

Reaching Out



Mary Went in Haste -
A Model of Missionary Love



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The Reaching Out

A Newsletter of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem

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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

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

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday at 5.00 pm - 5.30 pm & 6.30 pm - 7.00 pm

Dialogue confession is encouraged with prior appointment.

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.

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

FUNERAL

Weekdays: 10.30 am & 5.30 pm

(By exception 4.00 pm)

Sundays: 12.00 noon

Reaching Out Theme For December 2025

Building Families of Courage and Trust

Reflecting on the challenges the Holy Family faced and their reliance on God's providence, how can families today face their own trials, with faith.

EDITORIAL TEAM

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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 before Nov 20,2025. Kindly mention your Community and Sector number or the Cell / Association you are reporting for.

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Mary: A Model of Mission in the Church

Brinston Carvalho

From the very beginning of salvation history, Mary stands as a perfect model of mission in the Catholic Church. Her life, rooted in faith and obedience, reflects how God calls ordinary people to participate in His extraordinary plan. For every Catholic, and especially the youth, Mary shows how to live a life of mission - receiving, carrying and sharing Christ with the world. Mary's mission begins at the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38). In response to the angel Gabriel, she utters her great "Yes". Mary accepts her divine mission to be the Mother of the Savior. Her fiat is not passive acceptance but an active commitment, showing that true mission starts with openness to God's will. Her mission immediately becomes visible in the Visitation (Luke 1:39-45). Mary goes "in haste" to her cousin Elizabeth, carrying Christ within her. This moment teaches us that mission is never self-centered - it is about bringing Jesus to others with joy and service.

Mary continues her missionary witness at Cana (John 2:1-11). Faced with the couple's need, she intercedes with her Son, and Jesus performs His first miracle. Here, Mary's role is twofold: she recognizes the needs of others and directs them to Christ with the words, "Do whatever He tells you." This moment reveals Mary as a model of intercession and accompaniment, guiding others toward obedience to Christ. Her mission is completed at the foot of the Cross (John 19:25-27). Standing with her Son in His suffering, Mary receives a new role from Jesus: "Behold, your mother." In this gift to John, Mary becomes the Mother

of all believers and thus the Mother of the Church. Her mission extends to every disciple who follows Christ. The Church teaches that Mary, assumed body and soul into heaven, continues her mission as Queen of Heaven. Revelation 12 portrays her as a "woman clothed with the sun," interceding and protecting the faithful in their struggle against evil. As Catholics, we turn to her intercession because she is close to Christ, and as she did at Cana, she continues to present our needs before Him. Her queenship is not about power but about service, flowing from her motherhood of Christ and her sharing in His redemptive mission. Today, she intercedes for the Church as its mother, encouraging us to live our own missionary call with courage and fidelity. Her journey invites us to say "Yes" to God, to live for Christ, and to share His love with the world.



*Knowing Jesus
is knowing Peace*



Choosing Peace in a troubled World

An initiative of Orlem Parish Bible Cell

*At Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Orlem
October 20th to 25th
9 am to 12 pm*

Mission Sunday

Fr. Harry Vaz

Mission Sunday draws attention to the essence and importance of the Church's missionary activity rooted in Jesus' salvific mission entrusted to him by the Heavenly Father. Jesus entrusted his followers with a commission, "go forth and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). The Acts of the Apostles testify to the missionary activity of the Apostolic Church. For the Church in every age, to be missionary is not merely an accidental function but belongs to her very nature. God's saving word continues to be audible in the Church's proclamation of the Gospel and God's redeeming work becomes tangible in her actions.

Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus actively participated in his life mission and could rightly be regarded as a model missionary. According to Lk 1:39, after Angel Gabriel revealed God's plan of salvation to her, Mary got ready and went in haste to visit and assist Elizabeth, her pregnant elder cousin living in a town in the hill country. This action manifests that Mary was truly selfless, sensitive and service-oriented. Soon after she herself conceived Jesus, she hurried on foot through hilly terrain despite the hardship this journey involved. Her haste also reflects the urgency and zeal with which she acted. Mary's presence and active assistance concretely demonstrate her personal care, love and sensitivity to her elder cousin. Her long stay manifests her true commitment, constancy and dedication. All these are characteristics of a true missionary which are truly inspiring and worthy of emulation by

all who feel called to be personally involved in the Church's mission in contemporary times.

The Second Vatican Council brought to fruition a new reflection on the true nature of the Church and its missionary activity and practice based primarily on presence and witnessing which embraces all the various forms of Christian action. Its decree 'Ad Gentes' emphasized that the Church fulfils her mission when she becomes fully and actively present among all people or nations so as to lead them by living example by preaching, by the sacraments and by other channels of grace to the faith the liberty and the peace of Christ. Pope Paul VI stressed, "For the Church, evangelizing means bringing the Good News to all strata of humanity and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new". This is a shared responsibility of the whole church and all its members. The Church does indeed share in the hopes, joys and struggles of all peoples in contemporary times. All Christians are called to be the salt of the earth and light of the world in the context of his or her own life situation using our God given qualities, resources and talents by actively cooperating and supporting the evangelising, developmental and humanitarian apostolates which various forms of missionary activity in present times.

Sharing the Gospels with the World

Melville X. D'Souza

What is it that comes to mind when we talk of Missionary Love? Does it seem like intense love between a man and a woman. Maybe you are thinking of that game where participants are asked to adopt different positions, Missionary position for one. So, what does missionary love mean in the religious sense? Mary was a perfect example of what Missionary Love is all about and we need to understand it from Mary. Scripture tells us Mary rushed to meet her cousin Elizabeth who was pregnant.

Mary did not go about telling the whole world that she was going to meet her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, undertaking a long arduous journey to the hill country of Judea. Mary just went in haste, out of love, surely Mary was indeed a model of missionary love.

How would we react on a similar situation? Perhaps, we too may hurry in order to offer help in an emergency but do we have the

commitment to help? Or would we just go as a matter of formality? Do you help someone just to be seen as a good, caring person? Do you visit someone only to show to the world that you care for that person? Are you looking for appreciation for all the good that you do to others? If others don't applaud you for your good deeds in society do you feel disappointed? Do you look forward to publicity about your visits or some good deeds you do? That is not Missionary Love.

Missionary Love is not just sharing Love with others, it is sharing compassionate love. That is what Mary did when she went to visit Elizabeth. Moreover, she was sharing not just her love but she was sharing the good news that she had received from the angel. In fact, she was sharing Jesus with her. What about us, do we share the Gospels when we go out in society, meeting people? We are called to share Jesus with the world, can we do that?

No Time To Wait

Cheryl Dsilva, Community 2, S1

Have you noticed how some people don't hesitate when someone needs them? They leave everything aside and show up. It could be a friend running across the playground the moment you fall or a sibling who hears the tremor in your voice and asks, "What's wrong?" before you even find the words. This kind of haste speaks louder than words, telling you, "You matter." That's exactly what Mary did. She had just

received a message that would change all of history, the announcement that she would bear the Son of God. In that moment, one might expect her to remain still or to contemplate this mystery in silence. Yet her first instinct was to move, and she quickly set to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was also pregnant, to share herself and the One she carried within. Her haste is not the haste of anxiety, but of love. When love perceives

a need, it acts without delay. It is this readiness to forget oneself and go toward the other that makes Mary a model of true love in action.

Mary teaches us that Love does not mean doing something dramatic, rather just being present. She didn't bring Elizabeth riches or gifts, she brought herself and with her, the presence of Jesus. What is important, is the speed of our love, not the size of our actions. For us as youngsters, love can be like helping someone in class or just spontaneously helping with chores. Sometimes the most "missionary" thing we can do is to be present with joy. When Mary arrived at Elizabeth's house, she brought more than just herself.

She carried Jesus. Her arrival sparked joy so strong that even the unborn John leapt in the womb. That's the ripple effect of love and being present. Mary's haste was about direction. She shows us in that simple journey to Elizabeth about revealing what mission truly is: to carry Christ quietly and faithfully into the lives of those who need Him.

We may not travel to hill countries or carry world-changing news, but every one of us can walk in Mary's footsteps. Each time we show up, we carry Christ into the world and whisper to others, "You matter".

Mary Our Mother – A Model of Missionary Love

Olga Pereira, JBC Community 3, Sector 1

Our world today is growing in all aspects with technology and AI but at the same time it is growing dim with war, political upheaval, chaos and unrest. We as baptized Christians are called to be missionaries of love and service and illuminate the world with Mother Mary as our role model.

Mother Mary was a true missionary, carrying Christ to all and spread God's love to each and every one through her actions and spirit of sacrifice. She had to face many storms in her life with her 'Yes' to be the Mother of Jesus Christ, yet she stayed firm in her faith trusting in God's plan. Every true missionary has to imbibe the virtues of Mother Mary through personal prayer, reflection of God's word and humble service.

Mary was alert to the needs of her cousin

Elizabeth whom she visited to assist her during her pregnancy. Mary is our true inspiration and she has shown us by her life on earth how to embrace pain and suffering with the spirit of great fortitude and complete surrender to God. Mary reached out to the people with love and concern as was witnessed at the wedding feast at Cana. She was always present in Jesus' public ministry as a shadow in the background pondering on each and every word he spoke and practiced His word in action. A lesson for us to imitate as a missionary. Mary is also a woman of hope and she walked the way of the cross with her son, knowing that He will bring salvation to all by His death and resurrection.

Jesus gave us His mother, she is the mother of the Church and her mission of love, service and humility is our mission too. We must

learn from Mother Mary to render service out of love and not to gain any reward or recognition and make conscious efforts to build a better world by working for the upliftment of the poor, the marginalized, serving them through various associations.

As true missionaries we need to pray to draw strength and grace from God, to serve and

sustain our works of charity, and entrusting our work to God. We intercede Mother Mary to bless and guide us in our mission of love and service. Thus, the purpose of our life is to spread the good news to all like Mother Mary to be missionaries of Hope among all peoples.

The Visit of the Jubilee Cross to Homes in Dominic Colony, 2nd Lane

Veronica Correia

The Jubilee Cross, a symbol of the Jubilee Year 2025 was carried by our Parish Councillor alongwith others from Mith Chowki to 2nd Lane Dominic Colony where Animators welcomed it with floral tributes and prayers. The Cross brought in blessings of joy, peace, renewed faith and brotherly love as it made its way to another Building. Each day 3 buildings in the locality welcomed the Cross.

After reciting the suggested prayers and singing hymns, the Cross proceeded on its mission to the sick & the home bound within the building for veneration. Venerating the Cross, reminded us of Christ's unconditional love and sacrifice and Our Father's love for his children, so as to sacrifice His Only Begotten Son for us, sinners. In the curvature of the Cross, bending forward is a symbol of the All Encompassing Love with which the Father touches humanity, thus confirming security amidst the storm and wicked forces of the evil world. Our Cross, Our Anchor is not only attached to the sea bed but firmly and securely fixed to - Our Rock, Our God.

The Jubilee Cross was a good initiative for a community gathering, fostering love & closeness in our community and carrying Christ's love to our brethren of other faiths. It was a time of deep veneration, personal prayer, renewed faith and to seek blessings for ourselves and our families. The Jubilee Cross helped us Pilgrims, to gain strength and spread hope to all who seek it.





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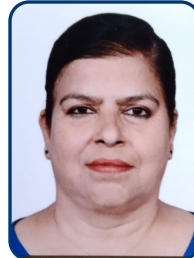
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A Garden, A Forever Friend – Plant Workshop

Elvira Alvares [E.C.O.]

E.C.O's [Environment Cell of Orlem] first workshop, was held on August 2nd, 2025, where 30 plant enthusiasts came together and happily indulged in some plant therapy, all geared up to branch out and take root, just like the beautiful saplings they were potting in eco-friendly mud pots.

The workshop covered indoor gardening, plant propagation techniques, container planting of veggies, fruits, microgreens, herbs and other houseplants. It stressed on the importance of plants and trees, that not only supply us with oxygen, food, water and shelter but also provide other benefits by (snake plant, peace lily, spider plant etc.) absorbing harmful air pollutants like benzene, released from vehicle emissions and are a significant contributor to air pollution. It also emphasized the need to support ecosystems by protecting

our garden guardians (bees, butterflies, earthworms etc.), avoiding pesticides and planting native plants. As Pope Francis once said, “As stewards of God’s creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family.” The workshop ended with the saplings finding new stewards and new homes, paving the way for a greener Orlem.



Mary – An Epitome of Faith

Sonia Rodrigues, JBC S2

Mary’s ‘Yes’ to God reveals four virtues we too can embrace:

M - Meekness. God’s plans often defy human logic, leaving us powerless on our own. Meekness shifts focus from ourselves to God, letting His Spirit lead. Mary, hearing Gabriel’s message, put aside her plans and surrendered to the divine. ‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.’ (Matthew 5:5)

A – Always Humble. Though honoured as ‘Mother of God’ and ‘blessed among

women’, Mary never sought attention. She let her Son shine while remaining in the background. Her humility contrasts with our tendency to boast in success. ‘Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he might exalt you in due time.’ (1 Peter 5:6)

R – Reflect and Ponder. Life’s chaos demands stillness. Mary consistently ‘treasured all these things in her heart’, seeking counsel through prayer and reflection. Likewise, when storms overwhelm us, we too can pause and let God’s Word bring peace. ‘From the end of the earth I call to you...

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.' (Psalm 61:2)

Y – Yield to God's Will. Yielding means stepping out of comfort zones, letting faith override fear. Mary declared, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' (Luke 1:38) Her courage rested on God's promises.

MARY: Meekness, Always humble, Reflecting, Yielding—an epitome of FAITH: Find Assurance In Trusting Him. Like Mary, we are called to say Yes, trusting that 'He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 1:6)

Stirring Up Sustainability, One Recipe at a Time

Environment Cell



Our Parish buzzed with excitement on 27th July 2025, as E.C.O. (Environment Cell of Orlem) hosted its much-anticipated Zero-Waste Cooking Competition. The event brought together an inspiring mix of creativity, environmental consciousness, and intergenerational teamwork. Designed to encourage mindful cooking practices, it emphasized the importance of reducing food waste while promoting healthy and innovative culinary habits.

Each team, comprising one child and a parent / grandparent, was assigned the task of preparing one snack and one drink—using ingredients with minimal waste. All prep had to be done at home. Participants

arrived ready to assemble and present their creations on-site, using only natural, eco-friendly décor to complete their displays. From fruit peel garnishes to compostable plating and creative use of leftovers, the event showcased how sustainability can start right in the kitchen—and how small changes can make a big impact.

The Zero-Waste Cooking Competition served as a powerful reminder of the role families play in shaping sustainable habits. It encouraged participants to rethink their relationship with food and demonstrated that reducing waste doesn't mean compromising on flavour, fun or nutrition.

Zonal Chess Tournament

Earl (Team LSC)



The Nihar Hall was electric with intellectual fervour on August 27th, as the Lourdes Sports Committee (LSC) hosted its Chess Tournament. Played across 5 categories, from under-10s to veterans, the competition was a thrilling blend of talent and fun!

From bold Queen's Gambit openings to razor-sharp En Passant captures, the day was a masterclass in strategy and anticipation. It was a joy to watch these minds in action—some games wrapped up in under a minute, while others ended in less than 5 moves, showcasing sharp instincts and raw talent! All were treated to a dazzling display of tactical genius that kept everyone on edge. As the king was checkmated, players from the Baudi zone led the scoreboard with the highest number of winners, reflecting their skill, strategy, and passion for chess.

This successful event powerfully reinforces LSC's core motto: to champion sports at the grassroots level and keep our vibrant community spirit alive and kicking! A big round of applause to all the winners and a heartfelt thank you to every participant who made the tournament a success.

U-11

1st Place - Stefan Fernandes (JBC)

2nd Place - Jordan Dsouza (JBC)

3rd Place - Joshua Monteiro (JBC)

U-14

1st Place - Ethan Sarera (Baudi)

2nd Place - Reuben Lewis (Lourdes Colony)

3rd Place - Declan Rodrigues (Evershine Nagar)

U-18

1st Place - Joshua Noronha (Tank Colony)

2nd Place - Krishaan Dsouza (Baudi)

3rd Place - Shaun D'Souza (Lourdes Colony)

Open

1st Place - Ajit Kumar (Tamil)

2nd Place - Calvin Rozario (Baudi)

3rd Place - Neil Dias (Baudi)

Veterans

1st Place - Neil Pereira (Tank Colony)

2nd Place - Earl Dsouza (Baudi)

3rd Place - Linzay Barretto (Baudi)

The Legion of Mary Apostolate: Serving with Compassion and Devotion

Allen D Almeida, Head, Legion of Mary



The Legion of Mary Apostolate, in our Parish, has been a beacon of hope and service for many years. With 75 dedicated active members, we are actively involved in various ministries, including Eucharistic ministry, Prison ministry, Lector and Choir ministry, and Sunday school catechism.

Our Legionaries have been tirelessly visiting homes, hospitals, and institutions, bringing comfort, solace, and spiritual guidance to those in need. They have been instrumental in helping the marginalized, sick, and homebound, as well as those struggling with addiction, mental illness, and other challenges.

One of the key aspects of our Legion's work is its focus on spiritual guidance and counselling. Our members are trained to provide support and direction to those seeking spiritual guidance, and they work closely with various centers in our Archdiocese to provide counselling services. Legionaries have been actively involved

in various social and charitable initiatives. They visit homes for the destitute, orphans, and senior citizens, providing education, support, and companionship to those in need.

Prison ministry is a vital part of our work. Our members visit prisons and remand institutions, providing academic classes, art, education, dance, culinary skills, and yoga. They have also been assisting in dental, eye, skin, and first aid camps, bringing much-needed medical care to those incarcerated. We had the Eucharistic celebration during Christmas and Maundy Thursday service in the Jails.

In the past year, we organized a cyber awareness seminar to educate our parishioners on the dangers of cybercrime and how to stay safe online.

Through their selfless service and devotion, our Legionaries have been a shining example

of the Legion of Mary's motto: "The Legion of Mary is an association of Catholics who, with the sanction of the Church and under the powerful leadership of Mary Immaculate, Mediatrix of All Graces, have formed themselves into a Legion for service in the warfare which is perpetually waged

by the Church against the forces of evil." If you are interested in learning more about the Legion of Mary Apostolate or would like to join our ranks, please contact us. We welcome all those who are willing to serve with compassion and devotion.

Saint Carlo Acutis and Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati



On September 7, 2025, Pope Leo XIV canonized two young lay figures - Saint Carlo Acutis and Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati - in a solemn service in St. Peter's Square. Their lives speak powerfully to faith, youth, and service and the Pope used his homily to draw out lessons for the Church today.

Saint Carlo Acutis (1991-2006)

Born in London, raised in Milan, Carlo Acutis died at age 15 from leukemia. He was well known for his deep devotion to the Eucharist, his commitment to helping those in need, and for bridging faith and modern technology—creating a website documenting Eucharistic miracles. Carlo was beatified in 2020 after one recognized

miracle; a second was approved in 2024, which cleared the way for his canonization. He has been called “the first millennial saint” and even “God’s influencer.”

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1925)

Pier Giorgio Frassati, an Italian layman and member of the Dominican Third Order, lived a life of youthful energy, joy, and deep Christian witness. He came from Turin, was involved in social and charitable works (such as Catholic Action and assistance to the poor), and had a devotion to both faith and the natural world—especially the mountains. He was beatified in 1990 by Pope John Paul II.

Pope Leo XIV's homily at the Canonization service underscored how holiness is not limited to the clergy or reserved for older age. These two Saints show that even very young lives, lived simply but with faith - through prayer, acts of charity, Eucharistic devotion - can shine. We are all encouraged all to orient life upward - to God, not to mere self-interest.

Their canonization sends a message that sanctity is accessible, concrete and urgent in our times. It is not about spectacular gestures, but about faithfulness - choosing God in the small decisions, caring for the neighbour, being consistent.

Adapted from Vatican News and Aleteia

I came, I saw, I conquered

Fr. Cliffton Mendonca

Chi viene a Napoli piange due volte: quando arriva e quando parte.

The one who comes to Naples cries twice: when they arrive and when they leave.

This famous Neapolitan saying neatly sums up my two-year expatriation to Rome. The manifest intention was to earn a Licentiate in Theology (with a specialisation in Liturgy) from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. However, along the way, I was taught much more than the divine cure of sacred rites for a technologically oversaturated and socio-culturally fatigued city.

Living in Rome boosts one's languages, opening up connections with the living and the dead (I mean authors!). These encounters bring resolution to our Eastern sensibilities which are amiss until we assimilate the West. The Indian spice palate gets tempered by the humble flavours of their pizza-pasta-bruschetta and risotto-cannoli-gelato. One discovers wisdom in her history, embossed on every street corner and church facade, entombed in every statue and relic, fountain and monument. A simple walk, from the ruins that was once Rome to St Peter's on the other side of the river Tiber, tangibly

demonstrates how God has always been turning peripheries into centres. It would take many other essays to eke out my experiences with shrines and necropolises, Eucharistic miracles and incorruptible bodies, papal funerals and conclaves, hikes and rides. And when you think I am done I can still go on about Venice and Sicily, Assisi and Napoli, Milan and the Dolomites, Pio and Padua, Verona and Ravenna, Virgil and Dante, even Serie A and Jannik Sinner! A Roman Latin saying sums up my travels succinctly: Veni, Vidi, Vici (I came, I saw, I conquered)



Fr Cliffton will return to Mumbai and serve as an assistant in the Parish of St Michael, Mahim, as well as teach at St Pius X College (Goregaon Seminary).

A Mission of Faith, Love & Service

Lt.Col.Walter D'Souza (Retd) & Mrs. Melaney D'Souza

Mitchowki Community



“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” – Joshua 24:15

The first mission entrusted to me by the Lord was to serve my country. Through His providence, I joined the Indian Army, where I faced the trials and dangers of three wars and was even sent behind enemy lines, looking death in the eye yet moving on with Christian fortitude and the protection of Our Blessed Mother Mary. By God's mercy and compassion I returned safely and unscathed, to marry the one whom God had chosen as my companion and strength for life.

Throughout my military service, faith remained my anchor. No matter where duty took me, I never missed Sunday Mass. The distance to the church or the demands of service could never stand between me and the Lord. It was this fidelity to God—quiet but unwavering—that allowed my

witnessing to be noticed by others around me more than any honor or decoration.

With retirement came not an end, but the beginning of a greater mission. My wife had established St. Therese Little Flower Academy in Jabalpur, a Primary school. Together we joined hands in shaping the lives of young children. Our goal was not only to impart knowledge, but also to instil in our 'Little Flowers' a foundation of moral values. Blessed with good health, we embraced the mission of preparing young couples for the sacrament of marriage through our Diocesan Marriage Preparation courses for over 30 yrs. We shared our journey seeking to inspire those beginning their own, instilling in them that Christ is the centre of every marriage, their rudder through troubled waters as well as good times. Regardless of age, we travelled to mission stations for the courses, where we ourselves were inspired by the faith, piety, and simplicity of His people.

We have never declined His call. Each encounter strengthened our conviction that God's work is unlimited. We passed on the baton to our children and grandchildren who now carry the torch of service to the Lord and comply with His mission for them. God be praised.

When we look back, we see our lives and family blessed through service and sacrifice. Yet we also look forward, knowing with certainty that in His plan, there are still miles and miles to go.

PRAYATNA Continuing Service to the Underprivileged

Melville X. D'Souza (Trustee-member)

Even as we were celebrating our country's Independence, Prayatna was celebrating 32 years of service to the underprivileged sections of society.

In view of the ongoing repairs in the Church premises it was a modest celebration. Present at the gathering on 15 August at the Community Centre, were several volunteers, teachers, the staff among others. Fr. Aniceto, our parish priest & the Chairperson of Prayatna, too graced the occasion. In his address, he expressed happiness at the way the affairs of Prayatna were being run. He was all praise for the staff for their coordination. He also thanked the Trustees for giving off their time. He also thanked the supporters.

He further mentioned, even as we prepare to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our Church building in June 2026, he invited Prayatna to widen their scope and promised Tara all possible help in their endeavours.

Earlier, Tara gave us a brief of the functioning of Prayatna, the various activities organized during the year. She also introduced the Trustees and each and every one present at the gathering and acknowledged their contribution towards the successful functioning of Prayatna.

Gladwyn the secretary, too thanked all those involved in the efficient functioning of Prayatna. Prayatna looks forward to continuous support from the team and from the parish.





Role of Communities in shaping Religious Values and Social Justice

Alexio Fernandes, IRD

On the eve of India's 79th Independence Day, the IRD (Inter-religious Dialogue) Cell of Our Lady of Lourdes, Orlem hosted an Open Discussion on "Role of Communities in Shaping Religious Values and Social Justice". Over 55 participants across all religions participated in the event.

The session began with a prayer by Mr. Walter D'Souza, followed by the National Anthem. Moderated by Mrs. Candice and Mrs. Aditi, the discussion featured Speakers from five major faith communities:

- **Sikhism:** Mr. Harmanjeet Singh highlighted the sacrifices of freedom fighters and emphasized unity beyond religious barriers.
- **Jainism:** Mrs. Shilpa Chedda spoke on humility, gratitude, and the importance of

parenting in instilling values.

- **Hinduism:** Mr. Arvind Nigale stressed universal human values, urging practical application over mere theory.
- **Buddhism:** Mr. Pratish Gaikwad invoked the legacy of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and emphasized equal respect for national and religious festivals.
- **Christianity:** Fr. Ronny Vaz highlighted the Christian commitment to gender equality within families and the importance of equal opportunities for all, especially the marginalized. He emphasized the core values of love, sacrifice, humility, and the Church's role in promoting education among the underprivileged. Stressing the need to stand for justice, he urged the faithful to

not just preach but actively practice these values, reflecting the Church's enduring mission of service, compassion, and social responsibility

The open floor discussion touched upon the need to translate values into action, the role of education in social justice, and greater empathy towards fellow human beings.

Fr. Aniceto Pereira, the Parish Priest, concluded by reminding all that though practicing values is difficult, it is essential for personal growth and national progress. Mr. Stephen Noronha delivered the vote of thanks, rounding off a successful and thought-provoking evening.

A Joyous Evening of Faith and Fellowship

Sharel Lobo, Parish Councillor



Community 2, Sector 1 – Somwar Bazaar. Celebrated the feast of our Patron saint, St Thomas, with great joy and devotion on July 5th, at St. Joseph's School quadrangle, bringing together around 100 members of our vibrant community.

The evening began with Holy Mass at 7 PM, celebrated by our Community priest, Fr. Ronny Vaz. The liturgy was a moment of spiritual reflection and thanksgiving, uniting all in faith and prayer.

A special highlight of the evening was a heartfelt sharing by Mr. Anil Dsouza, a sector member and former Parish Pastoral

Council member. He took the gathering down memory lane, recalling how St. Thomas was chosen as the patron saint of the sector – a moment rooted in faith and inspired by the apostle's unwavering belief. What followed was an evening filled with joy, laughter, and community spirit.

A big thank you to all our Animators for their tireless efforts in encouraging families from all clusters to attend. Their dedication played a key role in making the evening a grand success. We thank the Lord for blessing our sector and we continue to seek the intercession of St. Thomas, our patron and guide in faith.

Our Lady Of Assumption Sector Feast

Zone 4 Sector 2 (Tank Colony)

Like always we all look forward to the Novena's in our Sector and we feel truly blessed that the feast is celebrated on 15th Aug., 2025, where there is a dual celebration; our Independence day and the day Our Lady assumed into heaven. We the citizens went from slavery to freedom and Mama Mary from mortality to immortality.

We prayed the 9 days Novenas in all the societies, followed by fellowship, which saw members of other faiths joining in the Novena prayer. It was heartening to see children lead in reading prayers. May the hand of the Lord always rest upon them.

Our Novena culminated with a get-together at Nihar hall. The Parish Councillor and

Animators were happy to welcome a large number of faithful. The evening just flowed with spot prizes, games, yummy snacks and food.

Our sincere thanks to our Parish Councillor, Veronica Correia and all the Animators for giving us a memorable evening. Despite Fr.Cedric's busy schedule, he managed to drop it to say "Hello". Every moment well spent. God bless us all.

Celebrating 92 Wonderful Years of Elize Dsouza

Fatima Dias (PC) Lourdes Colony S5

Our beloved Auntie Elize D'Souza celebrated her 92nd birthday and we, the animators of the Holy Spirit Community, had the joy of visiting her. Her presence has always been a blessing in every sector activity and her unwavering faith continues to inspire us. A true eye-opener, she encourages us to dive deeper into the Word of God as she herself faithfully reads Psalm 119 every single day.

Her radiant, youthful smile warmed our hearts, and she expressed how overjoyed she was to see us too. We thank God for the gift of her and pray for His continued blessings upon her.



Girl Child To Be Revered

Stella Leo Rebello, Women's Cell

This September as we were all geared to celebrate Mother Mary's Birthday, we also commemorated it as GIRL CHILD day.

We, the Women Cell members, along with four students performed a Street-Play, first time ever, on 7th September'25 after the 10.30 am Children's Mass in the School Hall. The play depicted the injustice and indifferent behaviour meted out to a girl child in homes and the society at large.

The slogans displayed safety measures against eve-teasing, helpline numbers for those in distress and disparity in homes between a son and daughter against educational opportunities. The powerful message through the two acts was loud, clear and the shouting of slogans was by the children in the audience.

We all are created in the image and likeness of God. We pray that Our Blessed Mother showers her blessings on the GIRL CHILD as she needs to be respected, loved,

understood and cared for by all.

We appreciate our Spiritual Director Fr. Clinton, for his support and encouragement to the Women Cell. We thank Wilrene for her patient assistance in training us for the Street-Play.

**MOTHER MARY KEEP US SAFE
UNDER YOUR MANTLE OF BLUE!**



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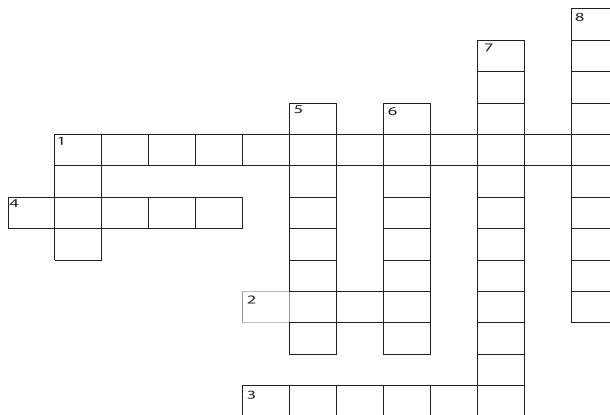
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Mission Quiz

Read the message, complete the crossword and send your replies to reachingout.orlem@gmail.com,
with your name, Community and Sector number



ACROSS

1. A word from the motto
2. Central Message of Jubilee
3. Horizon of Hope opens to this reality
4. It will be for everyone a time of _____

DOWN

5. Messengers & Builders of Hope is our fundamental _____
6. Missionary disciples of Christ are the _____
7. Human crisis is _____ to needs of lonely, elderly
8. We need to draw on his power & prayer based on Word of God
1. We turn to _____

Excerpts From The Message Of His Holiness (Late) Pope Francis For World Mission Day - 19, October 2025

For World Mission Day in the Jubilee Year 2025, the central message of which is hope.

I have chosen the motto: “Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples”. It reminds individual Christians and the entire Church, the community of the baptized, of our fundamental vocation to be, in the footsteps of Christ, messengers and builders of hope. I trust that it will be for everyone a time of grace with the faithful God who has given us new birth in the risen Christ “to a living

hope”

1. In the footsteps of Christ our hope :

In his earthly life, “he went about doing good and healing all” from evil and the Evil One (cf. Acts 10:38), restoring hope in God to the needy and the people. He became the divine Missionary of hope, the supreme model of all those down the centuries who carry out their own God-given mission, even amid extreme trials.

May we too feel inspired to set out in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus to become, with him and in him, signs and messengers of hope for all, in every place and circumstance that God has granted us to live. May all the baptized, as missionary Disciples of Christ, make his hope shine forth in every corner of the earth!

2. Christians, bearers and builders of hope among all peoples :

The horizon of this hope transcends the passing things of this world and opens up to those divine realities in which we share even now! Impelled by this great hope, Christian communities can be harbingers of a new humanity in a world that, in the most “developed” areas, shows serious symptoms of human crisis: a widespread sense of bewilderment, loneliness and indifference to the needs of the elderly, and a reluctance to make an effort to assist our neighbours in need

3. Renewing the mission of hope :

Renewed in the Easter spirituality experienced at every Eucharistic celebration we are a “springtime people. We constantly draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit in order to work with zeal, determination and patience in the vast field of global evangelization. Starting from prayer, especially prayer based on the word of God and particularly the Psalms, that great symphony of prayer whose composer is the Holy Spirit (cf. Catechesis, 19 June 2024). Let us turn to Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ our hope. To her we entrust our prayer for this Jubilee and for the years yet to come: “May the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God’s love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!”

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 January 2025, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Winners of the Youth in the Bible Quiz

<u>Community 1 Baudi</u> Abigail Azavedo Debra Fernandes Philomina Mani Carol D’Souza Irene Rosario Maureen Lily Maria Braganza Merlyn D’Souza Diana D’Souza <u>Community 2 SBLG</u> Elizabeth Saldanha Sharel Lobo Schneider D’Souza Sheldon Lobo <u>Comm 6 Mith Chowki</u> Meldon Furtado Raphael Fernandes	<u>Community 3 JBC</u> Arlene Alves Sonia Rodrigues Simran Gond Hazel Fernandes Rita Albuquerque <u>Community 4 Tank</u> Valerie Fletcher Cynthia Pereira Philomena Pinto Giselle D’Mello Gwynet Johnson Brian, James & Shaun	<u>Community 5 Lourdes</u> Agatha & Aelred Abreo Mariana Coelho Jennifer Mendonsa Cassius Henriques Zubin Goveas Philomena Ferrao Martha Dsouza Sydelle Rodricks <u>Comm 7 Evershine</u> Lydia Nazareth Joseph D’Souza Cassian Rodrigues Anthony Dmello Criselle Lobo
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My Journey as an Altar Server

Susanna I. Murzello, Evershine Nagar

Since July 2018, after Sunday morning Mass, I would stand next to my father, a Eucharistic Minister, admiring his role in distributing Holy Communion. I longed to receive it myself but was told to wait until my First Holy Communion.

After receiving my First Holy Communion, I aspired to serve the Church as an Altar Server- a role that would deepen my faith, nurtured early on by the late Mr. Derrick Rosario during the Bible classes held at my place. Unfortunately, the pandemic delayed my start. With determination and encouragement from Father Sunil and Alexio Sir, I served Mass for the first time, on July 12, 2022.

With training, I was now allowed to participate in regular Masses, feast days, and Holy Week services. Being close to the Altar enriched my understanding of the liturgy and instilled in me values like teamwork, responsibility, and commitment which is the key factor to be an Altar Server.

This Ministry is more than a duty - it's a way to grow in faith, serve the community, gain confidence and to understand the Mass better.

I was awarded the 1st Prize for the year 2024-2025. To date, I've served over 680 Masses. I'm grateful to Father Clinton, Alexio Sir, and my fellow Altar Servers for their support. I encourage the new servers to stay committed to Christ's service - "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few" (Matthew 9:37).



Parents' Day Visit to the Homebound

Amelia Mireille Soares, JBC S4

This Parents' Day, we The Youth of JBC visited the homebound. With a group of eager volunteers and hands full of thoughtful gifts, we set out not just to deliver small tokens, but to share a moment of gratitude and warmth.

The look of surprise on their faces made every step worthwhile. In those quiet rooms, it felt as if we were the gifts they received,

not the ones we had wrapped and brought. The fact that someone remembered, someone knocked, someone sat and listened meant more to them than anything money could buy.

They shared stories that stretched across generations – of laughter, loss, love, and life, rich with memory and marked by time. Parents' Day, to us, became more than a

celebration. It became a reminder: to honor the eternal love, wisdom, and sacrifice that have shaped us into who we are today.

We hope that in our small gesture, they felt seen, valued, and remembered, as special as they truly are. And we hope it left behind not just a gift, but a lasting sense of inclusion and love.



SSVP Celebrates the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul

Michelle Pinto



The Vincentian mission - follow Christ by serving the poor through person-to-person service, identifying and combating poverty, thus promoting social justice.

Our Parish SSVP Conference came together to celebrate the feast of St Vincent de Paul on Sunday, September 28, 2025. Amidst the celebration of entertainment and snacks served, the highlight of the evening was President, Sr Shirley Drego's address, where she spoke about the works of charity done by the Conference during the year. The Conference helps poor, needy families with rations, education and medical aid.

Members visit these families at their homes, monitor their progress – health, education – and also try to secure employment for them.

It was good to note that some families which were being helped moved to being self reliant and hence aid was stopped, while another 12 new families were now being helped. Sr Shirley thanked Fr Aniceto Pereira and Fr Ronny Vaz Spiritual Director, for their support. She also thanked the SSVP Donors, Benefactors and Doctors for their services to the aided families.

Serving with Love: Mission Canteen by the Sunday School Children

Savina Menezes

Mission Sunday, celebrated on the third Sunday of October, holds a special place in the Catholic Church's calendar. This year, our Sunday school children have taken the initiative to set up a canteen on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October 2025, continuing the wonderful tradition. The proceeds from this will be given to Christ The King Parish, Govandi. This event instills a sense of service and compassion in our young participants.

We're grateful to our parishioners for their continued support and encouragement, which inspires the children to become more involved in charitable activities. Special thanks to our Parish Fathers for their guidance and support.

As it beautifully resonates with the missionary spirit, "Mission is not just an activity, but a way of living and a way of sharing the love of God with others."

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