

Our Lady Of Lourdes Parish, Orlem

Reaching Out



June 2026

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

— OR L E M —



50

Years

— of —
**FAITH,
COMMUNITY
& GRACE**

*Remembering our roots.
Celebrating our journey.
Building our future.*





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of Faith, Community & Togetherness**

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem



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The Reaching Out

A Newsletter of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem

Reaching Out Theme For June 2026

Mary, Queen of Peace

A Call to Build Bridges of
Understanding and
Compassion

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Please send your articles / reports as attached word.doc files and good resolution photographs as jpeg files to reachingout.orlem@gmail.com by 20th of next month. Kindly mention your Community and Sector number or the Cell / Association you are reporting for.

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Published and printed by the Parish Priest, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem, Malad West, Mumbai 400064

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PARISH INFORMATION

MASS TIMINGS

Weekdays: 6.00 am, 6.45 am, 5.30 pm & 7.00 pm
Saturday: 5.30 pm & 7.00 pm
Sunday: 6.00 am, 7.00 am (Konkani),
 8.00 am, 9.15 am (Tamil),
 10.30 am (Children),
 4.00 pm (Tamil Children),
 5.15 pm, 6.30 pm (Youth) & 7.30 pm

BAPTISM

Every Sunday at 11.30 am
 Expectant parents are requested to complete the pre-baptismal course and produce the certificate while fixing the date for the baptism.

MARRIAGE

Couples intending to marry in our church have to meet any priest at least six months in advance, to check the availability of the church as well as to be briefed on marriage procedures.

Timings for Masses are as follows:

Weekdays: 10.30 am & 4.00 pm
Sunday: 10.30 am & 5.15 pm

OFFICE TIMINGS

Monday to Friday: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm & 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm

Saturday: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm

Telephone: +919920144967

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday at 5.00 pm – 5.30 pm & 6.30 pm – 7.00 pm
 Dialogue confession is encouraged with prior appointment.

FUNERAL

Weekdays: 10.30 am & 5.30 pm
 (By exception 4.00 pm)
Sundays: 12.00 noon

A Gracious Golden Jubilee

Fr Aniceto Pereira, Parish Priest

The 6th of June 2026 is a day to profusely give thanks to God for the fifty long years that we have used this edifice of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in order to experience the intimacy of our loving Father in the life of our Parish. We fondly remember the late Fr Octavian Dias, the then Parish Priest, and the late Mr Raymond D'Lima who, according to the plaque affixed on the wall of the belfry “brought about the reality of a dream of a new church in 1976”. This edition of Reaching Out is dedicated to them and to all those who made this dream come to life fifty years ago.

The principal challenge that was faced in the seventies when this edifice was being built was to accommodate the growing number of parishioners coming to reside in Orlem, and which therefore needed a bigger “house of God” so that they could gather comfortably for worship. Over the years this edifice, along with the adjoining shamiana, has proved to be capable of accommodating the ever-growing number of parishioners, albeit with a tight programme of nine back-to-back celebrations of the holy Eucharist on Sundays, beginning at 6am and ending with the last mass at 7.30pm. Celebrations of Baptisms and funeral masses are accommodated between 12 noon and 3pm to ensure that all community needs are met.

The spiritual fervour that is experienced in this “house of God” has contributed to the involvement of a number of parishioners in

the various Cells and Associations functioning in the Parish, many of which have been featured in this edition of Reaching Out. Several members belong to more than one Cell or Association, and they attend meetings regularly. These groups contribute to the smooth functioning of the parish, affording avenues for the involvement of lay people in large numbers in planning meticulously, executing responsibly and evaluating critically, all the activities in the parish as well as outside. It is really a blessing from God to see many of our lay people, from both the English and the Tamil communities, contributing to the animation of activities at the archdiocesan level.

The celebration of this Jubilee coincides this year with the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus; it is an apt reminder that we need to be grateful to the Eucharistic Lord who has made it possible for his disciples to gather regularly around His Eucharistic table. At this regular meal we are strengthened with the Lord's nourishment for our lives, and for the intimate fellowship of disciples that He alone can create in the universal Church, as well as in our parish of Orlem. As a community we wish to attach ourselves to the baptismal font and the altar in our church, both made in marble, and to plead with our Patroness, our Lady of Lourdes, to inspire us to imitate her in finding joy in remaining close to Jesus, even at the foot of the cross.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Orlem – My Formation Field

Fr Nigel Barrett

When I look back on my priestly journey, the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes Church remains one of the most formative and grace-filled chapters of my life. I arrived there on 1st June 2005, and my very first day itself became unforgettable when I was called to settle a dispute during a football match at the parish summer tournament. It was truly a baptism by fire, but also a fitting introduction to the vibrant and energetic life of Orlem.

I remain deeply grateful to the parish for teaching me to think, act, and grow differently as a priest. I was fortunate to be guided by two wonderful mentors, Fr. Salu and Fr. Larry, whose wisdom, patience, and trust shaped my priesthood in countless ways. One of the earliest responsibilities entrusted to me was the administration of St. Anne's School. At the time, I did not realise how significant that experience would become, but it later laid the foundation for my work in educational institutions and eventually prepared me for my present responsibilities at St. Andrew's College.

Much of my learning came through youth ministry. Through the Confirmation programme, Sunday School, youth groups, camps, and personal interactions, I discovered that young people seek more than activities – they seek trust, belonging, and authentic relationships. I learned that

ministry often means simply being present, listening patiently, and accompanying young people in their struggles, dreams, and questions. The advice of Fr. Salu after one failed youth event changed my perspective forever: youth ministry is not primarily about organising programmes, but about journeying with people in their concrete realities.

Over time, I witnessed how relationships transform lives more deeply than programmes ever can. Camps, leadership programmes, and youth initiatives became moments of grace where many discovered confidence, faith, and leadership within themselves. Orlem gave me the freedom to experiment creatively in evangelisation and inspired me to remain open to new possibilities.

As I look back today, my heart is filled with gratitude to God, my mentors, the youth, and every parishioner who journeyed with me. Orlem was not merely a parish assignment; it truly became my formation field.

Fr Nigel Barrett served in our parish from 2005 to 2011. He is currently Parish Priest at the Church of St. Andrew, Bandra West and is the head of the Catholic Communication Centre - the Media and Communications Office of the Archdiocese of Bombay.

Our Lady of Lourdes – A Home of Faith, Love, and Memories

Sr. Jennifer Mascarenhas (Sisters of Charity, Mangalore)



As our parish prepares to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our church building on 6th June 2026, my heart is filled with deep gratitude. For

me and my family, this parish has never been merely a place of worship; it has always been a spiritual home—a family of faith and a sacred space that has shaped my life and future.

My most cherished memories of the parish are rooted in faith. From childhood, attending Holy Mass, participating in catechism classes, receiving the sacraments, joining in parish prayers, and celebrating feasts helped me grow closer to God. The Church instilled in me the values of prayer, trust in God, forgiveness, discipline, and service. It formed my conscience and laid a strong foundation for my life.

I also fondly remember being part of the children's choir. Through hymns and liturgical celebrations, I learned to pray with joy and developed a deep sense of belonging to the Church. Later, I was blessed with the opportunity to serve as a Catechist which strengthened my own faith while it gave me the privilege of sharing God's Word with children. It taught me patience, responsibility, and the joy of giving back to

the parish that had nurtured me.

My family's faith journey is closely intertwined with this parish. My mother and brothers with family currently reside in JBC and Lourdes Colony, which further keeps our roots deeply connected to the parish community. In moments of both joy and difficulty, the prayers, blessings, and support of the parish have always been a constant source of strength.

Above all, it is the spiritual atmosphere of the parish that has deeply shaped my faith, character, sense of family and allowed me take a confident step into religious life.

As we celebrate fifty golden years, I thank God for my parish and for all who have built and sustained it with love and dedication. May this Jubilee renew every family in faith, unity, and service.

The New Church – For the New Generation That Grew With It

Fr Melroy Fernandes

Growing up in the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Orlem, during the years following the inauguration of the new Church, I was perhaps too young to remember much about the actual transition from the old Church to the new. Yet, in many ways, I belonged to the first generation of children who grew up fully experiencing the life and spirit of the new Church.

The older Church, I was later told, had become too small for the rapidly growing Catholic population of Orlem. The new Church was spacious and simple in comparison, without many of the embellishments of the old structure, but it had something equally beautiful; it had much more room for people, especially for families and children. The transition from the old Church to the new was not merely a movement from one building to another, it was the creation of a larger spiritual home for the growing community in Orlem.

One of my fondest memories in the new Church is the Sunday Children's Mass at 4 p.m. For many of us, then as children, Sunday evenings revolved around it. We would eagerly arrive by 3:30 p.m. because the half hour before Mass was dedicated to learning new hymns. The priests, accompanied by guitarists and keyboard players and occasionally a drummer, from

the many bands in Orlem, taught us some really awesome hymns that made the Mass vibrant, joyful, and full of energy. The priests made the liturgy of the Eucharists interactive and engaging, and unknowingly sowed seeds of faith in many young hearts.

The Church compound itself was also part of our formation. Since most sporting activities happened right beside the Church steps, many of us instinctively entered the Church first (if only for a brief prayer or to make the Sign of the Cross) before going out to play.

Looking back now, I realise that the new Church was not simply a larger building. It became a space that nurtured community, participation, faith, and perhaps even vocations. Fifty years later, those memories still remain alive in the hearts of many who grew up there.

Fr Melroy Fernandes was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Bombay in 2003. He is currently the Parish Priest at the Church of St Francis Xavier, Panvel.

50 Years and Looking Ahead!

Melville X. D'Souza

What actually constitutes a Church? Is it just a beautiful structure built of stone, concrete, glass, etc.? A Church may be called a dwelling place for God, yes. Be that at it may, the Church in Orlem is now reached a mustering milestone - Golden Jubilee!

From a small chapel in 1880 catering to just 12 families, the Church has grown by the thousands. We could call the Church in Orlem as 'God's field' as the Apostle Paul called the Church. A field commonly referred to as agricultural land where from a small seed planted in the soil, foodgrains multiply, paddy fields for instance. Incidentally, the chapel itself was surrounded by paddy fields and the creek on the other side. Just as the produce from the fields multiplied, the population of Orlem too multiplied over the years. The chapel could not accommodate the growing population and so, the need was felt for a bigger structure.

The Church structure was meticulously designed by Raymond D'Lima. Parishioners, mainly the local East Indian community, the sons of the soil as they are known, pitched in and made their land available in order to accommodate the new Church building. So, it is the contribution of the local community that laid the foundation for the growth of our parish. The stone backdrop with our Lady's Grotto within, indeed looks very impressive and ventilation was well taken care of. Glass windows were a later addition. Today

however the Church is further decked up for the Golden Jubilee with LED lighting and two huge helicopter fans fanning away for the faithful and modern speaker system and the LED screen.

As the parish began to grow the paddy fields and bungalows & cottages began to disappear and today 50 years later, what we see are skyscrapers dwarfing the Church - a concrete jungle!

Incidentally, even as Orlem continues to grow, the present structure seems insufficient to accommodate the faithful for Sunday Masses. The Church is bursting at the seams so to say.

The stones in the church may look beautiful but we need to make those stones come alive by our actions, our deeds, our faith, our beliefs. Is our overflowing devotion, our holiness all going to be only an external show while we are hollow from the inside, as such, bordering on hypocrisy?

At the end of the day, a Church is not just a stone structure, it is YOU & ME!!!

Just a Thought: Even as we attend Mass every Sunday perhaps daily, do you feel God is calling you to the Church. Think again, is God only calling you to the Church or is there something deeper? Craig Groeschel an American Evangelical, says, 'God is not calling us to go to church. He's calling us to be His Church. The Hope of the world.'

Can we in Orlem live up to that calling?

100 Glorious Years

Our Lady of Lourdes Church - Orlem

Arlene Alves, JBC - Sector 1

Indeed, I feel blessed and happy to belong to Our Lady of Lourdes, Orlem, Malad (West). It is nearly 35 years, me and my family have resided at Orlem. Our parish has the vision mission statement "To be a vibrant parish living the values of Christ."

The mission focuses on fostering a welcoming community, to nourish faith through the Eucharist, bringing people to Jesus and forming missionary disciples. They also aim to be a participative servant of the church. Our Parish began as a private chapel built by Fr. Joseph Maria Braz Dsouza in 1880. On 2nd July 1916 it was named to be a separate parish. It began with just 12 families and today Orlem is one of the largest parishes in the Archdiocese of Bombay.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish has been ably guided and inspired by so many priests. We have GEMS in this parish community. G = Goans, E = East Indians, M = Mangalorean and S = South Indian Tamils.

We have a number of Cells and Associations catering to the young and old. The Church offers Pre-Baptism course for couples, Sunday school, Youth events providing a platform to all youth to show case their talents. We have Associations like BASCA, Bombay Catholic Sabha, IRD cell, Family cell, Hope & Life, Environmental cell, etc.

We have an NGO Prayatna catering to the underprivileged sections of society. Aarman caters to the need of specially-abled children and teaches them culinary skills. SVP looks after the needs of the marginalized.

The Parishioners have witnessed many great events like the gifting of the "Infant Jesus" from Prague by the Cardinal of Prague. We had an enriching experience of the visit of Papal Nuncio Leopoldo Girelli along with his Eminence Cardinal Oswald Gracious in December 2022 on the feast of Holy Innocents, spending time with the PPC.

Today the church building stands beautifully, renovated. We need to thank Our Lady of Lourdes for the spiritual blessings on all our parishioners.

God Bless the Clergy team and the lay faithful abundantly as we continue to journey together to make this "Our Lady of Lourdes Parish" vibrant and a joyful community.

Roots To Fruits: "Living Stones" - A Perspective!

Terry Pais, Tank Colony - Sector 5

King Solomon the great, built the colossal Temple of Jerusalem so as to build a House for God, but God had already spoken to King David: "Go and tell my servant David... "Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" - 2Sam.7:5-8. This whole passage speaks of God's great desire to dwell among His People!

We Orlemlites are very grateful for the New Church Building that we have presently and also for all our predecessors, the clergy as well as the laity, who have helped in raising up this church building and Parish, right from its inception to what it is today.

When Jesus prophesied of destroying the temple and raising it up again in three days his disciples were confused as to how He could raise the mammoth Temple in Jerusalem in three days after destroying it. Jesus was of course talking about the destruction of His own Body, and then raising it up on the third day with a New Body - the Church - the very Temple and the Dwelling Place of the Living God!

God from the very beginning of creation always desired to live among His people, but with the fall of Man begins God's Salvation History. God sends His own Son Jesus who allowed His own Body to be destroyed, so that He could raise up a Dwelling Place for God among His People, thus fulfilling God's original plan - The Word became Flesh and Dwelt among Us!

A dwelling place - a House for God not made-up of bricks, or dead stones, but "LIVING STONES", of which Jesus Himself would be the Cornerstone! WE who are baptised, are the LIVING STONES with which the Holy Spirit wants to build for God a dwelling place. Let each one of us offer ourselves to the Holy Spirit to be built into God's Holy Temple - to be that Christian Community, where God can dwell and manifest His majesty, power, and His glory, to be that City on a Hill that cannot be Hidden - A Light in the Darkness, a Light to the Nations! Happy Pentecost Day!

Our Benevolent Parish Church - Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Orlem

Olga Pereira, JBC Community, S1

“How lovely is your dwelling place O Lord of hosts.” (Psalm 84:1-4)

Our Lady of Lourdes is our very own beautiful Church in Orlem, a place where the presence of God is felt at its core. We are filled with peace and reverence and can connect directly to God our Abba Father through the benevolence of Our Lady of Lourdes, our Patron. A visit to the Church also fills one with love, tenderness and a sense of belonging.

We are grateful to all who were instrumental in building the new Church building 50 years ago. Our Priests and local leaders, both past and present have made our parish Church a vibrant community, walking with faith, spreading the values of Christ to all. Our Church has always remained an influential and enduring authority in its ministry of service – prayer, education, healthcare and service to all, especially those in need. Our Church bridges the gap between the rich and the poor and is a beacon of hope, love and service to the local communities at the same time reaching out to others who need help.

Going down memory lane, I have always felt Our Lady of Lourdes Church beckoning me even as a young teenager when I visited the Church from my parish in Vakola. I want to

share my personal experience of the aura and the beauty of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. God’s presence is felt in a profound way in the Church. We can feel and experience God our Abba Father’s divine presence, the love of Jesus and His Spirit dwelling in the Tabernacle, strengthening and helping us to start afresh. I have served our Parish Church as a Parish Councilor and in various other ways and shared with others in building a community of love and service. I have gained much more than what I gave and for this I am eternally grateful. Memories are always special. Throughout these years I have experienced healing, increase in faith, strengthened, motivated and encouraged by the clergy and the people. At our Church, the clergy and the lay faithful who are actively involved in the Church ministry, make the liturgy of the word, the sacraments, faith formation, catechism, etc., more meaningful and reflective to live it in our daily life.

As we celebrate the milestone of 50 years Golden Jubilee of our Church building let us ask Mother Mary to intercede for us, protect us and lead us to the next milestone.

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them.” (Mathew 18:20)

Reviving Advanced Locality Management (ALM)

Melville X. D'Souza

Is there some civic issue in your locality? Is there unpicked trash lying around in your surroundings? Are you getting clean drinking water? Are the gutter drains or storm water drains in your street regularly cleaned, or clogged and overflowing?

You pay taxes and this is what we have to put up with? So, what are we doing about it, perhaps nothing, because one may not know what to do about it. We would say, it is the responsibility of the Municipality – the BMC to set things right. And our elected corporators too. They are also responsible to get such civic issues resolved. But sadly, nothing happens. More often than not, all those who are responsible are failing in their responsibility towards the citizens.

The civic authorities recognized the need for greater public participation for ensuring good governance and better implementation of civic services. And thus was born the concept of Advanced Locality Management (ALM).

So, how does it work? A group of like-minded residents come together, sensitize and mobilize other residents in the locality of the need for coming together, to get involved in civic matters, thus ensuring cleaner spaces and better quality of life. A formal core group is formed and office bearers are elected, who then approach the Ward office to get the ALM registered with the BMC. Regular meetings

are to be held to tackle civic issues and it is important to minute the proceedings. Regular meetings between the ALMs and the BMC are also held at the Ward office for reviewing the progress of issues raised.

Several ALMs did take shape in Orlem over the years but sadly some of them have all but folded up. Mention must be made however, of the St. Dominic & Tank Colony ALM which was established in the year 2002 and has been successfully functioning ever since. Major credit for this certainly goes to the dynamic Mr. Melvin Baptista who has been the mainstay of the ALM, right from its founding. Mr. Baptista is humility personified and commands great respect not only from the residents of the locality, but also the Ward officials. He can always be counted on to help solve your civic issues and is very helpful.

After a session on ALM organized by the parish, a couple of months back, in which Mr. Melvin Baptista and his team mates explained the importance of a functional ALM, the focus now seems to have shifted to the revival of the ALMs in the different localities of Orlem, which hitherto seemed to have been in a comatose state, so to say. This revival is a good sign. It is through the participation of the local residents in civic affairs that can ensure that we citizens live a better quality of life!

Redevelopment In Orlem - Progress with Purpose

Gretchen Ferro and Lorenzo Fernandes

Redevelopment in Orlem is akin to a hurricane that just cannot be quelled. Everywhere around Orlem, Marve Road, Mith Chowki, and Evershine Nagar, old buildings are being demolished and towering structures are rising rapidly. The omnipotent question is: when the dust settles, will the residents of Orlem be in the eye of the storm or in the calm?

Redevelopment originally began with noble objectives:

- To upgrade ageing buildings with modern facilities.
- To provide better housing conditions.
- To accommodate the growing population density marred with land scarcity.

THE RISE OF REDEVELOPMENT : Before redevelopment, the housing units in Orlem were predominantly aesthetic bungalows with gardens. To accommodate the slowly escalating population, chawls and low-rise buildings were constructed on the available marshy land, while shanties accommodating the lower income group spread inorganically.

The rising economy, migration, need for quality living, high repair costs of ageing structures with low resale value, spiralling slums, increase in population density due to commercial hubs, call centres, malls that provided employment, and easy accessibility via the Metro were all factors that made Orlem a frontrunner for redevelopment.

Redevelopment became the fulfilment of the cherished Mumbai dream. The appeal of living in a “New York style scraper” with modern facilities, elevators, parking spaces and security systems offered families improved living conditions and upgraded infrastructure. However, it was also accompanied by a long-term colossal loss. Joint families who lived, cooked, ate, prayed together, now dispersed into nuclear families behind closed doors of individual flats. The fruit trees and lawns dissipated into parking spaces. Forcible and unfair eviction by the powerful builder lobby and high monthly maintenance costs also led to some moving out of Orlem to far - flung suburbs.

COMMUNITY, INCLUSIVITY AND THE CHANGING FACE OF ORLEM : Orlem has always had a unique social mix. We see it at Mass, outside schools, near small stores, at parish events and on the street. People know each other. We help each other. We notice when someone is missing. This is not a small thing. This is community.

Redevelopment should not only give us bigger flats and safer buildings but also protect the spirit of togetherness that defines Orlem. The Church and parish life have always been at the centre of this community spirit. Parishioners actively participate in Masses, feast celebrations, choir practices, youth meetings and other parish gatherings. The church continues to remain not merely a

place of worship but the social and emotional heart of Orlem.

As redevelopment transforms lifestyles and living spaces, it becomes even more important to preserve opportunities for fellowship, community bonding and shared traditions that strengthen parish life and neighbourhood relationships.

Affordability is one major concern. As new towers rise, property values rise too. Some owners benefit from this. But renters, small shops, domestic workers, drivers, nurses, teachers, and service providers are also part of the daily life of the neighbourhood. A healthy suburb needs diversity in incomes, professions, age groups and family structures living in the same area. That mix makes a neighbourhood strong and resilient.

Redevelopment as a whole should not just upgrade an individual living space but also enhance the overall surroundings of the locality.

BUILDING A SMARTER AND GREENER ORLEM: The environment needs equal attention. Malad West already deals with traffic, heat, flooding, pollution and loss of trees. New buildings cannot keep adding concrete without thinking about the wider area.

Developers and societies should plan for shade, trees, rainwater management, permeable ground and usable open spaces. They should create spaces where children can play, elders can sit and neighbours can meet. Cluster redevelopment should be encouraged

to attain land for green and open spaces.

Extra Floor Space Index and Transferable Development Rights, originally intended to contribute towards quality housing, must be implemented responsibly with proper environmental assessments. Authorities, builders and residents must work together to ensure sustainable growth.

We also have a role in this conversion. If our building or society is considering redevelopment, we should not look only at carpet area, rent and parking. We must also ask about open spaces, drainage, environmental impact, community spaces and long-term quality of life. This is not about stopping change. Malad West will continue to grow. Redevelopment will happen. The real question is whether we guide it well.

We should not measure the future of Orlem only through taller buildings, bigger flats and higher property values. We should measure it through the quality of life it offers.

Do neighbours still know each other?

Do elders feel cared for?

Do children have space to play?



Does the Church continue to remain the heart of the community?

With the right vision and collaboration, we

can build a smarter, greener, cleaner Orlem - while preserving the spirit that has always made it home.

The Story of Yesudass

Yesudass

My life is a testimony to the transforming power of faith, perseverance, and service to the church.

My family once lived with stability, supported by my family's business. But when the business suffered a devastating loss, our lives changed completely and we found ourselves struggling financially, facing hardships we had never imagined. The comfort and security we once knew disappeared, leaving behind uncertainty, disappointment, and pain.

As the financial burden on my family grew heavier, I began working at a very young age to help support them. Childhood quickly gave way to responsibility. Days were difficult and the weight of life felt far greater than my age could bear. I faced failure many times. With incomplete education, limited opportunities, and a spirit weighed down by discouragement, I often questioned my worth. I felt lost and directionless, like someone forgotten by the world – never truly “enough” in the eyes of society.

It was in those darkest moments that God reached out to me through the Church. Within the sacred walls of my parish, I encountered religious who looked beyond my

failures and saw the value of my soul. They did not judge me for my mistakes or weaknesses. Instead, they embraced me with patience, compassion, and spiritual guidance. Their encouragement became a healing balm to my wounded confidence. Slowly, they helped me believe in myself again. They taught me a truth that would shape my life forever: failing is human, but rising again is divine.

My greatest transformation came not only through education, but through service. I had the privilege of serving the Church as Youth President and as a member of the Parish Council.

When I reflect on my journey, I see every success as part of a harvest planted by the Church that believed in me when I could not believe in myself.

By giving years to the Church, the Church gave me a lifetime of leadership, faith, and purpose. We do not go to Church only to find God; we go to discover the person God created us to become. And sometimes, the lives that are broken become the strongest testimonies of grace, resilience, and redemption.

Golden Journey of OLLC

Dr Shirley Fernandes

As young professionals, we scouted and chose Orlem in 1971.
Coming here as a close-knit nuclear family,
With lock, stock, and barrel, of home and hospital,
A son aged 15 months, a daughter, six months shy of Year three.

Earlier we had visited this cute little Church,
A quaint, small, and adorable place,
Met some of the settled parishioners,
Who warmly welcomed us with finesse and grace.

Our Church is the nascent offspring in 2.7.1916,
Of Our Lady of Assumption Church Kandivili.
Now seeing it has grown into adulthood,
Gets difficult for us her beginnings to see.

With just one daily Mass in the mornings,
Sundays saw this increased to two.
With no evening Mass at the time,
Sunday mornings found few vacant seats in the pews.

Our travel to the Church was a four minute walk,
Along a bullock cart road, so full of stones,
Wearing heels became an art in balancing,
Lest one twisted an ankle or broke a bone.

Road lights were conspicuous by their absence,
And wintry nights so long, dreary and dark,
One dared not venture out till the dawn,
Since oft times we heard foxes howl and bark.
Evening saw our children meet and play,
The Church compound being our only park.
Then on to Church for a short visit,
And then to begin work before it became dark.

Parishioners were few and lived close by,
Everyone knowing the other by first name,
It was one big family to which all belonged, and,
Christmas evening was reserved for community games.

As real estate received a boom,
People, from far and near they came,
To pray and worship at this House Of God,
Designated Our Lady of Lourdes – a distinguished name.

Now the Church became too small and cramped for the faithful.

With people spilling over onto the aisles,
A dilemma leading to no option but,
To construct a larger Church in a short while.

Thus the present Church came about,
An edifice, so awesome, spacious and tall.
With six or more times the original capacity,
So as to comfortably accommodate one and all.

And yet this tsunami of the faithful continued to come,
Hence, to accommodate them, benches were put on west and east,
To enable the people of God there present,
To meaningfully participate in this Eucharistic feast.

Next, the side walls of the Church had to be opened,
With doors larger, and windows more wide,
Thus enabling the altar to be seen by all within and out,
So they could meaningfully partake in the celebration inside.

Benches have now been replaced by plastic chairs,
And T.V. screens are mounted on both sides as well,
Thus making The Eucharist more meaningful,
Allowing all participants on this Great Mystery to dwell.

The stained glass image, at the center on the Church façade
Depicts Bernadette at the grotto of Lourdes long ago,
It is an invitation to parishioners and passersby,
To show reverence and honor to the Queen Mother,
as they come and go.

We also have stained glass windows inside the Church,
Depicting the 20 Mysteries of the Holy Rosary,
A prayerful reminder of the worship, love, and homage,
To a God Who unconditionally loves and cares for you and me.

In recent months our Church has been revamped,
We now have fans with blades like those of a helicopter,
Giving us a lot of breeze to feel serene and comfortable,
Preventing sweating, which could distract us from the altar.

There is also a replica of the Lourdes grotto outside the Church,
To pay homage to a mother who is loved and honored by us all,

It is placed on the east side of the Church,
On the same side as that of the Parochial hall.

Our parish is engaged in a myriad of activities,
And plenty of assorted cells and youthful activities as well,
But space and time do not permit more sharing,
Hence I'll wait for another day and time to tell.

Blessing Ceremony for the Commencement of the Shed Renovation

Michelle Pinto



On June 6th, 2026 the church renovation meets its deadline and the renovation of the grotto shed is factored in. Sunday May 24th, 2026, we were delighted to have Mr. Aslam Shaikh (MLA) for the blessing ceremony before the commencement of the renovation work of the grotto shed of our Church. Speaking on the occasion, Fr. Aniceto Pereira, our Parish Priest, welcomed Mr. Shaikh and said that this shed was put up with the efforts of Mr. Shaikh in his first term as MLA way back when the late Fr Larry Pereira was the

Parish Priest. Now once again Mr. Shaikh has come forward to help us repair the shed, through his development funds.

Mr Aslam Shaikh said that he was thankful for the opportunity to help the church and the community. He said he was repeating the same feat after 16 years since the first installation of the shed. Mr Shaikh, shifting focus, also highlighted the importance of the SIR exercise and the Census enumeration which has started in Mumbai. He urged parishioners to make an effort to get this regularized to the maximum and he urged them to seek the help of his office to ensure that this is done speedily.

Prayers for the blessing of the shed, sprinkling of holy water and the traditional breaking of the coconut by a few parishioners marked the commencement of the shed renovation. Fr. Aniceto and Fr. Ronny Vaz thanked Mr. Shaikh for being concerned about our needs and taking time out to come and grace the occasion.



Residents of Shreeji Atlantis Spread Love in Gorai

Tina Pereira and Adele Mascarenhas, Sector 5 - Community 6

On a bright Saturday morning, 11th April, we set out on a pilgrimage of presence to the Ashray Akruti Foundation in Gorai, driven by a desire to manifest our faith through action.

This initiative was no less than a modern-day Multiplication of the Loaves; what started as a simple desire to help quickly grew into an abundance of grace. Just as the boy offered whatever little he had to Jesus, our collection point overflowed with "love offerings" in kind donated by the residents of Shreeji Atlantis. The physical donations, however, were only the beginning. We felt a calling to go beyond providing supplies and sought to provide our presence.

At the venue, we met the founder, Mr. Cecil D'Mello, a former engineer turned philanthropist, and his wife. They shared the

foundation's origin story and its vital mission to support 200 specially-abled children and young adults from varied backgrounds. The children themselves, welcomed us into their world with open arms. Hearing how 20 proactive volunteers look after the daily needs of the residents set the tone for a truly humbling experience. We had a day of interaction, entertainment, song and dance.

Our visit reinforced the importance of inclusive initiatives. The experience was a powerful reminder that showing up – whether through encouragement, resources, or simply being there – can bring an impactful change to the lives of those who need it most. We remain immensely grateful to the Almighty and continue to pray for the caretakers and trustees who dedicate their lives to keeping those beautiful smiles bright.




EMHC Picnic 2026 at D'Souza Farms, Manori

Francis Fernandes

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 31 EMHC members embarked on their annual picnic at the scenic D'Souza Farms in Manori, ably led by their enthusiastic leader, Merwyn. Recognizing the travel challenges for many, especially our senior citizens, a comfortable bus was thoughtfully arranged.

The day opened and closed with heartfelt prayers, giving thanks to God for His abundant blessings. What followed was a whirlwind of joy: lively games that sparked laughter, upbeat music setting the rhythm, endless dancing that got everyone moving,

refreshing dips in the swimming pool, thrilling housie sessions with eager cheers, and a sumptuous lunch that satisfied every palate. Despite the scorching heat we were enveloped by the radiant warmth of fellowship that filled the air. In our fellow Eucharistic ministers, we discovered true family—a profound sense of unity and belonging. The group expressed profound gratitude to the Church and Fr. Cedric for this cherished annual tradition. Psalm 133:1 “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!”




Sola

East Indian Cuisine

Menu

- 👉 Chicken Moilee
- 👉 Chicken green roast
- 👉 Pork Sorpotel
- 👉 Pork indyal
- 👉 Buff Green Roast
- 👉 Buff Potato Chops
- 👉 Chicken Potato Chops
- 👉 Fuglas
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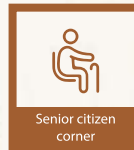
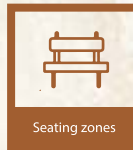
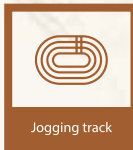
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BLAST FROM THE PAST

BEATTITUDES FOR THE HOME

BLESSED are the husband and wife, who continue to be affectionate, considerate and loving after the wedding bells have ceased ringing.

BLESSED are the husband and wife, who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends.

BLESSED are they, who have a sense of humor, for this attribute will be a handy shock absorber.

BLESSED are they who love their mates more than any other person in the world and who joyfully fulfill their marriage vows of a lifetime of fidelity and mutual helpfulness to one another.

BLESSED are they who attain parenthood, for children are a heritage of the Lord.

BLESSED are they who remember to thank God for their food before they partake of it, and who set apart some time each day for the reading of the Bible and for prayer.

BLESSED are those mates who never speak loudly to one another and who make their home a place where "seldom is heard a discouraging word".

BLESSED are the husband and wife who faithfully attend the worship service of the church and who work together in the church for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

BLESSED are the husband and wife who can work out problems of adjustments without interference from relatives.

BLESSED is the couple who has a complete understanding about financial matters and who has worked out a perfect partnership with all money under the control of both.

BLESSED are the husband and wife who humbly dedicate their lives and their home to Christ and who practice the teachings of Christ in the home by being unselfish, loyal, and loving.

Author Unknown

AUGUST 2018

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reaching out

TAKE WHAT COMES

Don't expect perfection for you'll never find it here. This is earth, not heaven, so with charity and cheer - take what comes, the good, the bad, and don't start whimpering - when you're disappointed with a person or a thing.

Do not worship idols and complain when you have found-feet of clay beneath the robes in which you've wrapped them round. Everyone is human. Do not be too critical - when someone fails. Remember that you, too, are fallible.

Keep your ideals in your heart and set your standard high - but don't lose faith when things go wrong. Just let the storm blow by ... Do not ask too much of life or reach beyond your range. Accept, and learn to live, content with what you cannot change.

Christian Family Movement

HISTORY

The Reaching Out - 1975

With the noble intention of getting our parishioners to interact with and reach out to one another via the written word we - Glen D'Souza and Llewellyn Ferreira in our early twenties then, decided to publish a parish bulletin. Rewind in December 1975. The first issue of Reaching Out was distributed to the priests of the parish and the parishioners after the midnight mass.

Initially, the parish priest agreed to fund the publication of our first ever bulletin. However, getting the funds every month to pay the printer proved to be a Herculean task. Luckily for us, the printer was understanding and accepted our excuses for not paying him on time. Often, we had to dig into our pockets to pay the printer. Still, the Reaching Out came out every month and was distributed regularly at the parish.

The Reaching Out tried to be as parish centric as possible and did not shy of encouraging discussions and correspondence on debatable topics. Like the time when we received a flood of letters on why the Holy Eucharist was celebrated in English and Konkani and not Marathi, so much so that we had to close correspondence on this topic. Or when we received several letters on one of our columns titled Matched, Mismatched and Despatched. Matched detailed the newly born's for the month, Mismatched detailed the newly born's for the month and Despatched detailed those from the parish who had passed away during the month. Many felt the title was in bad taste, others felt it was refreshing and unique. But, the page which drew the most response was the children's page, possibly because it offered several prizes to the winners of the quizzes and we are sure the same holds true even today. The Reaching Out also began the Best Star and Best Crib for individual competitions, a practice continued every year since.

Unfortunately, we never had sponsors or advertisers. Over the months and years, funds in the bulletin were never sufficient and all excuses to the printer about delays in payment proved inadequate, so we had to discontinue publication. A few years later, the church took on the responsibility of printing and publishing the Reaching Out that you receive in your home today.

-Llewellyn Ferreira & Glen D'Souza

Glen D'Souza has had a chequered career as teacher, journalist, foreign correspondent and lastly as a professor at a prestigious Japanese University. Glen has travelled to Tokyo, Japan, when he suffered a stroke and is now back home.

Llewellyn Ferreira worked as an insurance professional and has since retired and does insurance consultancy and some recruitment.



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HABITS

I'm your greatest helper or your heaviest burden
 I will push you onward or I'll drag you down to failure
 I am at your command most of life's tasks you might as well turn over to me and I'll do them quickly and correctly.
 I am easily managed, however you must be firm with me, show me exactly how you want something done and then after a few lessons, I will do it automatically. I am the servant of all great people and alas of all failures as well.
 Those who are great, I have made great and those who are failures I have made failures. I may not be a machine but I work with the precision of a machine plus the intelligence of a person.
 You may run me for a profit or run me for ruin, it makes no difference to me. Just take me, train me, be firm with me and I'll lay the work at your feet, but be easy with me or I'll destroy you.

Myola Monteiro
 Animator
 3rd Dominic Colony

THE PARISH ALIVE!

These past few years have witnessed the Parish of OUR LADY OF LOURDES blossoming like a bud that has opened into a petal flower upon the vibrant colours of spring. Oriem has undergone a change - a change that was inevitable, considering the efforts of so many people who are actively involved.

In the past a call to participate in the church activities would have perhaps been met with a silent laugh. Maybe this was because we felt that we wouldn't, for lack of time. But recently with all the periodical meetings, programmes, seminars, talks and outings in all the many zones and their sectors, our Parishioners have been able to express themselves more clearly than before. Each of us has been able to discover his or her forte, weakness and talents by making time.

And then again, there is the REACHING OUT in circulation, which had been and is yet, a very good medium for our thoughts and suggestions, and feelings and ideas. And who can ever forget the PRAYATNA - whose selfless members have proved and shown to us by their untiring efforts, just what the meaning of brotherhood really is.

If we were to list down all the groups and organisations in Oriem and try to thank each member personally, it would really not be possible, so, on behalf of all the Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, a big THANK YOU to all these beautiful people. And then to GOD - our Father, I pray that He 'Bind us together' with his love and blessings, as, this Easter season, we all unite to say, 'WE LOVE YOU!'

Medya Pereira
 Lubin Apts

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 ☎ 882 2760 / 882 1865
 DTP & Printing: Eric & Savio D'Souza, St. Ann's Computer Institute, ☎ 897 7634

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

THE REAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Dear Parishioners,

While we often speak about 'Community Centres', we need to reflect on the true 'centre' of our parish. As a starting point or as a springboard for our reflection, let us focus on a simple object - a cart wheel! Indeed, simple things can lead us to sublime truths. Did not a poet say that there are sermons in stones?

Well, a cart wheel has a hub or centre into which the spokes are inserted and are held in place. If the hub is removed the spokes fall apart.

We could compare the Eucharistic Celebration to the hub and the spokes to Christians who are inserted into the Eucharist. Just as the spokes are held in place, strongly and securely, by the hub, we too are united to Jesus by the Eucharist. When the spokes are not joined to the hub, they no longer serve the purpose for which they were crafted. They no longer contribute to making the wheel what it is. They lose their very identity! We too become disjointed, cut off from the source of power and even lose our Christian identity, if we are not connected to the Eucharist. Remember what Jesus said about the vine and the branches?

As we continue to look at the wheel, we observe that as the spokes draw closer to the hub they draw closer to one another. This is symbolic of the Eucharist which not only unites us to Jesus but also deepens and strengthens the bonds that exist among us, bonds first forged at Baptism. Unfortunately, in some churches, parishioners who have been celebrating the Eucharist for fifty years do not know one another. An 'ice breaker' at a party fosters fellowship. Well, each Eucharistic Celebration has greater depth and potency than any ice-breaker!

The early Christians were sustained by the Eucharist and derived their power from it. Those who lived in the Roman Empire participated in the Eucharist at a risk to their lives. To avoid being arrested, there were underground Eucharistic Celebrations at unearthly hours. The Sunday Eucharist was the source of nourishment for them. They did not have the Bible as we have it today for the Gospels and the letters were written later on. True, they had the Old Testament, a few scrolls of which were available. But the majority could not read!

The early Christians were not 'distracted' with a multiplicity of Masses, prayers, practices, pilgrimages, feasts, statues, shrines and devotions as we have them today. Their emphasis was on prayer rather than on prayers, on devotion rather than on devotions. And what is most important, their focus was on the Sunday Eucharist, the centre or hub of their community life, which empowered them to build community and to reach out to the poor and needy.

In the light of this reflection let us make the Sunday Eucharist the centre of our lives and of our parish in order that we may draw closer to the Lord and to one another.

Affectionately,
Father Larry

Reaching out

You think

COMMANDMENTS FOR YOUTH

So you're young and on top of the world... and you tend to think that you are above all rule and restraint. But you have to live a little thoughtless act committed today could have a life-time impact on your career, your relationships, your life.

Here are a few simple tips to help you cultivate a better personality, a warmer home relationship and become a more likeable person.

- i) **Call your mom**: Make sure you can inform folks at home if you are going to be more than half an hour late. No amount of fun or entertainment is worth the anxiety faced by your family members when they do not know if you are safe. It has nothing to do with curbing your independence. It shows you care for them at least as much as they do for you.
- ii) **Upgrade yourself**: Remember, you are never too qualified. You never know when a skill, a trade or an art may give you the desired edge over your nearest competitor. Learning something new also helps your brain remain alert, active and receptive to new theories. And of course, you will never every say 'I'm bored' again.
- iii) **Be polite and gracious at all times**: How do you know that the lady you snarled at in the train over the window seat is not the same one on the interview panel for that desired job? And God forbid that the gentleman you bowed at the bus stop in order to get in first just happens to be the father of your girlfriend (the one whose house you're visiting this weekend for dinner).
- iv) **Always be the first**: The first to volunteer help, the first to make amends, the first to smile and the first to forgive. It's a guaranteed formula for instant popularity and a cache of true blue friends (Of course, be very careful so you do not let yourself be taken for granted).
- v) **Make it a point to be early**: Always overestimate the time you think you need to reach your destination. You are now prepared to face traffic jams, vehicle breakdowns and that eccentric aunt who will not stop talking. Arriving early can be remedied by reading a book, window shopping. Arriving late will only earn you the wrath of your friends, the distrust of your employers and a lousy reputation.

And the most important rule of them all. No matter how bad things seem to be, hang in there because, as the saying goes, 'Tough times never last, tough people do'.

Wishing you success in every endeavour.

Prayer, Sufiyan

PARENTS' DAY
MY FATHER

Father's Dear

- WHEN I WAS
- 4 years old
- 5 years old
- 6 years old
- 8 years old
- 12 years old
- 14 years old
- 21 years old
- 25 years old
- 35 years old
- 40 years old
- 50 years old

My daddy can't do ANYTHING!
Mr daddy knows a whole lot
My Dad is smarter than your dad
in the olden days when my Dad grew up, things were very different.
Oh, well, naturally if Father doesn't know anything about that, He is too old to remember his childhood.
Don't pay attention to my father. He is so out-dated!
Hi! My Lord, he's hopelessly OUT OF DATE!
Maybe we should ask Dad what he thinks: After all, he's had a lot of experience.
I wonder how dad would have handled it. He was so wise and had a world of experience.
I'd give anything if Dad were here now so I could talk this over with him. Too bad I didn't appreciate how smart he was. I could have learned a lot from him.

THANK YOU MUMMY DEAR!

With every passing hour, with every passing day
You always stood by my side, to show me the RIGHT WAY.
You took me as I am. You cared for me everyday
It's the loan of maximum interest
Just impossible to repay.
You taught me how to walk
You taught me how to pray
You taught me how to smile and laugh
As I journey on my way.
You taught me how to study
You taught me to seek my way
You taught me how to live the life
Be it December or be it May
You corrected me in all my wrong
You encouraged me in all my right
You tried so hard in all my doing
To carve me into an individual good and upright
Mummy dearest I thank you so much
I owe it all to you THIS LIFE
Cause if it lacked your marvelous touch
My life would be a Big Great Sife

Contributed by Fr. Xavier Uthmanyan

DURING THIS TIME OF GRACE...!

Fr Gilbert de Lima

In a cricket game a bowler may bowl an inspired spell and turn the match on its head. This effort can eventually lead to the changing fortunes of his team in the tournament, and could even result in them eventually lifting the trophy. Leonardo Boff, a South American theologian, speaks of God's grace in a similar manner. He says, "There are moments in our lives when we experience this creative genius. This experience does not exclude technical effort; rather it enables us to go beyond ourselves and our efforts. During these moments we feel, kind of 'possessed by God!'"

We have had the privilege of experiencing a whole lot of events in recent times which may be described as being 'grace-filled'. For instance, we participated in our parish 'Intensive Lenten Mission' and felt our hearts enflamed, minds enlightened and spirits uplifted as each of the speakers explored new horizons in the spiritual life.

On 13 March, 2013 God blessed the Church with our new Holy Father, Pope Francis, who has ushered in so quickly a springtime in the Church, through his simplicity, his affable ways, his courage and his proposals to introduce an era of greater collaboration in Church governance. Subsequently, our parish Holy Week services were marked by a spirit of prayer, inspired choral singing, meaningful backdrops, and organizational expertise. What might have been a logistical nightmare, turned out to become an amazing experience of community worship. All this was yet again a concrete manifestation of God's grace.

The Eucharistic celebrations, post-Easter, in all our sectors were uplifting experiences, with the risen Lord motivating and empowering us to rise to a new life. The same Spirit who imbued the whole army of Parish Councillors, Association Coordinators and Community Coordinators with commitment and zeal, was also manifest in the remarkable spirit of generosity that radiated from the new team of Parish Councillors and Coordinators who now take guard in our parish community.

As we enjoy the vacations, we tangibly experience the Spirit recreating us in so many different ways. Indeed, God continually and gratuitously gives himself to us in the joys and the pains of life. Sometimes we are surprised by his presence, in places and situations where we least expect it. Indeed, there are no limits to God's love or his presence. He goes where he wills and comes to whomever he wishes. We simply and earnestly ask him for the gift of discernment to recognize his presence and rejoice in it!



Reaching Out - April 2013 - Page 9

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Our Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Orlem Its many Cells and Associations !

Alexio Fernandes and Michelle Pinto

Our Parish is blessed to have close to 40 Cells and Associations. As we celebrate the golden jubilee of our Church building, we are pleased to present this section which gives some insight into the working of the many cells and associations – for parishioners of all

ages. While the church building shines on this golden jubilee, it is these parishioners who actually illuminate the church by their service and make it a place to always want to go to, even in the midst of ones daily hectic schedules !

To Serve with Love

Alexio Fernandes

Altar Servers, also known as Guardians of the Altar, share a spirit of service and dedication to God. They are an important part of the worship experience for parishioners and are responsible for ensuring that the Mass runs smoothly and reverently.

In our Parish, the Altar Servers is a group of vibrant, enthusiastic young boys and girls. Their service is unique and special during the Eucharist as well as other Liturgical and Para-liturgical celebrations.

The Orlem Altar Servers' Ministry was founded in the year 2003, by Fr. Reuben

Tellis when he was the priest in-charge here. Today, Fr. Clinton Rayer with his team of 7 animators help the Altar servers achieve their objectives. There are 80 registered altar servers of which 40 are active.

A training program is conducted for the new-comers every June/July. Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the Month in the afternoon to pray, have group interaction, grow in faith, receive instructions on their weekly appointments and know their faith through various yearly activities.



Art Cell

Sharmila Rasquinha

The Parish Art Cell is a group of dedicated parishioners who use their God-given creativity to glorify Him through aesthetic expression. Whether it's preparing backdrops and decor for Christmas, Easter, Holy Week or special church events like the Parish Feast or Nativity of Our Lady, the Art Cell works with passion to transform our space with beautiful decorations and

thoughtful details.

Our artistic touch not only enhances the church's atmosphere but also helps create a welcoming and spiritually uplifting environment for all who enter.

Art cell was started in 2016 by Fr. Gilbert de Lima. Today we have 17 members - 10 active members, with Fr Cedric Rosario as our Priest-in-charge.

Parish Choirs

Helga Fernandes

Our Parish has 11 choirs comprising approximately of 240 members who serve during weekend liturgies, while 9 choirs with around 45 members serve during weekday liturgical celebrations. Their vision - to glorify God and lead the faithful into a deeper encounter with Christ through sacred music that enriches the Eucharist as well as all other Liturgical celebrations.

Our objectives: To glorify God through music; uphold the beauty, relevance and solemnity of the Eucharist and all other liturgical services through meaningful and appropriate music and to nurture and dedicate our musical talents in humble service.

The parish choir ministry has been in existence for several decades and comprises multilingual choirs serving in languages

including Konkani, Tamil, Marathi, and English.

Says Ravina Lobo Fernandes "Being a part of the choir ministry has helped me grow spiritually, use my talents to glorify God, and build meaningful friendships rooted in faith. Through serving during the Eucharist and liturgical celebrations, I have experienced a deeper connection with prayer and the community. This ministry not only enriches me personally but also helps bring people together in worship and devotion."-Ravina Lobo Fernandes

Small Christian Communities (SCCs)

Michelle Pinto, Parish Lay Co-ordinator

Our Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, has 9 Communities, including 2 Tamil Communities consisting of 51 sectors totally. The 51 Parish Councillors, currently function as the SCC coordinators of their sectors and with the help of the 400

Animators, working in these sectors, much is achieved in the communities. Spiritual, Social and Outreach activities organized in the sectors, thus help build bonds with the Parishioners.



Communication Cell

Our Parish Media Cell was established in 2016 with the aim to integrate and communicate the various activities being undertaken by the different Parish associations and additionally, to proclaim the Gospel effectively through communication channels, fostering unity, faith, and active participation in parish life.

The Cell's Mission is to use media as a tool for evangelization and catechesis. It also highlights parish events, initiatives, and testimonies that inspire faith and service.

The Objectives – to keep parish social media channels such as Instagram, Facebook,

Whatsapp channel, and website updated. Audiovisual materials can help support liturgy and community activities. Encourage parishioners, particularly youngsters, about the responsible and innovative use of technology. Encourage the virtues of truth, kindness, and respect in every communication.

The Media Cell is headed by Stephanie D'souza, who guides the active 17 member team.

If you have a flair for writing, photography, design, or simply a heart for communication, your talents can help spread the light of Christ. Together, let us make our parish voice stronger and more vibrant!

Environmental Committee Of Orlem (ECO Cell)

Carlyle Pereira

The ECO family with its dedicated team of 25 members have made a significant environmental impact in Orlem.

Old Daily Bibles were sculpted into statues, frames by Giselle. Fruit plants distribution and tree swaps for Greener Orlem are other ECO initiatives. The annual White Elephant sale offered donated items and articles at a minimal cost. Distribution/recycling of Bridal gowns and First Communion dresses brought joy to many on their special day.

The 'Dry waste collection' and the Organic waste conversion are classic examples of turning Waste into Wealth. Parishioners appreciated the effective disposal and recycling channel it provides. Supporting the Adivasi tribals via the "SAVE AAREY CAMPAIGN" or Signature campaign against the Cement batching plant in Orlem are some of ECO's diverse programmes. The Beach cleaning drives not just makes the

shoreline cleaner, but has tangible benefits protecting marine life, improving the health of the ecosystem. The Covid pandemic saw the ECO team conducting online ECO competitions.

Members like Pauline, Jill, Giselle, Elvira, Joelle and Kimberly have deepened their environmental commitment having completed the ECO Ambassador programme. Pauline took it to the next level completing the IMFE – Environment Ministry. Pearl recalls 'she joined the ECO to contribute towards greener and cleaner Orlem, as gifted by the Creator'.

Fr. Clinton Rayar's professional touch and ECO Coordinator Jill leads the team with a comprehensive plan for the year. Fr. Michael Pinto founded ECO in Orlem with a mission to make a meaningful contribution to environment and over the years it has truly become a manifestation of that vision.



Called to Serve – Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion

Pearl Crasto

The motto of the Ministry of Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) is to reach out in service and love.

Since Lourdes Colony has a considerable number of homebound parishioners, I was invited to serve as a Eucharistic Minister. Initially, I was sceptical, as I felt I was not worthy enough to distribute the Body of Christ to others. After days of reflection, this Bible verse came to mind: John 15:16 – “You did not choose me, but I chose you.” This gave me confidence to move forward with what I believe was the Lord’s calling for me.

I experience immense joy in being an instrument of bringing Jesus to the elderly, who eagerly await His presence every Sunday.

My heart is deeply touched when I see them choosing to smile despite their pain and challenges. In return, I have also received immense love, warmth and care from them. In my own small way—at home, in the workplace, and within the community—I try to bring people closer to God and help them experience the wonder-working God whom we serve.

Merwyn Mascarenhas is the Lay Coordinator and Fr Cedric Rosario the priest-in-charge. Our Ministry currently has 89 EMHC serving more than 350 homebound Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish at Orlem and some EMHC have been serving for the past 30 years!

Family Cell- Parish Community

Andrea Sequeira

Our Parish Family Cell was established in 2009, with 24 Members on board currently. Guided by our Spiritual Director Fr. Aniceto Pereira, the cell is a close-knit parish community where families come together in faith, love, and fellowship. We believe in growing not just individually, but as a community that supports and uplifts one another in our journey with God.

At the heart of our life is the Church and its rich liturgical tradition. We actively participate in the liturgical year, allowing its seasons to guide our prayer and reflection. Through meaningful

celebrations like the Lenten Way of the Cross the Mass for the Sick, we enter more deeply into the life of Christ, finding strength, healing and hope in His presence. These sacred moments help us pause, reflect, and draw closer to God as families.

Alongside prayer, we cherish the joy of togetherness. Simple gatherings—dance, karaoke, and festive celebrations—create space for laughter, bonding, and shared experiences. These moments remind us that faith is not only lived in silence and prayer, but also in joy, unity, and community spirit.

Service remains at the core of who we are. Through outreach initiatives and small acts of care, we strive to reach out to those in need, offering support, compassion, and a sense of belonging. We believe that living our faith means putting love into action.

Above all, our Family Cell is a home within the parish—a place where every family is welcomed, valued, and encouraged to grow in faith, deepen relationships and walk together as one community in Christ.

Inter Religious Dialogue Cell (IRD)

Alexio Fernandes

The Mission – Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges.

Vision – Enhance relations people of other faith and promote peace.

The Inter Religious Dialogue (IRD) Cell at Orlem has been set up as per the guidelines of the Roman Catholic Church. “Breaking barriers and Building bridges”, is our Christian calling in the common religion of Humanity. We and people of all faiths are entitled to the same dignity, which we need to respect. Hence, Dialogue becomes very important which also motivates us in understanding each other.

The IRD Cell was founded in March, 15th 2018 by Fr. Gilbert De Lima with 3 members who had just completed the BIRD [Basics in Inter Religious Dialogue] Course. Now, we are 14 Members with Fr. Ronny Vaz as our Spiritual Director.

IRD goals are to promote mutual understanding, respect and collaboration between Catholics and followers of other religions traditions to encourage the study of world religions and to promote the

formation of persons dedicated to inter faith dialogue.

The IRD at Orlem, engages in dialogue and activities with people of all faiths, including other Christian denominations. The team organises the Christian Unity Week, National Festival – Independence and Republic Days, Iftar for the Muslims brothers, Panel and Group discussions on various topics in regards to “Peace and Harmony”, Meet and Greet during the festivals like Diwali, Eid, Guru Nanak Jayanti, etc.

Parishioners are invited to join the IRD Cell which meets every month.



Lourdes Sports Committee

Jonathan Fernandes

Established in 2011, the Lourdes Sports Committee (LSC) was founded with a vision to foster community spirit and encourage active participation in sports within the parish. While its early years laid a strong foundation, the committee witnessed remarkable growth—especially since 2022—expanding significantly in both, scale and outreach, and emerging as a vibrant platform for parish-wide sports engagement. Rooted in our faith and guided by the tagline “Leading Sports through Christ”, LSC promotes teamwork, inclusivity and true sportsmanship across all age groups.

Its flagship event, Orlempics, has become a highly anticipated annual celebration, featuring a diverse range of indoor and outdoor sports such as badminton, chess, carrom, throwball, athletics, and more.

With well-structured categories spanning Under-8, youth, adults, and veterans—along with dedicated divisions for both men and women—the event ensures wide and meaningful participation. In recent editions, Orlempics has witnessed over 1000 parishioners actively competing, with many more gathering to cheer and support, creating an atmosphere of unity, energy, and shared joy.

The committee is driven by a committed team of 15 parishioners under the guidance of Fr. Clinton Rayar, who serves as the Spiritual Director.

Today, LSC continues to grow as a unifying force within the parish—bringing people together through sport, where every game becomes an opportunity to build connection, character, and community in Christ.



Pre-Baptismal Formation

Michelle Gonsalves

"Pre-Baptismal Formation" is a parish ministry that prepares expecting couples to welcome their child into the Catholic faith. We guide parents through this beautiful transition-from married life to parenthood-helping them understand the meaning of Baptism, its traditions, and their role in nurturing a child's faith.

The Pre-Bap ministry, reaches out to all expectant parents and equips them with a deeper understanding of Baptism, faith formation, and their responsibilities as Catholic parents.

The Ministry is led by Denzil and Michelle

Gonsalves and their team Stanley & Charmaine Mendes, Lyndon & Faye Pinto, Alexio & Pauline Fernandes and Stephen and Jacinta Noronha with the guidance of Fr. Cedric Rosario,

This is a mandatory formation programme for all couples expecting a child. Upon completion, couples receive a certificate required for their child's Baptism.

We conduct 4 sessions over 2 days (every 2 months) at the parish conference hall.

Through these sessions, we help couples confidently step into their new role and begin their child's journey in faith.

Our Parish Bulletin - Still Reaching Out

Melville X D'Souza

The parish bulletin had humble beginnings. A couple of parishioners had the passion and the drive to do something for the parish. And so, Glen D'Souza & Llewellyn Ferreira, old time parishioners, got together and decided to bring the parish on a common platform.

The two put their minds together and after a great deal of effort, in December 1978, they published the first issue of the parish bulletin, bringing in news, happenings, information from around the parish. And what was noteworthy was that the publication was funded entirely out of their own pockets. This continued for around five years when it was taken over by the parish.

You would have noticed how the Reaching

Out has evolved over the years. From a simple Newsletter consisting of just a few pages, the Reaching Out has grown better & better, upgrading to glossy prints. We have raised the bar, so to say!

Today, we have an Editorial Team in place with Fr. Aniceto our parish priest, as our Spiritual Advisor.

The Reaching Out is your bulletin. As much as we love bringing the Reaching Out to you, we would love to have more participation from you, the parishioners. We hope to continue our mission in our own quiet way. It is said, and we believe, "the pen is mightier than the sword"!

Sunday School - Building Faith, Shaping Lives

Savina Menezes

Sunday School Catechists are more than teachers – we are companions in faith, called to echo Christ’s love to the young hearts entrusted to them.

The primary aim of a catechist is to plant and nurture the seed of faith in every child. We guide children to know Jesus, love the Church, understand the Sacraments, and live Gospel values in daily life.

With 70 dedicated Catechists serving approximately 650 children each Sunday, we catechists form the backbone of faith

formation in the parish. We prepare classes, share Scripture, lead prayer and we journey with families often giving their own time, talent and weekend mornings for this mission.

At its heart, catechesis is not just about teaching doctrine, but forming a relationship with Jesus. We Catechists strive to make Sunday School a place where faith is caught, not just taught where every child feels known, loved and called by God.

Employment Cell

Veena Fernandes

The Parish Employment Cell was started in November 2025, with the guidance of our Parish Priest, Fr Aniceto Pereira to build a supportive Parish Community where individuals seeking employment are guided and given opportunities to lead a dignified and self-reliant life.

The Cell seeks to connect job seekers with Employers thereby providing opportunities and guidance. The Cell works closely with employers, while creating a platform of trust and equal opportunity rooted in service and compassion.

The Cell has around 9 Members. Leo an

Employment Cell Member says “Joining the Parish Employment Cell has been a meaningful experience. It helped me realize the importance of being a bridge between those seeking opportunities and those who can provide employment. Connecting deserving candidates to the jobs they seek through the database, has given me a deeper sense of purpose and contribution to the community.”

Many job seekers have benefitted from the Cell and vacancies and placements are growing by the day. The Employment Cell is available every Wednesday, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the Prayatna Office

Women's Cell - OLLC

Veronica Henriques

The Women's Cell envisions a society where women and girls are valued and respected as equally created in the image of God, able to enjoy their rights without discrimination or fear of violence, realize their full potential to become life-giving persons and participate in decision-making processes with women's perspective as equal partners in the family, church and society.

We commit ourselves to creating awareness regarding women's vocation and mission in the Church and society, stimulate the potential of women by organizing them into Parish Women Cells and accompany them in reaching out to women and girls, particularly those in distress.

Rosy D'Souza, a member says "I had joined

Women's cell in 2018 with the intention of helping women. WC helped me to understand the different problems women face and the ways we can help them. Because of the different programs organised by us for the women of our parish, I have personally benefitted by becoming stronger in my faith, in decision making and showing more empathy towards others."

Veera Davies says "The WC has been in operation for around 25 years, and has 20 members currently. As a cell member I have grown to understand the issues that the women in our parish communities face. They approach us and families have been put together to live in peace love and harmony."

Alcoholics Anonymous - Orlem

Ivan R

Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) is a worldwide fellowship of people who come together to share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. There are no age, gender or education requirement to participate. Anyone wanting to address their drinking problem is welcome.

The A.A. Orlem Group held its first meeting on 22nd September 1982. Over the past 44

years, scores of alcoholics have found sobriety and have reclaimed their lives.

"Being a compulsive problem drinker, I found it difficult to drink in moderation. Because of excessive drinking, my physical and mental health along with my relationship with my family, friends, workplace and society were severely damaged. I joined the fellowship of these ex-problem drinkers in 1987. Listening to their own stories of recovery through their

sharing gave me the identification and later on the tools to live a happy sober life. I have completed 29 years of sobriety enjoying good physical, mental and spiritual health and wonderful relationships with everyone around me." - Prashant S.

If you or anybody in your family or community has a problem with alcohol, A.A. can help. The A.A. Orlem Group meets every

week on Wednesday and Saturday from 7.30 pm to 9 pm at St. Anne's High School at Orlem. Feel free to walk into a meeting anytime and connect with others on the same journey. Reach out for support by calling the A.A. Orlem Group: 98216 78916 / 98211 67697 / 98212 34620. The A.A. Program of Recovery is free. Needless to mention, we respect your anonymity.

OLLC Ushers

Lloyd Mascarenhas

The Ushers Ministry is committed to serve the parish with humility, discipline, and dedication with an objective to ensure order, reverence, and a welcoming atmosphere during all liturgical celebrations and parish events. The ministry strives to assist parishioners, support the clergy, and uphold the sanctity and smooth conduct of services. OLLC Ushers was set up 50 years ago and currently has 80 members.

A testimony : "I joined the Ushers Ministry over 40 years ago with a simple desire to serve the Church. Over the years, this ministry has become a significant part of my life. It has taught me the values of discipline, responsibility, and humility. Being an usher is not just about managing crowds or maintaining order, but about serving God through service to His people.

This journey has helped me grow personally

by strengthening my faith, improving my ability to work in a team, and developing a sense of commitment and leadership. It has also given me the opportunity to interact with parishioners from all walks of life, fostering unity and a strong sense of community.

Through our service, we contribute to creating a prayerful and welcoming environment for all, ensuring that every parishioner feels respected and comfortable. It is truly fulfilling to know that in a small way, we help enhance the spiritual experience of others."



The Bombay Catholic Sabha – Orlem Unit

Lloyd Mascarenhas

The Bombay Catholic Sabha (BCS) – Orlem Unit is committed to the socio, political, civic, environmental, and youth development of the Catholic community. Its mission is to safeguard the rights and interests of Catholics while fostering unity, leadership, and active participation in parish and civic life. The unit promotes awareness, community engagement, youth empowerment, and environmental responsibility, contributing to the overall welfare and holistic development of society. Established 20 years ago, it currently has 2500 active members

I joined the Bombay Catholic Sabha – Orlem Unit with a desire to be actively involved in community life and to better understand the challenges faced by our society.

Over time, my journey with BCS has been enriching and empowering, helping me grow in confidence, leadership and social responsibility, enabling me and BCS contribute meaningfully through various initiatives, awareness programs and community outreach activities. It has also strengthened my sense of belonging and commitment towards the parish and society at large.

It is a matter of pride that our unit was honoured with the ‘Best BCS Unit’ award in the Archdiocese of Bombay. This achievement reflects the unity, dedication, and collective efforts of all our members. It is fulfilling to be part of an organization that actively works towards the welfare, unity, and progress of society while staying rooted in our values and faith.

Lectors

Lizelle-Ann Henriques

Our Parish Lectors’ ministry vision is “to inspire the faithful to encounter Christ more deeply through the living Word of God”.

This Ministry is headed by Cristina Fernandes and has 85 lectors.

“I had a longing to deepen my commitment to service and to use the gifts bestowed on me for God’s Glory which drew me to the Lectors’ Ministry. The Word of God is central to the life of the Church, and those who proclaim it participate in that sacred mission. This ministry is not casual or decorative - it is a liturgical service rooted in responsibility and reverence.

The Lector’s proclamation brings Scripture

to life, helping the congregation engage with its meaning and message. Prayer is at the root of the Lector’s work. A hurried reading can weaken the message, while a faithful proclamation can touch hearts.

As a Lector, one has the opportunity to serve in the Mass, deepen our spirituality through greater appreciation of scripture, and develop skills in public speaking and reading. Through the sacrifice of time, gifts, and effort, God’s living Word continues to reach all His people: the young, old, happy, sick, troubled, hopeless, and those in need of comfort.”

Hope and Life Association

Aditi Chakrabarty

The Hope & Life, an Archdiocesan Association, is a blend of Spirituality, Fellowship, Outreach and Support, with about 2000 widows and is spread over 50 Parishes.

Hope & Life began in our parish with 6 members in 1994 and currently we have 100 members. The cell places high priority on spiritual development and running outreach

initiatives to assist and empower widows, helping them to accept widowhood as a vocation, thus gaining emotional stability.

I joined our Orlem Association as I felt that, like the others, after the passing away of our husbands, lost and alone. We meet on the first Sunday of the month, in the Nihar Hall, for a general and spiritual sharing.

Legion of Mary

Allen D'Almeida

The Legion of Mary envisions a world sanctified through Mary, where every soul knows and loves God and its mission is the glory of God through the holiness of its members, developed by prayer and active co-operation, under ecclesiastical guidance, in Mary's and the Church's work of crushing the head of the serpent and advancing the reign of Christ. It was founded in 1921 by Servant of God, Frank Duff, Dublin, Ireland. The Legions objectives are Personal Sanctification, to help members grow in holiness through a balanced program of prayer and active apostolic work. Active Apostolate, to perform active work each week, like home & hospital visitation, evangelization, teaching catechism, works for youth, and service to the marginalized. Spread Devotion to Mary "Through Mary to

Jesus." Recruitment : To extend the Legion by recruiting active and auxiliary members, and establishing new praesidia. Edification of the Community, to be leaven in the parish by example, unity, and service.

The Orlem unit has 135 members, including the Tamil and Konkani communities.

A member testifies "I joined the Legion of Mary searching for purpose. The weekly Rosary, prayer, and Legion promises deepened my devotion to Our Lady. Through home, hospital, Prison and Orphanage visits, I met Christ in the sick, lonely, and dejected. Listening to them taught me compassion and my faith is no longer just Sunday Mass – it's alive in action. The Legion showed me that holiness grows when prayer and apostolic work go hand in hand."

A Novel idea: Our Little Parish Library

Aloma D'Souza

Our Parish Library – A Novel Idea, was established on August 5, 2017 with the vision that it should be a space to have access to a wide genre of books, create a world of imagination, help share ideas and inculcate a habit of reading for children

Today the Library is being run by 14 members under the leadership of Jennifer Carvalho.

I was drawn to join “A Novel idea” as a volunteer. Good decision indeed. Since then, Sunday morning, after the 10:30 am children’s mass, became a highlight for us.

Thanks to the generous donation of books by our parishioners, our shelves, hold something for everyone. Picture books and early readers for little ones, Fantasy and adventure for older children, illustrated bible stories, and books of knowledge that spark curiosity. Few adults too come in for

investigative novels, classics and the well-loved chicken soup for the soul collection.

What’s most encouraging is to experience what happens after mass. Children stream in to return books and hunt for new additions. The room lights up with their loud voices debating which stories were thrilling, recommending favourites, discovering which books a friend loved, what was awesome, and what was boring. It’s not really just about books. It’s about somewhere to hang out, be heard and feel like they belong.



Living Waters Prayer Group

Calista D'Souza

As part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Mumbai, the Living Waters Prayer Group (LWPG) is dedicated to helping our parishioners build a firm and lasting foundation in Christ. The LWPG was established in June 1978 in Orlem. The present coordinator of the group is Ralph Fernandes and we are a community of around 225 members. Our Vision - to renew

parish families and become a dwelling place of God manifesting His Glory.

Our Mission is to empower members to grow in faith through a lifestyle of worship and Scripture, building deep relationships and using their unique gifts to share the Gospel through our parish ministries.

We operate on four pillars: Discipleship - Targeted cell groups (Men, Youth, and

Zonal) for scripture reflection. Intercession – Our backbone - meeting weekly to pray for parish petitions. Evangelization : Encouraging worship as a lifestyle, fostering a dynamic faith that is both visible and shared naturally with others. Scripture and Sacraments : Cultivating daily Bible reading and frequenting the Sacraments.

My testimony: Joining LWPG has turned my faith from a Sunday routine into a daily

encounter with God. Recently, performing in our Night Vigil skit helped me break out of my shell and build genuine, deep friendships. Additionally, our Youth Cell Bible studies have given me the confidence to engage in meaningful spiritual conversations at home and with friends. This growth hasn't stayed within our meetings; it has equipped me with the confidence and grace to serve the larger church community more effectively.

Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)

Sidney Rana

Vincent Ferreira, our Parishioner, motivated by the works of the SVP started the SVP in our Parish at Orlem in 1957 and was appointed the first President of the unit.

The SVP's mission is to promote the dignity of people in need through personal service to the poor. Vincentian members are assigned adopted needy families. Members visit the families in their houses and see to their well-being in terms of food rations, medical and educational needs. Aiding the education needs of the children, is given importance. It is a matter of great joy that many of these children who were helped are now doing well for themselves.

Vincentian members attend regular spiritual recollections, festival meetings and specific trainings. Currently, we have 34 SVP members and 51 adopted families. Thanks to the generosity of our Parishioners, the cup of mercy is always overflowing at SVP.

Savina Rodrigues shares “My journey with SVP dates back to the early 2000s, when I joined as a youth. Those years were filled with meaningful experiences—weekly meetings that strengthened our purpose, monthly visits to institutions and our annual “Feeding the Poor on Wheels” initiative. Witnessing the challenges faced by the underprivileged, offering them basic necessities, and receiving their heartfelt smiles brought me a deep sense of fulfilment and purpose which left a lasting impression and shaped my outlook on service and compassion.

After a long sabbatical, I re-joined the senior group. Being part of this journey has again reaffirmed my belief in the power of small acts of kindness. It's not just about providing material support—it is about sharing humanity, dignity, and hope. It brings a profound sense of fulfilment and feeling truly blessed to make a small difference in someone's life.”

Bombay Archdiocesan Senior Citizens' Association (BASCA)

Herman Trinidad

The Bombay Archdiocesan Senior Citizens' Association (BASCA) was formed by Bishop Bosco Penha in September 2011 with broad objectives of: animating the "Senior Citizen Associations" in all Parishes and to strengthen their faith; reaching out to members in need, especially the sick, distressed and lonely; channelizing talent and experience in handling social problems and involvement in other Parish activities.

Keeping the above in mind, the Senior Citizens' Association, Orlem Unit, BASCA, Orlem Unit, was formed. Today, there are 179 registered members and 16 committee

members. Under the able guidance of our Spiritual Director, Fr. Aniceto Pereira, the unit has conducted spiritual sessions, medical camps and entertainment experiences. A pilgrimage to Mt. Mary, Bandra, World Elder's Day celebrations, a picnic to Madh Island with around 94 Senior Citizens attending, are some of the activities members participated in and enjoyed.

In this Jubilee Year of our Parish Church building, we are honoured to have Mr. Savio Antao, elected as Vice President of BASCA at the Archdiocesan level. This is a first for Orlem Unit at the central level.



Orlem Bible Cell

Steven Pais

The Parish Bible Cell was inaugurated in 1995 under the visionary stewardship of Fr. Leslie Ratus and Lyra Monteiro, inaugurating a zealous apostolate dedicated to the proclamation of the Word of God. Rooted in the Pauline mandate to preach the Gospel "in season and out of season" (2 Tim 4:2), the ministry seeks to disseminate the Good News

to every stratum of parish life, for it is "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16). Its abiding mission is to deepen faith through the love, wisdom, and lived vitality of Sacred Scripture.

In its formative years, Lyra Monteiro conducted parish-level Bible classes, cultivating among the faithful a profound veneration for

the Scriptures. Homes were transformed into sanctuaries of intercessory prayer, radiant with the light of God's Word, while Fr. Leslie Ratus himself guided the faithful with pastoral solicitude, teaching them the art of praying with Scripture. The Cell likewise spearheaded Vacation Bible Joy programmes for children, youth initiatives, and catechetical formation for Confirmation candidates.

In 2004, the Bible Cell Core Team was formally constituted under the leadership of Fr. Mario Mendes and Gertrude Fernandes, thereby invigorating the organizational and evangelical dynamism of the ministry.

Today, in 2026, the Parish Bible Cell comprises 28 commissioned Ministers of the Word under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Harry Vaz and Orion Pinto. The Cell continues to animate parish life through Bible Book/Thematic teachings in Small Christian Communities, catechetical ministry, Bible quizzes, parish-level celebrations of the Sunday of the Word of God, Vacation Bible Joy programmes, and outreach during the Christmas season, rendering Sacred Scripture transformative, accessible, and profoundly germane to the spiritual pilgrimage of the faithful.

Parish Liturgical Team (PLT)

May Dsouza

The PLT is made up of Clergy and Laity representatives /heads from various liturgical ministries within our parish who plan, prepare, and coordinate worship services to ensure they are reverent, engaging, and in accordance with church guidelines. Various Ministries - musicians, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, ushers, environment, art and hospitality all work together for meaningful prayer, meeting to plan Sunday Masses, feast days, and seasonal celebrations (Advent, Lent, etc.) and to ensure a smooth flow of service.

The PLT's goal is to facilitate "full, conscious, and active participation" in the worship service. The PLT serves the community by preparing the setting and structure for the people to encounter God, moving beyond

just scheduling, to creating an atmosphere for spiritual experience.

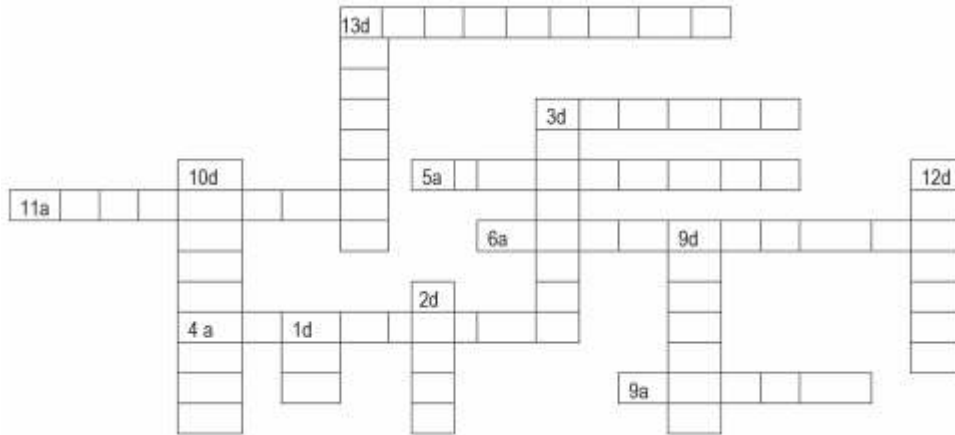
Our PLT is a dedicated team of 16 members, divided into 5 groups which earnestly write the Prayers Of the Faithful (POF) for the Sunday Liturgy, besides preparing Prayer Services for Friday Adorations, sometimes improvising with Stations of the Cross during the season of Lent. (Basic and Advanced liturgical courses are available)

Irene Mendonça shares "to be inducted into Parish Liturgical Team was a joy. I kept reading up on liturgical norms, while keeping the Bible and Ordo always within reach".

The PLT works unheard, unseen and unobtrusively behind the scenes but we are happy to serve the Lord... "To Him be the glory.."

The Church Quiz

Find the correct word. Send your replies to reachingout.orlem@gmail.com, with your name, Community and Sector number. **In celebration of the golden jubilee of the Church building, there will be prizes awarded for all correct answers, through a lucky dip.**



1D, 2D, 3D, 4A Four marks of the Catholic Church (4 words)

3A According to the CCC, the convocation (assembly) of people called together by God to form the People of God, who become the Body of Christ through the Eucharist and the Temple of the Holy Spirit is the _____ visible both as society and spiritual community

5A At what event does the church begin

6A Guides, animates, inspires, blesses the church (2 words)

9A _____ founded the church

9D _____ was first Pope

10D The first church in the Bible is the Church in _____ established in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost, following the descent of the Holy Spirit.

11A The Term “church” _____ greek, means “called out ones” focusing on the community of believers rather than a building

12D While Jerusalem was the first church, the term “Christian” was first used in (Acts 11) making the Church of _____ an early significant center.

13D First church in India was established by _____ in Kerala

13A One of the oldest churches in Mumbai

Winners of Resurrection, Ascension and Pentecost Quiz

Community 1 Baudi

Abigail Azavedo
Debra Fernandes
Philomina Mani
Carol D'Souza
Maureen Lily
Ophila D'Souza

Community 2 SBLG

Schneider D'Souza
Sheldon Lobo

Community 3 JBC

Arlene Alves
Leena Rozario

Community 4 Tank

Philomena Pinto
Brian, James & Shaun
Gwynet Johnson
Leena Rozario
Giselle D'Mello
Cletus & Pamela Dsouza
Lorraine Dias

Community 5 Lourdes

Agatha & Aelred
AbreoMariana Coelho
Jennifer Mendonsa
Philomena Ferrao

Cynthia Pereira
Zubin & Zidelle Goveas
Agnello D'Souza

Comm 6 Mith Chowki

Raphael Fernandes

Comm 7 Evershine

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- AGE GROUP - 30 to 70 Years
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- OPTION - SINGLE LIFE OR JOINT LIFE (SPOUSE/SIBLING/CHILDREN/ GRAND PARENT/GRAND CHILDREN)
- PENSION AVAILABLE - YEARLY/ HALF YEARLY/ QUARTERLY/MONTHLY
- OPTION TO TAKE DEATH BENEFIT AS LUMP-SUM OR IN INSTALLMENTS
- LOAN - ANY TIME AFTER 3 MONTHS FROM COMPLETION OF POLICY

INVEST ONE TIME Rs. 6 LAKH & GET GUARANTEED LIFE TIME PENSION Rs 53,220/ YEARLY			INVEST ONE TIME Rs. 12 LAKH & GET GUARANTEED LIFE TIME PENSION Rs 1,07,640/ YEARLY		
ANNUITY @ Age 55 Yrs DEFERMENT TERM : 5 Yrs			ANNUITY WITH DEFERMENT : 5 Yrs Age 55 Yrs		
PENSION MODE	LIFE TIME PENSION	% Return	PENSION MODE	LIFE TIME PENSION	% Return
YEARLY	₹ 53,220	8.87%	YEARLY	₹ 1,07,640	8.97%
HALF YEARLY	₹ 26,078	8.69%	HALF YEARLY	₹ 52,744	8.79%
QUARTERLY	₹ 12,906	8.60%	QUARTERLY	₹ 26,103	8.70%
MONTHLY	₹ 4,238	8.52%	MONTHLY	₹ 8,613	8.61%
Expecting that Pensioner will live 100 Years 45 Years Pension = Rs. 23,94,900 Return of Purchase Price 100% = Rs. 6,30,000 Total Payable = Rs. 30,24,900			Expecting that Pensioner will live 100 Years 45 Years Pension = Rs. 48,43,800 Return of Purchase Price 100% = Rs. 12,60,000 Total Payable = Rs. 61,03,800		

HIGH RETURN PLAN

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REGULAR INVESTMENT FOR 16 YEARS

DAILY INVESTMENT	MONTHLY INVESTMENT (APPROX.)	TOTAL INVESTMENT IN 16 YEARS (APPROX.)
₹ 101	₹ 3,030	₹ 5,89,600
₹ 201	₹ 6,030	₹ 11,73,600
₹ 301	₹ 9,030	₹ 17,57,600
₹ 401	₹ 12,030	₹ 23,41,600
₹ 501	₹ 15,030	₹ 29,25,600

HUGE RETURNS AFTER 25 YEARS

ESTIMATED RETURN AFTER 25 YEARS	TOTAL PROFIT (APPROX.)
₹ 21 LAKH	₹ 15+ LAKH PROFIT
₹ 42 LAKH	₹ 30+ LAKH PROFIT
₹ 63 LAKH	₹ 45+ LAKH PROFIT
₹ 84 LAKH	₹ 60+ LAKH PROFIT
₹ 1 CRORE	₹ 70+ LAKH PROFIT

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Cost Excl: Optional Tours, Insurance & Personal Expenses.

These are the below-mentioned countries, cities, and places to visit while on this journey, subject to the duration of the pilgrimage.

WEST 16 Days
14 Oct 26 **VATICAN CITY - ITALY:**
Rome - San Giovanni Rotondo - Assisi - Padua - Turin - Loreto
 Vatican Museums - Sistine Chapel - Papal Audience & The Basilicas:
 * St. Peter * St. John Bosco * St. Maria Maggiore
 * St. Chiara * St. Carlo Acutis * St. Maria Ausiliatrice
 * St. Francis * Shroud of Turin * Holy Cross in Jerusalem
 * St. Anthony * St. Mary of Loreto * St. Paul Outside the Walls
 * St. Padre Pio * St. John in Lateran * Eucharistic Miracle of LANCIANO

EAST 14 Days
27 Oct 26 **POLAND: Krakow Divine Mercy Shrine**
 * Jasna Gora - Our Lady of Czestochowa, Wadowice - Family
 * House & Museum of St. John Paul II & Wieliczka (Salt Mine)

HERZEGOVINA: Medjugorje * Blue Cross * Apparition Hill * Cross Mountain

HUNGARY: Budapest **SLOVENIA: Ljubljana** **CROATIA: Zagreb**
 * St. Stephen's Basilica * St. Nicholas's Cathedral * Cathedral (Blessed Virgin)

AUSTRIA: Vienna - Salzburg
 * St. Stephen's Cathedral * Sound of Music Tour & (the Wedding Church)

CZECHIA: Prague * Infant Jesus Shrine * Astronomical Clock

SLOVAKIA: Bratislava * Bratislava Castle * St. Martin's Cathedral

The places below are leisure sightseeing spots that can be an add-on to your pilgrimage, either in the **EAST** or **WEST** for 3 days or 5 days.

GERMANY: Titisee-Cologne * Cathedral
NETHERLANDS: Amsterdam * Canal Cruise
BELGIUM: Brussels * Atomium
LUXEMBOURG: Luxembourg

SWITZERLAND: Engelberg - Lucerne - Interlaken * Jungfrauojoch * Mt. Titlis

FRANCE: Lourdes - Nevers - Nice - Paris
 * Rosary Basilica * St Vincent de Paul * Notre-Dame Cathedral
 * Immaculate Conception * Chapel - the Miraculous Medal
 * Candlelight & Blessed Sacrament Procession (Twice)
 * Sanctuary St. Bernadette Soulbrious of Nevers & Tomb

SPAIN: Azpeitia - Avila- Santiago de Compostela - Garabandal Zaragoza - Barcelona - SAGRADA FAMILIA
 * Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela - St. James the Apostle
 * Basílica de la Sagrada Familia world's tallest church at 172.5 meters
 * Cathedral-Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar * Cathedral of the Savior
 * Crystal - Rosary * St. Teresa of Avila * St. Ignatius of Loyola Holy House
 * Garabandal apparitions of * St. Michael the Archangel * Blessed Virgin Mary

PORTUGAL: Fatima - Santarem Eucharistic Miracle
 * The *Ancestral House of the Three Children (Lucia - Francisco - Jacinta)
 * Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima & Chapel of the Apparitions

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Leisure Tours
SCANDINAVIA
 Santa Claus Village
 Midnight Sun - Baltic Cruise
 NORWAY - DENMARK - SWEDEN - FINLAND
 ESTONIA - LATVIA - LITHUANIA - (Optional) GREECE
 14 Days - July 2026 & July 2027

The BALKANS
 GREECE - BULGARIA - KOSOVO - SERBIA
 ALBANIA - MONTENEGRO - MACEDONIA
 14 Days - June / July 2027

ANDAMAN 7 Days 16 Aug 26	CHINA TAIWAN 11 Days 1 Sep 26	SRI LANKA MALDIVES 7 Days 2 Oct 26	VIETNAM PHILIPPINES 9 Days / 12 Days 15 Sep, 9 Nov, 12 Nov, 24 Nov & 12 Dec 26	SINGAPORE THAILAND MALAYSIA 10 Days 23 Sep & 16 Nov 26	VIETNAM THAILAND PHILIPPINES 16 Days 12 Sep & 6 Nov 26	THAILAND MALAYSIA SINGAPORE PHILIPPINES 14 Days 23 Sep & 16 Nov 26	THAILAND MALAYSIA VIETNAM 19 Days 13 Sep & 9 Nov 26
MAURITIUS MADAGASCAR 6 Days / 10 Days Mar 27	JAPAN 8 Days Apr 27	CHINA MONGOLIA 12 Days Apr / May 27	CHINA S. KOREA MONGOLIA 16 Days Apr / May 27	JAPAN CHINA S. KOREA MONGOLIA 23 Days Apr / May 27	KENYA TANZANIA SOUTH AFRICA 14 Days May / Jun 27	KERALAM TAMILNADU 16 Days 27 Jun 27	THE HIMALAYAN SPL - 18 Days BHUTAN NEPAL TIBET 6 Days / 4 Days / 6 Days April / May 27
							NORTHEAST SPL 12 Days Apr 27

For more details, please write to us at mail@jensonworldwide.com



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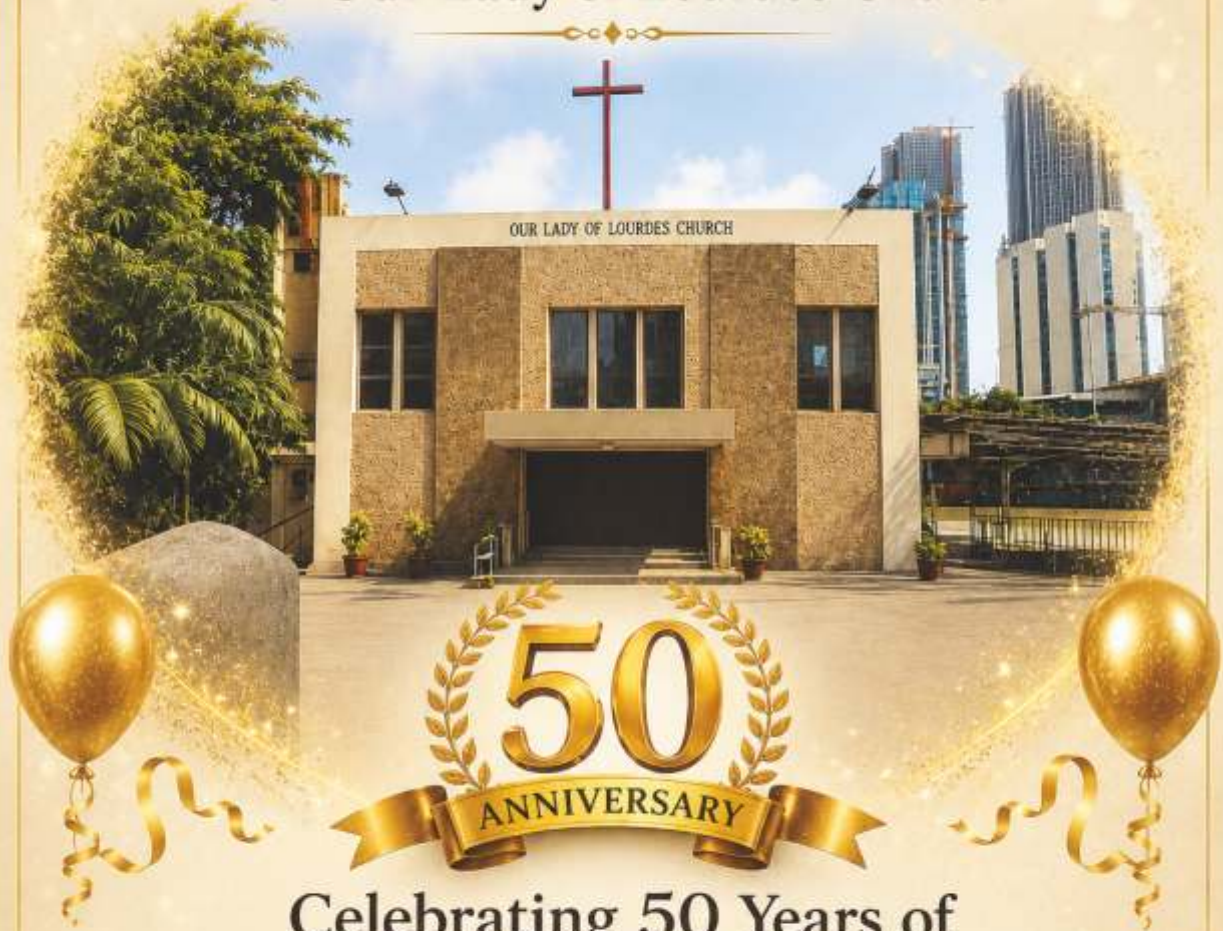
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