

ROSARIAN HAPPENINGS

VOLUME III ISSUE 1 • MAY-JUNE 2023 • E-NEWSLETTER

VISION STATEMENT: WE STRIVE TO MAKE ROSARY PARISH A VIBRANT CHRIST CENTRED COMMUNITY IN PRAYER, FAMILY AND SERVICE.

CROSS FEASTS AROUND MAZAGAON

Faith kept alive through a century
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A NEW BROTHER IN OUR PARISH

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For feedback and suggestions, write to us at ourladyofrosarydockyard@gmail.com

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EDITORIAL

On October 10, 2021, Pope Francis invited the universal Church to embark on a journey towards a Synodal Church focused on **'Communion, Participation, and Mission'**. The commonly known **'Synod on Synodality'** commenced with a solemn Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, where Pope Francis encouraged the Church to embrace a **'culture of encounter'** and urged the faithful *'not to soundproof our hearts and remain barricaded in our certainties'*.

The word **'synod'** has its roots in the Greek words **'with'** and **'path,'** signifying a sense of **'journeying together'**. The Synodal journey encompassed various levels of the Church, including the local, diocesan, national, and continental levels. Through deliberations and discussions, a working document titled **'Instrumentum Laboris'** was produced, which was subsequently released on June 20th, 2023.

The working document functions as a guiding document for the upcoming General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. It is the outcome of consultations with the faithful and clergy regarding the pastoral and existential challenges confronted by the Church. This document serves as a path for discernment, outlining the necessary steps for the Church to advance and **'flourish as a synodal community'**.

'Instrumentum Laboris' is composed of an explanatory text and fifteen worksheets that reveal a dynamic vision of the concept of 'synodality.' There are specifically two main sections:

In **Section A**, the focus is on reflecting on the past two years' experience and outlining a path towards further development as a synodal Church.

A. For a synodal Church. An integral experience

1. The characteristic signs of a synodal Church
2. A way forward for the synodal Church: conversation in the Spirit



Section B, entitled **'Communion, Mission, Participation'** focuses on the 'three priority issues' at the heart of the work to be done in October 2023.

1. **A communion that radiates:** How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?
2. **Co-responsibility in Mission:** How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?
3. **Participation, governance and authority:** What processes, structures and institutions in a missionary synodal Church?



The document emphasizes that **a synodal Church prioritizes active listening and acknowledges the need for humility, recognizing its need to seek forgiveness and its ongoing learning process.** By being a Listening Church, it invites introspection and a thorough examination of conscience, guided by the Holy Spirit. This journey of repentance and conversion aims to continually renew the Church, while also fostering pathways of reconciliation, healing, and justice.





Against the backdrop of this significant event, our Parish has initiated a Parish Pastoral Plan, commencing with a comprehensive training program. At the local level, we, as a Parish, strive to embody a listening Church, attuned to the concerns and challenges faced by our community. Our aim is to ensure that every individual within our Parish feels included and valued. With hope and confidence, we embark on this new academic year accompanied by a newly formed Parish Pastoral Council. **We aspire for everyone in our Parish to experience a sense of belonging and feel the Church's love, while knowing that the Church is always open to listen and engage in dialogue with all individuals in God's diverse creation.**

Fr Nigel Barrett |



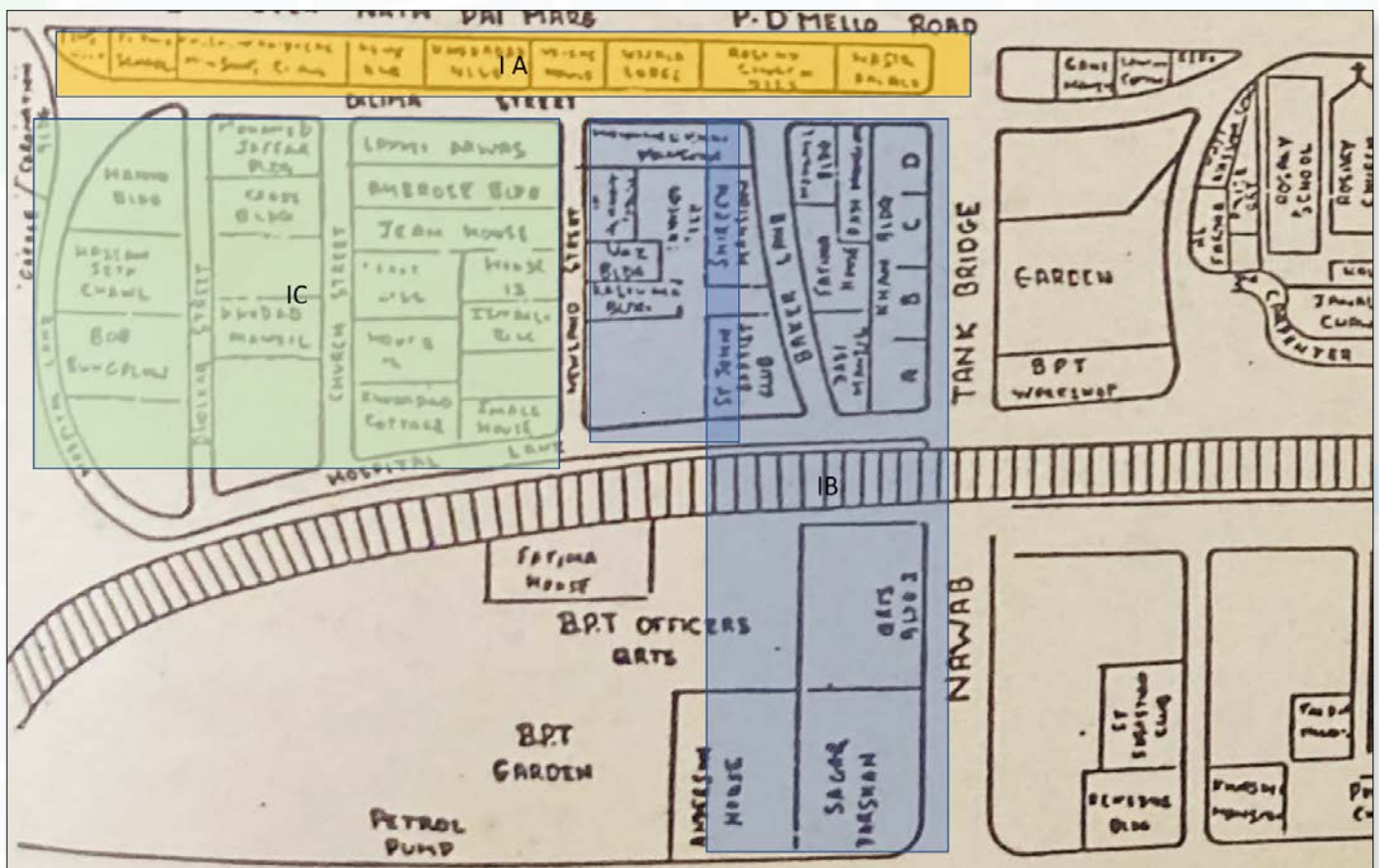
ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW ZONES

I am sure many of you are wondering why are we re-organising the Parish and what are these new Zone. The reason for the reorganisation of the Parish is that over a period of time, as many people moved from Dockyard, the number of families in each of the zones dramatically decreased. Thus, the need to re-structure the parish to make sure there is a more equitable distribution of Parishioners.

The early 9 zones are now reduced to six zones and each zone now has around 60 to 80 families. The Parish is divided with P D'Mello road being the center line of division marking the East and West. Two of our Zones are on the east of the road and four zones are on the west of the Road. Each zone is further divided into three clusters and each of these clusters have one person representing them in the Parish Council.

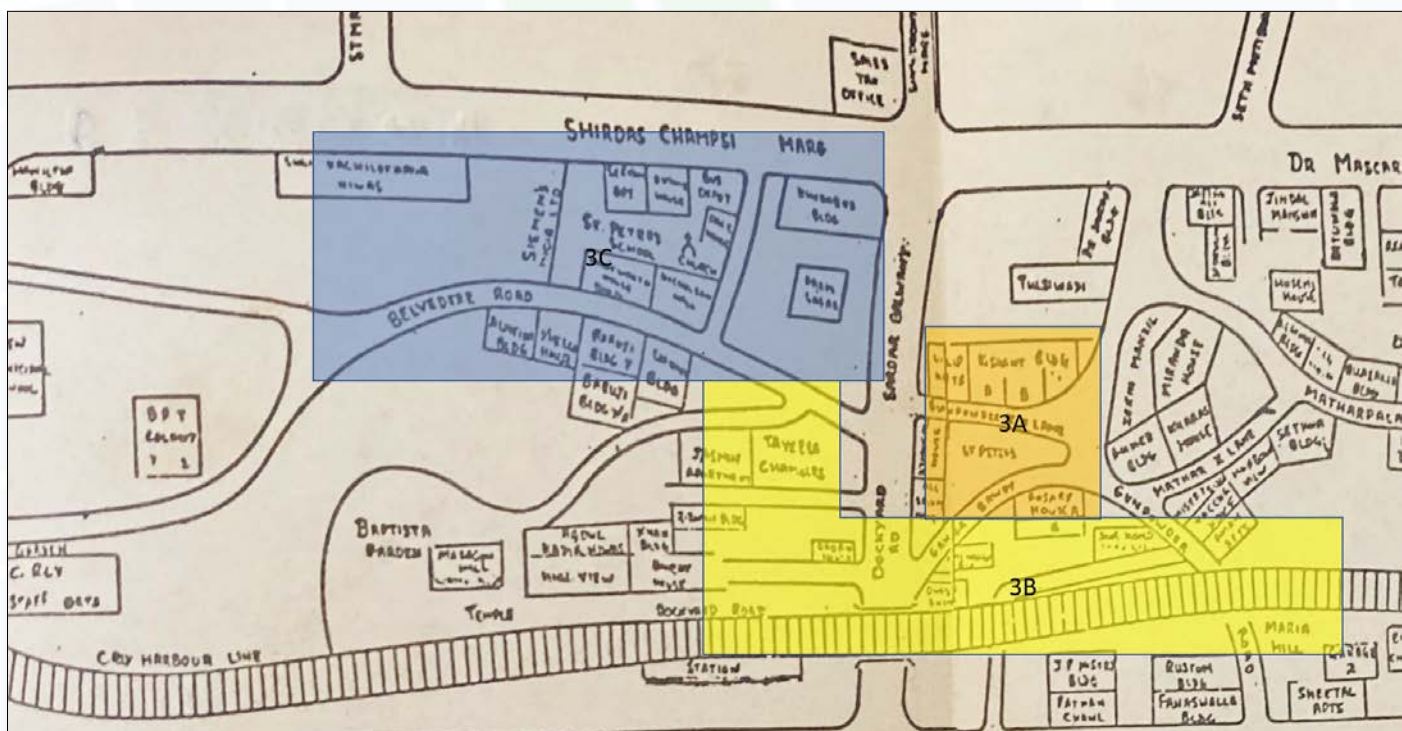
Zone 1 comprises the area from Nasir Palace/ Khan Building to D'lima Street end. They are represented by Shevron Furtado, Maria Coutinho, and Ben Carvalho



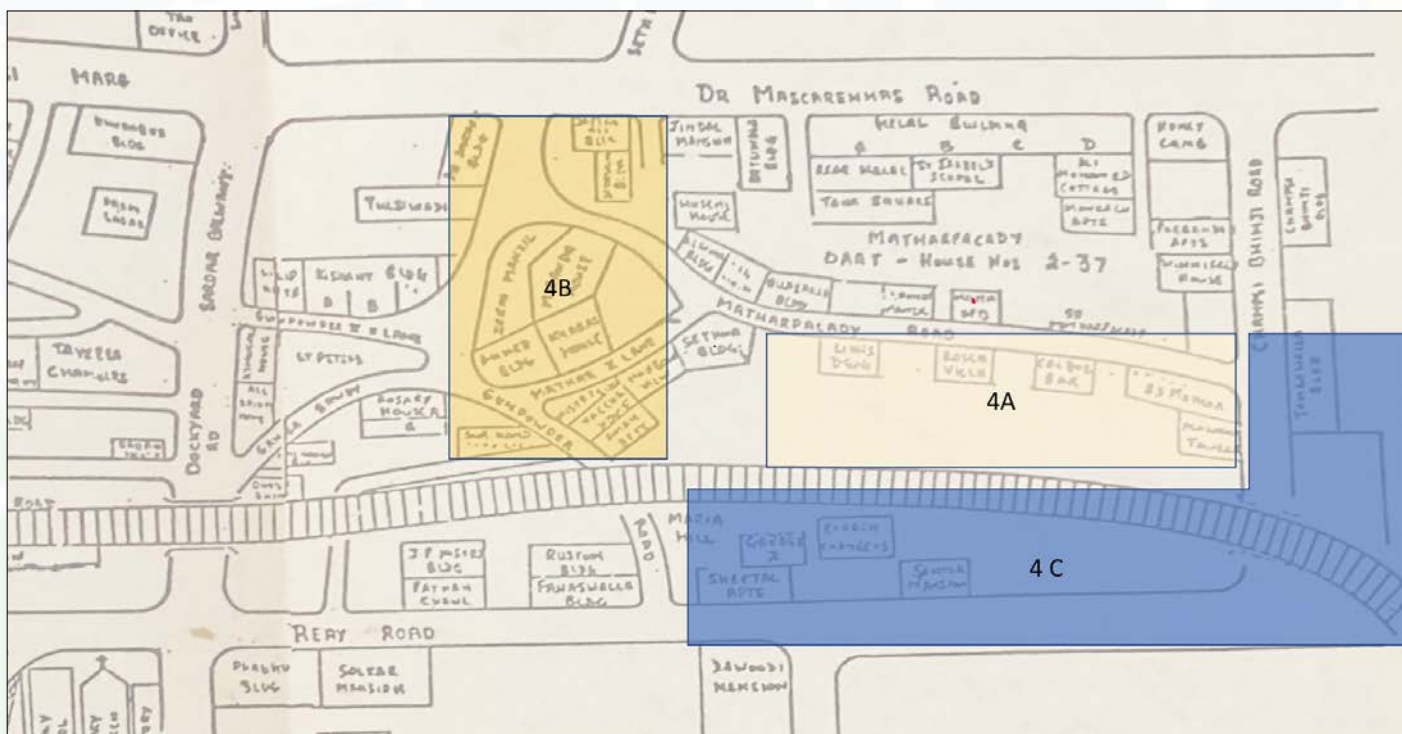
Zone 2 starts north of the petrol pump (Pine Mansion) to Reay Road, it comprises Dockyard, P D'Mello road area, Nawab tank, Dockyard Market, Copper Street. The zone is represented by Nelly Rodrigues, Vilbert D'Souza, and Nicolau D'Souza.



Zone 3 Is the first zone west of the dividing line, it comprises of the areas of Nawab Nagar, and Belvedere Road including St. Peter's School, Yash Apartments, Rosary House, Kishant Apartment, and Suryakund. It is represented by Claire Figueiredo, Alita Braganza, and Alphonso Fernandes. Figueiredo on account of advanced age has opted out and Sophie has taken her place.



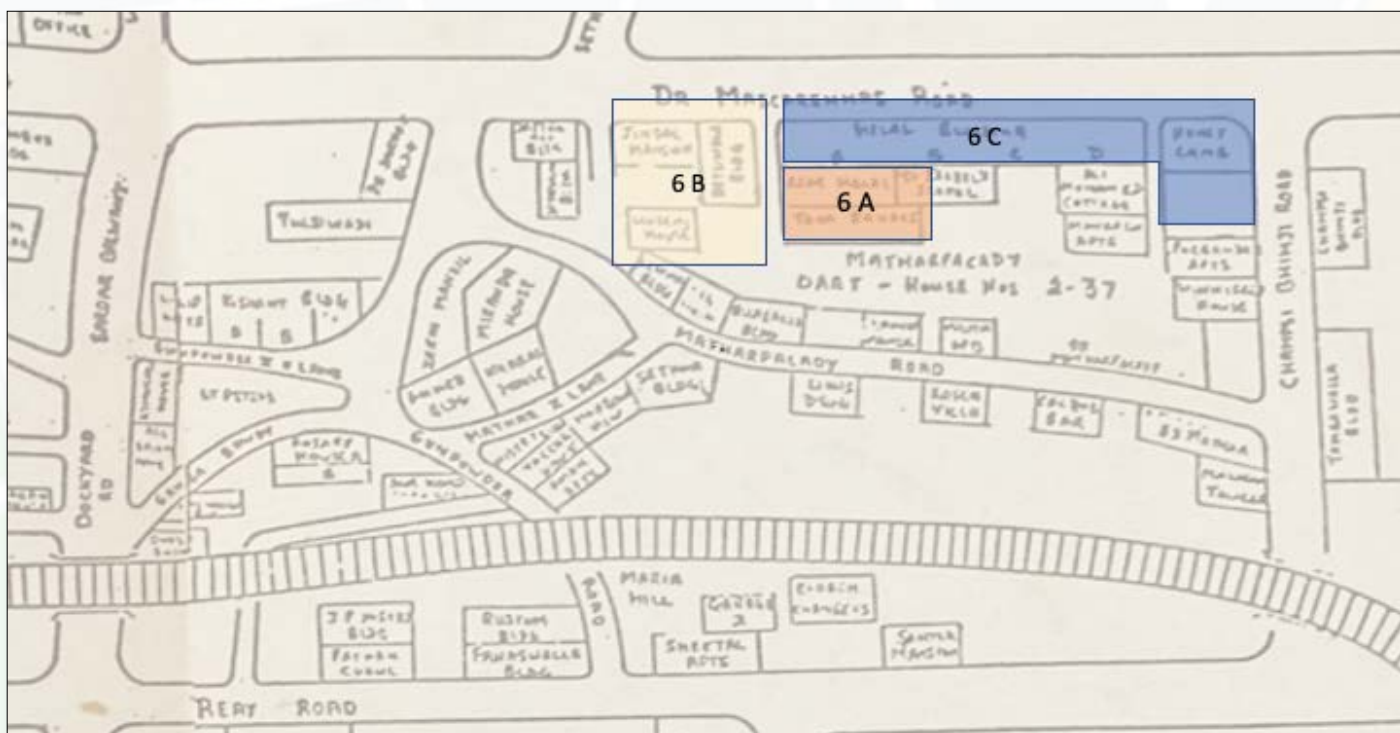
Zone 4 Starts from Miranda House and includes Lion's Den, Gunpowder Road, Tulsi Wadi, Mazagaon Towers, Sheetal Apartments, and Tambawalla Building. It is animated by Irene Nazareth, Shirley Castellino, and Valentine D'Souza.



Zone 5 comprises the Matharpakady Village, Monarch Apartments, Netra Apartments, Porbandar Apartments, and Hira Apartments and is represented by Jocelyn Pereira, Selma Pulical, and Mellicent Baptista.



The final Zone is **Zone 6** which consist of families in Tank square, Rear Helal building, Helal building to Honey comb, Friends Cottage, and Chattriwala building going up to Bay View. They are represented by Shanti Monterio, Fay D'Souza, and Melroy Rebello.



We are grateful to all these persons who have volunteered to service the Parish community and we hope that we the Parish team in collaboration with the Parish Council and Youth Council will move closer to achieving our vision of being a vibrant, Christ-centred community in prayer, family, and service. And our and hope is that this restructuring will ensure that all families are taken care of and it will enable us to reach and service the community better.



INDUCTION OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Nine Eucharistic Ministers were inducted on Corpus Christi Sunday, namely Seriya Pereira, John Rebello, Martha D'Souza, Wilma D'Souza, Antonio Aranja, Dinoisia D'Silva, Sr. Aslita Lugun, Philomena D'Mello and Tertuliana Fernandes. Their primary duties are to distribute the Body of Christ to the congregation and bring Holy Communion to the home-bound parishioners. This, they faithfully do every Sunday. We are grateful to them for this service to the Church and to the ones they serve and help. They meet once in three months as and when the need arises. It's one way of encouraging lay persons to be active in the life of the parish (Prov 27:17)



Seriya Pereira



John Rebello



Martha D'Souza



Wilma D'Souza



Antonio Aranja



Dinoisia D'Silva



Sr. Aslita Lugun



Philomena D'Mello



Tertuliana Fernandes





The sacred heart of Jesus is a feast that is intrinsically tied into the ethos of the Archdiocese of Bombay. Practically every house in the Archdiocese and in our Parish has an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Altar. Most families have consecrated themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Hence, it is no surprise that there is a great devotion to the Sacred Heart, and it is fitting that there should be a Triduum to bring in the feast. This year it began on the feast of St. Anthony, the 13th of June, and the theme focused on was **“Finding Peace in the Heart of Christ.”**

Each Human being encounters moments and situations that fill them with fear and uncertainty. Through the reflection of that day, we are called to overcome fear by trusting in Jesus Christ and allowing Christ’s peace to take root in our hearts. This is done by rooting our lives in dependence on God and approaching God in prayer.

On June 14, Wednesday, our theme was **“Finding Mercy in the Heart of Christ “**

In the image of the Sacred Heart, we encounter a merciful Jesus, and are reminded that His love and grace are accessible to all, regardless of their background or circumstances. It is a powerful reminder that in times of uncertainty and doubt, we can find solace and strength by placing our trust in Him.

On Thursday, June 15th, we reflected on **“Finding Hope in the Heart of Christ.” Without hope, we can literally become sick. Heartsick. Sick in our minds and souls. So then, how do we find hope? Where do we look for it? How do we gain it? How do we fill our hearts and minds with the hope of Christ? We may know in our heads that Christ alone is our source of hope. But how do we get our hearts to believe it, too? The answer is simple: hope takes practice. Hope takes faith. Hope takes work. Hope must be an active word in our vocabulary. Hope is not passive. Hope doesn’t arrive on our doorstep. Hope must be invited in and practiced.**

On the feast day, we reflected on the **Heart of Jesus: His Sacred Heart.**

What does the heart of Jesus invite us to do? Only one thing: To listen to the beating of that heart. To listen to that heart and, like the beloved disciple at the first Eucharist, lean our heads and ears on the chest of the Lord and then listen to the beating of that heart. That is intimacy, and our first invitation from the Lord, “Come to me with your ears close to my chest and listen to the beating of my heart.”



A Fresh Face in the Church Family: Getting to Know Brother Edward Harris

We are delighted to introduce a remarkable individual hailing from the Archdiocese of Bangalore. Currently, in his second year of theological studies at St. Pius X seminary in Goregaon, Brother Edward brings a vibrant spirit and a passion for sports to his journey of faith.

What role will you be taking on within the Church, and what are your responsibilities in that position?

I will be coming to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish only on the weekends. My primary ministry will be assisting Fr. Nigel with the youth group and also conducting Sunday school classes for 9th and 10th-grade students. Apart from that, I will also be serving as a Eucharistic minister.

Can you share any upcoming projects or initiatives that you will be involved in?

During my time at Rosary Church, I will be involved in organising sessions for the youth, focusing on faith formation and personality development. Additionally, I will make it a point to reach out to the youngsters who are not yet part of the youth group.

Are there any specific goals or objectives that you have set for the coming years?

As I will be in the Parish for only a year, my specific goals would be to accompany the youth and assist them in realizing their true potential in their faith journeys.

How do you plan to engage with the congregation and build a strong sense of community within the Church?

I am blessed to be assigned to such a vibrant Parish and dynamic Parish clergy for my weekend ministry. Although my time here is limited, I will strive to engage with the congregation by praying for them every day. I will actively participate in assisting our dedicated Fathers, PPC, and Youth team in organizing events for the Parish community. I will also help the children and youth understand the communal aspect of our Faith. I believe that as the future of the Church, they will reflect the loving community of our God and build a strong sense of togetherness.

Finally, what message would you like to give to those who may be interested in joining or supporting the Church youth?

My message to all the youth would be: You are the future of the Church and capable leaders. Come and see, be part of the Parish Youth Group, and discover a different version of yourself. Just as our Holy Father Pope Francis says, "Being young is discovering what is really worthwhile in life, struggling to conquer it."



SUNDAY SCHOOL IN ACTION

Catechism and Confirmation classes commenced on 18th June 2023.

All the students along with the catechists, nuns, and priests gathered in the school hall for a prayer service and social gathering for the New Faith Formation Year. The teachers conducted various fun, learning activities and games for the students. All the students enjoyed the gathering.

For 9th July 2023, the Catechist Team have planned a Faith Formation Sunday activity in the school hall. We have scheduled Faith building activities on a monthly basis and the plan for the same will be shared at the beginning of every month. We encourage parents to send their children regularly for Sunday School. We thank you all for your support & cooperation.

INDUCTION OF THE NEW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL



The new parish council members were inducted at the 8:30 am mass on Sunday 25th June, on the occasion of Laity Sunday. The mass was celebrated by Fr Nigel and con-celebrated by Fr Suresh, the current priest at the Blessed Sacrament in Matharpacady Village. The elected as well as nominated members were called by name to the front of the altar, and after pledging their commitment to faithfully serve the church and its community, they were blessed by the priests, who then handed each member the Constitution of the Parish Pastoral Council, as well as a cross, a symbol of their duty to carry out their roles with faith and dedication.





The main functions of the Parish Council are:

- **Active Participation:** The council members promise to actively participate in council meetings, discussions, and decision-making processes. They recognize the importance of their presence and input in shaping the direction and activities of the parish.
- **Engagement with the Community:** The council members commit to engaging with the parish community, listening to their concerns, and representing their interests. They strive to be accessible and approachable, fostering open lines of communication with parishioners.
- **Upholding Values and Principles:** The council members vow to uphold the values, teachings, and principles of the Church. They endeavor to promote spiritual growth, foster a sense of unity, and encourage a vibrant and inclusive faith community.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Recognizing the importance of teamwork, the council members pledge to work collaboratively with fellow council members, parish leaders, and volunteers. They understand that collective efforts are essential for achieving the goals and objectives of the parish.
- **Responsible Stewardship:** The council members take on the responsibility of managing parish resources, including financial, physical, and human resources, in a responsible and transparent manner. They aim to ensure the efficient use of these resources for the benefit of the parish and its ministries.

After mass, breakfast was served in the basement for members of the different associations of the church.



THE YOUTH COUNCIL: A NEW BEGINNING

We at Rosary Church understand and appreciate the power of youth, and as a Parish team of priests and sisters, we see our youth as an integral part of our Parish mission. Youth are not the future but the present, and their voice needs to be heard and understood. At Rosary Church Dockyard, we have formulated the Youth Council, which has representatives from all the communities of the parish, and they in turn have elected the Youth Representatives to the Parish Council. The aim is to initiate these young adults into the mission and vision of the church and engage them actively in community service.

The council's main missions are:

- To assist in ensuring the active participation of youth in the Parish.
- To assist in interpreting the needs of youth and advocating for their concerns to the Church and the Parish team.
- To Connect our youth to Jesus Christ and envision their discipleship through the lens of missionary discipleship to Him and in service to the Church.
- To create opportunities for the youth to know and fall in love with the person of Jesus and develop a personal relationship with Him. To represent the youth of the Parish at various deanery and Archdiocese programs.
- To further Christian growth through involvement in developing programs for youth.
- To Develop young Church leaders in the four areas of formation (Spiritual, Human, Intellectual, and Pastoral),

These objectives shall be accomplished through observation, discussion, and action. By fostering a sense of community and belonging, we aim to create a space where young adults can explore their faith and deepen their relationship with God. Through engaging activities, relevant teachings, and mentorship opportunities, we strive to empower young Church leaders to become active participants in their faith communities and make a positive impact in the world around them. Together, we hope to inspire a new generation of passionate and dedicated followers of Christ.



EVENTS

VIMLA VIKAS SUMMER CAMP

20th-29th April '23

The summer camp was held for the kids of Vimla Vikas from the 20th-29th of April, and was organized by the Rosarian Active Youth. The aim was to provide a fun and engaging learning environment for the kids. It was a wonderful experience for the children who not only learned new skills but also gained valuable life lessons and memories that they will cherish for a long time.

Every day, the kids had an hour and a half of sports activities to keep them active, followed by some prayer and yoga, and a lesson on values. They were then broken into groups based on the activities they had enrolled in, and the volunteers trained them in those activities. These activities allowed the kids to explore their creative side and learn new skills.

On the last day, the kids had a chance to showcase their talents on stage. There were sports matches, performances of poems, songs, dances, yoga poses, and everything else they learned during the camp. It was a fun-filled evening where the kids were able to demonstrate their new skills and shine. Some of the kids learned new skills from scratch and had developed them to a level of proficiency. This was a great way to celebrate their achievements and provide them with the encouragement they needed to continue learning and growing in the future!

Sr. Florina Joseph, SCN
Director, Vimla Vikas Kendra



01 May '23 Matharpacady Village Cross Feast



The Preparatory Novena Services at the Holy Cross Oratory in Matharpacady Heritage Precinct commenced on Saturday, 22nd April 2023. Daily Prayer Leaders were appointed to lead the novena services which were attended by our residents. The traditional Novena Services include the recitation of the Holy Rosary, the Litany of Our Lady, the Litany of the Holy Cross, and the Litany of St. Roque [patron saint to safeguard us from plague and pestilence]. Traditional distribution of boiled gram was done after the daily novena.

On Monday evening, 1st May 2023, around 300 residents and friends assembled around the decorated stage and altar near the Holy Cross Oratory, to devoutly participate in praise, song, and worship at the Feast Mass. The Managing Committee organized the 148th Thanksgiving Novena Services and Feast Mass Celebrations. This tradition has been handed down by our forefathers down the decades for well over a century to protect the resident families from the scourge of plague and pestilence.



02 May '23

Cross Feast at Miranda House



We, the Marian Community (previous zone 6) celebrated our Cross Feast on the 2nd of May. Like every year, we prayed the Rosary and litany. Thereafter, we distributed boiled grams and cake to all. Parsis, Hindus, Christians irrespective of their caste and religion offer candles and flowers at this cross. As I sit in my balcony and read the morning paper, I see people coming on their vehicles and saying prayers daily, before going to work. People believe that this is a miraculous Cross. Pray with full faith for any difficult task ahead, and you are sure of success. I too have witnessed it.

Irene Nazareth
Resident, Miranda House

03 May '23

Cross Feast near Khodadad Building



Our (previous zone 1) cross is on P'Dmello road, between Khodadad bldg and the garage. We had our novenas to the holy cross from 24th April to 2nd May. Every day, one family would conduct the Rosary. After the rosary, snacks were distributed. The feast was celebrated on 3rd May. Cruz and Camillo from our zone decorated the cross beautifully for the occasion.

Carol Marchon
Coordinator for the Cross Feast,
St Anthony's Zone (previous zone 1)



03 May '23

D'Lima Street Cross Feast

The novenas to the Holy Cross in Hospital Lane, D'Lima street were held from the 24th of April up to the 2nd of May. Every day, people gathered near the cross to recite the rosary and litany which was followed by refreshments and a game of tambola. On the 2nd of May at the vespers, the litany was sung in Latin just like we have it in Goa. This tradition was started by the elders of our zone and is passed down to the youth who have taken it up. The choir gets ready for the feast by practicing hymns in English as well as in Konkani.



3rd May was the feast. We started by reciting the rosary at the cross and then walked in procession around the lane with lit candles, returning back to the cross. The litany was recited at the cross and shortly after mass followed, with games, fellowship and dinner arranged thereafter.

Benisha Fernandes
Resident, Hospital Lane

03 May '23

Cross Feast at Rear Helal Building



We at Rear Helal Bldg are truly blessed to have the cross on our building terrace, which many of us in the building believe is miraculous because of the many people who have been saved in the 100-plus years since the cross had been installed.

This year, like each year, we celebrated our cross feast on the 3rd of May. Novenas in preparation for the same began on the 24th of April. Every day, one or two families from the building were in-charge of conducting the rosary. Snacks though not compulsory was given by every family to those who attended. Every year, all of us in the building put in our every effort to make this feast day, a one to remember. All our community members as well as previous residents were invited. On this day, if you come up to Rear Helal Bldg, you will see everyone either busy preparing



for the Eucharist, few members boiling grams, some seeing the choir, logistics, floral and altar arrangements and our strong men from the bldg, doing the lighting and other running around chores. All of this is planned extremely meticulously by all the bldg members and with much fervour and dedication.

We had the Eucharist, celebrated by Fr. Nigel, and con-celebrated by Fr. Shavito and Fr. Stephen. After the Eucharist, members and our guests were treated to some yummy grams and cake. We had Clarissa, Shanti, Clifford and Melroy who entertained us with two games of housie. Our members and guests were each given a box of snacks which they enjoyed and at the same time bonded with other members of our community. It was a nice evening, one to remember.

Shanti Monteiro
Resident, Rear Helal Building

09 May '23 *Cross Feast near Remedios Building*



The annual Rosary at the Cross near Remedios Bldg was held on the 9th of May by the Light of Unity Community (previous zone 4).

The devotion and love for our Mother could be seen in the attendance of many parishioners. It was truly encouraging for us to have had Fr. Merwyn praying with us.

After the recitation of the Rosary delicious snacks were served, it was a time when one could interact and meet parishioners from our community.

We the members of the Light of Unity Community thank all our priests for their continuous encouragement, guidance, and love shown to us as We continue to glorify God through Mary our Mother.

Nicolau D'Souza
Resident, Light of Unity Community (previous zone 4)



INAUGURATION OF THE TURF

07 May '23

Rosary church recently inaugurated the much-awaited sports turf for the parish and school. The inauguration ceremony was held on the 7th of May 2023. Fr Nigel blessed the turf court with a small prayer followed by the cutting of the ribbon by the children of the parish. Friendly games were organized for the parishioners on the turf for the opening ceremony. There were badminton matches for the veterans, working adults, and the youth. A Ladies' throwball match was also played with ladies from all zones participating. It was really great to see all the ladies come and display their sporting talent. The games ended with a football fiesta with boys and men of all ages competing zealously for a win.

The youth of Zone 6 sponsored some cool lemonade for all the players for the inauguration ceremony. All in all, it was a fun day and we thank the fathers of the parish for giving us this opportunity to have fun playing together. We encourage parishioners to join in the sporting activities. Badminton is played on the turf every day from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm. We plan to have friendly parish tournaments for badminton, basketball, throwball, and football, so please do register for the same as and when these tournaments are announced.

Clarissa Alphonso



NEW ZONE 6 AND LEMONADE STALL

07 May '23

Our enthusiastic children of the New Zone 6, were super excited when they were told that they would have to make lemonade and serve all those who came for the 10:00am Sunday Mass on the 7th of May. This was a way to introduce themselves as the “New Zone 6”. This Mass was offered for the good health and wellbeing of New Zone 6.

Our very artistic kids Bianca (15yrs) and Rebecca (13yrs), made some really amazing charts calling themselves and all our kids and Youth “The Cool Kids of Community 6”. Each of the youth and the children were given duties for our lemonade stall, not forgetting our little ones Kate (3yrs)



and Chrisanne (6yrs) who were supposed to blow bubbles to spread love.

We're quite certain that the youth and kids did not get a wink of sleep on the 6th night. Rightly so, all the youth and kids were up by 6:30am that also on a Sunday morning and were in Church By 7:30am. It was a treat to see all our precious kids and youth, putting up their charts, making the lemonade and setting up our stall. The smallies just excitedly danced around. Our Community Youth Leader, Melroy, using all his catering skills, assisted the kids in making the Lemonade.

It was a well-attended mass, and after mass, the excitement was even more. Everyone who

came for mass were treated to a really refreshing cup of Lemonade by our very own children who took turns to serve. The air was filled with “love bubbles” blown by our smallies.

Keep Rocking you kids and Youth of Zone 6! You truly make us proud of not only your enthusiasm but also your commitment. Thank you, Fr. Nigel and team, for giving us this chance to serve others.

Shanti Monteiro
Zone 6



MARIAN MONTH OF MAY

01-31 May '23



To Jesus through Mary. The legionaries prayed the Holy Rosary during the entire month of May. The Holy Rosary was recited at the grotto of Our Lady at 6.30 p.m. It was indeed attended by parishioners who enthusiastically distributed sweets every day after the Rosary. Different intentions were prayed for during the Rosary. A number of hymns dedicated to Our Mother were sung. On the last day of the month, we had the Marian procession where we walked from the church to the grotto. Refreshments were provided by our parish priest Fr. Nigel Barrett. We would like to express our gratitude to Our spiritual director Fr. Mervyn Dsouza for all the guidance and assistance provided. We thank one and all for attending in large numbers. May our Mother always intercede for us and keep us under her loving mantle. Ave Maria.

Vanessa Remedios
President, Legion of Mary

CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP

27 May-3 June '23



The Rosarian Active Youth (RAY) organized a Summer club for the children of the parish from 27th May to the 4th of June. During this nine day event we saw the kids filled with joy and excitement. Each day was based on a theme such as scavenger hunt, Bollywood, jungle safari, art



& craft etc; with different exercises and activities which would help the children understand the faith, encourage creatively, help the younger kids develop their motor skills, team coordination and much more.

Each day children would come at 11am for the morning session and go back home for lunch and back again in the evening at 4:30pm after each session snacks were provided to the children which was sponsored by the parents and senior members of the parish. Their encouragement helped the youth to do their best in conducting the event.



We would conclude the day with the children attending the rosary at the Grotto followed by Mass. On the final day of the event all the children received medals as a reward for participation and a goodie bag filled with toys and chocolates. We hope to see the kids back next year for this fun-filled event.

Ben Carvalho
Member, Rosarian Active Youth

SÃO JOÃO

25 June '23





São João, 2023, organized by the Rosarian Active Youth (RAY) on 25th June saw a vibrant gathering of over 80 parishioners, both eager participants and enthusiastic spectators, for a day filled with games and festivities. From young to old, everyone was invited to partake in the numerous engaging activities carefully arranged for the occasion. Teams collaborated and competed in a variety of games, fostering a spirit of unity and friendly competition among the participants. Additionally, a captivating treasure hunt allowed attendees to delve into the life and teachings of St. John the Baptist, enriching their knowledge and strengthening their faith. Adding to the vibrant atmosphere, participants had the opportunity to showcase their cultural pride through the traditional Kopel headpieces. The event buzzed with excitement as individuals proudly displayed intricate designs and vibrant colors, embodying the essence of our rich cultural heritage.

It was indeed an inclusive and enjoyable experience for all, strengthening the bonds within our church community and the celebration of our shared traditions.

Alicia Dias
Member, Rosarian Active Youth

SENIOR CITIZENS VISIT

26 June '23 It was the 102nd birthday of our parishioner Edviges Fernandes on the 26th of June 2023. On behalf of the Rosarian Seniors Citizens group, five of us went to our dear aunty's house to wish her. It gave us great joy to see her happy and active. She cut the cake and we sang. We enjoyed interacting with her and her daughters.

Fabia Pinto
President, Rosarian Senior Citizens Association



29 June '23

St. Peter's Day, a revered feast in honor of the apostle Peter, was joyously celebrated at St. Peter's School. The grand occasion commenced with a magnificent mass at the school's chapel. Students, teachers, and parents gathered in reverence as beautiful hymns and prayers filled the sacred space. The atmosphere was filled with a sense of unity and spirituality as the significance of St. Peter's teachings resonated with the attendees.

Following the solemn mass, the celebration continued on the school campus with an exhilarating football match. The students displayed their athletic prowess and team spirit as they competed against each other. Cheers and applause filled the air as goals were scored. The football match served as a platform for fostering camaraderie, healthy competition, and physical fitness among the students.

Overall, the St. Peter's Day celebration at St. Peter's School was a perfect blend of spiritual reflection and lively sportsmanship. It not only honored the apostle Peter but also provided a memorable day for the school community to come together and celebrate their shared values and talents.

Shannen D'Souza
Teacher, St. Peter's School



HERITAGE & CULTURE

THE LAST DEVOTEES: CELEBRATING ST. ANTHONY'S FEAST IN TAMBAWALA BUILDING

It is not unusual to see common altars adorning the dark and dingy corridors of old buildings in Mazagaon. They are a testament to the times when these buildings and corridors were bustling with Catholics. They hold the memories of a bygone era, where laughter, music, dances, prayers, and faith echoed through these walls. As many residents started leaving Mazagaon and chose to settle in the suburbs, abroad, or in Goa, the laughter and music faded; leaving them only as nostalgic memories in the hearts of the few remaining residents.

You will find one such altar on the first floor of the Tambawala building. Holding a lily in the right hand and propping up a book as well as the child Jesus in the other, St Anthony tenderly looks down, through the glass of the carved wooden altar. He is highly revered by the residents, who celebrate his feast every year on the 13th of June.



Effie Braganza, now the lone catholic resident on the first floor reminisces the bygone days when the feast was a big affair. “Since I came here in the 1980s, the novena and feast was always something all residents looked forward to. On the feast day the litany would be sung, accompanied by the music of a brass band that would be specially called from Dhobitalao for the occasion. Thereafter, dances took place in the corridor, with partying and merry-making lasting throughout the night.” While they still celebrate the feast, it is kept low profile. “Earlier we even used to recite the rosary every day at the altar, but as people started moving

out, that stopped. Then we used to have only the novena and the feast. Now for the past few years, we have not had the novena also because there are no people, and the few that still live here go to Goa at that time. But I pushed for having the feast. Sometimes I call another neighbour who now resides in Byculla and we both conduct the prayers.”

Anthony Caído, a septuagenarian, who only comes to live in the building occasionally recalls the peculiar story behind the statue. “Earlier there used to be a small, broken statue of St. Anthony. Out of the eighteen houses on the first floor, sixteen of them had catholic residents. One time when they were collecting money for the St Anthony fund, one particular resident refused to contribute, citing that he did not live there for most of the months. Soon after that, he made a trip to Poona. There, his legs got caught up and he was unable to move. He felt that this must have happened because he did not contribute to the fund, and on returning bought a bigger statue of St Anthony

to replace the previous broken one. All the other residents were surprised as to why he bought this statue, and he narrated the incident to them. Another neighbour named Peter D'Souza did up the altar and that's how this statue is with us today.”

The sense of reverence and devotion to St Anthony is not limited to the Catholics of the building. The non-Catholics join in too. “There was this Hindu Brahmin who was one of the two non-catholic residents on that floor. He was without a child for many years. One fellow told him to join us when we say the rosary and pray to St. Anthony. After that, he was blessed with a son. Even later on, when we prayed the rosary at the altar he used to come and stand with us.” Mr. Caido and Effie recall.

“The other non-Catholics are very cooperative, too. Earlier they used to put garlands and light candles. They still come when invited.”

BUT WHY AM I SO FAVORED, THAT THE MOTHER OF MY LORD SHOULD COME TO ME? (LK 1:43)

Come June and a heavenly visitor makes her way through the houses of the Catholic residents of D'Lima Street. Held by the head of the family, flanked by two candle bearers on either side and followed by a small procession of people harmonizing to the tune of *Pav Maie* and *O Come to the Throne of Grace*, the statue of Our Lady of Fatima is taken from one house to the next, where the previous day itself, all preparations are made to ensure that the house is spic and span. She is welcomed at the doorstep by the matriarch of the house with a garland and *dhuri* (incensing) - one of the pre-conversion Hindu welcoming traditions we still follow. Thereafter, she is placed on a table meticulously wrapped in white cloth, and the prayers commence. Many families still prefer to conduct them in Konkani. “*Eh dullobi ani mogall Maie, ailo amkam bhagiancho vell, polleunk Tuka amchea gharant ani mandunk Tuka amche familintli koxi, le, bore baxen!*” (O Merciful and Loving Mother, the time has come, for this holy moment, to see you in our house and honour you as one of our family: We warmly welcome you!) These words are sure to move the heart of our Blessed Mother, and the members of the family, too, for on the next day, when it's time for her to go to the next house, they tearfully bid her adieu to the tune of *Adeus, adeus Maie*.

The tradition of taking Our Lady or *Saibinn* from house to house is thought to have started in Goa around 1952 when a statue of Our Lady of Fatima was brought from Portugal to Old Goa. The Goans probably brought this ritual with them to Bombay, where they came and settled



in large numbers, in areas like D'Lima Street. This tradition was then taken up by the other Catholics of the area as well.

“From childhood, we would be very excited whenever Mother Mary would come to our house. One of my favourite memory is when our house was full of neighbours and we all prayed the Rosary together” says Melvita, a resident of D'Lima Street. Kaitlyn, another resident recounts what goes into preparing for the ritual: “We clean our houses, buy flowers, candles and a garland, prepare an altar, prepare channa, sweets, and snacks to be distributed, and invite friends and family over.” “On the day when Our Lady stays with us, we recite the rosary thrice and sing hymns to Her. We pray for all our intentions, confident that She will intercede for us.” Joe D'Cruz recalls his childhood days when the Konkani Mens Sodality would come around, giving everyone slips with the date of Our Lady's visit to their house. “People would ask Our Lady for special favours, promising her that if their favours were fulfilled, they would keep Her in their house for two days instead of one! There were so many Catholics at that time that in each building Our Lady would remain for around 25-30 days - Coronation Building, Hamid Building, Bob's Bungalow, Bachuwali Building, Mohammad Bhai Mansion...and after one building was over the members of the Men's Sodality would come and empty the offering box and deposit the money in church. The litany was always sung in Latin and overall it was a festive affair. There would be a huge crowd and we would give sweets and *channas* to everyone.”

Through the years, this time-honored ritual of taking Our Lady of Fatima from house to house has not only strengthened the community's faith, but has also promoted harmony, forgiveness, and good relationships among neighbours- the good relationships are maintained and cultivated over the conversations had while snacking on boiled gram!

If you would like to contribute a story to the Parish Newsletter under the section “Heritage and Culture”, please write to us at ourladyofrosarydockyard@gmail.com. In case of any query, contact Daniel Dias: 98679 45525.



PEOPLE

CELEBRATING A CENTURY AND TWO: A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO OUR OLDEST PARISHIONER

Mrs. Edviges Fernandes, a resident of Nasir Palace and our oldest parishioner just celebrated her 102nd birthday on 26th June. Her awe-inspiring life story is worth a read!

Born on June 26, 1921, in the picturesque St. Estevao Island in Goa, she carries a lifetime of cherished memories and experiences. As the second eldest among five children, she grew up in a loving family, nurtured by her parents Joaquim and Santana Mattos. She moved to Mazgaon two years after her marriage to Adelino Conception Fernandes in 1944.

During her time in Goa, she cultivated her culinary skills, becoming a masterful cook. She used to cook till she was 99 years old! And although age has now limited her ability to engage in cooking, her passion for creating delicious meals remains a cherished part of her identity. Mrs. Fernandes used to stitch too. Renowned for her impeccable sense of style, she was hailed as the best dresser in her village in Goa.



Throughout her life, Mrs. Fernandes has always been a pillar of strength for her family. Her daughters, Thelma, Jenny, and Maria speak fondly of their mother, whose presence has been a constant source of inspiration and guidance in their lives. Without fail, Mrs. Fernandes keeps them on their toes by asking each day, "What are you cooking today? And what recipe will you use?" Her daughters chuckle and affectionately respond, knowing that their mother's love for food adds a delightful spice of humor to their daily interactions.

She would attend masses in church regularly until around eight years ago. The parish team now ensures that she receives communion, maintaining her connection to the spiritual community she holds dear.

Age truly knows no bounds when it comes to Mrs. Fernandes' remarkable knack for staying informed. From Princess Diana to Narendra Modi, she is up to date with all the latest news, always staying in touch with the world.





She is still fit and active and can walk without much assistance. Early this year, she made a trip to her beloved hometown in Goa, rekindling cherished memories of her youth. In celebration of her incredible journey through 102 years of life, the church team felicitated her. Her face lit up with sheer delight as she took a delightful car tour through the familiar streets of her childhood, astonishing everyone with her extraordinary ability to recall the houses along the way.

Mrs. Edviges Fernandes' remarkable journey, woven with love, laughter, and an unwavering zest for life stands as a living testament to the beauty and resilience of the human spirit. From the picturesque island of St. Estevao Island to the bustling streets of Mazgaon, she has left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who have had the privilege of knowing her. As she continues to defy the limitations of time, her unwavering spirit serves as an inspiration to us all.

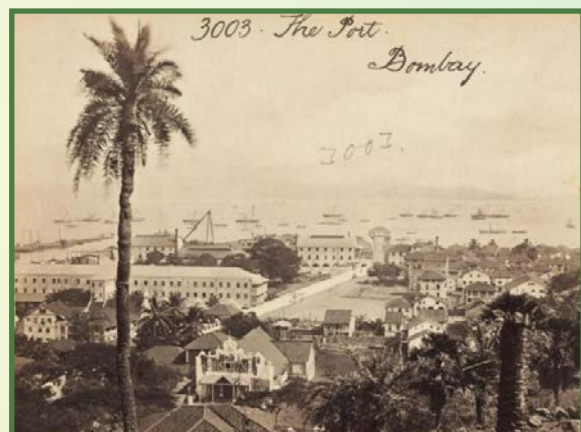
MAZAGAON OF THE YESTERYEARS

COMING
SOON

Do you have cherished photographs capturing the essence of Mazagaon from the days gone by?

We plan on starting a monthly section in the newsletter called "Mazagaon of the Yesteryears" which aims at preserving the rich heritage of Mazagaon by collecting old photographs and documenting people's stories and memories.

Submit your stories, photographs, and treasured memories to ourladyofrosarydockyard@gmail.com In case of any queries, contact Daniel Dias: 98679 45525.

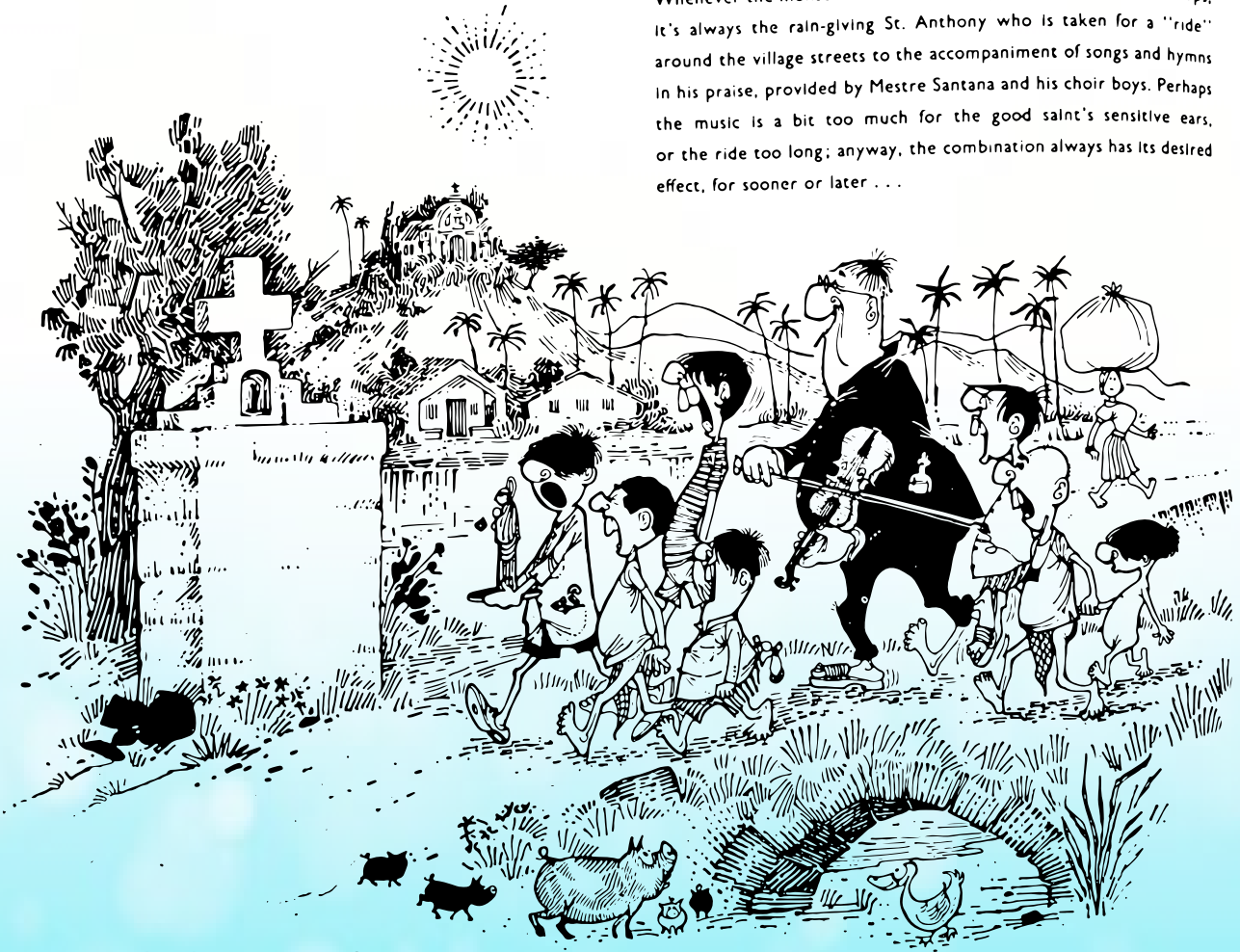


VERNACULAR VOICES

SANT ANTON, PAUS GHAL SAIBA

Akho sonvsarant kristanv lôk Sant Antonik vholddo man ditat. Taka ôchoreachea bhokta mhunn vhoddkotat. Kitem-i vost sanddli zalear, Sant Antonicho adar magon, rokddinch ti vôt melltat. Akantak pavta dekhun, bhavartea modhem to opurbaiecho Sant. Gõyant paus uxir zata zalear, Sant Antonikodden magnnem korpachi porompora zaita ganvamni cholta. Junache 13 porian paus iei-nam zalear, lok Sant Antonicho imaj gheun ganvant pursanv kaddta. "Sant Anton, Deva lagim magon, Deva lagim magon paus ghal, Saiba paus ghal" oxem gaion korun, tem akhem ganvant bhovtat ani uprant kuxichea tolleant vo bãint Sant Antoniche paim buddoitat. Veg-veglllea suvatinim mhatxi veglli porompora asa. Kaim ganvamni adim lôk donddvonnant (in penance) tôkler fator dovrun dongravelem khursakoddem choddtalem ani thõï magnnem ani ladainha kortalem. Ôchoreacho bhokt, Sant Antoni tanchem prarthon aikpak kednach chukona, ani rokddoch paus podtta. Ondunchea vorsa paus chodd uxir zalo dekhun hea gozalecho mhaka ugddas ailo. Hea vorsa boro pausa khatir hanv Sant Antonik bhavarthan magta.

Whenever the monsoon is late, and the peasants fear for their crops, it's always the rain-giving St. Anthony who is taken for a "ride" around the village streets to the accompaniment of songs and hymns in his praise, provided by Mestre Santana and his choir boys. Perhaps the music is a bit too much for the good saint's sensitive ears, or the ride too long; anyway, the combination always has its desired effect, for sooner or later . . .



Picture from Mario Miranda's book *Goa With Love*

If you would like to submit a story or an article in any vernacular language like Konkani, Marathi, etc, please do so on ourladyofrosarydockyard@gmail.com In case of any query, contact Daniel Dias: 98679 45525.



VISUAL VIGNETTES

I have set my rainbow in the clouds,
and it will be the sign of the covenant
between me and the earth (Gen 9:13)

A quick shower caused by cyclone Biparjoy,
paints a rainbow across the sky. June 11.
Photograph by Daniel Dias.



Calling on all photographers: Submit your captivating images to ourladyofrosarydockyard@gmail.com with a one-line description. The best entries will be featured in next month's newsletter with the photographer's name.



KID'S CORNER

1. In 2021, Pope Francis established World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of July.

Take a selfie with your grandparents and send it to us. If that is not possible, take a selfie with their photos.

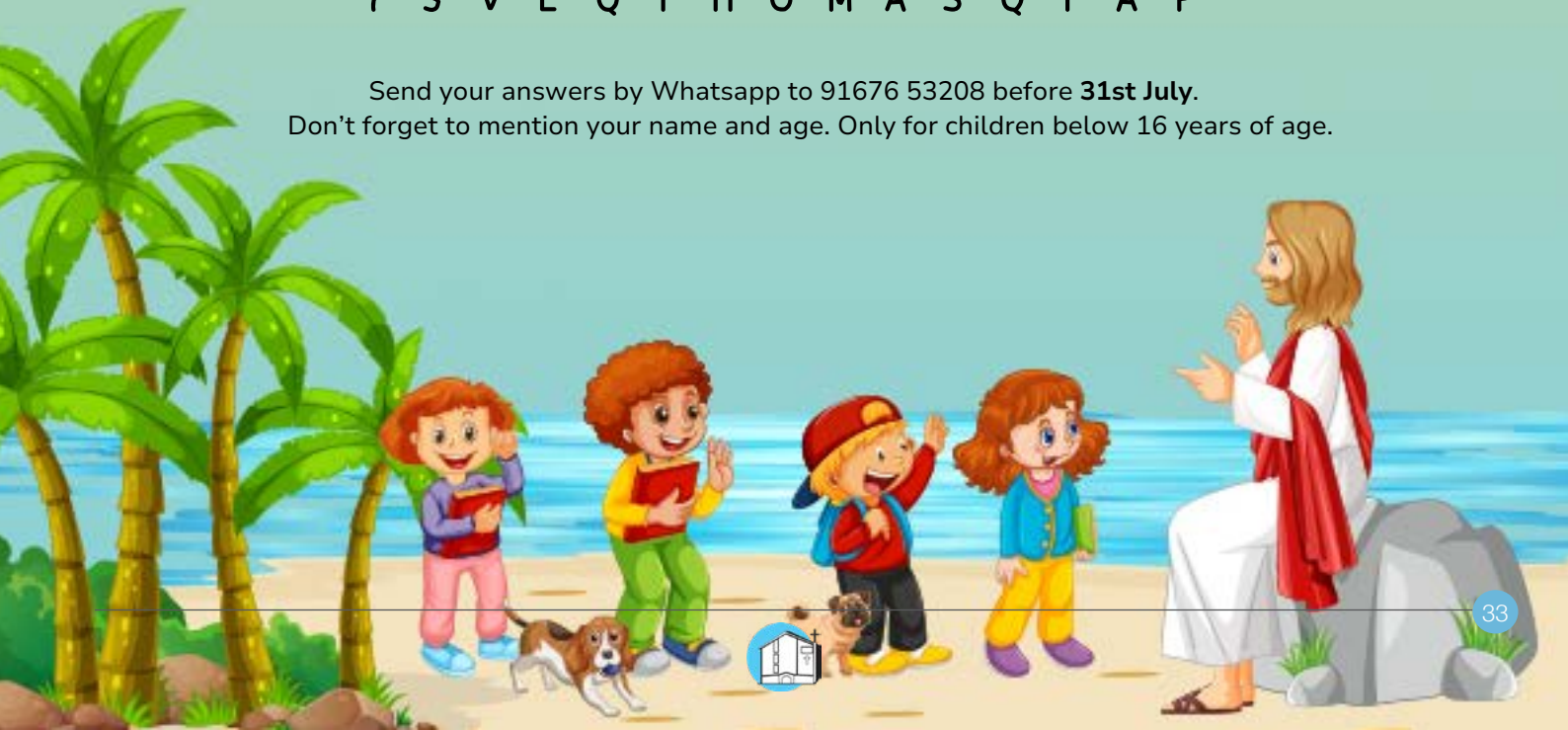
2. July 26th is the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne and Parents' Day.

Make a Parents' Day card for your parents and send us a picture of it.

3. Hidden below are the names of Saints whose feasts we celebrate in July. How many can you find? Send your answers to us.

S M A R Y M A G D A L E N E M
L O A I Z K W G J O J W P R K
I D Y V G B G O O A D C M W W
A L N V M O I A A Q E N N A B
N N Z L Q N I X C H W O N B B
E K R A D Y J C H O T R M D S
W T T Z R C N S I O V G B T C
W M M A O Q A Z M T I B P Y A
G Q L R W D S X K U U A F X S
Q E F U P J X S I J Z U Z Z Y
C I X S B D I G N A T I U S I
B T I T Z R Y U O J L Q B X T
C W A Z Y D S F D Q Y C U V P
W M A R I A G O R E T T I Y N
Y S V L Q T H O M A S Q T A P

Send your answers by Whatsapp to 91676 53208 before **31st July**.
Don't forget to mention your name and age. Only for children below 16 years of age.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

JULY 16TH IS THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL. ON JULY 16, 1251, OUR LADY APPEARED TO ST. SIMON STOCK AND GAVE HIM A SCAPULAR AND TOLD HIM THAT "THOSE WEARING THIS SCAPULAR SHALL NOT SUFFER ETERNAL FIRE." HERE ARE SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL:



17. - HAIFA. - Mount Carmel

MOUNT CARMEL IS A REAL PLACE IN PALESTINE. CARMEL MEANS GARDEN. THIS REGION WAS CONSIDERED A LUSH GARDEN AND A PLACE OF BEAUTY.



IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THE PRIESTS OF BAAL CHALLENGED THE POWER OF GOD AND THE PROPHET ELIJAH CALLED DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN.

THE PROPHET ELIJAH LIVED ON MOUNT CARMEL AND ATTRACTED OTHER MEN TO COME AND LIVE A LIFE OF PRAYER AND SACRIFICE.



HERMITS CAME TO LIVE ON MOUNT CARMEL IN THE 12TH CENTURY. THEY HAD A CHAPEL DEDICATED TO OUR LADY. BY THE 13TH CENTURY THEY BECAME KNOWN AS "BROTHERS OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL."



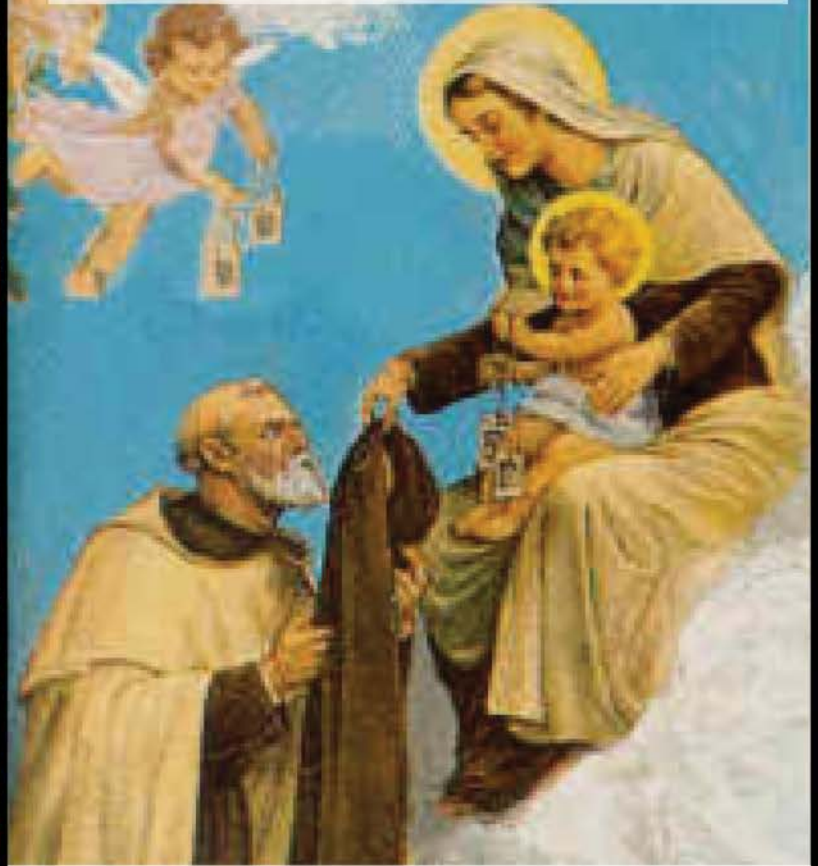
IN THE YEAR 1246 ST. SIMON STOCK WAS NAMED GENERAL OF THE CARMELITE ORDER. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT WITHOUT HELP FROM THE OUR LADY, THE ORDER HAD LITTLE TIME REMAINING. SIMON ENTRUSTED THE ORDER TO MARY AND BEGGED HER TO PROTECT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.





THIS WAS HIS PRAYER "O BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF CARMEL, MOST FRUITFUL VINE, SPLendor OF HEAVEN, HOLY AND SINGULAR, WHO BROUGHT FORTH THE SON OF GOD, STILL EVER REMAINING A PURE VIRGIN, ASSIST US IN OUR NECESSITY. O STAR OF THE SEA, HELP AND PROTECT US. SHOW US THAT YOU ARE OUR MOTHER. AMEN."

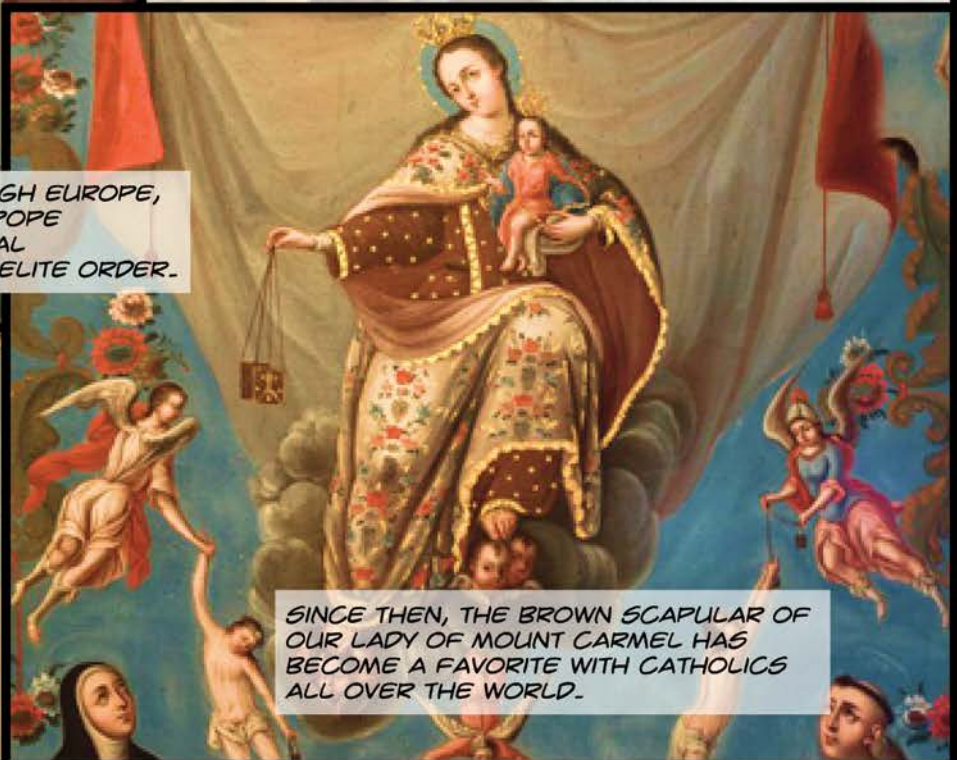
IN RESPONSE TO THIS FERVENT PRAYER, THE VIRGIN APPEARED TO ST. SIMON STOCK AND GAVE HIM THE SCAPULAR FOR THE ORDER WITH THIS PROMISE: "THIS MUST BE A SIGN AND PRIVILEGE FOR YOU AND FOR ALL CARMELITES: WHOEVER DIES WEARING THE SCAPULAR WILL NOT SUFFER ETERNAL FIRE."



THE SCAPULAR, PARTICULARLY FOR THE CARMELITES, CAME TO EXPRESS THEIR SPECIAL DEDICATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN AND THEIR DESIRE TO IMITATE HER LIFE.



THE ORDER SPREAD THROUGH EUROPE, AND ON JANUARY 13, 1252 POPE INNOCENT IV GAVE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION TO THE CARMELITE ORDER.



SINCE THEN, THE BROWN SCAPULAR OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL HAS BECOME A FAVORITE WITH CATHOLICS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

