



Our Lady  
of the  
Visitation  
Church  
NERUL  
NAVI MUMBAI

A Peep into Nerul Parish

# Reach Out

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

VOL.-XXI, No.-2, September 2022

Parish Newsletter



She was  
the first disciple  
of Jesus

She was the  
most faithful of  
the disciples

She Suffered  
more than any  
disciple for her  
decision to  
"let it be done  
unto me."

She made  
the Lord Present  
to the world

She kept and  
contemplated the  
things of Jesus  
in her heart

Her life was  
made fertile by  
the Holy Spirit

# From the PASTOR'S DESK

## Mother Mary: The Perfect Disciple

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Mother Mary is the Mother of Jesus who is God-made-man and Mary our mother is associated with the life of Christ in an indispensable way as far as our redemption is concerned. Mary as the perfect disciple of Christ has to be understood in a different paradigm. Mary becomes a perfect disciple of Christ in an unparalleled as well as incomparable way to any measuring yardstick. We can assign few facts to her credit. First of all, she was preserved from original sin, she was called and commissioned to be the mother of Incarnate Son, she chose God-driven choices in her life, she never committed sin (not even the slightest of imperfections) and as she completed her earthly sojourn, she was taken up to heaven with body and soul. In the light of aforementioned causes one can state that she

was by nature a unique disciple of Christ.

The contemporary theology describes Mary as the archetype of the church, archetype of feminine theology and archetype of the perfect disciple of Christ. Mary has been held up as a model of discipleship, as the "perfect disciple. Under the influence of modern biblical scholarship, the notion of Marian discipleship has resumed a central place in the Church's spirituality and theology. Mary's divine motherhood, her role in the Church, and the true significance of her virginity can be understood coherently as facets of the one whole which is the mystery of Mary in the plan of man's salvation.

My dear brothers and sisters, Mother Mary's discipleship consist of two elements i.e. hearing the word of God (be it from the mouth of Jesus, or from one of God's messengers, or in the events of life) and incorporating that word into one's life ("keeping it," "putting it into practice," "pondering it in one's heart"). This is where her perfect discipleship brings ever greater challenge to us to imitate her spiritual qualities and virtues so that we too may like her become good disciples (if not perfect ones). I believe that this is possible with the grace of God and through the intercession of our beloved Mother Mary. May She intercede for us all and make us blessed disciples of Christ.

God bless and a Happy feast to one and all.

Yours in Christ

**- Arul Manickam, O. Praem.**



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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>**



# Grace Through Discipleship of Mother Mary



**Fr. Prem Arockia**  
**Asst. Parish Priest-OLVC**

The entire Holy Catholic Church joins on 8th September to honour Blessed Virgin Mary on her birthday and gift her with prayers, little sacrifice and sufferings. I want to personally offer my gratitude to her for constant intercessions and blessings and dedicate this short reflection on her Discipleship. Servant of God Bishop Fulton J. Sheen explains two phases of Mary's relationship with Jesus. According to him the first phase of relationship of Jesus is from Crib to Cana. Here he refers to Mary's attachment to Jesus as Son. The second phase of relationship is from Cana to Calvary. Here Mary accompanies Jesus as a true disciple.

We know from the references in gospel of St. John Chapter 2, Mary initiates the paschal mystery by requesting Jesus to perform the first miracle at the Cana wedding feast. Mary by presenting this request to Jesus presents Jesus to the world as a Redeemer and thereby she begins her journey as disciple by participating in the Paschal Mystery. Though her discipleship

began at the very instance of her total self-surrender in obedience to God's Will, she offered herself totally in accompanying Jesus in His journey to Calvary. She accompanied Jesus from His conception in her womb until His death on the cross. In doing so she followed Jesus in a perfect manner. Mary in this way is the portrait of discipleship in her obedience to God. Mary offers true model of discipleship to us and shows us how to follow Jesus after her example. Her discipleship was primarily through listening. It is an important aspect of discipleship because it leads to accepting and accomplishing God's Will. She teaches us to listen with heartfelt attentiveness in-order to achieve the goal of discipleship.

In our journey as disciples, we need to learn to open our hearts to accept and accomplish God's will in our families as Mary did. After the ascension of our Lord, Mother Mary accompanied the disciples to the great event of Pentecost. It was in her presence the disciples received the anointing of the Holy Spirit and they were empowered to witness the Resurrection of Christ. Mary in her ministry of intercession helps everyone to experience anointing of the Holy Spirit. She unites every family to her Son in this way. Let us follow Jesus through the example of Mary.



## Mary the Perfect Disciple



**- Br Melton Suares**

As a Salesian, whenever I think of Our Lady, I am instantly reminded of Don Bosco's famous dream at the age of nine. In it, Jesus appears as a shepherd and gives Our Lady or the shepherdess, to the then Johnny Bosco, as a guide and teacher. St. Norbert was similarly asked by Our Lady to form the Order of Premonstratensians or Norbertines when he failed to convert the Canons at Laon's Abbey of St. Martin. These and many other

examples of Mary, being given as a model disciple come down to the famous scene in the Gospel wherein Jesus gives Mary to the whole world, individually and as a global community, to you and me (John 19:25-27). But the question then arises; Why her and not the Apostles or someone else? The answer is simple: She is the only person in the history of humanity to have spent the most time with Jesus, right from conception to death. Whenever we wish to understand Jesus we can only turn to Mary. Therefore we often hear the famous words, 'Through Mary, to Jesus.'

# Mary's Role as a Disciple



**- Lourdes Ramachandran  
Immaculate Conception  
community**

We call Mary: disciple. She is expressing this realization, in fact the only real self-definition we have of Mary, by saying: I am the servant of the Lord. In this self-awareness Mary recognizes her being a creature, meaning loved by God and called into His service.

She reconfirms this through her YES at the moment of the Annunciation. Through this yes pronounced globally, anticipating the future of her role as Mother of God, she constituted herself as disciple, willingly and consciously. She ponders much and speaks little and she wants to understand God's ways and designs

(see, for example, the presentation in the Temple, the incident with the twelve-year-old remaining in the temple). However, Mary's vocation as disciple expresses itself and evolves within her even more important and fundamental mission as mother of Jesus Christ. She also declares herself to be willing to act as God's and the Spirit's disciple (I am the servant).

The wedding of Cana is such an example of participation in her Son's mission. At the foot of the cross, she suffered with her Son, became our spiritual mother and accepted a new way of being mother to all. Together with Christ's other disciples, she follows the inspiration of the Spirit sending them to the ends of the earth to disseminate Christ's message.

Let us pray that we too become true disciples of Jesus through the intercession of Mary.



## Vianney Sunday Celebrations @ OLVC, Nerul

St. John Marie Vianney is the patron saint of all priests. Our parish celebrated Vianney Sunday on August 7, 2022. During the 8am children's mass, the First Holy Communion batch performed a beautiful action song in honour of St. John Vianney. Sunday School Students from all the classes prepared beautiful cards for the Priests. This gesture was overwhelming for our priests

The PPC members prepared the liturgy for the 9.30am mass which was concelebrated by our parish priests and the Salesian priests from Don Bosco. Towards the end of the mass, all the priests present were appreciated and felicitated for their steadfast commitment to God, our parish and our community. The PPC members arranged a small get together for all the priests after mass and it culminated in a shared lunch which was enjoyed by all.

**(with inputs from George Mathew and Bernard Pereira)**



# YOUREKA



## **-Meryll Rebello**

On 17th July 2022, the Youth Group of OLVC organized 'Youreka' an event to ignite the spark of our young enthusiastic youth.

The event started by dividing the youth into different groups and by playing initial ice breaking games like sending a group selfie along with names of all the members, bingo and spot prizes. After some fun activities, it was time for Deacon Ivan's talk which we all were eagerly looking forward to hearing.

Deacon spoke about 'The joy of being for Christ'. He gave examples of how we as youth must get involved in church activities, in events organized by the youth group also how we as Christians can help the society. He emphasized on the fact that we should not be empty Christians but should also work towards the betterment of society which will eventually help us to increase our faith. He mentioned about this very powerful quote 'Don't be a victim, be a victor'. He also spoke about how we can achieve our goals by giving his own example. The session conducted by him was not like any other session, he involved the youth in discussion and ensured that it was a very lively and interactive session. It was a wholesome and enriching talk. The youth felt highly motivated at the end of the session.

After a powerful session by Deacon Ivan and a short break, we headed to the much-awaited games which were namely creating the longest line along with your group by using maximum number of items, advertising of a product in a funny manner, where the groups were each given a topic and we had to present it to the audience in the most hilarious manner. Later we headed to final game of the event which was the Treasure Hunt, clues were hidden all over the place and the group which unlocked the treasure first, won the hunt. We wrapped up the session by

clicking amazing pictures, all the youth holding hands and saying the grace before meals and finally by having some delicious dinner.

## **-Ruben J Nadar**

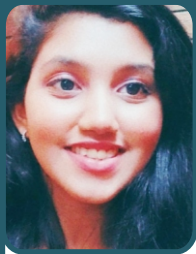


After two long years of pandemic, as things were getting back to normal, we wanted to ignite the spark of our young enthusiastic youth just like the old days. After weeks of planning and hard work, O.L.V.C. youth group conducted YOUREKA where all the youth of our parish were invited to have an amazing time with each other along with the elements of fun, music, insights, food and treasure hunt enhancing this lovely evening. It became even more memorable and beautiful after having Dn. Ivan with us, who gave us insights on the joy of being for Christ. It was like a perfect evening where there was joy, laughter, humour and enthusiasm. At the time of treasure hunt, all groups were thrilled to find the hidden clues and open the chest of victory with the code they had to crack. We want to continue this bond as we move ahead in time. Our parish priest Fr. Arul showed his incredible support to us and always encourages us to conduct more similar events in future so that we all can grow stronger in faith and life together. I believe this is just the start of all the amazing things we have for our youth and I hope we all meet again and continue to grow stronger. VIVA ABBA VIVA YUVA!





# Youth Trek to Visapur Fort



**-Alyssa Goes  
St. Vincent De Paul  
Community.**

The OLVC youth group had organized a monsoon trek to Visapur Fort, Lonavala on 13th August, 2022. Everyone was filled with enthusiasm and excitement as we began our journey. The trails during the trek was nothing short of lush green nature and misty weather. The beautiful green mountains, the foggy weather and light drizzles of rain was such a pleasant experience. We reached Visapur village at around 9:30am. After having a cup of tea and breakfast, we began the climb.

Our entire youth group was divided into 7 small groups. The captains of each group and some senior youth guided the entire team. During our way



towards the top, we cracked jokes and shared various stories that kept us engaged and made our bond grow stronger. After almost 2 hours of climbing, we reached the top of the mountain. We explored the fort and nearby places. The view from the top, the clouds beneath our feet and the weather was truly a divine experience. After a while, we began to descend. It was a challenging adventure as it was raining heavily and the water gushed forth from the mountain. As soon as we reached down, we rested for a while and then had our lunch. Later, we clicked pictures of the scenic beauty that enveloped us while having a hot cup of tea.

In a nutshell, it was a divine experience. Exploring the beauty of mother earth uplifted our spirits and made us ponder how blessed we are and be thankful to God for this beautiful gift. This is how nature heals and helps us to live a life of meaning and joy.

## Youth Outreach Program

The youth of our Parish went for a visit to Immanuel Mercy Home Ashram, Morbe, Panvel on 27th March. A total of 14 youth participated in this outreach program. After attending the 9:30 am Mass we left for the place and reached it at 12:30 pm. After reaching, we were welcomed by the founder Pastor Sinu Mathew who gave us a short insight into the work of the Ashram. We also watched a few videos which documented the history of the place and its mission to serve the destitute people.

Once we were rested from the journey, the youth were introduced to the children of the home and a few of the senior residents. After the introductions, we organized a game of 'Passing the Parcel' in which the children participated enthusiastically and had a lot of fun. This also gave a chance to the youth to interact and have fun with the kids. Post lunch, we explored the place and also had fun playing with the resident pets. After this, the children sang songs and put up dance performances displaying their talent and also had a fun dance session. Next, the children

proposed a game of cricket. The youth and the children had a blast as they became competitive and played to win the game. After a long game, it was time for tea and snacks. Post the tea break, the youth and the children had a final dance session with the kids and a few of the other residents. After this, it was time to leave and we said our goodbyes to all the kids and senior residents.

This was a very enriching and fulfilling Outreach experience as we learned the joy of living through the kids and we plan to conduct many more such visits in the future.



# Mission ECO Relay 2k22 & ECO Youth Movement



## - *Leander Viegas*

The ECO relay 2022 is an initiative by the Archdiocesan Office for environment Mumbai (AOE) ECO relay 2022 aims at spreading awareness and caring for creation while making us join hands with other parishes in the diocese. For ECO relay 2022, a total of 15 parishes participated from all over Mumbai. Each parish had to perform an ECO activity for the ECO relay and then pass on a sapling of a native plant species to the next participating parish we had to conduct our ECO activity in one month's time, we had to conduct any one activity, but I thought why not conduct more activities, so we ended up doing 4 ECO activities in the month of April. Our OLVC team for the ECO relay consisted of myself, Mervin Sequeira and Yannah Bird.

Our first ECO activity was the e-waste collection drive as it was announced in our parish after the mass, to this there was a great response. Some of our parishioners called us and requested us to pick up the heavy gadgets like microwave, CPU, printers from their residence. The e-waste collection drive was held for 2 days in our parish and on the 3rd day, the recycler from Vashi collected it from our parish.

Next that followed was plastic bottles collection drive, this was rather a difficult collection but nevertheless, we managed to collect 516 plastic bottles, we had put up a dustbin in Central Park, Kharghar especially for plastic bottles, simultaneously, we had also collected from our nearby neighbourhood.

As we all know that during summer season many birds die due to lack of food and water,

so we decided why not keep some bird feeders /water containers in our parish premises and we would check the containers every week and we were much delighted to see that much of the food grains and water was consumed after this happening, we encouraged our fellow mates to install bird feeders in their balconies.

Last but not the least was the milk packet collection drive, which was hectic as we had to collect milk packets from tea stalls /Restaurants on a daily basis but at the same time we challenged ourselves and went ahead performing this drive. Now coming to the most important part was that we ourselves washed each and every milk packet with our bare hands and the total amount of milk packets collected in the month of April was 2,270, that was a big accomplishment for us and a pat on our shoulders. At the end of April along with the plastic bottles, the milk packets too were given away to a recycler at Turbhe and even after the ECO relay, we are still encouraging the youth to collect plastic bottles and milk packets

It was a proud moment for me to give a talk about our ECO relay activities on the 1st anniversary of the Prithivi Parivar pan India ecological movement which was attended by Rev Bishop Allwyn D'Silva and other priests along with a few people representing other countries.

The last part of the ECO relay was passing on a sapling to the next participating parish. We had passed on a Purple Heart sapling to the assistant parish priest Fr. Frankie Crasto along with the youth of Sacred Heart Church, Vashi and in the first week of September, we received a sapling from the youth of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Panvel. Our thriving sapling will remind us of our role and contribution in caring for the environment.





# ECO Camp Organised on 13-14 August



## **-Leander Viegas**

An overnight camp was organised by the Archdiocesan office for environment Mumbai (AOE) on 13th and 14th August, a total of 44 youth from parishes all over Mumbai had attended the overnight camp. We were told to meet at St John the Baptist Church, Thane at 7:00 am, once we all assembled, we boarded the bus and departed for Alibaug. Once we reached Mary of Nazareth Church Alibaug, Fr Simon Rodrigues welcomed us and took us around the premises. We all gathered in the Parish Hall and started our day with some ice breakers hosted by me and everyone enjoyed interacting with each other, after that we then proceeded for breakfast when we made our way back to the Hall, we were accompanied by the local youth of Alibaug and the elders of the parish. A talk was given by Bishop Allwyn D'silva on why we should care for the environment, which was very inspiring, we then had a question-and-answer session with the youth of Alibaug and simultaneously parish representatives for the ECO relay had shared their experience

with everyone, we were then entertained by exciting games which kept everyone on their toes. Fr Luke Rodrigues gave a talk on evolution and how we came into existence. We then had a sumptuous lunch. In the evening, we all were excited to go to Alibaug beach, we clicked many pictures and had a lot of fun after we came back from the beach, we freshened up we had our dinner. Before going to bed we had a jam session and finally we all went to bed,

On 14th August, we woke up at 6:30 am for our morning trek, we had breakfast and we left for the trek. We had trekked a famous spot at Alibaug called Kanakeshwar. We enjoyed trekking and as we almost reached the top we came across a lake which was so tempting that we all decided to go for a swim. The view from the top of the mountain was magnificent and one could admire the whole of Alibaug. On our way back down, we started gathering the litter, which was scattered by the tourists, we tried our best to clear most of the litter, we then went back to the church for lunch. After that we had the holy Eucharist which was celebrated by Fr Luke Rodrigues and in the end each one of us shared our experiences of the camp. It was time to leave, and we all packed our bags and carried happy memories along with us. I thoroughly enjoyed and was lucky enough to be part of the overnight camp and will always cherish these wonderful moments spent together as one big family.





# Youth Leadership Program



## - Joshua Mascarenhas

On 3rd July 2022, Tessy Thomas, David, Venita, Encita, Leander and I attended the Youth Leadership Day at Dr. Antonio Da Silva Hall, Dadar. This event seemed to have revived the otherwise hibernating youth that became inactive due to the pandemic. Almost 500 youth leaders from different deaneries across Mumbai and Navi Mumbai attended the Youth leadership day.

The day began with breakfast and the action song, 'I just wanna be a sheep' which warmed everyone up, ready for the rest of the day filled with energy. This was followed by the 'Yes Lord' action song and a mini quiz which made the youth scratch their brains. The youth also performed the DYC anthem action song with utmost enthusiasm.

After the fun filled activities, resource speaker Ms. Shirley Coutinho gave us an insightful explanation of leadership in the lingo of the youth, she used acronyms like "LOL", "NVM" and "BAE" which meant "Listen O Listen", "No Victim Mode" and "Bias for Action" respectively. As the future leaders of the church and the society we were taught the importance of leadership qualities in the youth.

Deacon Ivan, the Director of the

Diocesan Youth Centre then addressed the youth along with Sr. Althiya and the Youth Centre animating team. He introduced Youth programs like CLAYM, PYAS, etc. organized by the DYC. Other events like Deanery Youth Day, The E3 Retreat and World Youth Day 2023 Lisbon were outlined by him.

After the Snacks at noon we did a few action songs again after His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias entered the hall and addressed the youth. There was a Q & A session where he answered the questions of the youth and tried to find solutions to the problems the youth is facing.

Next the Archdiocesan Youth Council election of the office bearers was held. The office bearers and the rest of the council then took the oath and His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias prayed over them and gave them his blessings. The day was then concluded with a few more action songs and lunch



## Youth Stall - Proceeds for a Social Cause



# Independence Day Celebration

This year on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the members of the Civic and Political Cell, who are the organizers of the event took extra pains to beautify the premises. As the Independence Day Celebration had a large group of parishioners who attended the Flag hoisting ceremony in the premises of OLVC. This celebration had a precedence of events such as Har Ghar Tiranga, where we received National Flags from NMMC and we put it up in our homes, displaying respect to the National Flag.

The Independence Day as usual began with Mass, as It was the Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother. This was followed by the flag hoisting ceremony. The Chief Guest for the day was Fr. Prem Arockia, our Asst Parish Priest who held a no. of positions before his present assignment as Asst Parish Priest of OLVC. He has been a Secretary to the Abbot, Financial Administrator of the Norbetine House in Bandra, Rector at the Norbetine Major Seminary, Nagpur etc. Fr Prem helped the congregation realize the

contribution of our people in the Freedom Struggle as this is not documented in any book. He said the Church grew with the Nation, although Christians were not prominently involved in the freedom struggle we cannot deny their contribution in the struggle for Independence. For most of us it was an insight of our contribution in the freedom struggle. To add colours to the celebration we realized 2 people in the gathering were celebrating their 75th Birthday, Mr. Renjith and Mr. Lenus Soares. I am sure they were happy to be greeted by so many.

Dr. James M took this opportunity to inform people of the projects that the Civic and Political Cell Members were planning to have in the near future. He reminded them of the Free Dental Camp that was scheduled for the 21st of August and encouraged them to inform people in the vicinity to take advantage of such camps. The program ended with distribution of snacks planned by the Civic and Political Cell Members.

**- From the Desk of  
Civic and Political Cell**



## The Dental Camp

On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahaotsav, The Civic and Political Cell of OLVC, Nerul in association with Dental Arts, Dental Clinic organized a free Dental Check up Camp on Sunday 21st August 2022 in the basement of Matru Milan Vikas Kendra. The dental checkup was done by Dr. Sujeet Khiste (MDS Periodontics) Dr. Akanksha Khiste (BDS) and Dr. Charlotte Saldanha (BDS).

It was quiet surprising to the doctors to know among the registered lot of people there were both those with genuine dental problems and a few who were concerned about their dental hygiene. Handouts were prepared for healthy dental habits and proper brushing techniques

The entire response for this camp was satisfying. People who had genuine problems were called for follow ups to the clinic. It was after a long time such a camp was organized in the OLVC premises.

**- Dr. Genevieve Saldanha**





## From the MFC Desk...

Missionary Families of Christ welcomes you to join them & experience the power of the Holy Spirit working in families.

**A few outreach programs are scheduled in our Parish, details as below:**

1. An interactive session on **LOVE and RESPECT** the two ingredients of a Happy Marriage on 04th September 2022 from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm followed by lunch.
2. **Christian Life Seminar (CLS)**
  - I. 18 September 2022, Sunday :  
4.00 pm to 6.00 pm
  - II. 25 September 2022, Sunday :  
4.00 pm to 6.00 pm
  - III. 02 October 2022, Sunday :  
4.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Registration to both events will be accepted in the basement of OLVC after the masses. Details of the same will be announced in Church.

We also conduct the LBS (Liturgy Bible Study) online, once a month, and offline every Thursday after 7.00 pm mass. Anyone can join our LBS sessions, even those who are not part of MFC. Here we study the readings of the Sunday mass in a unique, yet simple manner, and get an insight into the message given by the Word of God.

Inviting each one of you to be a part of this wonderful ministry and enjoy a blessed life !!!!

Missionary Families for Christ - MFC [earlier known as Couples for Christ (CFC)] is

an evangelistic and missionary community, it is a lay movement that works towards building Christ centered families, by helping the growth of every individual in the family.

It has under it, ministries that cater to every member of society- couples, kids, youth, singles, and men and women who have lost their spouses. So, it is a womb to tomb ministry.

MFC has its cell in many parishes; it was initiated in our parish in 2012. Since then, we've conducted few CLS (Christian Life Seminars) and are glad to inform you that today we meet week after week to encourage and support each other to deepen our faith and grow spiritually. All this leads to a better bonding in a relationship with our spouse, children & everyone in general.

We have initiated KFC (Kids for Christ) for children between 5yrs to 13 years which is conducted once a month with children from MFC families.

**Our Mission statement - 'We are an evangelistic & missionary community committed to become families empowered by the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth'.**

It is our earnest desire that more and more members of our parish join our community in order to live Christ centered lives and work towards the progress of the Kingdom of God.

**- Mathew Panicker**

## Pre Baptism

Baptism is a moment of grace in the life of every Christian. While it is a privilege to be baptized and welcomed into the Kingdom of God, the sacrament of baptism also carries with it serious responsibilities and obligations. The Pre-Baptismal Catechesis is held precisely to accompany couples and help them understand the significance of this great sacrament. Interactive sessions by experienced couples are held, wherein the significance of the sacrament is explained and valuable inputs are given to help parents make an informed choice with regard to Godparents.

**- Calist Rosario**



# Need To Attend Sunday School

With thanksgiving the Sunday school started its offline classes on 19th July 2022. Catechists welcomed the children cheerfully and both together started their journey of spiritual training. We realize Jesus love for children, who declared "let the children come to me". Scripture very clearly instructs "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Catechism responds to this authentic need. God commands us to teach his commandments "to your children and to their children after them" (Deuteronomy 4:9;). The prophet Isaiah tells us that parents are to tell their children about God's faithfulness (Isaiah 38:19).

Do we realize that our homes have lost or find less time to attend to this responsibility? Just as you cannot expect your child to do well in his school without coaching, so also, our children to grow in faith requires a concealed effort. The catechism canter's on this role of the church as well as the goal of the Sunday school program, is to further support those efforts ideally begun in the home.

To get the best result let us start with a tortoise approach and not a hare approach. Consistently attending the Sunday school will make the child remember and comprehend. Routine parental support with regular Bible reading at home will lead our children into a good Christian belief.

Creativity and practical application to real life situations will help children value theology and help them to counter the boredom. Hence we started with drawing of the creation, rainbow and Noah's ark to add colour to our class room sessions. We had a display of the same on the church notice board to motivate parents. An action song was performed by the children celebrating St Anne & Joachim's feast which sparked a new life into our pedagogy.

The purpose of catechism is to provide a firm foundation for our faith, based on scriptures. It systematically builds an understanding of what we believe, removing it from the realm of fairy tales and defending against distortions of truth.

**- Mrs. Mercy Itty, Catechist- Std. II**

## Catechist Recollection

The first Catechist recollection for the year 2022-23 was held on Sunday, 21st August at Sacred Heart Church, Vashi. It was much awaited recollection, as it was our first recollection after the pandemic.

92 Catechists from the Navi Mumbai Deanery were present including 7 from our parish. The recollection started with a prayer service by Fr. Frankie Crasto, the Deanery Coordinator for Catechists. It was followed by a small input session by Father about 'What it means to be a Catechist'. Thereafter the yearly calendar of Sunday School was discussed and various important events of the Sunday School calendar i.e. Choir Festival, Faith Celebration Day, Second & Third Catechist recollection were discussed.

**- Josena Varghese**





# In What Way Does the Women Cell Help?

The Women Cell purpose is to create awareness in women to help maintain a harmonious atmosphere to pursue their life and work with dignity and reassurance.

Pope Francis stated the person failing to empower women, narrows the church's vision and makes it less equipped to be a force for good in the world.

Women play a major role in the Society today but due to atrocities by certain sections of society they are snubbed and pushed to the back ground.. We intend to help such

Women take wings by enlightening and guiding them.

Self-esteem comes from knowing your strengths and weaknesses. This can be achieved by mastering a skill, by practicing meditation, Yoga Martial Art and other sports.

To understand how you can grow spiritually, and to

become who God created you to be. Women can learn from our Blessed mother, her qualities, courage and determination to do the will of God. For personal growth we have to be learners for life.

Expressing values in friendship. Understanding that friendship and quest for life will never let us down. As the Bible says seek God and his righteousness and all things shall be added unto you.

**- Greta Castelino**



## A Healing Prayer & Adoration

To heal the ailing planet and sustain the vibrant life, a Eucharistic adoration was conducted by OLVC Nerul, Green Cell, on 2nd September, 2022.

Three candles were lit during the prayer service to represent the voice of biodiversity, indigenous people and women whom we have failed to acknowledge.

A moment of silence was maintained as the

candles were extinguished in memory of the voices of creation that have been silenced.

The adoration concluded with the Benediction, seeking for the grace to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit that renews the face of the earth.

**- Mrs. Annie Gomez, Eco Ambassador  
Mary Help of Christian's community**



# Picnic to Atasa Resort

My desire was that our sector coordinator should make a plan for picnic for community since we had not gone for a group picnic before. All those families who attended the SCC meetings during April 2022 agreed to go for a picnic on 5.6.22 to Atasa Resort near Panvel. Out of 20 families in our community, 8 families agreed to go for the picnic. Some of our friends and well-wishers of our parish Gretta, Marceline, Pearson and Thomas helped us and arranged 20 members from their side and all together we were around 50 people who planned to go. We hired a big comfortable bus and started our journey at 7.30 am with prayer, rosary and spiritual hymns. After some time, we sang melody songs till we reached the Resort.

All were excited and thrilled to see the spot. We all had our breakfast and after that all went to the swimming pool. Most of them went in the pool and also participated in the rain dance. Children were not ready to come out of the water. It was great fun.

Afternoon we had delicious unlimited buffet food. Some made a round around the resort. There were indoor games like carrom, chess, playing cards, housie. Outdoor games like cricket, football, volley ball, badminton. Free entry for disco theatre and Most of them enjoyed dancing. Free Adventure activities like rappelling, mountain climbing, Burma bridge, earthquake walk, Kangaroo walk etc. Most of the children got involved in the activities.

One of our team members suggested we pray the divine mercy chaplet. Followed by a game of Housie. All winners got a prize. We had our evening tea and snacks. Before we boarded the bus we all assembled together to thank the organizers. Everyone from children to Senior citizens, enjoyed the trip. Picnic is the best way to spend time with our community and Friends.

**- Reuben Anna Oliver**  
**Immaculate Conception community**



## A Visit

On 11th June 2022 we had the opportunity to visit an orphanage in Navi Mumbai. As planned Legionaries from Tamil and English presidium assembled at 5 pm near Bethel home. This orphanage was clean and had basic necessity to keep children happy. A great depression filled with emotions and sentiments set into our mind on realizing how fortunate we are to have loving parents.

After we were introduced to the children, we said a prayer for them. The smile on their face bought an unfathomable amount of joy and relief. They sang for us to show their gratitude.

We had arranged some snacks which we distributed amongst the children and elders. They were ecstatic to have food from outside and were even more elated when we started to mingle and talk individually to everyone.

One should visit an orphanage and see the children who are thirsty for our love. Visiting them will give a new meaning to our lives as well as theirs.

May Mother Mary's Love and compassion strengthen each one of us always.

Ave Maria  
Legion of Mary

**-Br. Donny David**



# FROM THE CHURCH REGISTER

## BAPTISM - BORN IN CHRIST

Sr. Date	Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Place
1 24.04.2022	*Krithika Venkatesh	Venkatesh	Suguna	303, Mangalam CHS, Sec.44, Nerul(W)
2 10.06.2022	*Kalavati Jadhav	Yamaji Jadhav	Chandra Bagha	Sector J-28, Flat No.5, Aurangabad
3 26.06.2022	Joanna	David Raja	Agnas Vidya	101, Unique Apt. Sec.44, Nerul(W)
4 06.08.2022	Veron David	Roger	Vincy	RH-48, Royal Park, Ambarnath(E)
5 07.08.2022	Eliana Fernandes	Jaison	Jenica	301, Creative Aradhana, Ulwe

\*Adult Baptism

## MARRIAGE - UNITED IN CHRIST

Sr.	Date of Marriage	Bridegroom Name	Brides Name
1	23.04.2022	Clayton Savio	Ann Marie
2	01.05.2022	Dominic Savio	Renuka Prasad
3	02.05.2022	Ayush Antony	Sheen Skaria
4	22.05.2022	Wilfred Jude	Roseann Christel
5	28.05.2022	Kiran Surendran	Sophiya Kunjumon
6	23.07.2022	Hussain Lokhandwala	Valentina Fernandes
7	21.08.2022	Robinson Anthony Raphael	Sudha R. Nadar

## BURIAL - RESTING IN CHRIST

Sr.	Name	Date of Expiry/Burial	Age
1	Florine Gomes	25.04.2022	58 years
2	Belinda Maria	09.05.2022	58 years
3	Stephen Valerian	02.06.2022	65 years
4	Mariya L. Menezes	19.08.2022	85 years
5	Vincent Henry Monterio	20.08.2022	70 years

## Bishop Allwyn D'Silva - Unveiling the Visitation Statue



Bishop Allwyn Dsilva unveiled the life size statue of the Visitation on 5th September 2022