelessly worked behind the scenes is praiseworthy. We look forward to more programmes from the youth, as they continue to work for the progress of the young members of our parish. May God bless them in all their endeavours.

One Day PPC Outing to Franav Farms

The PPC members (and some of their family members) went for a one day Picnic to Franav Farms, Panvel. The farmhouse was nestled in the lap of nature and we had the entire place all to ourselves. After a quick breakfast we immersed ourselves into a host of outdoor activities like rafting, paddling, rock climbing, archery, obstacle races, etc. It was indeed heartening to see people of all age groups participate wholeheartedly and with gay abandon. The entire group then dived

right into the swimming pool and enjoyed some pool games before hitting the dance floor (rain dance). After a sumptuous lunch, we engaged ourselves with indoor games like carrom, table tennis, musical chairs, dumb charades, etc. After tea, we all departed back to our homes with fond memories of a day well and truly spent. We thank our parish clergy for accompanying us for the picnic and for their graciousness.



Activities of Immaculate Conception Community

- Teresa Pinto Immaculate Conception community

Apart from monthly SCC meetings and full October month rosary in our community, we had conducted Wreath prayer in four houses and also Carol singing. 8th December, on the feast of our community Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary, we prayed during the hour of grace in the chapel and many prayed at home for blessings from our Mother Mary.

On 11th December Sunday, we had a community feast mass at 9.30 am. Many of them joined for offertory. Evening we had a get together at the residence of Lourdes our sector coordinator. Around 32 persons joined for wreath prayer followed by Thanksgiving rosary. After that we had a prayer and cake cutting. We enjoyed cake and delicious

snacks with cold drink. We enjoyed singing Carol singing and dancing with music.

We had a prayer before meals and chicken biryani and payasam served to all. It was home made food. Three families have sponsored different items. Everyone done some services to make it grand success of our feast day. Mother Mary - pray for us



The Power of Holy Rosary



**- Lourdes Ramachandran
Immaculate Conception
Community**

The word 'Rosary' comes from the Latin word 'rosarium' which means a bouquet of roses or a Rose garden.

Rosary is a powerful weapon to fight against all kinds of affliction, sickness and evil possession. Also it is powerful because we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Hebrew 12:1). While praying the rosary, not only we meditate on the life of Christ but also joining with our Blessed Mother and plugging ourselves into the Communion of Saints. When we meditate on the life of Christ, it brings peace and joy to our lives. The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of Rosary.

After two years of pandemic, this year we got the opportunity to conduct rosary in our communities. Our community being a small community of 19 families, we managed to conduct

rosary for only 23 days. We meditated on each decade and prayed for the whole world with promises in the Bible.

On 30.10.22, we had a get together. It was a pound party where every family brought their own delicious items. We had a Thanksgiving rosary and cutting of the cake. All of us joined together and entertained ourselves. We enjoyed the food as one big family.



ROSARY in St. JOSEPH'S COMMUNITY

The month of October each year is dedicated to the most Holy Rosary. We the St. Joseph's Community faithfully remembered Mother Mary and conducted the rosary in our community. Throughout the month several community members joined in prayers in large numbers and prayed to our Mother. The rosary was prayed daily and would begin at 8:00 p.m. We prayed as one large family to our Mother asking to intercede for us, to help

us and to guide us. We did not want to miss this opportunity of community prayers after two years due to the pandemic. Through this gathering we could get to know many new families in our community. Every day we would sing the Litany to our Lady. It was a nice experience where we learnt to sing devotional songs in praise of Mama Mary in different languages such as Konkani, Tamil and Malayalam. On the last day of the rosary all the children and elders who were regular for the rosary throughout the month were felicitated by small surprise gifts sponsored by one of our community members. We wish to plan many more gatherings in our community in the near future. Mary our compassionate Mother can never see her children in sorrow. Those who believe in her and pray to her will surely be blessed.

- Rosita Perpetual Dsouza



St. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY FEAST

Sector - 18 and 18 A celebrated their patron saints Feast on Sunday 4th December 2022. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist followed by a get-together attended by around 50 members. After the breakfast, there was introduction of two new families in the sector. The programme began with a group song by the women members. All members engaged in games and sharing of skill and talents. The program was animated by Mr. Jackson Lobo. It was fun - filled afternoon with music with mimicry, singing, dance and housie. Chocolates were

distributed to all the participants and children.

Rev. Fr. Arul, our Parish priest and Fr. Prem wished and blessed the community members. It was a wonderful feeling to meet everyone after two years of lockdown due to covid. The programme ended with a sumptuous lunch prepared by Ligory caterers.

A big thanks to our coordinator and our animators.

- Gretta Castelino



ST. JUDE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

We, St. Jude Community , sector 9, were eagerly awaiting the month of October this year. Since 2019 we had not met for Rosary and novena of our patron saint Jude, due to lockdown and the covid pandemic.

This year we had the rosary and novena starting at 6 pm with hymns in English, konkani, Tamil and Hindi.

Although our community consists of very few families and many senior citizens, our novena was conducted with piety and joy. We celebrated mass on the feast day.. We celebrations were minimum since some of our members were unwell and could not take the strain.

Yet we feel blessed to have met physically for rosary and novena this year.

- Rita Suresh



St. John Bosco Community - Activities

- **Vinod Punjabi**
St. John Bosco Community

our community members are eagerly looking forward to participate.

Annual Community Picnic

St. John Bosco Community had organized the annual community picnic on Saturday, 12th November to Franav Farms (Panvel). Around 50 members joined us for the picnic. This was our first community outing after the Covid lockdown.

On reaching the picnic spot, breakfast was served and then everybody participated in various activities such as rock climbing, boating, water polo and swimming. Towards afternoon lunch was served and it was more like a community lunch. We had indoor games, where the old and the young participated. Two of our community members had their birthday on that day and we had ordered birthday cakes for them.

As there is a saying "All good things come to an end", finally it was time to return back home. All of us had a wonderful time and this helped us in bonding with each other.

There are many more community activities planned for Advent and Christmas, and all

Community Rosary

We, the St. John Bosco community had our month long Rosary in the month of October. The month of October began with the recitation of the Rosary in all houses and the response from our community members was overwhelming. The two years break, due to Covid, had few of our members take a back seat. But we are hopeful, that with various activities planned we will have better participation from the members. On, 30th October, the final day of the Rosary, we had a fellowship dinner, wherein we had good response and majority of our members came forward. After the Rosary we had games and fun filled activities.

We now look forward to conducting our regular community activities such as outreach program, gospel sharing, picnic, carol singing and sports. We pray and intercede to our Blessed Mother Mary and St. John Bosco, our patron saint, to make us a vibrant and a caring community.





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Advent_Recollection_for_Catechist_at_Panvel_Parish

Reach Out Quiz # 1

1. What is the large book that is placed on the church altar called?

- A. Lectionary B. Missal 3. Book of Gospels

2. Name the three apostles that witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus when Elijah and Moses too appeared and spoke with Jesus.

3. Match the Gospels of each evangelist with their respective symbols.

Gospel Name	Symbol
Matthew	Winged Ox
Mark	Eagle
Luke	Angel
John	Winged Lion

4. Arrange the 7 parts of the Liturgy of the Word in the correct order.

- A. Creed B. Responsorial Psalm C. Homily D. Prayers of the Faithful E. Gospel
F. First Reading and G. Second Reading

5. During which part of the mass does the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ?

- A. Offertory B. Sanctus C. Consecration D. Mystery of Faith

Quiz Rules

1. All responses should be emailed by January 8, 2023, to olvcvisuals@gmail.com and the subject line should be **Reach Out Quiz 1 (followed by your community name)** e.g. Reach Out Quiz 1 – St Lawrence Community.
2. The first five correct entries from each community will be acknowledged in the next issue and a winner will be chosen by a lucky draw.
3. PPC Members, Heads of cells and associations, Reach Out editorial team and their immediate family members may participate in the quiz, however they will not be eligible for the lucky draw.

COMMUNITY - ACTIVITIES



FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM - BORN IN CHRIST

Sr	Date	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Address
1	11.09.2022	Kaira	Fidel Thomas	Rachel	101, Meridian Meadows, Sec.50, Nerul(W)
2	18.09.2022	*Latika	Harsharaj Yelve	Harshada Yelve	R.No.106, Lucky House Bldg., Thane.
3	23.10.2022	Ethan Cyrus	Joseph Ebenezer	Amala James	B-108, Radhashyam, Sec.42A, Nerul(W)
4	03.11.2022	*Stacie	Subbu Raja	Umarani	17/200 Sai Niwas CHS, Sec.18A, Nerul(W)

*Adult Baptism

MARRIAGE - UNITED IN CHRIST

Sr	Date	Bridegroom Name	Brides Name
1	03.09.2022	Balamurugan	Amala Regi
2	10.09.2022	Thomas J Chandran	Kalavathi
3	05.11.2022	James Crasto	Janice
4	13.11.2022	Dexon D'Souza	Irene Ukken
5	01.12.2022	Harsh Niranjan Uchil	Rabinsa Sagaya Marcella
6	10.12.2022	Antony Francis Vino	Anutza Robi
7	11.12.2022	Aditya Pinto	Smita Shasidharan
8	12.12.2022	Nigel William	Krishna G.Sanura

BURIAL - RESTING IN CHRIST

Sr	Name	Date of Expiry/Burial	Age
1	Helen D'Mello	10.09.2022	52 years
2	Jeffrey D'Souza	20.09.2022	58 years
3	Leo Fernandes	19.10.2022	78 years
4	Appoline Sequeira	26.10.2022	88 years
5	Daniel Christopher	30.10.2022	09 years
6	Hariharan Iyer	27.11.2022	48 years
7	Cecilia Pereira	12.12.2022	95 years
8	Ramani Reginold Vincent	12.12.2022	41 years
9	Margaret Mathen	15.12.2022	85 years

IN MEMORY of JEFFREY D'SOUZA

Jeffrey D'Souza has been a pillar and a part of the Church since its early days.

He came to the aid of many through his multi-faceted roles as a community ambulance driver, electrician, and a nurse.

When he started working for OLVC, he drove the parish priests across destinations where Eucharist celebrations were conducted. He attended every feast mass and arranged for all festivities.

He initiated and participated in the Konkani Eucharistic celebration and choir. He also led the Konkani prayer group.

His heart and soul was dedicated to the church. No matter what it was, if the church needed him, he was there; even at odd hours, even when he was ill. He never shrugged his responsibility. He did it with a smile. He

strived for perfection.

He was among the very first people to have lived and served in OLVC for 29 years.

He was a constant guide to the youth and the altar servers. His love for God and his fellowmen were his strength.

He always believed in forgive and forget, no matter who wronged him. He had a good heart. He always gave examples how Mother Mary inspired him to forgive and follow God's will.

He left for his heavenly Abode on September 18th 2022. He will forever remain in the hearts of the people and this Church.

His family would like to express gratitude to all who helped the family in their time of need.

- GrettaCastelino



The gift of love
The gift of peace
The gift of happiness

May all these be yours at Christmas!

Merry Christmas



Happy New Year 2023!



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