

ROSARIAN HAPPENINGS

VOLUME III ISSUE 3 • OCT-DEC 2023 • E-NEWSLETTER

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

CHRISTMASES OF THE YESTERYEARS

A walk down Belvedere Road and more! > pg 25

A GIFT FROM THE QUEEN: BTS

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CRIB COMPETITION

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In pic: Matharpacady Village aglow with festive lights and enchanting Christmas decorations.

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

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editorial

Embracing The New Year With GRAMS: A Guide To Spiritual Renewal

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

As we step into the embrace of a new year, it is natural for us to harbour questions about what lies ahead. The lyrics of the famous song "Que sera, sera" comes to mind – whatever will be, will be; the future is not ours to see. Indeed, what will the new year bring? Will it be a year of blessings and graces? We may never know, but God does. In Jeremiah 29:11, the Lord declares, "I know the plans I have for you, plans for good and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope."

In light of this divine assurance, let us make a fervent plea to surrender the helm of our lives to God. Let Him be the pilot, for He alone knows the intricate plans He has crafted for each of us. Do not attempt to be the co-pilot or a back-seat driver; let God take charge and chart the course of your life. As Jeremiah promises, in relinquishing control to Him, we can find hope and a good future.

The first step toward a truly happy new year is to give God control, but it doesn't end there. We must also be vigilant in recognizing the opportunities God provides. In 1 Corinthians 16:9, Paul speaks of a wide door for effective work opening amidst adversaries. Challenges may accompany open doors, but, as revealed in Revelation 3:8, when God opens a door, no one can shut it. Trust God, keep moving forward, and don't be discouraged by obstacles.

Additionally, asking the right questions is crucial for making the new year truly new. Ephesians 4:22-24 guides us in understanding the need to put off the old and put on the new. This process involves shedding old habits, thoughts, and actions, replacing them with the newness found in Christ. Continuously ask, "What do I need to put off, and what do I need to put on?"

Making room for the new is another vital step, as emphasized in Leviticus 26:10. By loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and loving our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39), we create space for new blessings, a new life, and new grace. Love is the key that unlocks the door to transformation.

Finally, setting right our priorities is essential for a meaningful new year. Jesus, in Matthew 6:25 and 33, reminds us not to worry about the seemingly important things but to seek first His kingdom and righteousness. By discerning between what seems important and what is truly important, we align ourselves with God's priorities.

As we embark on this new year, let us recall and embrace these points through the acronym GRAMS:

G: Giving God Control

R: Recognizing the Opportunities

A: Asking the Right Questions

M: Making Room for the New

S: Setting Right Our Priorities

May the new year be filled with God's grace and blessings as we journey together in faith. Have a joyous and spiritually fulfilling New Year!

In Christ's Love,
Fr. Nigel Barrett.



updates

PARISH FEAST

29 Sep-7 Oct | Novena To Our Lady Of The Rosary

The 9 day novena to Our Lady of the Rosary was animated by the zones and associations. After the novena masses, the statue of Our Lady was taken to the zones in procession. A common area was selected in each zone and an altar was prepared. The community gathered at their respective altars to pray the rosary.



6 Oct | A Gift From The Queen

In the spirit of our parish feast, a three-day fete was held, marking the culmination of extensive preparations. Prior to the 3-day fete, on 5th Oct, a documentary prepared by the youth was screened, showcasing the beautiful attractions and places of history and heritage around the different zones. Day 1 unfolded with the initiation of "A Gift from the Queen" – a shadow play narrating the story of the Rosary. The narrative traced the sacred journey from the heavenly apparitions to the bestowal of the rosary upon St. Dominic by Mary herself. The production intricately showcased the role of key figures, including St. Dominic and Blessed Alan, in perpetuating this powerful prayer. The play emphasized the Rosary as a spiritual armor, a gift from the Queen of Heaven to aid and protect her children. Behind the scenes, a dedicated costume team meticulously recreated historical attire, while a technical team seamlessly integrated audio and visuals. With over 50 individuals contributing to this spectacle, the production came to life highlighting the enduring power of the Rosary in our lives.

Read more about the shadow play on page 34...



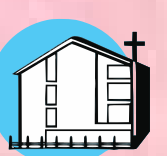


7 Oct | Rosarians Got Talent

On the memorable evening of October 7th in our parish, the Rosarians Got Talent Show showcased the incredible talents of our parishioners. The stage, adorned with lights and graphics, resembled a TV reality show setup. Joe, our compere, introduced our first entry- three cute little children dressed as rock stars. The evening featured 16 diverse performances, including singing, dancing, musical instrument displays, and a thought-provoking skit.

Notable highlights included the formation of the Rosarian Juniors music band by school kids and a captivating medley of old numbers by the Rosarian seniors. Individual talents shone with artists presenting impressive solo numbers. The skit on the Beatitudes by the Sunday school was particularly insightful, offering a unique perspective on these teachings. The dances put up by the Youth and the Women's Cell had everyone dancing in their seats and having a great time. Each artist received a token of appreciation, and we hope for more parishioners to join in showcasing their talents in future events. The evening concluded with everyone having a great time and enjoying the lively performances.

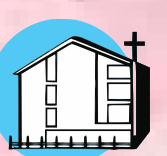




8 Oct | Parish Social

Our Parish Feast get-together was held on the 8th of October in the evening. This is one day that our parishioners look forward to. Since it was the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, we began our celebration by reciting the holy Rosary. This was followed by the Bombay Catholic Sabha Rosary Unit presenting their Academic and Athletic awards to students who shone brightly in their respective fields. Many of our parishioners with a bright and promising future, received awards. Then began an evening of fun, entertainment, dancing, spot prizes and much more. Willy and his live band kept our feet moving to the groove. Our MC, Joe D'Cruz had a lot in store for us with the games and out of this world spot prizes. Our youth too kept us grooving to the beat by their energetic dancing. After the Grace before meals, we were treated to a sumptuous dinner, by our very own Dylan Caterers.

As the evening was about to come to an end, Fr. Nigel thanked the Executive Committee of the Parish Council for organizing this feast celebrations and for working behind the scenes. All's well that ends well is just a saying, but for many it was an evening to remember. May Our Lady Of the Rosary always guide and protect us.



WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

18-19 Nov | The Food Project

"World Day of the Poor" established by Pope Francis, is observed on the 33rd Sunday in ordinary time. The theme of this year, the *Seventh World Day of the Poor, 2023*: "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (Tob 4:7)

As part of our Social Outreach Programme, Fr. Nigel, along with the Parish Council decided that we should provide meals to the poor on this day. Few of us along with Father visited Tata Hospital a couple of times to have an idea about the conditions of the people living there on the streets. Here we have countless people, mainly patients, who have come for free cancer treatment and living on the footpaths in not so good conditions, since they cannot afford accommodation in Mumbai. We decided that we would provide a meal for these people along with some useful provisions.

This programme was spear headed by the organizing committee from the Parish Council who meticulously planned every detail, right from the purchasing items for the Kitchdi, hiring the cooks, and distributing the meals. 70 volunteers, came together on the 18th to help with the cleaning, washing and chopping of the vegetables, folding of towels and doing all the pre-preparations for the meals, not to forget their colourful aprons. There was a deep sense of purpose among all our volunteers, all so eagerly wanting to not only do the task they were assigned for, but also to help in many other ways that they could.

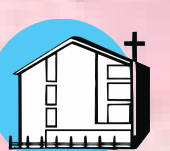
19th Nov, again saw many volunteers who came forward to help with the chopping of onions, tomatoes, coriander and also helping the cooks to prepare the meals by stirring and boiling the eggs. Finally, the dal Kitchdi was ready with its lovely aroma all over the place. Our enthusiastic volunteers with their cooking caps, helped in packing around 600 food packets. These were loaded in three vehicles along with the bananas, eggs, chaas and towels.

After a short prayer, led by Fr. Merwyn, around twenty volunteers left for Parel, to help with the distribution. On reaching the site, we divided ourself into two groups and distributed the food along with the other provisions.

Although this entire process was a long one, it was nothing compared to the enriching experience that we all had. We all returned back with our hearts full of love and compassion.

-Shanti Monteiro,
PPC Executive Committee





CHILDREN'S DAY

25 Nov | Children's Day For The Boys Of Our Lady's Home

On 25th Nov, our parish celebrated Children's Day by inviting 125 boys from Our Lady's Home Parel to join us for an evening of fun and entertainment. Many parishioners came forward and sponsored snacks, cupcakes, kulfi and much more. Our organizers did a great job by meticulously planning and executing every tiny detail of this event. This would not have been possible without our youth, who brought their energy into the entire evening by bringing the kids from Parel by a special bus that was arranged for them. Once the boys reached, Fr. Nigel welcomed the boys with a welcome note and prayer. They were treated with tasty cheese sandwiches and some juice. Energetic as they are, we played a lot of games organized by our hosts Swizzle (youth) and Sr. Florina. Here, we cannot forget how the boys were excited about being given forfeits, so they could showcase their varied talents that included doing the cartwheel, singing and dancing, doing stunts and what not. There were stalls of freshly made unlimited Popcorn, candy floss, Chaat which they could not resist. The magic show that was organized for them, literally had their eyes popping out and their mouths open in amazement. The boys painted their hands and faces too by tattoo artists who were called for the evening. They also played mini golf, ring toss and cris cross and were gifted with chocolate, pens and pencils for each game they played. The icing of the cake was the goody bags with had special gifts for each group. They were so excited and went on showing their gifts to everyone. It was finally time to say goodbye to these fun-loving boys. The event ended with a closing prayer. We were definitely sad to let them go, but our hearts were fuller with the love we received from them. We thanks all the youth and everyone who made this day special for these boys.

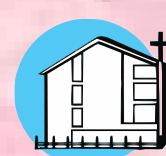
*-Shanti Monteiro,
Organizing Committee
for Children's Day*



CHRIST THE KING

26 Nov | Feast Of Christ The King

The Christ the King Feast, observed on November 26, 2023, was a profound celebration at our parish. Established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a response to secularism—a lifestyle that excludes God from human thought and living—the feast served as a powerful antidote. Following the 10 am mass, the parish immersed itself in adoration and a holy hour, reaffirming Christ's sovereignty over individuals, families, and society. As dusk settled, Fr. Nigel and the choir led a moving adoration from St. Peter's chapel to St. Joseph's church in Umerkhadi. Children, banners in hand, recited the Rosary, sang hymns, and actively participated in this sacred journey. The evening extended with a procession from neighboring parishes, culminating at St. Joseph's for a joint prayer service.





COMMUNION

17 Dec | First Holy Communion In Our Parish

On the blessed day of December 17th, seven children from our parish joyfully received their First Holy Communion. This sacred moment marked the culmination of their dedicated preparations, which commenced in June. Under the guidance of their teachers, these young souls have been diligently and reverently trained for this significant sacrament, embracing the teachings and significance of receiving Jesus into their hearts. As these children took this pivotal step in their faith journey, the entire parish rejoiced in witnessing their communion with the divine.



events

2 Oct | Bombay Catholic Sabha Visit to the Police Station

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the Bombay Catholic Sabha Members visited the Byculla Police Station & met with Sr. Inspector Nandkumar Gopale to thank him & his team for the service they render to the community. As a token of appreciation, sweets were given to be distributed to the staff of Byculla Police Station.



15 Oct | Movie Screening At St Anne's

"Face of the Faceless" a movie on the life of Sr Rani Maria was screened at St Anne's Church. The screening was attended by several parishioners and a number of youth from our parish.

22-24 Oct | Youth Camp

A camp was held for the Rosarian Active Youth at Kune Missions, Khandala. It was a fun-filled outing with prayer, reflection, group activities, capacity building sessions, trekking and fellowship.





9-31 Oct | Daily Rosary

The Legion of Mary led the faithful in reciting the Rosary everyday before the evening mass during October, the month of the Holy Rosary.

3 Nov | Save Matharpacady Candlelight March

The government's cluster redevelopment plans for the Matharpacady Gaothan, set to replace the quaint bungalows with high-rises, prompted an appeal from The Watchdog Foundation Bombay East Indian Association, and Matharpacady Residents Welfare Association. Led by Fr. Nigel Barrett, Fr. Lawrie Ferrao, Nicholas Almeida, Adv. Godfrey Pimenta, Adv. Vivian D'Souza, Brian Pereira, Jonathan Fernandes, Gilroy Misquitta, Ricky Coutto, Clement DMello, Dennis D'Souza, Kamalakar Shenoy, Anihita Pandole and 120 locals, a candlelight march through the village aimed to resist the neighborhood's transformation. Speakers, including local leaders and residents, pledged support for preserving the area's rich cultural heritage.



18-19 Nov | Inter-Parish Badminton At St Theresa's

Anslem Mendes, Clarissa Alphonso, Claudia Fernandes and Anil Dias represented our Parish at the inter-parish badminton tournament organized by St Theresa's Church, Girgaum. There were 16 mixed doubles pairs, and both pairs from our parish reached the semi-finals. Anil and Claudia were awarded the prize for the 'Most Valuable Player'.



19 Nov | Youth Session At St Anne's

"Sex in Your City", an insightful session for the youth of South Mumbai deanery was organized by O22 at St Anne's Church, Mazagaon on 19th Nov, 2023. The discussion focused on the theology of the body and was attended by the youth of our parish as well as of other parishes.

2-3 Dec | Stalls To Assist Missionary Activities

For Mission Sunday this year, 2 NGOs were invited to put up stalls as part of their mission outreach initiative, working in Raigad with tribal communities to train them for generating sustainable livelihoods. The Nirmala Niketan sisters also put up handicraft items made by the tribal community. The Vimla Vikas Kendra organized a white elephant sale. Items for the same were donated generously by parishioners.



3 Dec | Feast Of St Francis Xavier Animated By The Goan Cultural Association

The newly formed Goan Cultural Association of our parish was officially inaugurated on 3 Dec, the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. The members offered a thanksgiving mass at 10am which was in English and Konkani. A decades old processional banner of St Francis Xavier was used at the mass. The choir singing made one feel as if they were really in Goa! After the mass, lively Konkani songs added to the festivities. A Goan Food stall was also put up by the association: About 7 to 8 parishioners prepared some delicious homemade food items like roast beef sandwiches, choriz pao, sorpotel, baath cake and nankatais. All these items were sponsored and the amount collected from the sale of these items was contributed to the church towards the missions. A souvenir card was distributed to all who attended the mass.



3 Dec | Talk Organized By The Bombay Catholic Sabha

Bombay Catholic Sabha - Rosary Unit in collaboration with BCS Head Office conducted a Seminar on 3rd Dec titled "Lead the Nation- Join the Civil Service". Hon. Joint Commissioner of Police, Mr S. Jayakumar was the Chief Guest.



8 Dec | Feast Of The Immaculate Conception

The youth led the faithful in reciting the rosary at the grotto after the evening mass on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.



10 Dec: Housie Organized By The Rosarian Senior Citizens' Association

The Rosarian Senior Citizens' Association organized a bumper housie with exciting prizes on 10th Dec after the 10am mass. Snacks were served and the games were enjoyed by all who attended.



10 Dec | SCC Rally

The South Mumbai Deanery SCC Rally was held on Sunday, 10th December 2023, at St Stephen's Church, Cumballa Hill. The theme for the rally was "You are the salt of the earth and light of the world." The event was graced by the presence of Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes. 14 animators from our parish attended the event.



16 Dec | Carol Nite

The Carol Night was a delightful evening filled with the melodious charm of Christmas carols echoing through the air. The festive atmosphere was complemented by stalls offering an array of delectable sweets, adding to the joyous celebration of the season.



17 Dec | Talk Organised By The Women's Cell

The Women's Cell of the parish organised a talk on Breasts Cancer And Women-Related Illnesses Awareness. The speaker was Dr.Indrani Salunkhe- Obstetrician, Gynaecologist and Infertility specialist at Wockhart Hospital.



23 Dec | Youth Visit To All Saints Home

The youth of our parish brought festive cheer to All Saints Home as they serenaded residents with joyful carols and shared sweets, creating a warm and memorable experience for all.





Crib By The Rosarian Active Youth

Throughout the month of December, the dedicated youth of our parish could be seen meticulously crafting a breathtaking nativity scene, capturing the essence of the season's spirit. Their creative efforts not only adorned our parish with a visually captivating display but also spread the joy of Christmas. The enthusiasm and hard work of these young individuals did not go unnoticed, as their exceptional nativity scene caught the attention of the local newspaper, earning them a well-deserved feature. [Click here to read the article.](#)



communities


Zone 6 Prayer Tower

On 13th October 2023, Zone 6- Our Lady of Lourdes Community started a Prayer Tower to pray for intentions for members of the Zone, the Parish and the World at large. During our home visits animators became aware that many seniors wanted to be of service to the parish but in a passive way. Fr. Shavito suggested that the best way of service was for these members to pray for the needs of the community and suggested that we start a prayer tower. When we requested for volunteers, we were happy and surprised to have both young and elderly parishioners ready to be committed members of the Prayer Tower. The intentions received from the community are clubbed and posted to the Prayer Tower every Friday. The members pray for the intentions in their daily personal prayers through the week. It is said that a Community that prays together, stays together, may God Bless us and help us stay united through this Spiritual and Prayerful experience.

Prayer Tower

As a faith community, we're here to share in each others' experiences and lift each other in prayer. Whatever you're facing - whether it's a cause for joy, a challenge weighing you down, or a particular intention you're holding close to your heart - we want to join you in prayer.


Please Whatsapp your Prayer Requests, Intentions to
CLARISSA ALPHONSO- 9819682443
SHANTI MONTEIRO - 9867874360



ZONE 6
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
COMMUNITY

ZONE 6 COMMUNITY
PRAYER TOWER
TEAM

FR SHAVITO
BRENDA
CATHERINE
CECILIA
JESSIE
CYNTHIA
PHILOO
MARINA
ANGELINE
ARON
ELAINE
FRANCESCA
MELANIE
ROSHNI
CLARISSA
SHANTI
ISMENIA



27 Oct | Prayer for Peace

Following the Holy Father's appeal to observe 27th October as a day of prayer and fasting for peace in the Holy Land, zones 3 & 4 held a prayer service at the Miranda house cross, while zones 5 & 6 met to pray at the Matharpacady Oratory cross.



Nov | Rosaries In Zone 1

Zone 1 - Holy Cross Community has 4 crosses. Each Friday in November, the community recited the rosary at a different cross- on 3rd Nov near Bachuwali building, 10th Nov besides Khodadad building, on 17th Nov behind Panchsheel building and on 24th Nov near Fatima house. This activity was concluded by offering a mass for the good health of the community on 26th November, the feast of Christ the King. The purpose of this event was to rejuvenate the essence of the crosses in our community & to get the community together through prayers.



Dec | Advent Calendar By Zone 6

The Animators of Zone 6 prepared for the Season of Advent with an Advent Activity Calendar for the Zone Members. Starting from the 1st of December, each day a family was presented with an Advent packet which contained a small gift and an activity for the day that all the zone members had to do. The activities started off with the preparation of an advent wreath and lighting of the candles and praying the advent prayer with the family. The days that followed had a mix of activities which were spiritual prayers for one another, reaching out to our neighbours, preparing sweets and meals, visiting the sick and homebound, singing and dancing to Christmas carols, making a good confession, spending time in quiet prayer, etc. Most of the members participated in some activity or the other. The team of animators encouraged the members to retain their advent packet activities in order to carry on these activities in the new year too to spread the love and joy of Christ to all we meet. Zone 6 community members wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.



27 Dec | Christmas Party In Zone 6

The members of zone 6 came together to celebrate Christmas on the 27th of December 2023 on the Rear Helal Terrace. The party was for both the kids and the adults. We had about 75 members who attended the party. We started off with a few games of name bombing, catching sea creatures at Baga Beach and groups and pairs. We also had a few spot prizes. After the games, all the kids welcomed Santa who came along happily throwing sweets and balloons in the air for the children. The children who had been practicing for almost a week, sang Christmas carols for Santa and for the community members. Santa handed out goodie bags to all the children for their lovely performance. We had a small prayer before we handed out the snack boxes to all. The evening ended with a game of Housie. It was truly an enjoyable evening and we were happy to see our parishioners having a great time dancing, singing, playing games and most of all bonding with each and other. We sincerely thank all the members of our zone for always co operating and for participating in all our community events.





Zone 6 Kids Bring Christmas Cheer Through Carol Singing

The children of Zone 6 lit up our neighborhood with the joy of Christmas as they went carol singing. A heartfelt thank you to these talented youngsters for their enchanting performances, bringing smiles to every home they visited. Special gratitude to Zone 6 members who opened their doors and hearts, offering warm welcomes and delicious goodies. The children's thoughtful visits to those who were ill and homebound, along with sharing carols with families in neighboring Zone 5, showcased the true spirit of community. Kudos to trainers Jaden, Jake, Ethan, Sara, and the young carolers—Bianca, Kate, Leah, Mitali, Swara, Reuben, Rebecca, Aiden, Levi, Zion—and photographers Anslem and Sherwin. May their kindness continue to spread happiness and blessings throughout the season.



31 Dec | New Year's Eve Party In Zone 6

Zone 6 is always there for each other when it comes to bonding and sharing love. We started off our new years eve party with fancy dress for kids and adults, followed by telegames where everyone continues the tradition of cheating in all the games. Two games of housie made a lot of people richer in a matter of half an hour. This was followed by the kids taking the old men for a walk around the building before burning them and then welcoming the new year where everyone wished one another a happy new year. A small prayer was recited to welcome the new year followed by a sumptuous dinner of seek kababs, biryani and raita with kulfi ice cream. Dinner was followed by a lot of dancing right into the wee hours of the morning. We thank everyone for their participation and we wish everyone a happy and healthy and successful new year 2024



christmas corner

Christmas in Belvedere Road

Oh! the good old days of the 60's, 70's, 80's in Belvedere!

Come December, come the Christmas spirit. A different cheer filled the air with carols playing everywhere. Our youth would gather every night, all geared up to make the Christmas star. The elders would send hot Nescafe or Milo chocolate drink and some goodies for the youngsters working on the star. Says Brinelle, an ex Belvederite "it was not only the Catholics who were involved in making the star, youth of other faith too helped and designed the star". After the midnight mass all Belvederites, young and old, would sit underneath the mango tree singing till the wee hours of the morning. Then followed the New Year tradition of burning the old man at midnight to ring out the old and bad, to bring in hope and joy in the New Year.

Delano Pinto shares details and pictures of the star for the competition held by Rosary Parish –

Dec 1972, 1st prize Almeida building star, now Juveria Apts (ht: 18 ft)

Dec 1973, Belvedere Road star 3rd prize (ht: 28 ft)

Dec 1982, Belvedere Road star 2nd prize (ht: 35 ft)

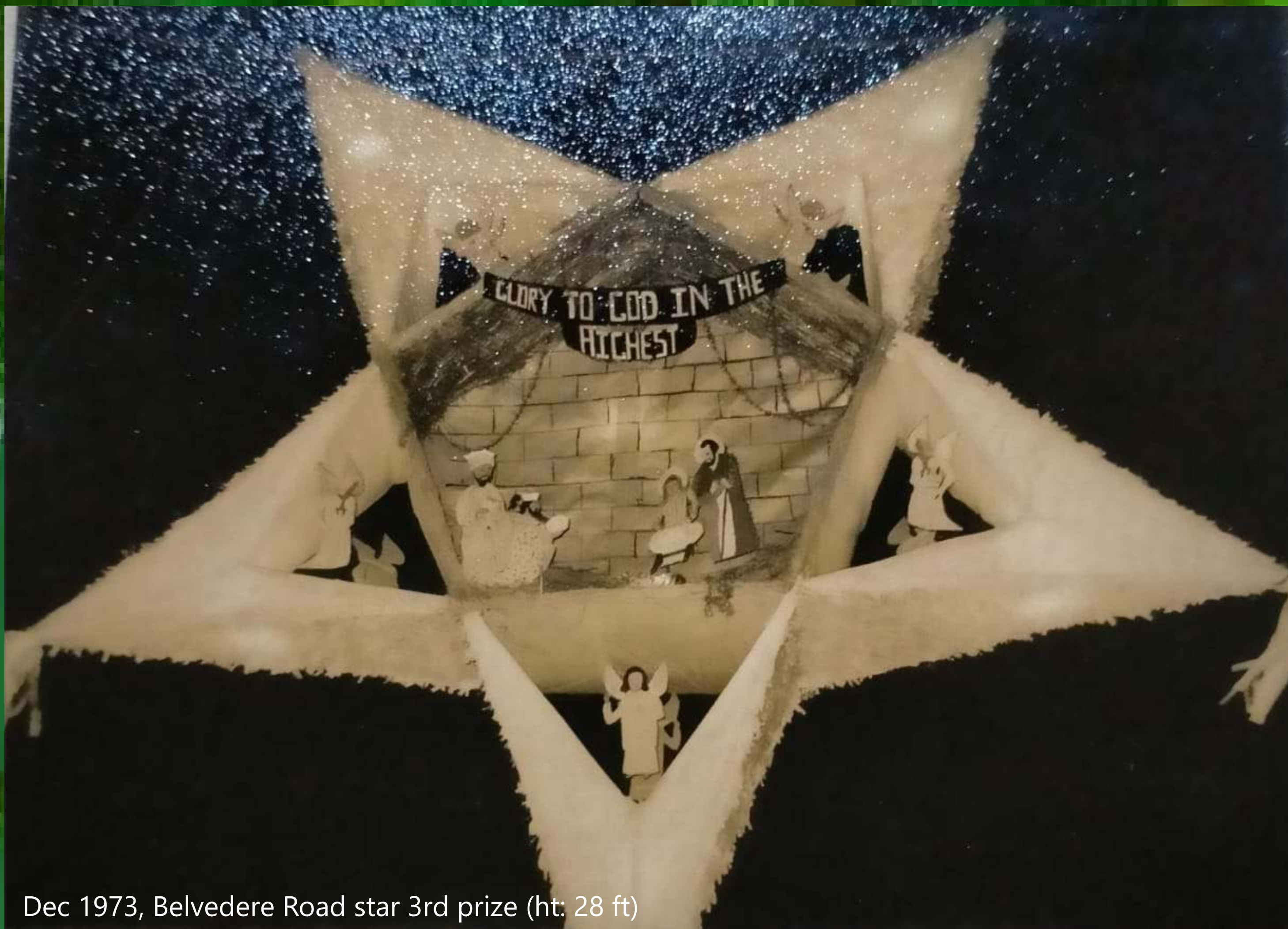
Mr. Myall, principal of St.Peter's School permitted us to hang the star, one end being tied to the school building and the other to Chinoy building, now known as Mariah Heights. People who once lived here have fond memories of their yesteryears in Belvedere. "We lived in harmony".

-Submitted by Daisy Santhumayor



Dec 1972, 1st prize Almeida building star, now Juveria Apts. (ht: 18ft)





Dec 1973, Belvedere Road star 3rd prize (ht: 28 ft)



Dec 1982, Belvedere Road star 2nd prize (ht: 35 ft)



Christmas At Rear Helal Building

The children and youth of Rear Helal Building have always been very active and creative especially around the joyous time of Christmas. The excitement always began with making of the star for the lane. Residents of all faiths of the building and the neighbouring buildings would come together and work all through the night on the Rear Helal terrace to make the star. The putting up of the star in the lane was like a grand ceremony with everyone waiting for the star to be put up and the light to come on. The cheers and the excitement that followed is something that we all look forward to even till today. 22nd night was the night to decorate the verandahs with buntings and stars outside everyone's houses. There was also a tradition of all children getting buckets of soap water and cloth to wash the outside walls and window panes of their houses so that the decorations and stars outside each house would glow against the clean white walls. Come Christmas day, after mass everyone would go around the building wishing each other, checking out the decor in everyone's house, admiring the christmas trees and the cribs and of course taking a bite of all the delicacies served. Kids went along with handkerchiefs house to house to collect all the marzipans, milk toffee, kulkuls, etc. Christmas evening was party time with all the kids and family out on the terrace having fun playing games, talent displays of singing and dancing, snacks and drinks, singing carols, dancing with Santa and grabbing at the sweets he threw up in the air from his heavy bag. After all the fun and games was the highlight of the evening, the much awaited gift ceremony with Santa Claus, where we used to wait patiently for our names to get called out to go and collect our gifts from Santa. The goodie bags for the kids was always a big heavy one thanks to all the generous sponsors.



The week after Christmas was always busy with making of the old man. All the kids would be scurrying around searching for hay, collecting old clothes, the most famous being the Mazagaon dock boiler jumpsuits. Back stitch, tacks, button hole stitch, all of us had our first sewing lessons practicing on the old man clothes. The tough part came in when the old men were ready, all the kids had to keep an eye for the so called "old man robbers" who would whisk away the old men lying on the terrace. The kids wouldn't rest till they found them all again. New years eve party was another event which all of us waited for. I don't think any of us went for any new year dances as we had much more fun on the terrace. There would be fancy dress competitions, tele games for the young and old, housie, singing and dancing and lots of food and drinks. Just minutes before the new year countdown all the kids would take the old men for a parade in the building singing songs and dancing on old Mac Donald. At 12, the fires are lit, the old men thrown in and everyone gathers around the bonfire to wish each other. There was always coffee and cake served after that to end the night with all of us feeling warm and happy in our hearts. Kudos to all the Residents of Rear Helal and to the residents of Tank Square and Batliwala buildings too, who join us in our festivities for keeping all these traditions alive. Till date we continue to party through the Christmas week and we do hope many of you will join us this year and in the coming years too.

-Submitted by Clarissa Alphonso







Matharpacady Village Aglow With Festive Lights

Zone 5 comprising of Matharpacady Village has been a sight of Christmas cheer and beauty. The entire village has been decorated with lights and stars and other symbols representing the Christmas scene. A beautiful star with an embedded crib adorns the path to the Holy cross oratory and a merry sculpture of the Santa Sleigh with reindeers is a lovely attraction for both young and old living as well as passing through the village. Amidst this beauty, the community advent prayer service with lighting of candles were organised at the Holy Cross Oratory.

Owing to the road work that's in progress on the out skirts of the village, there has been a larger audience travelling through and marveling at the beautiful decorations inside. The walking tours that are conducted by and for outsiders had community members participating as local guides and distributing home made sweets to give the visiting guests a taste of Christmas.

Children from nearby and faraway education institutions visited the village and were welcomed by the community members to be a part of the tradition of Christmas at Matharpacady Village.

The decorations however will soon be taken off but our prayer as a community is that the true essence of Christmas - a life abounding with hope, joy and love stay with us all year through.

Happy Christmas to all!

-Submitted by Mellicent Baptista





OFFICIAL NORTH POLE MAIL

From Santa's Desk

Hello dear children all around the World.

This is my favourite time of the year and I am so thrilled to receive your letters and make all your wishes come true. Your parents have let me know how proud of you they are. Keep up the good work!

My letter to you this year may seem unusual, as I wish to share with you the challenges we are facing due to unexpected incidents.

I may not have my home in the North Pole for too long as the ice caps are melting at an alarming rate. I am deeply saddened to tell you that Mrs Claus, the elves, Rudolph and I may have to shift base soon and are unsure where to go, as the North Pole has been our only home.

And while we have always had a hustle and bustle at the toy workshop, the elves tell me they haven't had too many toys to make this year. Your lists had too many electronic gadgets instead. Therefore, I cannot guarantee that you will get everything that you have asked for, but I'm sure you will enjoy spending Christmas with your loved ones and the less fortunate. This year I wish to share a small list with you which is a gift from me and all of us here at the North Pole. A gift which will never get old even when you do. A gift you can share with everyone at Christmas and through the years to come.

- ★ *Be kind and nice always, not just in anticipation of a gift from me.*
- ★ *Protect our home our planet - it is our duty to do so.*
- ★ *Have conversations with people and not just your phone.*
- ★ *Love yourself, Be brave and just.*
- ★ *Make empathy your lens.*
- ★ *Practice gratitude daily.*

Wishing you a magical season!

Much love and Merry Christmas,

Santa Claus

PS: Will keep you posted on the new address.

-Submitted by Rochelle Baptista





My letter to Santa

*I wrote a letter to Santa,
2 months ago.
And now I'm waiting for my PS-5 (PlayStation 5)
Cause I'm already bored of PS4.*

*I've been so good this season
And I've done my best in all that I could.
I don't think mom has any reason
To say that I wasn't so good.*

*Well, I may have punched my cousin
But I guess that's okay too.
Though his nose became a little red
I gave him the Rudolph look!*



*My homework was sometimes incomplete,
My stomach did hurt just to miss school.
But I said my prayers on time,
And hardly missed Sunday school.*

*Oh, Santa I may not have been that perfect
But believe me if u want to.
I'm still the best boy in Mazagaon
Hope u like me too!!*

- Shayne Mascarenhas



Crib Competition

A heartfelt thank you to all who took part in the Crib Competition this year. It was a pleasure to come around and witness the creativity and festive spirit displayed in each and every crib. We appreciate the efforts put in by each participant, making this season truly special. The winner of the competition will be announced in church on Sunday, 7th Jan 2024.



Damaciano Andrade



Lancelot D'Souza



Swati Williams



Anthony D'Souza



Tertuliana Fernandes



Lucio D'Lima



people

Ransley Santhumayor

Fifteen years ago, one of our parishioner, Ransley's life took an unexpected turn. As one of the survivors of the 26/11 attacks, he vividly remembers looking directly into the eyes of one of the terrorists. 15 years on and it is still an unforgettable incident for him and his family. [Read the full article in the Indian Express.](#)

Discovering time as ultimate healer

After 7 surgeries and long recovery period, Ransley now leads a 'normal' life

The Indian EXPRESS facebook

26/11
STORIES OF STRENGTH

ARITA SARKAR
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 22

EIGHT YEARS after the gruesome terror attack that claimed 166 lives and left around 300 others injured, 36-year-old Ransley Santhumayor vividly remembers looking directly into the eyes of one of the terrorists and the AK-47 gun he trained on him at Cafe Leopold in Colaba seconds before he shot him in the leg. After several surgeries and a long recovery period, Santhumayor now leads a 'normal' life and embracing a positive attitude helped him cope with the long-lasting consequences of that fateful night.

Recounting his ordeal, Santhumayor said he, accompanied by a friend, had dropped in at Cafe Leopold on November 26 to grab a quick bite and a beer. "Usually, we would sit upstairs where the music would be playing. But unfortunately on that day we were in a hurry and decided to sit downstairs instead. Just minutes after we had placed our order, we heard a blast and we immediately hid behind the table. We thought perhaps a gang war had broken out or perhaps a lunatic was firing shots. It never crossed our minds that it could be a terror attack," he said.

After the firing had ceased, Santhumayor tried to get up when one of the terrorists spotted him. "Our eyes locked for a brief second and I got the feeling an animal would get staring into the headlights of an oncoming



Ransley Santhumayor says embracing a positive attitude helped him cope with the long-lasting consequences of that fateful night. Pradip Das

vehicle. He shot me in the leg and I could see that the bone was completely shattered. In that moment, I really thought I was going to die," he said.

The bullet went through the bone in his right leg and there was a considerable risk of losing the leg altogether. Amid the hazy details, the mind-numbing pain and the fear of not being able to walk again, Santhumayor recounted the worst part of the entire ordeal to be the poor quality of emergency medical services in the country. "My friend had to take me in a taxi to St George Hospital since there were no ambulances. The staff's behaviour towards the patients was horrible and I remember the doctor there had wanted to amputate my leg," he said. Owing to a shortage of supplies, Santhumayor added, he was moved from a stretcher to a wheelchair to a stool and eventually made to lie on the floor. "I was bleeding and bone fragments were jutting out when this guy came to wrap my leg with some cardboard.

Thankfully, my parents arrived shortly after and shifted me to the Bombay Hospital. I remember the sense of immense relief when I gained consciousness and found my leg still attached to me," he said.

As horrifying as the attack was, the long duration Santhumayor had to spend in a hospital confined to a bed proved to be a bigger challenge for him. Santhumayor attributed his speedy recovery to the continuous support from his parents and his former employer, the Tata Teleservices. "My employers were extremely considerate and understanding. Ratan Tata came to visit me in the hospital and asked me to take all the time I needed. I, however, hated spending so much time in the hospital and I was back at work six months after the incident," he said.

Apart from the physical recovery, the ordeal left him nervous about crowded places out of fear of such an incident recurring again. "I remember I was petrified the first time I went back to Cafe Leopold with my family for

lunch a year after the incident. For a brief time period, my loyalties had shifted from Cafe Leopold to Cafe Mondegar. But I was able to overcome my fears without any counselling, though it took me almost three years to be able to completely let go of the stress," he said.

While the continuous support of his employers, his family and friends was the driving force that helped Santhumayor make a remarkable physical recovery after seven surgeries, the words of an American woman who had been shot in both her legs motivated him immensely to look beyond the incident. "Despite the blurriness caused by the painkillers, I distinctly remember her words, which helped me understand that it is important not to get entangled in the question 'Why me?'. If I can get over a situation as difficult as this, I can face any challenge life throws at me hereon," he said.

Currently working as a senior manager with the business services department at Vodafone, Santhumayor is now married and has a one-year-old son Adam. Even after his recovery, his right leg is about an inch shorter than the left and there is a significant portion of scar tissue left behind from the seven surgeries on his leg. And his injury has left him with a slight limp. Determined to not let the ordeal limit his life in any manner, he said, "Nothing ever prepares you for something like this. Today, I can say that we are over it. But there are people who have suffered worse injuries than mine and for some the damage has been irreversible. I, however, believe that time and a positive attitude can help heal the worst of injuries," he said before he hopped on to his bicycle and rode away.



lights, camera, action!

Behind-The-Scenes of the Shadow Play Production

The sixth of October will be remembered for a long time in our Parish. It is the day so many of our parishioners came together to put up a heart-touching performance. "A Gift from the Queen" was a shadow play that narrated the profound and sacred story of the Rosary. This grand production, executed completely by the parishioners, was an attempt to deepen the understanding of the Rosary's significance, portraying it not just as a prayer but as a divine gift from the Queen of Heaven to her devoted children. Here's a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes journey of how this production unfolded.

Week 1: Setting the Stage

Our journey began with the finalization of the script in September. Week 1 was dedicated to sculpting the narrative—fine-tuning, cutting excess, and adding dialogues to ensure engagement. Meanwhile, casting forms were dispatched, assembling a group of individuals enthusiastic about participating. In addition to assembling our cast, we worked on creating a preliminary draft that paired voices with shadows. This involved identifying actors whose voices suited particular roles and shadows that best represented the required characters. This meticulous planning set the stage for the subsequent weeks of intense preparation. In addition to assembling our cast, we worked on creating a preliminary draft that paired voices with shadows. This involved identifying actors whose voices suited particular roles and shadows that best represented the required characters. This meticulous planning set the stage for the subsequent weeks of intense preparation. To further enhance our understanding, we delved into the technical aspects, experimenting with a cloth and light to grasp the intricacies of shadow dynamics. This helped ensure that each shadow cast would deliver the desired visual impact on stage.

Week 2: Casting and Briefing

After reaching out to potential actors and voice artists and confirming their commitment, we officially kicked off our journey. The initial meeting was a crucial milestone, where we gathered our cast and briefed them on the entire story. This session provided a comprehensive understanding of their roles and set expectations for the upcoming weeks of intense practices. During this week, we also initiated the training of our voice artists. The goal was to immerse them in their characters, enabling them to feel the emotions behind the words and effectively convey them to the audience. In addition to voice training, we commenced practices without shadows. This approach provided a clearer understanding of the required actions for the actors, allowing them to familiarize themselves with the movements and gestures essential for their roles.



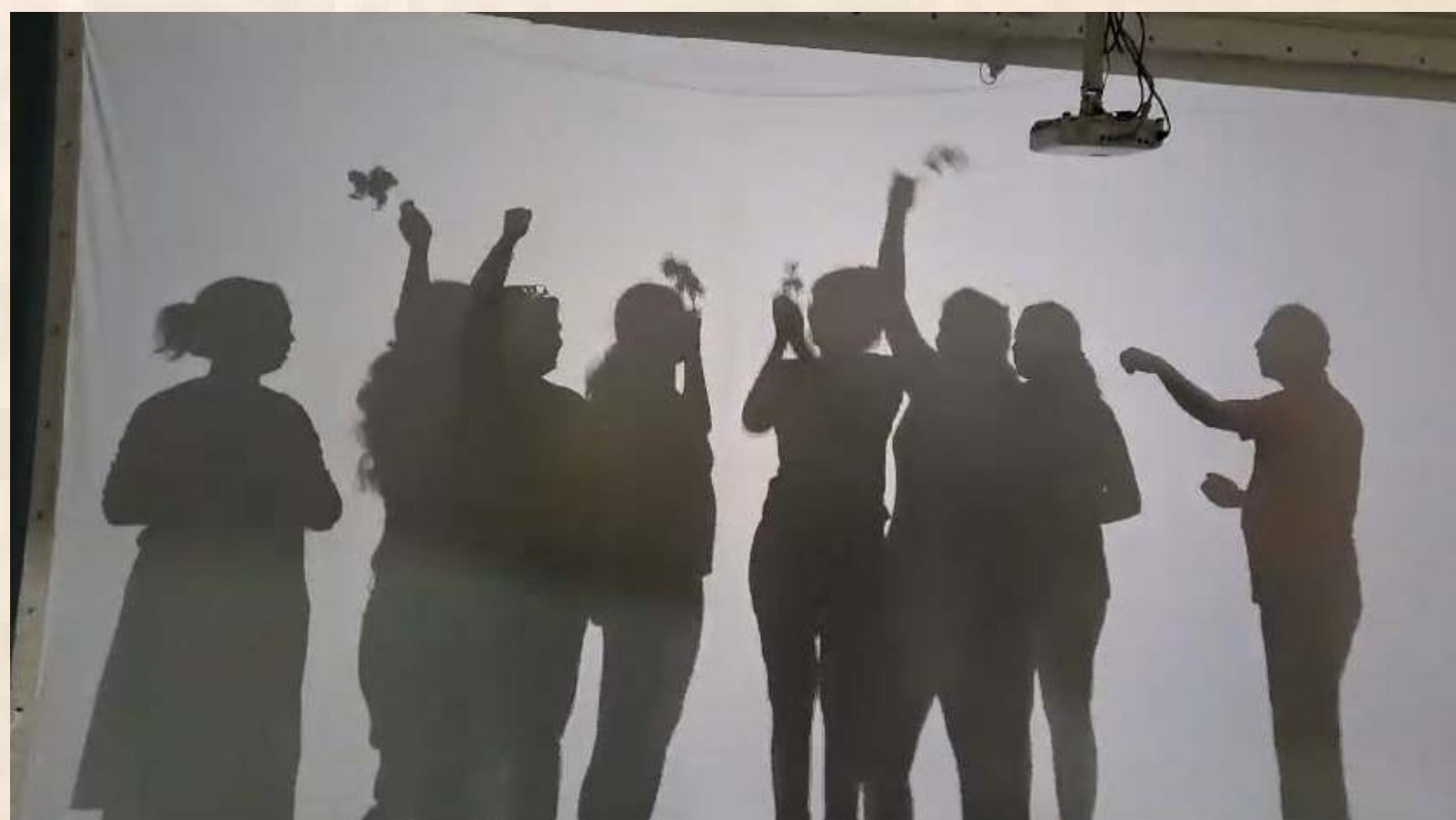
Week 3: Studio Recording and Audio Integration

In the third week, we had the voice artists come to the studio, where we recorded all voice artists using professional equipment. We recorded the smallest details too such as crowd murmurs and the chilling screams of children witnessing hell. The music was then integrated into this audio track. This week, our comprehensive audio track, a culmination of voices, sounds, and music, became the guiding force during rehearsals, allowing performers to synchronize with cues from either the music, narration, or dialogues. For instance, we had a soldier scene where all they had to do was march in and out, hence the reliance on music cues became particularly crucial for precise coordination. The production required manpower, although there were scenes as small as involving crowds walking in and out. While it might seem trivial to play such a small role, witnessing the grand picture of the entire play coming together highlighted the importance of even these seemingly minor contributions. To ensure efficient use of everyone's time, acts were carefully scheduled, with only specific scenes rehearsed on designated days.

Week 4: Apparitions and Costume Designing

As we entered the fourth week, the spotlight shifted to the visual elements that would bring historical richness to our shadow play. We were involved in capturing the ethereal essence of the apparitions. The apparition scenes were shot separately and then integrated into the main audio and video track. This allowed us to create a reverse image, with the screen now in black and shadows in white, enhancing the visual impact and providing a celestial quality to Mary's presence. We also worked on the integration of backgrounds for the scenes. These backgrounds played a pivotal role in transporting our audience to different time periods, adding layers of authenticity and context to our narrative. The meticulous selection of backgrounds was essential to ensure a seamless blend with the diverse timelines depicted in our play. Simultaneously, the costume team worked diligently to design outfits that accurately represented the distinct fashion of each time period. This process demanded extensive research to maintain authenticity and immerse the audience in the historical context. Additionally, props were crafted to complement the scenes, contributing to the overall depth of our historical narrative.





Week 5: Putting it all Together

This week, full-length rehearsals began, allowing us to fine-tune each act and ensure a smooth synchronization with the audio cues. This marked a crucial stage where the various components of our shadow play started coming together in harmony. In addition to full-length rehearsals, we conducted dress rehearsals that included props and costumes. This practical session aimed to understand the logistical aspects of our performance better. For instance, in the war scene, not only were the actors involved, but the backstage crew also played a crucial role in firing gunshots at each other and simulating collapses, all while ensuring everyone's safety. Two days before the main event, the actual screen was set up, and a run-through with the video track took place for the first time. This allowed the entire team, including the backstage crew, to understand the timing required for shifting props during the blank screens. The planning, dedication of our cast and crew, technical exploration, and guidance from our priests have come together to create a production that will go down in the history of Our Lady of the Rosary Church.





Now, let's hear from the key figures behind this remarkable production. Here's an inside look into their experiences, challenges faced, and the creative process that brought "A Gift from the Queen" to life.

Daniel Dias, Scriptwriter and Artistic Director:

What inspired you to choose the topic of the Rosary for the shadow play? How did the initial idea take shape?

"Having heard fragments of stories about the Rosary, from the apparitions to the feast of Our Lady, I realized the lack of a cohesive narrative. I knew about the different apparitions of Our Lady, about St. Dominic being given the rosary by Mary, but these narratives existed in bits and pieces. The idea took shape when I recognized the need for a sequential portrayal. With the approaching Rosary feast, I felt compelled to weave these narratives into a logical sequence, presenting them in a way that deeply resonates with the audience.

I'm not exaggerating when I say that I have genuinely witnessed the Rosary manifest miracles in my life. Crafting this narrative was an emotionally stirring experience, and there were moments when I found myself profoundly moved, occasionally pausing to reflect and contemplate the profound impact of these miraculous events. My sincere hope is that the audience was able to- at least in some way- experience what I experienced.



You served as the scriptwriter as well. Can you share insights into the storytelling choices, and how you approached depicting complex narratives through shadows?

As the scriptwriter and artistic director, I aimed to make the play visually gripping and emotionally touching, turning the history of the Rosary into a captivating experience. The challenge involved condensing multiple stories into one cohesive timeline and deciding what to keep or cut. To keep things engaging, I added dialogues, steering away from monotony. Additionally, the music and visuals had to match the scenes and evoke the required emotions, along with ensuring that every background picture matched seamlessly with the given time frame.

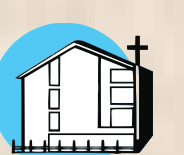
Alicia Dias, Director

As the director of the shadow play, what unique challenges did you face in bringing the script to life through visual storytelling?

"Directing the voice was one of the most captivating aspects for me. I've always been intrigued by the power of the voice and the flexibility required as a voice artist. Often, we downplay the role of the voice, failing to recognize that it, combined with music, breathes life into a performance. Narrating a line isn't just about saying it; you have to feel the essence, immerse yourself in the character, in order to evoke the intended emotions in your audience. The historical scenes from past centuries demanded more than just a contemporary interpretation; they required a journey back in time. For instance, directing the Battle of Lepanto, which presented a unique challenge. Initially assuming they could simply keep shooting, I was struck with the realization that there were no rifle guns back then. To authentically recreate the scene, I had to transport myself to that era, to ensure historical accuracy. When it came to figures instrumental in perpetuating the rosary, such as St. Dominic and Blessed Alan, where no cinematic references existed, I had to rely on my own creativity. Even when directing the apparitions and guiding the kids to react as if they were truly seeing Mary during every practice, was a beautiful experience.

Moreover, a shadow play is different from a normal play. It poses a challenge because in a traditional play, you can still look at facial expressions and subtle gestures. In a shadow play, everything has to be exaggerated, and through your body language alone, you have to convey your message. Besides conveying messages solely through body language, in a shadow play, you're heavily relying on actions. I remember in our first practice, the actors were trying to act out every single word, and from their perspective, it makes sense. But when viewed from an audience perspective, it's distracting and takes away the main message trying to be conveyed. All of that had to be kept in mind. So, it was quite a unique experience, and I thoroughly enjoyed the creative process.

Devotion to Mary has always been a personal inspiration. While many of us are taught to have a relationship with Jesus, I believe we often overlook the significance of cultivating a connection with Mary. I've witnessed firsthand the transformative power of Marian devotion in my life and the lives of those around me. If there's one thing I hope the audience took away from this, it's the invitation to develop a relationship with Mary. She hears, understands, and will always lead you to her son, Jesus."



Clarissa Alphonso, Production Coordinator

Managing the production must have been an intricate task. How did you coordinate the technical aspects, props, and actors to create a seamless performance?

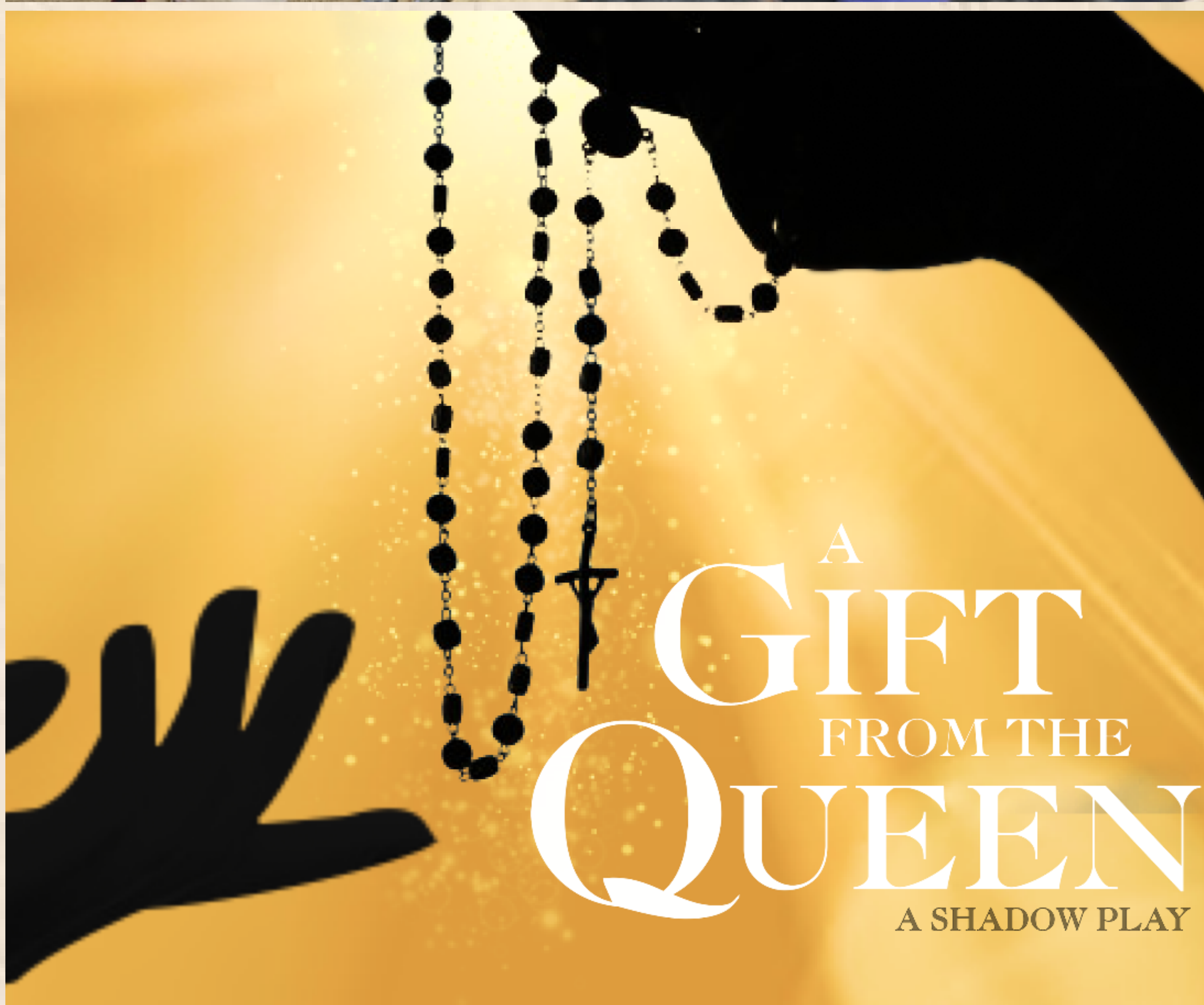
We were accustomed to school plays and college performances, but this venture was an entirely different experience. Coordinating the production was indeed a challenge, but it was a task I thoroughly enjoyed. Our director and producer provided clear guidance, knowing exactly what they wanted, yet remaining open to changes, fostering a collaborative team effort. Managing 50 actors, ensuring costumes and props, dealing with dropouts—all required strategic planning. Some actors dropped off, but with a personal touch, I managed to have some play double or triple roles. The artistic director's work, turning shadows into color, was truly remarkable. To ensure efficient time management for actors, I meticulously planned scenes, calling in specific actors for particular scenes on designated days. This strategic approach was essential for the smooth execution of the production. Teamwork was the key, and everyone proactively contributed to making it a success.

Shanti Monteiro, Head of the Costume Team

Recreating historical costumes must have been a fascinating task. How did you approach the challenge of dressing characters from different time periods?

"Recreating historical costumes proved to be a captivating yet challenging task. The internet became an invaluable resource, providing information and images to guide the process. When tasked with leading the team of costume artists, my joy was boundless. Despite initial challenges, my team and I transformed household articles into intricate outfits. I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to God's greater glory, and I appreciate the role my entire family played in this meaningful endeavor. Mother Mary has always had a special place in our hearts, and I truly thank God, for not only using me but my entire family for His greater Glory."





A Gift From The Queen

Presented by the Parishioners of
Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Dockyard
6th October, 2023

Screenplay and Artistic Direction: Daniel Dias

Directed by: Alicia Dias

Production Coordinator: Clarissa Alphonso

Production Assistants:

Vilbert Dsouza, Tania Gomes, Shirley Castellino

Video Recording and Editing:

Ben Ridge Carvalho

Actors:

Mary: Selma Pulical

Lay People:

Sr. Florina Joseph SCN, Russell Castellino, Valentine De Souza

St. Dominic: Desmond Baptista

Bl. Alan: Joe D'cruz

Children with Roses:

Rebecca Castellino, Eleanor Braz, Kaitlyn Anthony, Cassandra Anthony, Olan Vaz, Angel Vaz, Jake Fernandes

Turkish Emperor: Merwyn D'mello

Turkish Soldiers:

Desmond Baptista, Gerald Anthony, Jocelyn Pereira, Bosco Monteiro, Melvin Lobo, Virendra Kanojia

Christian Soldiers:

Vilbert Dsouza, Christopher Coutinho, Marc Rebello, Rommel Castellino, Cayden Rodrigues

Pope: Joe D'cruz

Jubilant People:

Analisa Dmello, Caroline Pearl Pereira, Sherlyn Pereira, Sr. Florina Joseph SCN, Russell Castellino, Valentine De Souza

Bernadette: Rebecca Castellino

Sister: Eleanor Braz

Friend :Kaitlyn Anthony

Crowd Accompanying Bernadette:

Analisa Dmello, Caroline Pearl Pereira, Sherlyn Pereira, Sr. Florina Joseph SCN, Virendra Kanojia, Gerald Anthony

Crowd for Candlelight Procession:

Cayden Rodrigues, Vilbert Dsouza, Rommel Castellino, Marc Rebello, Christopher Coutinho, Lisann Dias, Shanti Monteiro, Seriya Pereira, Gwen Oliver, Irene Nazareth, Rochelle Baptista

Pope: Merwyn D'mello

Lucia: Rebecca Monteiro

Jacinta: Eleanor Braz

Francisco: Reuben Monteiro

Mayor: Jocelyn Pereira

Sun Miracle Crowd:

Analisa Dmello, Caroline Pereira, Sherlyn Pereira, Sr. Florina Joseph SCN, Virendra Kanojia, Gerald Anthony, Melvin Lobo

Pope John Paul II: Valentine De Souza

Pope's Secretary: Russell Castellino

Pope's Bodyguards:

Gerald Anthony, Bosco Monteiro

Shooter: Christopher Coutinho

Catholic Family:

Christopher Coutinho, Seriya Pereira, Jake Fernandes, Eleanor Braz

Audio Recording and Editing: Ben Ridge Carvalho

Voice Artists:

Narrator Act 1: Vilbert Dsouza

Narrator Act 2: Irma Braz

Narrator Act 3: Fatima Noronha

Narrator Act 4: Rochelle Baptista

Mary: Myrtle De Souza

Jesus: Fr. Nigel Barrett

St Dominic: Ben Ridge Carvalho

Turkish Emperor: Vilbert Dsouza

Pope: Daniel Dias

Christian Soldier: Rommel Castellino

Lucia: Eleanor Braz

Jacinta: Alicia Dias

Francisco: Ben Ridge Carvalho

Mayor: Vilbert Dsouza

Crowd: Tania Gomes, Ben Ridge Carvalho, Alicia Dias

Sound Mixing: Daniel Dias

Lighting: Everton Fernandes and Team

Costume Team:

Shanti Monteiro, Seriya Pereira, Irene Nazareth, Gwen Oliver, Lisann Dias, Merwyn D'mello, Br. Edward Harris

Backstage Crew:

Tania Gomes, Shirley Castellino, Clarissa Alphonso, Lisann Dias

Backdrop Set Up:

Sailesh Kambli, Damaciano David Andrade

Special Thanks to:

Fr. Nigel Barrett, The CCC Recording Studio, Fr. Shavito Correia, Fr. Merwyn D'souza





We thank all those who have contributed articles and photographs to this newsletter. If you would like to contribute a story to the Parish Newsletter, please write to us at ourladyofrosarydockyard@gmail.com

