



"Like a deer that yearns for running streams so my soul longs for you my God."

REDEMPTRIST PARISH BULLETIN (Private Circulation only) Dec 2005 Vol. XII/4

## Attention! Christmas is coming.



It was nearing Christmas and a little boy of 5 was listening to a choir rehearsing Christmas Carols in Church. He turned to his father and asked: "Daddy, what does ignore mean?" The father replied: "It means to pay no attention. But what makes you ask this?" The boy said: "Daddy, those people are singing: "O, come let us ignore Him". The father was silent and started to think: How true! We are busy about the externals of this wonderful feast. Our minds are preoccupied with everything but Jesus. He is ignored. This is so evident in countries of the West with super markets already displaying a variety of Christmas items & people on the streets dressed in Santa outfits.

It could be that we don't actually ignore Him. Yet we take Him for granted. For so many of our Christians it is just the birth anniversary of Jesus. We go for our annual confession. Come to mass in feast day best. Pay our respects to the Infant Jesus at the Crib. Wish one another Merry Christmas on the 25<sup>th</sup> and for the rest of the week: 'Compliments of the season'. Its time we ask ourselves what exactly that phrase means? Would not "Blessings of the Season" be a truly Christian greeting? All this indicates that for most of us Christmas is a social feast.

As we have begun the season of Advent, our focus should be on the meaning of the Incarnation. Literally, the Son of God taking on human flesh. We ask ourselves, why? A true story will give us the answer: On a freezing Christmas eve a man sat before his warm fire place wondering why God should become human? Why be born in a stable? It's absurd. Suddenly, he hears a strange sound

outside. Going to the window he sees a number of snow geese flapping their wings in the deep snow. Having dropped out of a large flock migrating to a warmer climate, they had fallen down in exhaustion.

Moved to compassion, he went out and tried to shoo them into his warm garage but they only panicked as they wildly flapped their wings. How can I save them, he thought? If I could for a moment become a snow goose I would tell them in their own language that I want to save them.

A flash of inspiration and a warm smile crossed his face. The Christmas story no longer seemed absurd. He understood why God became a shivering infant lying in a manger. God became one-like-us to tell us in human language that he is concerned about our well-being. He wants to save us.

Our preparation for this absurd love of God should be first of all one of adoring wonder. We suggest that each of us reflects prayerfully on the daily Advent readings. Then, to open our hearts to His unspeak-able love. Drinking deeply of this love, we cannot but show His tremendous concern to everybody we come in contact with specially those who feel abandoned and lost like those geese. But, remember not just on the 25<sup>th</sup> but also all through the year because Christmas is everyday.

May Our Mother of Perpetual Succour help us to open our hearts, as she did, to the Word that it may become flesh in us.



-- Fr. Osie D'souza



## *Kuch Kuch Ho Raha Hai!* OLPS Community Happenings (September 2005 to November 2005)

- \* The month of September was very special for the entire Parish Community, the reason being the induction of our new Parish team in a special ceremony by Bishop Agnelo Gracias. The Responsibles of all the 22 Small Christian Communities participated in this great celebration. We were also proud to welcome our new Parish Team, Fr. Paul Julius as the Parish Priest and Frs. Aldrin (Assistant Parish Priest), Osie D'Souza & Edgar Morera (Resident Co-pastors).
- \* Many communities had the Presentation of the Lord's Prayer for their Confirmation Candidates. One Community celebrated Mass at the Sevadaan. A beautiful Gospel sharing was conducted by Fr. Franklin Lobo for another.
- \* In October, the Daily Mass in the Church was preceded by a Rosary conducted by each community all through the month. Besides, some communities had Our Lady's Statue taken in procession from home to home.
- \* Some communities also prayed the Rosary in their homes and concluded with the Eucharistic Celebration at the end of the month. One community had a special celebration for their member who turned 75.
- \* In November, one of the first things the new Parish Team did was to get better acquainted with the communities. A priest has been assigned for each zone and they have begun their visits to homes. One of the communities celebrated the Eucharist and got acquainted with their zonal priest Fr. Edgar Morera.
- \* One of the communities organized and conducted a programme for children on the occasion of Children's Day on 14th November.
- \* Holy Hour for the month of September, October & November was conducted by the appointed communities on the First Friday of the month.

*Wilson U. Patrao*

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### *Things God Won't Ask.*

*God won't ask what kind of car you drove,  
He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.*

*God won't ask the square footage of your house,  
He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.*

*God won't ask what your highest salary was,  
He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.*

*God won't ask what your job title was,  
He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.*

*God won't ask how many friends you had,  
He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.*

*God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived,  
He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.*

*God won't ask why it took you so long to seek salvation,  
He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.*



## The Real Twelve Days of CHRISTmas

*(This can be sung to the tune of "Twelve days of Christmas")*

On the first day of CHRISTmas, JESUS gave to me Salvation full and free.

On the second day of Christmas, JESUS gave to me Everlasting life, and Salvation full and free.

On the third day of CHRISTmas, JESUS gave to me Peace in my Heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the fourth day of CHRISTmas, JESUS gave to me Love for all men; Peace in my heart, Everlasting life, and Salvation full and free.

On the fifth day of CHRISTmas, JESUS gave to me Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the sixth day of CHRISTmas, JESUS gave to me Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the seventh day of CHRISTmas, JESUS gave to me A Body Glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

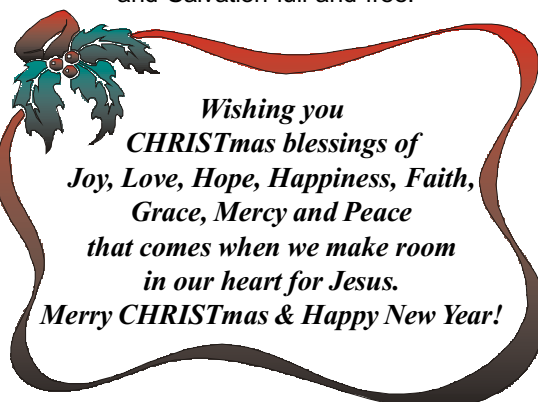
On the eighth day of CHRISTmas, JESUS gave to me A Robe and a Crown, A Body Glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the ninth day of CHRISTmas, JESUS gave to me Mansions above, A Robe and a Crown, A body Glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the tenth day of CHRISTmas, JESUS gave to me Streets of pure gold, Mansions above, A Robe and a Crown, A Body Glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the eleventh day of CHRISTmas, JESUS gave to me A thousand songs to sing, Streets of pure gold, Mansions above, A Robe and a Crown, A Body Glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting Life, and Salvation full and free.

On the twelfth day of CHRISTmas,  
JESUS gave to me  
Eternity that's free  
A thousand songs to sing,  
Streets of pure gold,  
Mansions above,  
A Robe and A Crown,  
A Body Glorified,  
Power from on high,  
Joy for my soul,  
Love for all men,  
Peace in my heart,  
Everlasting life  
and Salvation full and free!



*Wishing you  
CHRISTmas blessings of  
Joy, Love, Hope, Happiness, Faith,  
Grace, Mercy and Peace  
that comes when we make room  
in our heart for Jesus.  
Merry CHRISTmas & Happy New Year!*

*- Contributed by a Parishioner*



## The OLPS Parish Team

Familiar faces once again in OLPS parish:  
Do you know who's who?

\* **Fr. Gregory Noronha**

*Regional Superior of Goa, Mangalore, Mumbai and Vasai.*

*Rector of the Redemptorist community in Chembur.*

He was earlier in our parish, as Assistant Parish Priest. Popularly known as Fr. Greg, he was a dynamic co-ordinator of the youth movement in OLPS parish. With his skills and friendly nature, he has always had an excellent rapport with people.

\* **Fr. Paul Julius**

*Parish Priest of OLPS Church and Consulter to the Regional Superior*

Fr. Paul was earlier in our parish as Assistant Parish Priest. We look forward to his great organized leadership in OLPS parish.

\* **Fr. Aldrin Nunes**

*Assistant Parish Priest*

Fr. Aldrin was assigned to our parish during his Pastoral year. He has a great love for music. He started in full swing with a Holiday camp held from 3rd to 9th November 2005.

\* **Fr. Osie D'souza**

*Resident Priest*

Fr. Osie was our Parish Priest and Assistant Parish Priest earlier. His hobbies are music and working on the computer.

\* **Fr. Edgar Moreira**

*Resident Priest*

Fr. Edgar was Assistant Parish Priest and Parish Priest some years ago. He was very popular with the young and old. He has the distinction of having been the first Indian Parish Priest of OLPS Church, Chembur after the Irish Fathers returned to Ireland.

\* **Fr. Frankie Menezes**

*Mission staff*

Fr. Frankie is an excellent orator and his public speaking classes are well known in India. Fr. Frankie has worked very hard to serve his congregation in several programmes, in all his years of faithful service and dedication.

\* **Fr. Franklin Lobo**

*Mission staff*

Fr. Franklin was earlier our Assistant Parish Priest and Parish Priest. Fr. Franklin specializes in conducting Inner Healing retreats. He has helped the Charismatic movement to flourish in our Parish.

\* **Fr. James D'costa**

*Manager of OLPS School*

Fr. James is a very sincere and hardworking priest and was Assistant Parish Priest some years ago. He is an accomplished artist and will be a good organizer in the school.

Our Parish is eager and looking forward to interacting and co-operating with all the priests who will aim at deepening our Christian commitment.

-- *Celia Nazareth*

*(contd on pg 5)*



Following are the SCCs and Parish Associations which will be in the charge of each priest:

<b>Rev. Fr. Paul Julius</b>		
<b>Small Christian Communities (Office Days – Monday &amp; Saturday)</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Areas</b>
1)	St. Anthony	Amir Baug
2)	St. Francis of Assisi	Assisi Nagar, Gautam Nagar & Limboni Baug, Lokhande Marg, Shri Nagar
3)	Morning Star	Marathi Group from Santhosh Nagar, Gautam Nagar, Limboni Baug, Saibaba Nagar & Siddharth Colony.
4)	Shellites	Shell Colony, Sahakar Nagar, Thakkar Bappa.
5)	Harmony	Madhugiri, Atur Park, Maitri Park, Fair Lawn, Bharat Tirth, Panaroma, Sunder Apts, Maska Chawl, Dreamland, Gulab Baug, Chadwa Apartments & Borla Society.
6)	Sangam (Fr. James D'Costa)	Khardeo Nagar, Santosh Nagar, Ghatla, Moti Baug, Dukes & Amar Nagar
<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>		
1)	Bombay Catholic Sabha	
2)	Grace Age	
3)	Sunday School	

<b>Rev. Fr. Aldrin Nunes</b>		
<b>Small Christian Communities (Office Days – Wednesday)</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Areas</b>
1)	Good Shepherd	Subhash Nagar - Building No. 1 - 15
2)	Archangels	Subhash Nagar – Building No. 16 – 27, 29 & 30
3)	Madonna	Subhash Nagar – Building No. 36 – 46.
4)	Disciples	Subhash Nagar - Building No. 31 – 35, 47 – 56, 28 & Saraswati Colony
5)	St. Francis Xavier	Chembur Camp (R.C. Barracks & Old Barracks)
6)	Perpetual Resort	Perpetual Resort
<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>		
1)	Legion of Mary (Juniors) – Our Lady Queen of Angels.	
2)	Altar Boys.	
3)	Youth Group.	
4)	Confirmation	

(contd on pg 6)



### Rev. Fr. Edgar Morera

#### Small Christian Communities (Office Days – Tuesday & Friday)

No.	Community	Areas
1)	Jeevan Prakash	13 <sup>th</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> Roads, Station Road, Khandari Colony, N.G. Acharya Marg.
2)	Tamil Seva Sangam	Tembe Nagar & Saibaba Nagar
3)	Crusaders	Cross Roads, Gaothan, 15 <sup>th</sup> Road, Kamlesh Bhavan, Manohar Villa, Postal Colony, BARC, Sarvodaya & Gama Grandeur
4)	Ave Maria	Convent View, Waman Apartments, New Borla, Sangam Apartments & Lotus
5)	Divine Providence	Swastik, Shivpuri, Apurva, Sindhi Society & Chembur Naka
6)	Our Lady of Victories	Twinkle Star, Seema Society, Green Fields, Uttam Society, Sai Nagar, Sachatma, Mumbadevi, Harikripa & Sainidhi.

#### ASSOCIATIONS

- 1) Ladies Confraternity
- 2) St. Vincent de Paul

### Rev. Fr. Osie D'Souza

#### Small Christian Communities (Office Days – Thursday & Sunday)

No.	Community	Areas
1)	Emmanuel	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Roads, Marian Mansion & Ed-el
2)	Stars	St. Anthony's Road (South) & R.B.I. Quarters
3)	Torch Bearers	St. Anthony's Road (North), Central Avenue & 5 <sup>th</sup> Road.
4)	Dilkhush	14 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> Rds, Emma Towers & Anchorage

#### ASSOCIATIONS

- 1) Hope & Life Movement
- 2) Legion of Mary (Senior most) – Mother of the Afflicted
- 3) Legion of Mary (Senior) – Our Lady Refuge of Sinners
- 4) Perpetual Quest

### Rev. Fr. Franklin Lobo

#### ASSOCIATIONS

- 1) Charismatic Group



## Christmas Word Game - True message of Christmas

(The answers are hidden in the grid)



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



\_\_\_\_\_ was born in Bethlehem in a \_\_\_\_\_ as there was no room at the local inn. His parents were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The good news was brought to the \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_. He was born during the reign of King \_\_\_\_\_. Subsequently, three \_\_\_\_\_ from the East came to pay him homage.

Christmas brings us the message of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We decorate our homes at Christmas with a \_\_\_\_\_ as a symbol of Jesus being born in our hearts. We sing \_\_\_\_\_ to spread peace, cheer & happiness in the neighborhood. Traditionally, \_\_\_\_\_ brings us gifts during the Christmas season.

*(This Word game is open for children below the age of 12. Rush in your responses soon. The winners will be informed in the next issue of the Perpetual Quest)*

In the September 2005 issue of the 'Perpetual Quest', there was a quiz based on the books of the Bible. The answers to that quiz are given below:

*I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a **lulu**, **kept** people **looking** so hard for the **facts**... and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam** especially since they names of the books were not capitalized. The **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others it was a real **job**. We want it to **a most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes, there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others will require **judges** to help them. I will quickly **admit, it usually** takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of team so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **pete**. **Relax** now for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.*

*If I **chose** another sentence or two, maybe you can post them **at the water cooler**.*

Winners of this Bible Quiz are:

- 1) Marielou Mendonza from St. Anthony's Road.
- 2) Shijoy Joseph from Subhash Nagar.
- 3) Shenil Vincent from Subhash Nagar.

Please collect your prizes from the Parish office.



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## For this I was born (Jn18:37)

“So, you are a king?” – Pilate.

Jesus: “For this I was born, for this have I come into the world...”

Dear Reader, have you made Jesus the Lord of your life, of your household? As you stand in reverent awe before the Crib at Christmas, hear Jesus say exclusively to you, “Who do you say I am?”

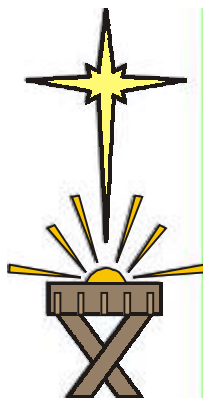
The Patriarchs of old, and the Chosen people (Israel) had very grand ideas of how the Promised Messiah would appear. The Psalmist David in Psalm 24/7 prays, “Fling wide the gates, open the ancient doors, and the Great King will come in” Can you sense the hope and deep aspirations in his plaint?

But everything about Jesus is remarkably unostentatious. His very entrance on planet Earth is effected quietly and obscurely in Nazareth, “from where nothing good can come”; with a mother who is a village girl, betrothed to a carpenter. His debut into public life was launched by John, who said rather cryptically “Behold the Lamb of God.”

They recognized Him not – why? Neither at the start of His public life, nor later when He was speaking “as no man has ever spoken before”, and working miracles which “no man could work except if God be with Him.”

Why did they fail to recognize Him?

For one thing, He did not launch His public life in the way in which the narrow national pride of the Pharisees had imagined the Messiah would appear; nor had He sought any training at their hands, and He kept aloof from them though He acknowledged their



official standing; they felt outrivalled and resented it. We are often turned off by what we do not understand – the unknown.

Even today Jesus remains the great Unobtrusive One and therefore is unrecognized. “Behold, in the midst of you (still stands) one whom you know not.” If not as an object of contempt or hatred, He still stands totally unknown to the majority of men. Not as He did at the Jordan in His own Person, He stands there not

in His mystical Body, the Church with all the holiness of her sacraments certainly, but with all the defects and deficiency of all her members.

We should ask ourselves why He is unknown, why do we not make Him known enough, not bear enough witness unto Him, by the Holiness of our lives and in particular by the practice of what He called the distinctive mark of His followers – brotherly love. Whenever we fail to give Him this testimony of holiness and brotherly love, there arises scores of other witnesses of that unknown one “prince of this world” whose kingdom is one of deceit and brutal force.

“It is I”. We have to see Him in all the events of our life, some good, some not so good. He comes to us in trials, failures, bereavements too, and we know Him not. Yet it is He who ever disposes all things to one end, that of drawing nearer to us and drawing us closer to Him. When we realize this truth we shall truly ‘see’ and be set free.

Peace and Joy of Christ be yours.  
Shalom,

-- *Ena Carvalho*





## Area-wise Carol Singing

Day & Date	Venue – 1	Venue – 2	Venue – 3
Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Our Lady of Victories	Ave Maria Sangam Morning Star	
Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Stars	Perpetual Resort	Torch Bearers
Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	St. Francis Xavier	Divine Providence	
Sunday, 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Shellites OLPS Sevasangam	St. Francis of Assisi	
Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Harmony	Crusaders	
Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Emmanuel Jeevan Prakash Dilkhush	Disciples Madonna Archangels Good Shepherd St. Anthony	

- \* The Community co-ordinators are requested to inform Fr. Aldrin about the venue in advance in order to inspect the venue for any necessary arrangements.
- \* To send one representative from the community at 7.30 p.m. to take the carol singers to the venue.
- \* Fr. Aldrin's Cell No. 982 017 0438

### **Very Important Announcement**

ANY CEMETERY RELATED ACTIVITY SUCH AS  
MAKING ARRANGEMENT FOR NICHE OR  
EXHUMATION SHOULD BE ROUTED  
THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE ONLY.



## Christmas Programme

### PENITENTIAL SERVICE

#### Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday

6.40 p.m. Prayer Service.  
Confessions outside the Church  
7.00 p.m. Mass as usual

*Please note : Confessions for school children will be held during school hours.*

#### Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday

6.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. ) Confessions  
8.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. )

#### Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, Monday to Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Friday

5.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. ) Confessions  
7.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. )

#### Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday

##### No Evening Mass

##### Christmas Service (Midnight)

Carol singing at 10.00 pm followed by Christmas Service on the grounds.

#### Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, Sunday

Christmas Day Masses  
7.30, 8.30, 9.30 and 10.30 a.m  
No Evening Mass.

#### Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, Saturday

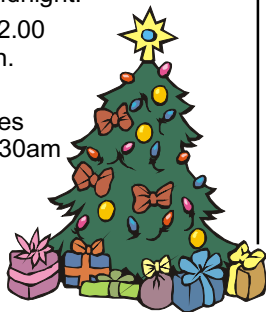
##### No Evening Mass

Thanksgiving hour by Charismatic Group:  
11.00 p.m. to 12.00 Midnight.

New Year's Mass at 12.00  
Midnight in the Church.

#### Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday

New Year's Day Masses  
7.30, 8.30, 9.30 & 10.30am  
No Evening Mass.



## A Double Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee

Fifty years ago on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1955, **Francis Menezes** and **Patrick Walsh** gave themselves to work for God in the Redemptorist order. So, on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2005, OLPS Parish went all out to honor the 2 jubilarians with a concelebrated Mass and an entertainment provided by the parishioners and the Redemptorist community.

Fr. Frankie and Fr. Patrick stand out in their missionary zeal and work in God's kingdom – one as God's orator, the other as God's minstrel. Both heard God's call in a mission experience and both met at Bangalore to say, "Yes" to God. Both acknowledge that they owe their vocations to strong, devout, encouraging Christian homes. Both worked as a team that preached effective missions weaving song and sermon into an inspiring experience.

Fr. Patrick, from Ireland traveled all over India for 44 years as preacher, assistant parish priest and parish priest in various Redemptorist parishes. He has picked up several Indian languages and has even given missions in Hindi. He loves India with its rich heritage and looks back on his 44 years in our country with fondness and pride.

Fr. Frankie as the distinction of being the first Redemptorist from Bombay. He is well known as an outstanding preacher and has initiated pastoral communication in India, always aiming for excellence. He has won accolades abroad for his flawless English and oratory. He established 'REACH' – Redemptorist Academy for Homeletics - to train seminarians and priests in delivering sermons. In 1998, he started his popular courses in Leadership and personality development through public speaking.

We thank God for having given our parish the opportunity to honor these 2 fine Redemptorists on the occasion of their 50 years in His service.

*- Adapted from Mary Joseph's tribute.*

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