

# Perpetual WEST

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

REDEMPTORIST PARISH BULLETIN (Private Circulation only) Oct 2004 Vol. XI/3

## *When Dreams Come True !!*

**Ps 126:1-2.** "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." Alleluia!!

How many of us can say "The Lord has done great things for Me, and I am glad". To be able to say this we must believe that Jesus has indeed restored us our inheritance. We must believe we are saved; that Christ has died and is risen; that He has conquered Satan, sickness, sin and death and we are free and are reinstated in our fellowship with God our Father.

Whether we feel this grace of redemption in our spirit or not, does not negate the fact that we are redeemed. The Prodigal Son knew where his Father's house was, he also knew the fact of his sonship, but only when he put action to that equation of faith could he set in motion his reinstatement and his restoration to sonship. That Christ paid the price by his death and set us free, is an indisputable truth, whether or not we feel it, or experience that freedom.

Our salvation is "*faith accompli*", an accomplished fact and nothing can change, diminish or wipe it away. Praise the Lord!

One can imagine the ecstasy of Zion, so great was their amazement and wonder at their restoration

*(contd. on pg2)*

## *Letter from GOD*

As you got up this morning, I watched you, and hoped you would talk to me, even if "just a few words", asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday. But you were too busy, trying to find the right outfit to wear.

When you ran round the house getting ready, I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello, but you were too busy to do so. At one point for 15 minutes you had nothing to do – you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip.

I noticed that before lunch you looked around, and I thought maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, that is why you didn't bow your head. You glanced three or four tables over and you noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate, but you didn't. But there is still more time left, and I hope that you will talk to me yet.

You went home and after a few chores you turned on the television set. I waited patiently again as you watched TV and ate your meal, but again you didn't talk to me. Bedtime I guess you felt too tired. After you said good night to your family you got into bed and promptly fell asleep... You know, I've got patience, more than you will ever know.

I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, prayer or thought. It is hard to have a one-sided "conversation". Well, you are getting up once again. And once again I will wait, with nothing but love for you. Hoping that today you will give me some time.

Have a nice day!



*When Dreams Come True !!* (contd from pg 1)

that, "We are like those who dream..." and "their mouth was filled with laughter." Sarah laughed when she heard she could bear a son. Another impossible dream come true; another instance of restoration and exultation in laughter. After all, our God is the GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE.

Laughter is actually a more serious issue than we think. It is the joy welling up inside us and exploding in our mouth. It is a testimony of deliverance, joy, and fulfillment of freedom. "The joy of the Lord is my strength." It is a witness to the Spirit of the Lord living inside us. We hear so little laughter these days. When did you last laugh? Don't let the pressures and problems or circumstances of life get you down.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The best witness was the sound of their laughter. Sound is something you cannot deny. At a party the sound of music and laughter infects all, even the very glum and sick people forget themselves.

When we fail to exude joy, when laughter is forgotten and stilled, we fail to exalt God in our lives. Yes, there will be trials. God has not promised to eradicate problems, poverty, sickness and a host of evils that descend on us. The righteous will be put to the test, but God always provides a way out and grace to endure. At the same time, we need

to en-courage laughter and joy, or we will feel defeated and begin to believe God has deserted or punished us. cf Jer 29/11. God has a special plan and purpose for every human he creates, no two plans are alike.

We wear or carry a cross in our pockets as a reminder of who we are. It can act like a plumb line to our actions, character, and life style. It will definitely protect us and even deliver us from evil. I once read that "a Christian signed with the cross, need not fear to walk in the dark." **Signed** not wearing. It could denote the genuineness of that person's Christianity / faith, a follower of Christ and a disciple in the true sense of the word.

Considering the importance of laughter on the spiritual plane, laughter besides is a tonic even for our physical bodies because it releases tension in ourselves and in others. It actually activates the bodily functions and arrests the pace of ageing, debilitating illnesses like ulcers, heart diseases, indigestion and a host of others. Wrinkles?

Make this your RULE:  
"Sufficient unto this day is the evil thereof".  
Mt. 6:34.  
– **Don't be anxious**  
"joy comes with the morning."  
Ps 30:5

*Ena Carvalho*

*Your Life is Jesus to Someone*

**YOUR LIFE** is Jesus to someone,  
though tattered and torn it may be.  
Though often times weak and unstable,  
you're all of God someone will see.

**YOUR TONGUE** is Jesus to someone.  
That idle, insensitive word  
reflects to at least one searching heart  
an idle, insensitive Lord.

**YOUR GOALS** are Jesus to someone.  
What you put first, they believe  
are the goals of God for the Christian.  
Your life is all they receive.

**YOUR FAITHFULNESS** that's Jesus to someone.  
Their judgment of how God is true,  
rests unquestionably in the faithfulness  
they see day by day in you.

**YOUR LOVE** is Jesus to someone—  
that someone who is seeking to know  
that Jesus will follow and guide and  
befriend wherever in life they might go.

**SO BEWARE** lest others blaspheme  
God by what you say or do,  
for the only Jesus that someone knows  
is the Jesus they see in you.

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## Appeal to join The Bombay Catholic Sabha

The Bombay Catholic Sabha is the Archdiocesan approved organization of Catholics residing in the Archdiocese of Bombay. The objectives of the Sabha are to promote socio-cultural, political, economic, educational and general welfare of the Catholics in Mumbai. In the highly politicized and polarized situation in the country, it has become all the more necessary that Catholics, as a minority in Mumbai, unite by becoming members of the Sabha. In the matter of representation before the civic and government authorities, numbers count. Although we have succeeded in reaching an overall membership of 35,000, which is hardly 10% of the adult Catholic population. Cardinal Ivan Dias, Archbishop of Bombay having realized the need and situation, has appealed to all Catholics above 18 years of age to become members of the Bombay Catholic Sabha. The Life membership fee is only Rs. 110. All members above 18 years of age are, therefore, requested to become members of the Sabha and not limit membership to one member per family.

The Sabha has been in the forefront of socio-economic, civic, political and cultural activities for all the 15 years of its existence. The Sabha has played a pro-active role in many issues concerning the community at the Central and Unit level. On issues like attacks on Churches, religious institutions, School Principals at the time of admission, issues at the Seepz Church, Mulund cemetery, and many others the Sabha has played an effective role in protecting the community's interest. Several initiatives on health, education, marriage alliance, employment bureau, etc. have been part of the regular activities at the Centre as well as at various Units.

We earnestly solicit your support in our efforts in building a better tomorrow. Enroll as a member soon. Those who are already registered members of the Sabha must help enroll other family members & neighbour as members of the Sabha.

*George Kurian*

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## Health Cell - Mobile Dental Clinic

The Health Cell of the Parish has been operating for some time now in co-ordination with the Parish Unit of the Bombay Catholic Sabha, Society of Vincent de Paul, our Parish Priest, Fr. Anthony Cardozo and some doctors attending to the health needs of the poor and needy.

This additional and beneficial activity of "Dental check-up and treatment" at a very low cost has started operating in the Parish. The Health Promotion Trust of the Archdiocese of Bombay has provided an air-conditioned mobile health van with dental check-up and treatment facilities, stationed at Holy Cross Church, Kurla. Mr. George Kurian who learnt about the availability of this mobile health unit presented the information to the Parish unit of the Bombay Catholic Sabha. The van was booked for providing the facility at our Parish on Mondays from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Dr. Jeevan Mathai, Dentist, is attending to all patients. The Bombay Catholic Sabha, Parish unit, with Dr. Joaquim Rodrigues, agreed to handle the project, and on the initiatives taken by our Parish Priest, Fr. Anthony Cardozo, Dr. Joaquim Rodrigues and others, about 24 parishioners volunteered to work for the scheme. The team visited the Holy Cross Parish to study the working of the mobile dental clinic.

This "Clinic" was inaugurated on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2004 at Sevadaan by the Health Cell Co-ordinator, Mr. Ben Coutinho, Secretary, Mrs. Hyacinth D'Souza and others. Roughly 20 patients are attended to on a single day. The registration fee is Rs. 20/- which is a one time payment. The cost of treatment for **each** complaint is only Rs. 25/-. Different charges have been fixed for various major treatments. The rates are comparatively very low and affordable. Patients who cannot afford even this low payment, will be subsidised of by the Bombay Catholic Sabha, OLPS Parish Unit, Vincent de Paul Society and the Parish Priest.

We intend to establish a Medical Centre in the Parish under the Health Promotion Trust of the Archdiocese of Bombay. This will take care of all the health needs of the poor and the needy. The cooperation of all the parishioners is sought for the successful functioning of the Scheme.

*George Kurian*



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# YOUTHINK

The OLPS Parish Youth are back with a bang.....

Last year was a phenomenal experience! We never knew there were so many of us and that we were capable of creating such a big event. Now it is a movement!

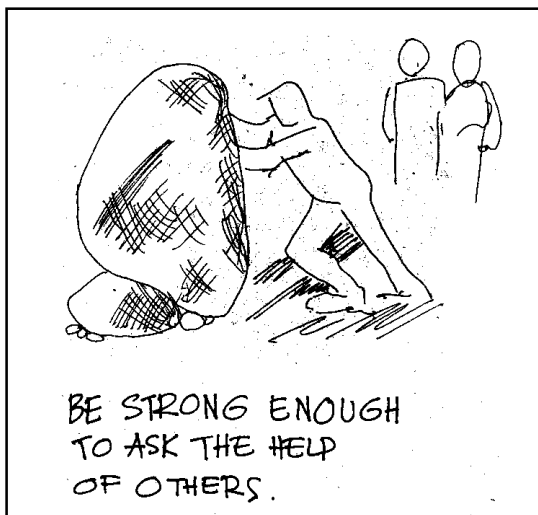
The whole of last year has helped us really understand that our strengths were held together because of one aspect of our daily life, which is being athletic and actively involved in sports. Now we want to share....

This Year's coming events:

\* October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>  
Basketball Tournament  
(OLPS Quadrangle)

\* November 21<sup>st</sup>  
Youthink presents *Sports & the Spirit*

Be there or be **"Sponge Bob Square Pants".....**



## *Making your troubles go away....*

A professor began his class by holding up a glass with some water in it.

He held it up for all to see and asked the students, 'How much do you think this glass weighs?'

50gms! ... 100gms! ....125gms .... the students answered.

'I really don't know unless I weigh it', said the professor, but my question is: 'What would happen if I held it up like this for a few minutes?'

'Nothing' the students said 'Ok what would happen if I held it up like this for an hour?' the professor asked. 'Your arm would begin to ache' said one of the students. 'You're right'. 'Now what would happen if I held it for a day?'

'Your arm could go numb, you might have severe muscle stress and paralysis and have to go to hospital for sure!' ventured other students and all the students laughed.

'Very good. But during all this, did the weight of the glass change?' asked the professor.

'No.' 'Then what caused the arm ache & the muscle stress?' The students were puzzled.

'Put the glass down!' said one of the students.

'Exactly!' said the professor. 'Life's problems are something like this.

Hold them for a few minutes in your head and they seem OK. Think of them for a long time and they begin to ache. Hold it even longer and they begin to paralyze you. You will not be able to do anything. It's important to think of the challenges (problems) in your life, but **EVEN MORE IMPORTANT** to 'put them down' at the end of every day before you go to sleep. That way, you are not stressed, you wake up every day fresh and strong and can handle any issue, any challenge that comes your way!'

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## Confirmation Catechism in our Parish

The New confirmation catechesis serves the objective of involving the youth in the Small Christian Community (SCC) along with their parents.

With a little thought and insight, the new approach in the confirmation catechesis will be able to restore to the church, the whole hearted participation of the youth in church activities. In our parish the candidates for confirmation are the 11<sup>th</sup> Std. students. These are youngsters just out of school and on the threshold of college life and so they are at a very impressionable age, full of life and activity.

There are 10 services during the confirmation catechesis, which involve the active participation of parents, god-parents, elders, parish council members, SCC animators and the SCC itself. Five of these sessions are at the SCC level to which the candidate belongs, while the other five are in the church. Arranging for these services, compels the SCC animators to visit, interact and get involved with these youth and their families. The youth, and very often their parents too, who never otherwise got involved with the SCCs, are now brought to the SCC, out of a need. These needs can be exploited fruitfully, with the right attitude on the part of the SCC animators. These prayer services can become a launching pad for the youngsters. An intelligent handling of these meetings or services can influence the youth and make them feel comfortable with the concept of the SCC, from which they seem to have been running away. Having been now associated with the SCC it gives a view point about the functioning of the SCC and its worth.

In most of the SCCs in our parish, the confirmation candidates have already been absorbed into the SCC core teams. Some of them are doing excellent work already. By and by they have to take over the running of the SCC themselves. We are thus forming the second line of leaders. In some groups the core team even consists of a youth group. 15 year olds are full of fun and energy. Hence handling them delicately and wisely without over burdening them with tasks, would help them join the SCC happily. Along with the older members, let the youth just get the feel of the SCC right now.

Mary Joseph

## The Building Programme

Ten Little Christians, standing in a line,  
One disliked the parish priest,  
then there were nine.

Nine little Christians stayed up very late,  
One slept too late on Sunday,  
then there were eight.

Eight little Christians on their way to Heaven,  
One took the low road, then there were seven.

Seven little Christians chirping hymns  
like some chicks,  
One disliked the music, then there were six.

Six little Christians seemed very much alive,  
One lost his interest then there were five.

Five little Christians pulling for heaven's shore,  
one stopped to rest, then there were only four.

Four little Christians, each busy as a bee  
One got her feelings hurt, then there were three.

Three little Christians knew not what to do,  
One joined the sporting crowd,  
then there were two.

Two little Christians, our rhyme is nearly done,  
Differed with each other, then there was one.

One little Christian, can't do much 'tis true;  
Brought his friend to Bible study —  
then there were two.

Two earnest Christians, each won one more,  
That doubled the number, then there were four.

Four sincere Christians worked early and  
worked late,  
Each won another, then there were eight.

Eight splendid Christians,  
if they doubled as before,  
In just a few short weeks, we'd have 1,024

In this little jingle, there is a lesson true,  
You either belong to The Building,  
Or to the Wrecking Crew!



## How to Make a Good Confession

**What is CONFESSION?** Confession is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ in His love and mercy to offer to sinners forgiveness for the offences committed against God and neighbour. At the same time, sinners reconcile with the Church because it also is wounded by our sins. We know this sacrament by various names; the Sacrament of Penance, Confession or Reconciliation.

This is good news to all of us, because we all are sinners and in need of God's forgiveness. In the Sacrament of Penance, we meet Christ in the person of the priest, ready and eager to absolve us and restore us to new life. We confess our sins to God through the minister, the priest, who absolves us in the name of Christ.

**Why should we confess?** The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing and a sacrament of conversion, returning us to the Father after our sinful condition. Those aware of committing a mortal sin must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving Holy Communion.

The Church also encourages us to go to confession more frequently, if possible, in order that we might deepen our relationship with God & neighbour and grow in humility and virtue.

Through the sacrament, we also receive the grace to help us avoid future sin (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1458).

### THREE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

Three acts are required from the penitent for forgiveness through the sacrament. These are contrition, confession and satisfaction.

Contrition is sincere sorrow for having offended God; the most important act of the penitent. There can be no forgiveness of sin if we do not have sorrow and a firm resolve to not repeat our sin.

Confession requires confronting our sins in a profound way before God by acknowledging them aloud to a priest.

Satisfaction is the "penance" the priest imposes on the penitent to make amends for sin, an important part of our healing.

Confession is not difficult, but it does require preparation. We should begin with a prayer, placing ourselves in the presence of God, our loving Father. We seek healing and forgiveness through repentance and a resolve to sin no more. Then we review our lives since our last confession, searching our thoughts, words and actions that did not conform to

God's love, to His law or to the laws of the Church. This review is called an "examination of conscience."

To make an examination of conscience, we should:

- \* Begin with a prayer asking for God's help.
- \* Review our lives with the help of some guiding questions (see following article).
- \* Tell God we are truly sorry for our sins.
- \* Make a firm resolution to avoid sin.

### STEPS IN THE RITE

The penitent can go to confession privately behind a screen, or face-to-face with a priest.

1. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross and greeting the priest: "Bless me Father, for I have sinned."
2. Then continue: "My last confession was...." (state how many weeks, months or years ago).
3. Confess your sins to the priest. He will help you make a good confession. If you are unsure of how to confess or you feel uneasy, ask him to help you. Answer his questions without hiding anything out of fear or shame. Place your trust in God, a merciful Father who wants to forgive you.
4. Following your confession of sins, say: "I am sorry for these and all of my sins."
5. The priest will assign you a penance and offer advice to help you be a better Catholic. The penance imposed will take into account your personal situation and support your spiritual good. It may be a prayer, an offering, works of mercy, service or sacrifice; but it joins us in some way to Christ and to the cross.
6. Say an Act of contrition, expressing sorrow for your sins.
7. The priest, acting in the person of Christ, then will absolve you from your sins by saying the Prayer of Absolution, to which you make the Sign of the Cross and respond, "Amen."
8. The priest may offer some proclamation of praise, such as, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good," to which you respond, "His mercy endures for ever."
9. The priest then will dismiss you. Because sins also harm others, you must make satisfaction for your sins by completing your assigned penance.

The humility required in confessing and completing penance helps us to submit again to God's will and follow Him more closely. Confession is a blessing, offering peace, a clear mind, a hopeful heart and willingness to receive mercy.



## Examination of Conscience

Recall your sins. Calmly and honestly ask yourself what you have done, with full knowledge and full consent, against the commandments of God and the Church.

- \* Do I pray to God everyday?  
Have I thanked God for His gifts to me?
- \* Did I put my faith in danger through reading material that is hostile to Catholic teachings?  
Did I engage in superstitious practices?
- \* Did I take the name of God in vain?  
Did I curse, or take a false oath?
- \* Did I miss Mass on Sundays or holy days of obligation through my own fault?  
Am I attentive at Mass? Did I fast and abstain on the prescribed days?
- \* Did I disobey my parents or lawful superiors in important matters?
- \* Did I hate or quarrel with anyone, or desire revenge? Did I refuse to forgive?  
Was I disrespectful?
- \* Did I get drunk? Did I take illicit drugs?  
Did I consent to, recommend, advise or actively take part in an abortion?
- \* Did I willfully look at indecent pictures, watch immoral movies or read immoral books or magazines? Did I engage in impure jokes or conversations? Did I willfully entertain impure thoughts or commit impure acts, alone or with others? Did I use artificial means to prevent conception?
- \* Did I steal or damage another's property?  
Have I been honest in my business relations?
- \* Did I tell lies? Did I sin by gossiping about others? Did I judge others rashly in serious matters?  
  
Have I envied other people?

*Contributed by Sheila Pereira  
from PETRUS (March 2004)*

## Give Me

Father give me the most beautiful, the greatest, the most precious gift that you have – **JESUS**

- When I am sick, give me – JESUS  
*He is the Healer.*
  - When I feel sad give me – JESUS  
*He is the Power.*
  - When I feel lonely give me – JESUS  
*He is the Friend.*
  - When I am bound give me – JESUS  
*He is the Freedom.*
  - When I feel downcast give me – JESUS  
*He is the Victory.*
  - When I feel darkness give me – JESUS  
*He is the Light.*
  - When I fall in sin give me – JESUS  
*He is the Saviour.*
  - When I need love give me – JESUS  
*He is Love.*
  - When I need bread give me – JESUS  
*He is the Bread of Life.*
  - When I need money give me – JESUS  
*He is the Infinite Richness.*
- Jesus our Saviour – Our Strength.**  
*A Parishioner*

## Time Management

I got up early one morning,  
and rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,  
and heavier came each task.  
'Why doesn't God help?' I wondered.  
He answered, 'Because you didn't ask'.

I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
but the day toiled on grey and bleak.  
I wondered, 'Why didn't God show me?'  
He said 'Because you didn't seek.'

I tried to come into God's presence.  
I used all the keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
'My child you didn't knock'.

I woke up early this morning,  
and paused before entering the day.  
I had so much to accomplish,  
that I had to take time out to pray.



## Community Fund

Dear Parishioners,

The Community Fund will become operative shortly and the Pastors Fund Collection will be discontinued. **Perpetual Quest – June 2004** carried an article on Community Fund giving complete details. Subsequently, this topic has been discussed at length at Executive Body Meetings, Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), Small Christian Community (SCC) Core Groups and some SCCs. The majority of them felt the method to be adopted for collection, will be through an **Envelope System**, which will have the Name of the Family/Individual, the SCC Name, Road/Area of the contributor as well as the months for which he/she is contributing i.e., Monthly/Quarterly/Half yearly/Yearly. The envelope will be dropped into a **box kept in the Church marked “COMMUNITY FUND”**. **There will not be any fund collectors coming around.**

Some parishioners said that name need not be mentioned only the name of SCC. Others said, the amount given need not be indicated on the face of the envelope as they were merely giving from what the Lord has provided. That being fair, ultimately the amount **received and disbursed (refer Perpetual Quest – June 2004)** will have to be **accounted for to maintain complete transparency**. The amount collected will be deposited in a **Nationalised Bank** and every month the parishioners will be informed of the amount received.

We are reverting to the early Church (Acts 4:32). Only the Synod 2001 has given it a broader base that the poor must be cared for, so that no one will go to bed hungry at night, no child will be deprived of education because the parents could not afford to pay the fees and no one will die for lack of basic medical care. This being the criteria, it is suggested that every earning parishioner, even the smallest wage earner contributes 1% of his/her gross salary. This includes also those retired from service. Those who would like to be more generous, are most welcome. **Earning members**

in a family, could use **only one envelope** to put in their contribution.

It is your **voluntary contribution** and according to the **dictates of your conscience to help establish God’s kingdom in our midst**. However, the Sunday Mass collection will remain as your **FREE LOVE OFFERING** (The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday collection goes to the Archbishop’s House especially for the new & needy parishes). The contributions to the other **Archdiocesan collections are also “free” (refer Perpetual Quest – June 2004)**. Contribution can be also made by cheque. **“Give and you will receive abundantly”**.

*PPC Member*

### *A Special Person*

*This special someone,  
Whom I can’t understand,  
Always offers a helping hand,  
Whether it be at work or play,  
This special someone finds a way.*

*And when we have a fight,  
Thunder strikes with all its might,  
But we always make up in the end,  
And this special someone  
returns to be my friend.*

*When I am sick and awake all night,  
This special someone is by my side,  
Suffering with me that lowly pain,  
Though for her there is no gain.*

*This special someone is no other  
Than my most loved, beloved Mother!*

*Melissa D’Souza – Student of IX Std.*

*If you have trouble going to sleep,  
just lie at the edge of the bed.  
You’ll soon drop off.*





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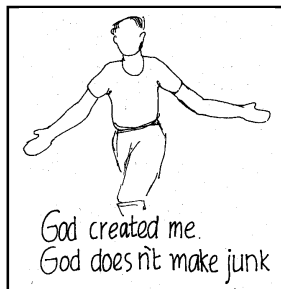
## Parish Almanac

### Baptisms

- Rohini Kitty d/o Dayanand & Violet - 18th January
- Joel D'Sa s/o Richard & Cynthia - 15th February
- Melissa D. Mathew d/o Rajan & Geena - 12th April
- Megan J. D'Souza d/o Savio & Maureen - 18th April
- Shefali Shah d/o Satyen & Lydia - 18th April
- Sharon Shah d/o Satyen & Lydia - 18th April
- Anslem L. D'Souza s/o Leander & Inez - 21st April
- Regina I. Fernando d/o Anthony & Mary - 2nd May
- Brandon Kurian s/o Joseph & Sherly - 2nd May
- Lenroe Raul Pereira s/o Cornel & Bina - 2nd May
- Harris Sushil s/o Sushil & Regina - 6th May
- Dior A. Das d/o Darren & Kushnooma - 16th May
- Rupesh Kadam s/o Stephen & Milka - 30th May
- Keisha P. Braganza d/o Deepak & Pepita - 6th June
- Jerry Britto s/o John & Anthoniamma - 4th July
- Magret D'souza d/o Marcus & Maria - 11th July
- Ryan D'souza s/o Manuel & Sherly - 18th July
- Joanne Lerin d/o Zacharia & Suma - 18th July
- Sebastin Shinde s/o Joseph & Teresa - 1st August
- John Shinde d/o Joseph & Teresa - 1st August
- Alex Kasbe s/o Yohan & Agatha - 1st August

### Marriages

- Victor Fernandes & Mafaldine Braganza - 14th April
- Alex D'Souza & Navina Peris - 25th April
- Wilson Kharat & Swati Adhav - 2nd May
- Robinson I. & Mercy C. - 9th May
- Savio Fernandes & Sabrina Heredia - 11th May
- Milton Miranda & Candice Dias - 5th June
- Arjun D'Souza & Leenu Varghese - 5th June
- Vivek Soares & Gayatri V. - 20th June



### Deaths

- Lydia Viegas (66) of Atur Park - 19th March
- Charles Saldanha (77) of Lokhande Marg - 10th April
- Philip D'Souza (60) of Ghatla Village - 14th April
- D. Pushparaj (55) of Rahul Nagar - 14th April
- Henry D'Souza (66) of Subash Nagar - 11th May
- Achiamma John (70) of Central Avenue - 15th May
- Hector Rebello (75) of 14th Road - 23rd May
- Sarla Nair (35) of Old Barracks - 10th June
- Evelyn Noronha (81) of Central Avenue - 14th June
- Roland D'Souza (46) of Subash Nagar - 15th June
- Kollanor Ittoop (70) of Amar Mahal - 22nd June
- Sr. Mary Mathias (85) St. Joseph Convent - 29th June
- Caetaninho Castellino (62) of 11th Road - 30th June
- Zakarina Pinto (93) of Subash Nagar - 7th August
- Mary Peris (79) of Atur Park - 31st August

### *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The series of talks on the I BELIEVE given by Leela Moraes and others every Monday for about two months now, and taken from the book **Catechism of the Catholic Church**, was very enlightening, thought provoking and informative which makes me take an interest in reading the book. Without a doubt it increased my perception and gave me a deeper insight to reflect. The I BELIEVE as a prayer of confirmation of our faith is so explicitly and fully explained in much detail and so beautifully put in words that it makes for remarkable reading and understanding making it a prayer to be slowly and meaningfully recited at all times.....my only regret being that very very few parishioners take time off to take advantage of these sessions.

However various talks on Christian growth will be given every Monday, at Sevadaan, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, at 7.30 p.m. by various speakers who take time and trouble to pray and prepare these topics, some of whom come from quite a distance...It would be nice to see some of you make an attempt to attend and strengthen your faith.

*Sheila Pereira*

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## Kuch Kuch Ho Raha Hai

**Small Christian Communities: Update**  
(July 2004 to September 2004)



Following is the brief report of the happenings in the 22 Small Christian Communities (SCC) of our Parish for the period July 2004 to September 2004: -

- \* Perpetual Resort – the SCC, which was not functioning for quite sometime has been activated and they are meeting regularly.
- \* The Holy Hour in the Church was conducted by different SCCs every First Friday of the Month.
- \* Communities felicitated the students their area who had passed SSC & HSC examinations.
- \* Many communities had a prayer service for confirmation students followed by a Get-together and the students were inducted into the SCC.
- \* Communities have stood by the bereaved families in their community and also offered mass for the repose of the souls.
- \* Two Communities organized talks on intercession, prayer, relationships and also on the Sacraments, which was well attended by their community members.
- \* Efforts are made by two communities to fund the education of child/children of Sevadaan Special School.
- \* On Independence Day, flag-hoisting ceremony was held.
- \* Parent's Day was celebrated in two communities.
- \* One community had visited Shanti Avedhna at Bandra & carried provisions for their use. Also, they visited the Old Age Home, Shanti Sadan where one of their senior SCC members was admitted.
- \* The sick and the aged have been visited in homes/hospitals.
- \* On the occasion of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lady, Rosary was conducted in the Church by various SCC before the Novena for nine days.
- \* On 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. some communities celebrated the Birthday of Mother Mary with a small get-together and distribution of sweets. One community also had a procession taken out in honour of Mother Mary.

*Wilson U. Patrao*

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2004, Jeevan Prakash SCC joined ALM Members and the Non-Christian brethren of 13<sup>th</sup> Road to celebrate Independence Day. It was a rainy day but that did not prevent us from participating. The senior most SCC member was asked to unfurl the flag. Children of the area celebrated our unity in diversity by reading Sacred Scriptures - the Bible, Quran, Rig Veda, Adi Granth and Zarathustra. This was very much appreciated. Students who had passed the SSC and HSC examinations, were felicitated with a trophy and prize. The BMC employee who sweeps our road, was not forgotten. He was given a cash prize. There was hot tea/coffee and snacks for all. It was indeed a great Freedom Day – Jai Hind.

*Jeevan Prakash SCC*

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Sunday morning saw 4 of us from Torch-bearers Small Christian Community on a hot dusty ride to the Home for the Destitute Sick at Vikhroli, taking with us medicines, bandages, detergents, soaps, phenyl, biscuits and other assorted items to be distributed at this home and the adjacent home for children of destitute parents. The visit was an eye opener for us in many aspects, and on narration of the mornings proceedings to the other members of our community, many expressed their desire to be on the next trip to the two homes.

*Torchbearers SCC*



## The Luminous Mysteries

Since the introduction of the Rosary to Catholic devotion, one of the major changes has been the addition of the luminous mysteries last year. In this month of the Rosary we present a short exposition on the Luminous Mysteries.

Moving on from the infancy and hidden life of Jesus in Nazareth to the public life of Jesus, our contemplation brings us to those mysteries which may be called in a special way "The mysteries of light". "He is the Light of the world" (John 8:12), yet this truth emerges in a special way during the years of his public life. These mysteries are suggested to be prayed on Thursdays.



cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without pay, give without pay" (Matthew 10:7-8)

*Fruit of the Mystery : Repentance & Trust in God.*

### *Fourth Luminous Mystery –*

**The Transfiguration** – And as He was praying, the appearance of His countenance was changed and His raiment became dazzling white. And a voice came out of the cloud saying "This is My son, My chosen, listen to Him" (Luke 9:29,33)

*Fruit of the Mystery : Desire for Holiness and getting down to work.*

### *First Luminous Mystery –*

**The Baptism of Jesus** – "and when Jesus was baptized...the heavens were opened and they saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and resting on Him, and a voice from Heaven was heard saying "This is My Beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:16-17).

*Fruit of the Mystery : Openness to the Holy Spirit*

### *Second Luminous Mystery –*

**The Wedding at Cana** – His Mother said to the servants "Do whatever He tells you". Jesus said to them " Fill the jars with water" and they filled them up to the brim (John 2:5-7). The first miracle of Jesus was at the request of His mother.

*Fruit of the Mystery : To Jesus through Mary.*

### *Third Luminous Mystery –*

**Proclaiming the Kingdom of God** – "And preach as you go saying "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand". Heal the sick, raise the dead,

### *Fifth Luminous Mystery –*

**The Institution of the Eucharist** – And He took bread and when he had given thanks He broke it and gave it to them saying "This is My Body which is given for you..." And likewise the cup after supper saying "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant sealed with My Blood" (Luke 22:19-20)

*Fruit of the Mystery : Adoration.*

It is only recently that Our Holy Father has incorporated the Luminous Mysteries in the time honoured Marian Devotion of the Rosary.

Mary was a very human person who lived the Christian mystery powerfully in her life. By her complete adherence to the Father's will, to her Son's redemptive work and to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church's model of faith & charity. She challenges us to be committed to Jesus and His cause, by her own example of faithfulness to Jesus.

Let us revive the daily family devotion to the Rosary in our lives.

*C.A. Pereira*

*(excerpts from the John Paul II document of Pope)*