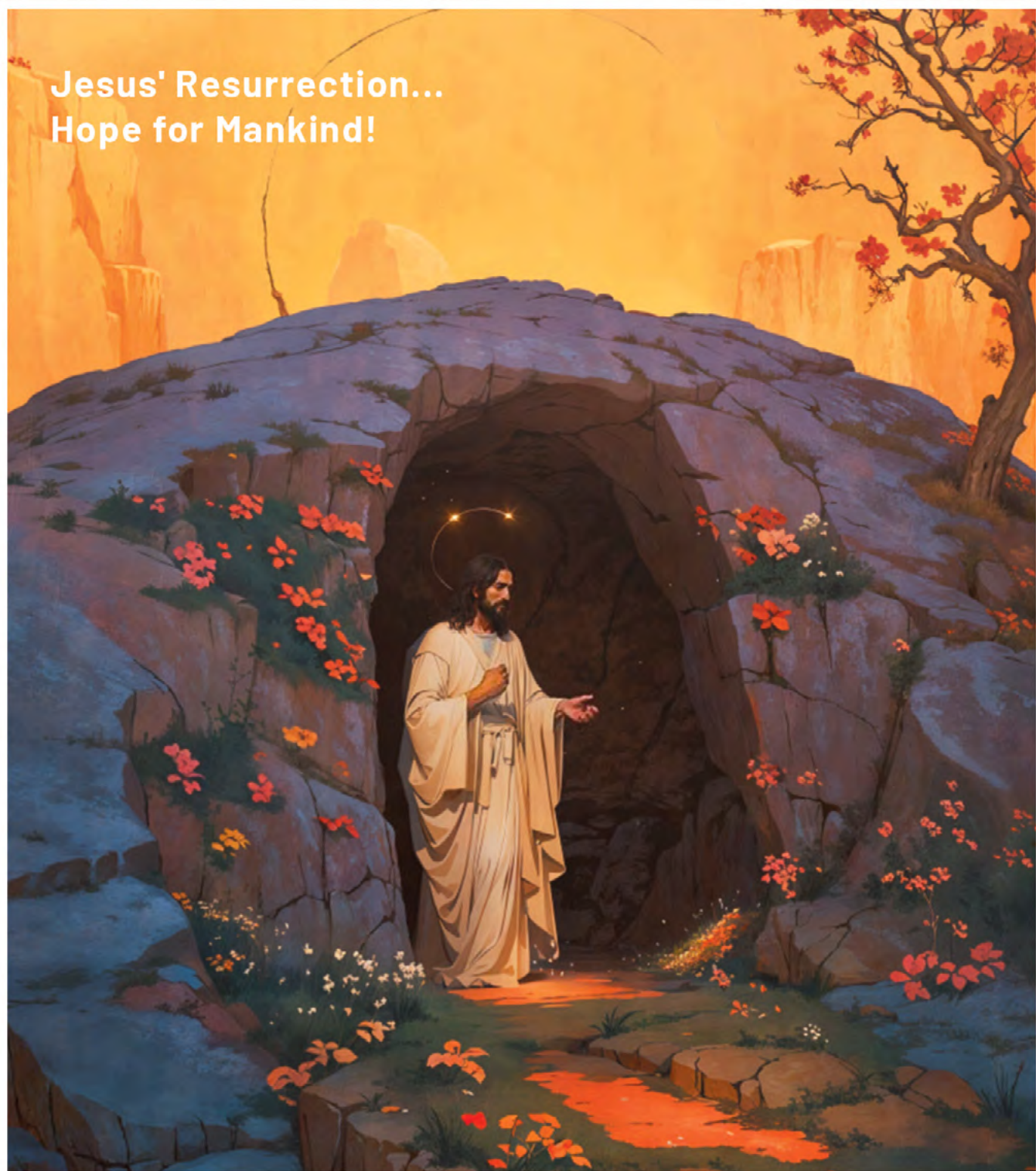


Reaching Out



**Jesus' Resurrection...
Hope for Mankind!**



He is not here; he has risen!
Luke 24:6

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Reaching Out Theme For June 2025

Stewards of the Earth

Living Out God's Call to Care for Creation* - Practical ways to be good stewards of the environment.

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Please send your articles / reports as attached word.doc files and good resolution photographs as jpeg files to reachingout.orem@gmail.com by May 20, 2025. Kindly mention your Community and Sector number or the Cell / Association you are reporting for.

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The Reaching Out

A Newsletter of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orem

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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: +91 9920144967

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

Running Towards Hope: The Easter Message and the Jubilee Year 2025

Brinston Carvalho



The Easter morning scene of St. John and St. Peter running to the empty tomb is one of urgency, faith and hope. The Gospel according to St John tells us that upon hearing Mary Magdalene's words, they ran together, but John, the younger, arrived first. Yet he paused at the entrance, while Peter, ever bold, went in. There they found only the burial cloths - signs not of loss, but of the greatest victory.

This moment reflects the journey of faith itself. Some, like John, sense the truth deeply but hesitate; others, like Peter, rush in despite doubts. Yet both were given the grace to witness the empty tomb, the first sign of the Resurrection, the foundation of Christian hope. Their journey from uncertainty to belief mirrors our own spiritual walk. The empty tomb was not an end but a beginning - a call to a deeper understanding of Christ's triumph over sin and death.

As we approach the Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, this scene takes on new meaning. The Jubilee is a call to renewal, to rediscover the hope that the Resurrection offers - a hope stronger than fear, despair or uncertainty. Like Peter and John, we are called to run towards Christ, to seek Him even when we do not fully understand and to trust that He is alive, leading us forward. The Jubilee reminds us that God's mercy is endless, His promises are sure and His hope never fades.

The burial cloths left behind remind us that death does not have the final word. In a world often overshadowed by doubt, suffering and division, the message of Easter is more relevant than ever. It calls us to believe in the impossible, to trust in the unseen and to proclaim the Good News without fear. As the Church prepares to celebrate this special jubilee, we are invited to embrace this hope in our own lives - to be renewed in faith, to run towards Christ with confidence and to proclaim with joy that He is risen!

In this sacred season and beyond, may we carry forward the Easter message, living as witnesses to the hope that never fades - the hope of the Risen Lord. Let us run, like Peter and John, not in fear, but in eager expectation, knowing that Christ goes before us, lighting the way to eternal life.

The Life, Death and Resurrection of Christ: A Reflection on the Ultimate Sacrifice

Carmel Sisters, Carmel of St. Joseph Convent

Lent offers a profound opportunity for spiritual reflection and growth. Lent calls us to leave behind what is familiar and comfortable, stepping into a period of reflection, renewal, and growth, ultimately leading us closer to Jesus. The 40-day journey, mirroring Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, invites us to delve deeper into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Reflecting on the Life of Jesus Christ: A Ministry of Love and Service

Renewal and Conversion: Lent encourages us to reflect on our lives, acknowledging areas that need improvement. Just as Jesus began his public ministry after his time in the wilderness, we too can emerge from Lent with a renewed commitment to our faith.

Self-Reflection and Prayer: Through increased prayer and self-reflection, we can better understand Jesus' teachings and embody them in our daily lives.

Charitable Works: Engaging in acts of charity and kindness, as Jesus did throughout his life, helps us connect with his mission of serving others. Caring for the poor is not optional for a Christian; it is an evangelical duty.

Evangelization is incomplete without a commitment to the holistic well-being of those we serve.

Reflecting on the Death of Jesus Christ: A Sacrifice of Love

Sacrificial Love: Jesus' crucifixion reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice he made for humanity. During Lent, we reflect on how we can emulate this sacrificial love in our relationships and community.

Penitence and Forgiveness: Lent encourages us to seek forgiveness for our sins, just as Jesus forgave those who wronged him. This spirit of penitence helps us grow in humility and compassion.

Solidarity with the Suffering: We are called to face our crosses with patience and faith. Whether these take the form of physical suffering, emotional wounds, or spiritual trials, we are reminded not to refuse or set them aside but to carry them with courage, trusting in God's grace. Jesus's example teaches us that the cross is not a symbol of defeat but a pathway to new life. Jesus' abandonment on the cross is not just a moment of suffering. It is an act of solidarity. It is the price he paid for our salvation. As we contemplate Jesus' suffering on the cross, we are reminded to stand in solidarity with those who suffer today, offering support and comfort where we can.

Reflecting on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: A Victory Over Death

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. It is the event that gives meaning to Jesus' life,

death, and teachings.

Hope and Renewal: Jesus' resurrection is a powerful symbol of hope and renewal. During Lent, we reflect on how this hope can transform our lives and the lives of those around us.

New Life in Christ: As we prepare for Easter, we are reminded that through baptism, we have been given new life in Christ. Lent is a time to renew our commitment to this new life.

Easter as a Celebration of Life: The resurrection underscores the victory of life over death. As we celebrate Easter, we rejoice in this victory, acknowledging the eternal life that Jesus offers us.

In conclusion, the season of Lent provides

a profound opportunity to reflect deeply on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through prayer, self-reflection, charitable works, and solidarity with the suffering, we emerge from Lent with a renewed commitment to our faith, embodying the values of sacrificial love, forgiveness, and hope that are at the heart of Jesus' mission.

We thank you dear God, for the gift of your life, death, and resurrection. May your sacrifice inspire us to live our lives in a spirit of love and service. Help us to follow your example, and may we be empowered by your resurrection to live our lives in the light of your victory over death. Amen

MAY THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION
FILL OUR HEARTS AND HOMES THIS
EASTER!!!

Experiencing Jesus' Resurrection

Melville X. D'Souza

The motto chosen by the Pope, "Pilgrims of Hope" for the 2025 Jubilee Year, was to encourage people to look to the future with hope and trust. Against this backdrop, we need to look back at Jesus' life on earth.

When there seemed no hope for mankind, God decided to send his only son Jesus, into this sinful world to bring man back to the spiritual path. **And, Jesus chose the path that would take him to Calvary, carrying that cross which was full of our sins, bleeding, falling, struggling all the way. And hanging on the cross in shame and laid in the tomb.**

Was the Tomb the end of Jesus' story? Was

it the end of hope? It was on the contrary, a new beginning, the dawn of a new Hope. The huge stone across the tomb, the soldiers standing guard notwithstanding, Jesus rose from that Tomb. **Do we believe this? If not, our faith has no meaning.** Let's not forget, we are not just pilgrims here on earth, but pilgrims of hope.

When Cleophas and another disciple recognized Jesus only at the breaking of bread after encountering Him on the way, they were filled with new hope. The Resurrection is at the very core of our faith. The Resurrection was Jesus' victory over sin and death. Only when we believe this fact, would we understand that Jesus is genuinely

our hope.

During lent, we may have followed several Lenten practices, especially the Stations of the Cross. **However, if we are unable to relate the stations of the Cross to situations in real life, then we have lost the plot.**

Do we have to be forced to help others in need just like Simon of Cyrene was forced to help Jesus carry his cross. Could we become another Veronica and offer to wipe the tears of someone in grief, not bothering

about the consequences? Yes, it may seem difficult at times to reach out to others. On the other hand, is it appropriate to switch on our mobiles and record incidents on the street, and proudly share them on social media?

If we can reach out to others even in the least possible way, we could experience Jesus' resurrection in our life here on earth itself. It is really up to us. **Jesus' Resurrection should always remain as a ray of hope for mankind!**

Hope Rooted in Love

Cheryl Dsilva, C2S1

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith, giving us a reason to hope. When we look at the events leading up to Easter - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and finally, the Resurrection, we see that "Love is the central theme" of the "Paschal Mystery". Without love, there would be no sacrifice, no cross and ultimately, no resurrection.

Resurrection is not just a proof of Jesus' power but the ultimate fulfillment of God's love for us. Love did not end at the grave. It broke through the grave, bringing life and the promise of life in its fullness. It is difficult to believe when we look at the pain and sufferings around us. Can Jesus' resurrection reveal to us hope that is hidden in the midst of our suffering and pain? It is neither to glorify or minimize the suffering, but to see that hidden hope, which is still there.

And now, coming to the main question, do

I truly experience Jesus' risen life? Rather than a yes or no, the answer is hidden in our daily lives. When we choose to forgive instead of holding grudges; when we choose to be there for others; when we remain steadfast in faith despite trials; when we become agents of peace and reconciliation, we are living His resurrection. These actions become the tangible signs of hope.

Jesus' resurrection is not just an event we celebrate. It is an invitation to live differently. It tells us that no matter how broken we feel, no matter how lost we are, God walks with us and there is hope. It is easy to tell a suffering person to place their hope in the Lord, but it is much harder to demonstrate that hope through my actions of love, kindness, joy, peace, and forgiveness. Though still a mystery, hope thus becomes a concrete reality. Through Resurrection, we realize the boundless power of love and through our hope-filled actions, resurrection becomes more tangible.

Jesus' Resurrection – Hope for Mankind!

Arlene Alves – JBC C3S1

Jesus you are my salvation. Jesus you are my inspiration. Jesus you are the treasure of my life....

This hymn is sung many a time in church. It brings out the greatest message of Jesus' resurrection in Christianity.

John 3:16 "God so loved the world, that he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." Jesus' death on the cross brought about victory and triumph over death as Jesus rose on the 3rd day and ascended into heaven. Yes we profess this faith every time we recite the "I Believe."

Pope Francis quotes "As joyful servants of hope, we must announce the risen one by our lives and by our love." Today's dark and troubled world of despair, disappointment, discouragement, disaster, disheartening situations, difficulties, trials and tribulations we place all our hope in Jesus in prayer and

supplication, in belief and trust that Jesus is with us at all times. Isaiah 41:10 "Do not be afraid for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Many a times we have encountered people who have shared their testimonies of faith and trust about Jesus, bringing them healing, solace and comfort in their dark moments of despair, suffering, pain and sorrow.

The greatest feast "Easter" is the day that the Lord has made, lets us rejoice in it and be glad.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as the year of Pilgrim of Hope. As a joyful community let us be beacons of light and hope and spread the message of God's love to everyone.

Wish you all a Blessed and Joyous Easter.

Jesus' Resurrection – A Manifestation of God's Love & Hope

Olga Pereira, JBC C3S1

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." John 15:13

Our relationship with God our Abba Father, was broken because of our sin and disobedience, but God being loving and kind, wanted us to come back to him. He entrusted His beloved Son Jesus, the mission of redemption. Jesus accepted God's will and became man and suffered

the most painful death on the cross, paying the price for our sins and giving us hope for His heavenly kingdom. It is this hope of the resurrection of Jesus that we need to spread around as Christians, by walking in His footsteps, practicing His values to make this world a bit of the heaven we will inherit after our death.

Death is a painful truth we all have to undergo but the resurrection of Jesus gives

us hope. We are in the Jubilee Year of Hope and with Jesus by our side we are assured of His love and mercy. As pilgrims of hope Jesus will give us the courage to face the daily challenges, hardships, suffering and pain if we surrender our lives to Him through meditation, prayer, practicing compassion, gratitude and making it a point to reach out to at least one person in need of hope.

Hope in God is not wishful thinking but the confident expectation that He will fulfill His promises just as Jesus rose from the dead giving us everlasting hope and peace which no one can give. Jesus' resurrection gives us the hope to face our darkest moments, our

brokenness knowing that we are not alone and His light will enlighten our journey. Just as the sun takes time to rise over the hills, we pray that our hope in Jesus and His resurrection will rise up within us helping us to live a renewed life. "The old life is gone and the new life has begun." 2 Corinthians 5:17

At this Eastertime let us invoke Mary our Mother to intercede with the Risen Lord Jesus to give us a clear vision to be proactive in service to our fellowmen and give us the gift of hope. May the Risen Lord fill us with Hope and Peace. Happy Easter to us all.

Jesus' Resurrection - Victory over Man's Greatest Fear - Death!

Terry Pais, C5S3, St. Marks Community

Jesus is not the sole property of Christians or the Church. In fact, Jesus is the Universal King! He belongs to everyone, He came for everyone, He died for everyone and He also rose from the dead for everyone. He will come a second time in all His splendour, glory, and majesty, for everyone! The Letter to the Hebrews says: God has put everything on earth and in the heavens under the feet of Christ because Jesus submitted Himself under the Lordship of His Father even unto death on the Cross (cf: Heb 2:80). In the economy of salvation, God included everything that's on the earth and in the heavens to come under Christ's work of redemption. Jesus' resurrection brings hope to the whole human race - hope not only in this life, but also for all eternity. Jesus' victory is the victory over every hopeless situation and circumstance in man's life,

because Jesus' "finished" work is finished to its perfection!

No man has ever escaped death, nor has science, the Tech world or AI found a way to solve the greatest fear of man which is of death. Man or woman will have to die one day. Jesus is the only one in history who swallowed death and opened the doors for man to live forever in Eternity. Jesus destroyed the sting of death which was Sin, by taking upon Himself the Sin of the whole human race, and then crucified it on the Cross in His own Sinless Body - (cf: 1 Cor.15:54-57).

The Power of Death could not hold his sinless Body in the tomb, because God's power of the Resurrection broke the chains of sin and death for people to live victoriously on earth

and beyond death forever! In Christ, death has no power! We have so many testimonies of Saints who lived "in Christ" on earth, and their dead bodies are still defying the power of corruption! So clearly, Jesus by His death has destroyed the devil, the prince of death,

and His power - the very power of the fear of death by which the devil had made the whole human race his slaves eternally; now we have been set free from this fear to serve God forever in Jesus Christ! - (cf: Lk.1:74-75; Heb.2:14-15). HALLELUJAH!!!

Our Orlemites, Now Ordained Priests



Fr. Melvyn Colaco



Fr. Rolwyn Lobo

Oswald Cardinal Gracias Passes the Torch to Archbishop John Rodrigues

Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the former Archbishop of Bombay, has officially handed over the leadership of the Archdiocese to Archbishop John Rodrigues. Having served for nearly two decades, Cardinal Gracias leaves behind a legacy of pastoral care, interfaith dialogue and advocacy for social justice.

Appointed Archbishop of Bombay in 2006 and created a Cardinal in 2007, he played a key role in the global Church as a member of Pope Francis' Council of Cardinals. His tenure was marked by efforts to modernize Church administration, promote environmental consciousness and support the marginalized. He was instrumental in fostering communal harmony and was an advocate for the rights of minorities in India.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, his leadership ensured that parishes mobilized

resources to provide food, medical assistance and emotional support to the needy. He also strengthened Catholic education, reinforced seminary formation and encouraged lay participation in Church affairs.

Archbishop John Rodrigues, who now takes the helm, brings with him a wealth of experience, having served as Auxiliary Bishop, Rector of St. Pius X Seminary and Bishop of Poona Diocese. His pastoral approach, strong theological grounding, and emphasis on youth and family ministry signal a continuity of the Church's mission in Mumbai.

As the Archdiocese of Bombay enters this new chapter, it expresses deep gratitude for Cardinal Gracias' unwavering service while embracing Archbishop Rodrigues' vision for the future with faith and hope. Cardinal Gracias' impact will continue to inspire the Church in India and beyond.



SSVP Annual Lunch - Continuing Works of Charity!

Melville X. D'Souza (SSVP member)



It was that time of the year, while continuing their works of charity, the SSVP – Society of St. Vincent de Paul, holds the Annual Lunch for the needy and the families they assist. The much looked forward to Lunch, saw the usual turnout on Sunday February 2.

The enthusiasm and the excitement was very much evident. Several exciting games, spot prizes and the dance session kept the people in good spirits.

The opening prayer was recited by one of the SSVP members.

Fr. Aniceto in his address thanked the SSVP for their dedicated service to the poor and marginalised of society. He said, God has given all parishioners the chance to share their wealth with the poor. He also thanked the families for giving the parishioners the opportunity to serve them.

Fr. Ronny, the spiritual adviser of SSVP, too thanked the SSVP for their service. **Fr. Ronny expressed happiness that all the children attend school, also stressing upon the importance of Sunday school in their faith formation. He also highlighted the importance of prayer in their daily life.** He encouraged the children to continue studying well and bring honour to the community.

Fr. Aniceto said the grace while a member of one of the families whom we support, spontaneously proposed a Vote of Thanks. **It was encouraging to see that the families thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the programme. At the end of the function, each and every family was given a gift containing items of daily use which brought the sparkle in the eyes!**

Lourdes Parish Ushers' Ministry

Lloyd Mascarenhas

Church Ushers are the first point of contact for many of our parishioners and visitors, setting the tone for a warm and welcoming worship experience. They are the unsung heroes of our parish.

Ushers responsibilities extend far beyond simply handing out hymnals and directing people to their seats. They are responsible for:

- Creating a welcoming atmosphere so that everyone feels at home in our church.
- Assisting / facilitating the distribution of Holy Communion
- Managing collections during Mass
- Providing support: Assisting parishioners with special needs or requirements.
- Maintaining order: Ensuring that the worship space remains safe and respectful.

Our church ushers are committed to serving our parish community throughout the year. From regular Saturday & Sunday Masses to special feasts, holidays, and events, they

are always ready to lend a helping hand and maintain order at services. Our team currently consists of 60 dedicated members, including both regular ushers and Church Money Collectors.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the vital role that our church ushers play in our parish community. Many of our experienced ushers are senior citizens, and their dedication and commitment are truly commendable.

We also urgently need new ushers (18yrs and above) to join our team. We're looking for dedicated individuals who can bring fresh energy and ideas to our Ushering Ministry. Our Parish Ushers face significant challenges, but with the help of new recruits, we can ensure the continued success of our ministry. Let us pray for the dedication and commitment of our ushers and for the inspiration to attract new members to our team.

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EASTER HOUSE BLESSING PRAYER

HYMN: We are *gathering* together unto Him (2)
Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be
We are gathering together unto Him

We are *praising* together unto Him (2) ...

LEADER: God our Father, with Easter joy we have gathered around the family altar. Look upon this family in your love and give us the blessing of your peace. Let your Spirit of joy fill our hearts, so that we may be holy and happy. May our concern for others reflect your love and bring us happiness throughout our lives. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: A reading from the letter of
St Paul to the Ephesians (2:17-22)

And Jesus came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: *Send forth your Spirit O Lord that the face of the earth be renewed*
You have built your palace on the waters; like the winds the angels fly before you
You have set the earth on its foundations; so firm to be shaken no more

All your creatures look to you for comfort; from your open hand they have their fill
You send forth your Spirit and revive them; the face of the earth you renew

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS: **Leader:** Let us pray to Jesus, our Lord, that he may bless and give peace to our house. Our Response is: *Stay with us, Lord*

• Through your obedience to Mary and Joseph you consecrated family life; make our family holy by your presence. For this we pray...



- You made your own family the model of prayer, of love and of obedience to your Father's will; pour down your abundant graces on our family. For this we pray...

- You loved those who were close to you and they returned your love; bind our family and all the families in our parish together in the bonds of peace and love for each other. For this we pray...



- At Cana, when a new family was beginning, you gladdened it with your first miracle, changing water into wine; accompany us in our sorrows, struggles and worries, and change them into joy. For this we pray...

- You healed the sick and forgave the sinner. May all those in our family who are suffering from ill health experience your forgiveness and healing. For this we pray...

- We now pray in silence for the members of this family, who have gone before us marked with a sign of faith... *(pause for a few moments & if possible the family can name those who have died)*... Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls rest in peace. Amen

Our Father... Hail Mary, Holy Mary... Glory be...

Leader: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord. At the Passover in Egypt, you kept unharmed the houses of your people that were sprinkled with the blood of a lamb. Bless and protect our family and home that will be sprinkled with this Holy Water. We implore you to pour the richness of your graces and peace on this house and keep all who dwell here always in your love and safe from harm and danger. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(The family members greet each other with a sign of peace as they sing the final hymn followed by the head of the home sprinkling holy water on the family and the home)

HYMN: Jesus is the joy of living; He's the King of life to me
 Unto Him my all I'm giving; His forevermore to be
I will do what He commands me; anywhere He leads I'll go
Jesus is the joy of living; He's the dearest friend I know
 I have found a wondrous Saviour; Jesus Christ, my soul's delight
 Every blessing of His favour; Fills my heart with hope so bright

Sunday School's Trips Full of Smiles and Stories



Visit to Sneha Sagar Society, Marve

When I saw the children at the orphanage, I learnt to be grateful for whatever I have. Just because they are not as fortunate as me, doesn't mean God doesn't love them or He isn't blessing them. God has a different plan for every single person, that is why in His place he sent the nuns to love all those children and educate them.

- Adele Mascarenhas
(Sunday School, Std. 4)

makes us aware that we, the new generation, have to take care and preserve these things for the next generation, otherwise it will soon be outdated.

As we entered the Museum, the first thing we saw was the cruet. It is something where the water and wine is kept. It was not a simple one which we see; it had a unique design. What amazed me most was the cathedral monstrance and the other sun burst monstrance which were just beautiful. Another eye-catching piece was a broken and burnt statue which had been brought from our Lady of Bethlehem Church, Dongri.

Visit to the Archdiocese Heritage Museum, Goregaon Seminary

We came... we saw... and we loved it !

Who says museums are boring? According to me, all should visit the Archdiocese Heritage Museum at the Goregaon Seminary. This place actually tells us about the History of the Church, of how beautiful things were in the past and what it is now at present. It also

We were also shown a short video of Pope Paul the VI visiting India for the first time!

Apart from all this, there were many different types of Vestments and beautiful rings which were worn by people in authority. I am truly grateful for this wonderful experience which was so needed and has not only helped me but all of us who went there. It is so important to know about the History of



the church. I would really thank Fr. Cedric and our Sunday school Catechists for giving us an opportunity to visit this museum and thanks to Joynel Fernandes (the Asst. Director of the Archdiocese Museum) and

her team for being so patient and explaining things so well to all of us.

- Agatha
(Sunday School - Std. 7)

Deanery Faith Celebration

Faith Vaz (Sunday school - Std. 8)



The Faith formation programme was held on Sunday, 23rd February 2025, at St Anne's School Hall. Children from St Anthony's Church and Infant Jesus Church Malwani joined our Parish in the faith celebration.

The Faith Formation was a truly great experience. We learnt about helping others, and that, if we pray to God with faith, He will help us overcome our difficulties. We also learnt the fact that God is our friend and in prayer, we have a personal conversation with him. God always answers us, be it with a Yes or a No or even through signs. He may not answer right away, but

that doesn't mean He hasn't heard our prayers. Whenever we face problems and challenges in life, we should pray. Prayers will help us handle every situation in a calm and collected manner, instead of getting all worked up.

Interacting with students from other parishes and making new friends made it even more fun. Overall, it was an experience to cherish forever. Thank you to Fr. Cedric and all the Sunday School Catechists of Std. 7 & 8 for helping us know the importance of prayers.

Deepening Our Faith: A Journey Through the Basic Liturgy Ministry Course

Meena, Nyra, Phiona & Veena



We, Meena D'Souza, Veena Fernandes, Phiona Vaz and Nyra-Ann Mendonca, had the privilege of attending the Basic Liturgy Ministry Course at the Diocesan Liturgy Centre, Bandra for the past 9 months. The sessions were held once a month on a Sunday. This enriching experience not only deepened our understanding of the Catholic liturgical traditions but also transformed the way we engage with the rituals of the Mass and the sacraments.

The course covered a wide range of topics, beginning with an **Introduction to Liturgy** and **Liturgy in the CCC & Sacrosanctum Concilium**, which provided us with the theological and historical foundations of the liturgy. We explored the **Structure of the Mass**, examining the Word and Rite, and gained a deeper understanding of The Paschal Mystery and its central place in our worship. The sessions on **Celebrating the Lectionary** and **Liturgical Year** helped us appreciate the importance of the liturgical calendar and its impact on our spiritual lives.

Throughout the course, we articulated our thoughts into assignments that encouraged

us to reflect on the practical and spiritual dimensions of each session. For example, we explored the significance of **Liturgy and Popular Devotions, Wedding and Funeral Liturgies, and Liturgical Music**, which enhanced our appreciation for the sacred symbols, prayers, and rituals that shape our worship.

The experience culminated in a session on **Preparing Liturgies**, where we were able to apply what we had learned to plan a liturgical celebration. This hands-on approach helped us understand the importance of thoughtful preparation in enhancing the liturgical experience for the parish community.

By the end of the course, we felt more equipped to contribute to strengthening the Parish Liturgy Cell and supporting the planning of liturgical services at Our Lady of Lourdes.

This course has not only enriched our spiritual lives but also strengthened our connection to the parish community, and we are excited to continue growing in faith together.

We thank our Parish Priest, Fr. Aniceto Perreira for sponsoring this course for us. We also thank Fr. Cedric for providing us with his guidance and support throughout the course.

LSC Football Tournament 2025 – A Celebration of Sport & Community

Linsley Rodrigues



Winner - Tank Colony

After an epic run, **Tank Colony** lifted the trophy, with **JBC** putting up a fierce fight to claim the runners-up spot. This tournament also gave us a glimpse of some truly budding and promising players who showcased their skills. The entire community came together—**young kids shared the field with adults, and families turned up in full force to cheer their favorite teams.**

Beyond competition, this event embodied **teamwork, sportsmanship, and community spirit.** And this is just the beginning! Up next, we have **badminton, cricket, indoor games, and more tournaments lined up.**



Runners-up - JBC

Life is a Picnic!

Melville X. D'Souza, BASCA Orlem Unit Member



“Sunshine, good food, and great company – the perfect ingredients for a picnic.”

That is exactly what the seniors had when they embarked on their trip to Velankanni Villa at Madh island on 26 of February 2025 – a BASCA Orlem unit initiative.

The excitement for the picnic in was evident from the day the announcements were made at the weekend Masses. Bookings were full on the very next day, with two bus loads making it to the venue and there was clamour for more Passes but unfortunately, there was no room for more.

The heatwave warning for those couple of days did not deter the seniors. They took it all in their stride - sunshine, good food, and great company! The music, sing-along session was a hit, with the seniors dancing to their heart’s content. Plenty of interesting, exciting games including the ‘introductory’ game and spot prizes kept the seniors on their feet.

So, did the seniors enjoy the picnic? You

bet! Here’s what some of them had to say:

“We had a lovely time. Thank you to each and every BASCA member for making the picnic so entertaining for us. Everything was good. God bless BASCA.”

“I came for the picnic, really enjoyed the day.”

“Thank you BASCA for the wonderful picnic today. Had a ball n enjoyed everything. Keep up the good work. God bless you all.”

So, that was it, the picnic ended with a clamour for more such picnics and outings. Life is a picnic – for seniors! We were overwhelmed!

Lenten Retreat at Atmadarshan

Francis Fernandes – Community 4 Sector 8

This Lent, the Nivedita Community organized a retreat on “Forgiveness”, at Atmadarshan on Sunday, March 30th, 2025 for our sector families. This workshop was prepared and conducted by Fr. Gregory Pinto SVD and his team. Some key insights from the enlightening session are as follows:

Retreat : A personal invitation from God for each one of us to return back to him from our sinful ways.

Healing the hurt feelings: Why we get hurt?

- We allow the hurt to define us. – Don’t give anyone the power to define you in their image.
- Inability to understand the offender.
- Need to know what is in my control and what is out of my control.
- We keep too many expectations from others – We are hurt by our own expectations.

What is Forgiveness: It is giving up my RIGHT to hate you. It is a DECISION to love the offender, although FEELINGS may take a long time. 1 Peter 3:9 - Don’t repay evil for evil, instead, pay them back with a blessing.

TO FORGIVE IS TO SET A PRISONER FREE, THE PRISONER WAS YOU!

A real forgiveness is that which is given without asking for it. Then the other person becomes the debtor.

How to heal the hurt feeling? : Healing does not usually take place instantly but is a process. Deep pain and resentment, which developed over time will take time and persistent prayer to heal. Often there are layers of hurt and resentment that needs to be uncovered in prayer. We know we are healed when we can recall the hurting experience and NO LONGER feel the pain and the resentment.

Positive side of the wounds: In all things God works for the good (Rom 8:28). Sometimes things that hurt the most, teach the greatest lessons. God will never take anything away from you without replacing it with something much better. **God wants us to forgive so that we might become his face in the world which has very little concept of mercy.**

The Retreat was an unforgettable experience that made us reflect that Jesus was crucified for our sins 2000 years ago. We thank our Parish Councillor Mrs. Belinda Monteiro and her team of Animators for this opportunity given !

Empowering Lives Ashadeep Social Service Centre, Amaria, UP

Sr. Laveena Fernandes DHM (Evershine Community)

For the past 25 years, Ashadeep Social Service Centre, Amaria, run by the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, has been a beacon of God's love and hope for marginalized communities in rural Uttar Pradesh. Rooted in the Gospel values of compassion and service, Ashadeep works tirelessly to break the cycle of poverty, social injustice, and discrimination through education, healthcare, and skill development.

Empowering Adolescent Girls

In rural areas, adolescent girls face numerous barriers to education and self-sufficiency. Deep-rooted patriarchal norms, early marriage, and lack of awareness about health and hygiene often leave them vulnerable and without opportunities. Ashadeep's intervention, inspired by Christ's teachings, focuses on providing these girls with the knowledge and skills necessary to transform their lives. Ashadeep equips girls with literacy, tailoring, and other income-generating skills, enabling them to become financially independent. Workshops on menstrual health and hygiene, nutrition, and mental well-being further empower them to take charge of their health. By fostering leadership skills, Ashadeep encourages girls to advocate for their rights and challenge societal norms that limit their potential, reminding them that they are created in the image and likeness of God, with inherent dignity and worth.

Supporting Disabled Children and Their Families

Children with disabilities in marginalized

communities face immense challenges, including neglect, stigma, and lack of institutional support. Many parents, overwhelmed by financial burdens and societal discrimination, struggle to provide proper care. Ashadeep, through its DCD (Disabled Children Development) project, extends a helping hand to these children and their families, following Christ's call to serve the least among us. Partnering with Suchetna, the diocesan social work centre, Ashadeep ensures that children with disabilities receive the care and recognition they deserve. The project provides essential services such as medical aid, nutritional support, and assistance in acquiring disability cards. By navigating complex bureaucratic processes, Ashadeep has successfully helped numerous families access government benefits, easing their financial and emotional burdens.

A Mission Beyond Boundaries

Ashadeep's mission extends beyond religious and social divides, embracing people of all faiths and collaborators include members of diverse social and political groups. This silent yet profound testimony to the Gospel resonates deeply with many, sparking curiosity and admiration.

A Blissful Women's Day

Stella Rebello, Women Cell



Come March, women world over are geared up to be pampered, loved and understood, more than otherwise. Orlem Parish celebrations, on 8th March, highlighted the theme 'Women Inspires and Empowers'. A hundred women registered for an evening of fun and frolic which was indeed a success.

The evening began with a prayer, singing the Women's Anthem, followed by dance by young and old alike to the feet tapping music. Everyone actively enjoyed the dance

competition, group activity on the theme, spot prizes, snacks, dinner and dessert, which added grandeur to the evening. The Compere captured the gathering with her wit and charm.

We thank Fr. Clinton for his constant support, guidance and encouragement.

Women in a world of competition need to be respected and loved every day. GOD BLESS ALL WOMEN !!!

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Recollection for Seniors - Deepening One's Relationship with God

Melville X. D'Souza (BASCA member)



During this period of Grace, there are several Lenten practices like the Stations of the Cross, visits to shrines, etc. For senior citizens it was an appropriate time for a Recollection.

A Recollection service is a time set aside for prayer and reflection to deepen one's relationship with God. **It's a time to withdraw from worldly concerns and focus on God. And that is exactly what senior citizens of our parish did on the 20th of March when they assembled in Church for a Recollection service conducted by Fr. Wilfred D'Souza.**

Fr. Aniceto, the spiritual director of BASCA briefly introduced Fr. Wilfred D'Souza who is a Salesian priest, belonging to the Congregation of Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB).

Fr. Wilfred truly put us into a spiritual mode as he focused mainly on the Jubilee year and the Synodal Church. He went on to give a detailed account of how the concept of

Jubilee year evolved over the years. Before proceeding with the session, he suggested we invoke the Holy Spirit through a hymn to the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Wilfred went on to explain that to understand the Jubilee year we have to go back to the five books of the Bible. The book of Leviticus chapter 25 speaks about the Jubilee year. At that time the Jubilee year was held every 50 years. He further explained how the Jubilee year has evolved over the centuries.

Fr. Wilfred explained the significance and importance of the current Jubilee year in the light of the present volatile situation in the world around us, referring to the Russia-Ukraine war, the Gaza issue, Climate change, after effects of COVID etc., etc. **And it is the midst of such a situation, we are called to be 'pilgrims of Hope.' We are called to be that beacon of hope to those in need of any kind.**

Fr. Wilfred also touched upon the topic of the Holy Eucharist. **He said, the Mass is not celebrated by the priest, as such, we are all celebrants at the Mass. And, we are supposed to participate in the Mass fully, joining the Choir in singing as well.**

Fr. Wilfred also fielded questions from the participants and he did answer all of them satisfactorily.

At the end of the session, Fr. Wilfred expressed surprise and joy at the turnout at the session and thanked them, not only for attending the Recollection but actively participating in the session. **One of the participants spontaneously thanked Fr. Wilfred and BASCA for organizing this Recollection. Hardly had the session ended, there were many who were enquiring, now what next? We strive not to disappoint the seniors!**

Orlem Shines at Inter- Parish Women's Throwball Tournament

Wilrine Vaz



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Orlem, participated in the **Inter-Parish Women's Throwball Tournament**, organized by St. Michael's Parish, Mahim, on **Sunday, 9th March 2025**, to celebrate International Women's Day. The event saw 12 parish teams from across Mumbai competing and in a hard-fought and thrilling final, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Orlem, secured a Jubilant Silver.

The team's outstanding performance was further highlighted by individual accolades. The team players, Trinelle Vaz, Deanne Coutinho, Nikita Coutinho, Sharmila Rasquinha, Eugene (Janet) D'Souza earned ***Five Women of the Match*** awards for their exceptional contributions, while Trinelle Vaz was awarded the Rising Star of the Tournament.

Congratulations to all the players for their outstanding achievements!

Evershine Neighbourhood Youth Group's Journey Renewed!

Wayne Fernandes



Evershine's Parish Youth Animating team (PYAT), where Ms Willrine Vaz has, since long, been trying to give a face lift to the youth group, finally saw the light of the day on **6th October 2024**. Thanks to the support from Anju, Suzan and Renita, co-animators along with Gavrel and Christine, Evershine youth coordinators. They worked on the 3 pillars of the Youth Ministry - **Fellowship, Formation, and Service**.

Fellowship : Coming together at Infinity gardens, Malad, early one morning for a bonding session that offered a new and refreshing experience with Team-building activities, cooperating and communicating. Some youth who felt unsure of this prior to this outing said " We should do this more often and with many more".

Feedback : It was great getting to

know everyone, the games were fun and unique. Would love it if more youth attended stuff like this.- **Kennan Mascarenhas**. An experience, where we broke the ice with fun, humour and the competitive spirit helped us increase our team work, bond and trust in a relaxed atmosphere. My first time and I wanted to do more. – **Chi Ling Huang (confirmation youth)**

Formation : Animators planned this program with Deacon Ivan, Youth director at DYC. We visited the **Pranam Maria Exhibition Centre (Bandra)** on Saturday, **8th of March** and witnessed the soon-to-be-launched Light and Sound Show, which beautifully depicted the journey of Jesus through Mary. We felt honoured to be invited to review the Centre and give our feedback. A thought-provoking session followed, on the Prodigal son, specifically

chosen during Lent and a connection to the **heArt** Programme of the DYC. Deacon Ivan threw light on the profound meanings behind these timeless stories through art. We visited the makeshift church, saw the beautiful jubilee cross and recited the jubilee prayer.

Service : The Evershine and Tamil youth took the initiative and collaborated with DYC who sponsored the meal, a lenten and outreach programme for the needy. On **March 21, 2025**, 22 youth were able to serve over 100 needy and homeless individuals for Mercy Fridays, in and around Kandivali and Malad. The beauty of this service was interacting with them. It highlighted the importance of gratitude, compassion, spreading love and

emphasizing the significance of almsgiving, during Lent. The Service culminated with a feedback and a thank you prayer by each youth.

Feedback : A different experience. The interaction was more than just giving the food boxes.. **Giselle**. I just felt how privileged I am as an individual and not to take them for granted. I was happy to be a part of this Service - **Trinelle Vaz**. I would want to do this once again since this was a wonderful experience - **Michael Jetson**. The bonding between the 2 zones was a great beginning for many collaborative experiences- **Nelson (Tamil youth coordinator)**.

Way to go Youth Team Evershine!

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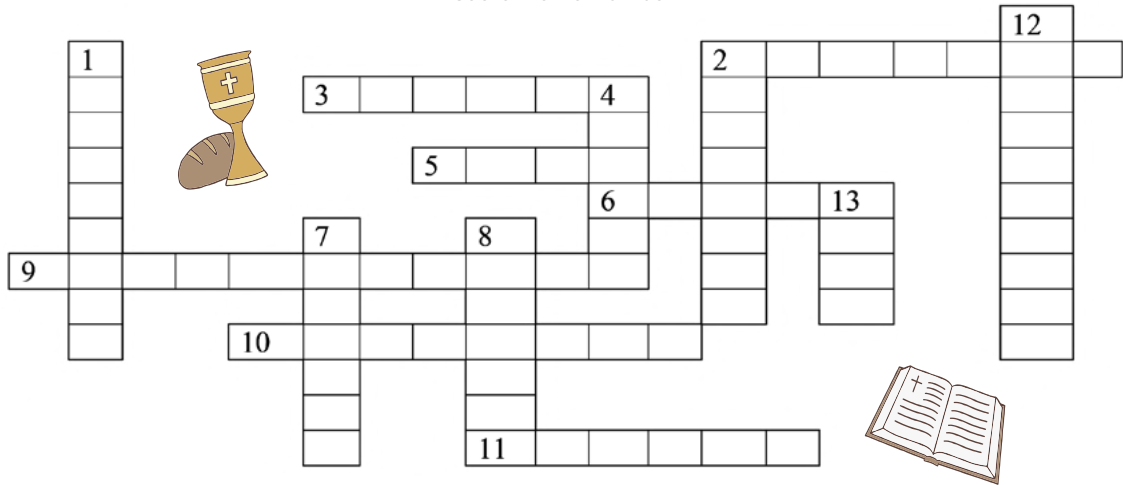
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The Passion & Resurrection Quiz

Complete the quiz and send it to reachingout.orlem@gmail.com, alongwith your name, community, sector name/number.



DOWN

- 1 The Most Blessed Sacrament Jesus instituted the night before He died.
- 2 Mary ___ who had been a sinner, was at the foot of the Cross.
- 4 Jesus rose from the dead on this day of the week.
- 7 Jesus instituted this sacrament, also known as confession.
- 8 Jesus made the Apostles ___ when He said, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

ACROSS

- 2 In his gospel, the Angel announced the resurrection to Mary Magdalen.
- 3 After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to two disciple on the road to this town.
- 5 The only Apostle at the foot of the cross
- 6 On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' ___
- 9 We celebrate ___ Sunday the week after the Feast of the Resurrection.
- 10 When Jesus spoke to Mary Magdalene after His Resurrection, she thought he was ___
- 11 Jesus celebrated the Last___ on Holy Thursday

Find 12 and 13 from this message

In this Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis has proclaimed "Pilgrims of Hope" as the theme, urging believers to embrace hope and trust in God's love, while Easter, a season of redemption, reminds us of Jesus' liberation from sin and death, offering hope for all.

Winners of the Lourdes Quiz

<u>Baudi</u> Abigail Azavedo Philomina Mani Carol D'Souza	<u>JBC</u> Arlene Alves Simran Gond Kyle Fernandes Leena Rozario	<u>Lourdes</u> Philomena Ferrao Agatha and Aelred Abreo Mariana Coelho
<u>SBLG</u> Cheryl D'Silva Schneider Dsouza Sheldon Lobo Sharel Lobo	<u>Tank</u> Valerie Fletcher Cynthia Pereira Philomena Pinto Janet D'Souza	<u>Mith Chowky</u> Raphael Fernandes <u>Evershine</u> Anthony D'Mello

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| ★ Capernaum | ★ Church of Bethphage | ★ Bethlehem Nativity Church | ★ Mt. Zion-St. Peter in Gallicantu |
| ★ Wailing Wall | ★ Garden of Gethsemane | ★ Palm Sunday Hosanna Path | ★ Stella Maris Church-Elijah Cave |
| ★ Pool of Bethesda | ★ Mary's Well - Nazareth | ★ Church of Dormition Abbey | ★ Nazareth - Annunciation Church |
| ★ St. Anne Church | ★ Synagogue of Nazareth | ★ Mt. Carmel - Bahai' Gardens | ★ Church of the Primacy of St. Peter |
| ★ Shepherds' Fields | ★ Dominus Flevit Church | ★ Dead Sea floating experience | ★ Mt. Tabor-Transfiguration Church |
| ★ St. Joseph Church | ★ Chapel of the Ascension | ★ Church of St. John the Baptist | ★ Mt. of Beatitudes - Sermon on the Mt. |
| ★ Pater Noster Church | ★ Wedding Church at Cana | ★ Pontius Pilot's Judgment Hall | ★ Tabgha - Church of the Multiplication |
| ★ Mt. Temptation (view) | ★ Church of the Flagellation | ★ Ein Karem - Visitation Church | ★ Benedictine Monastery in Abu Ghosh |
| ★ The Way of the Cross (Via Dolorosa) - Holy Sepulcher Church | ★ The Longest suspension bridge in Israel - City of David | | |
| ★ Dome of the Rock (view) | ★ Jezreel Valley & Mt. Precipice (view) | Optional Visit: Sound & Light show at The Tower of David | |

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(Sirach 2:18)

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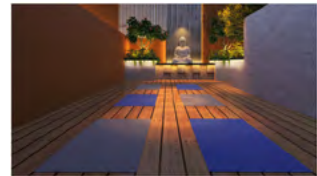
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- Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem
- Archbasilica of St. John Lateran • Assisi - St. Francis, St. Clare & Blessed Carlo Acutis
- Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua
- Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore
- Basilica of St. Mark & Trevi Fountain
- Pontifical Sanctuary of the Holy stairs
- Shrine of St. Padre Pio in San Giovanni

CZECHIA : Prague

- Prague Castle
- Old Town Square
- Our Lady of Tyr Church
- Infant Jesus of Prague Shrine
- Our Lady of Snow Church & The Astronomical Clock
- Golden lane
- St. George Basilica
- St. Vitus Cathedral
- Vltava River Cruise

SPAIN : Garabandal - Zaragoza, Barcelona: Basilica de la SAGRADA FAMILIA

- "SEO" The Cathedral & "El Pilar" Our Lady of the Pillar & Crystal Rosary
- Garabandal Apparitions of St. Michael the Archangel & the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Santiago - Apostle St. James • Azpeitia - St. Ignatius of Loyola (Holy House)

PORTUGAL : Fatima - Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem

- Ancestral house of three Shepherd Children & Candle Light Procession

FRANCE : Lourdes - Nevers - Rocamabour - Paris (Eiffel Tower)

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- Marian Candle Light Procession (A chance to participate for 2 days)
- Sanctuary of St. Bernadette Soubirous Tomb in Nevers & Birth place
- Blessed Sacrament Procession & Way of the Cross in the Sanctuary-LOURDES
- Church of St. Catherine Laboure, Miraculous Medal • St. Vincent de Paul Chapel

POLAND : Krakow Divine Mercy Shrine (St. Faustina) - Auschwitz - Wieliczka - Czestochowa

- Jasna Gora Sanctuary - Our Lady of Czestochowa • Wadowice-Family House & Museum of St. John Paul II • Salt Mine • Auschwitz Camp

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Born in India... Called from India... Sent to India...

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★ St. Kuriakose ★ St. Devasahayam ★ (visit St. Thomas Holy Relic)

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Cost Incl. Twin Sharing (stay) in AC Rooms, All Meals, All Transfers by AC Coach

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"We place our destiny in the hands of the LORD, not in human hands, because HIS Mercy is as great as HIS Majesty"

(Sirach 2:18)

*T & C Apply