Our Lady Of Lourdes Parish, Orlem

Reaching Out

October 2026




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Reaching Out Theme For December 2026

JESUS God's Gift to a Troubled World



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

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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

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

When Festive Celebrations End, Does the Earth Rejoice?

Fr. Ronny Vaz

The eventful night of celebration is over, the day had dawned leaving behind the DJs, bands, Lazer lighting and so on. The streets are empty as People cherish the last night memories of joy, laughter and togetherness. But there is Mother Earth



who is in pain as the streets are scattered with chocolate wrappers, plastic covers, disposable glasses and bottles, food waste and other litter. We celebrated. But did the earth celebrate with us? Can we blame our Culture? Customs? Ignorance? Carelessness? Or negligence towards the beautiful creation entrusted to us by God? Perhaps creation is crying out.

We often speak about caring for our common home, yet our everyday habits reveal how easily we become consumers rather than stewards. Even when we segregate our waste if at all we do, an important question remains: Where does it go? Are we truly taking responsibility for what we consume and discard? The answer requires more than better waste management. It requires a change of heart.

As we mark the 800th anniversary of the Transitus of St. Francis, we are invited to rediscover this journey of conversion. Pope Leo XIV's call to "live a simple, essential life, open to peace, fraternity and respect for creation" resonates deeply with the Franciscan spirit.

St. Francis was not always the Francis we know today. As a young man, he dreamed of being great. He who wanted the best; the glory, the recognition and to be The One who stood out. He too knew how to seize opportunities and could have lived by asking, "What is there for me?" But grace intervened. Francis began to look within



himself and more importantly, he began to look towards Jesus Christ, his Lord and Master. His encounter with Christ transformed his desires, priorities and way of seeing. The one who once sought greatness discovered the greatness of humility. The one who desired possession learned the freedom of simplicity. The one who looked at the world in terms of what it could offer him began to see it as God's gift. The world around him became alive which made Francis' relationship with creation a family affair. He learned to call the sun his brother, the moon his sister and the earth his mother. Creation was no longer something to exploit. It became a hymn of praise to the Creator.

Our celebrations, therefore, can become moments of transformation. Can we celebrate without creating unnecessary waste? Can joy exist without excess? Can we choose reusable instead of disposable, responsible consumption instead of convenience, and gratitude instead of endless wanting?

Let us not point fingers. Let us come together.

Above all, let us change the question within us. Not merely: "What is there for me?" But: "What is God asking of me?" The change we long to see in the world begins when Christ changes the way we see. **Look within. Look to Christ. Look around.** Like St. Francis, may we learn to live simply, love deeply, build peace, recognise every person as a brother or sister, and respect creation as a sacred gift.

Then, when the celebration ends, may the earth too have reason to rejoice !

Reaching Out Guidelines for Feature Articles and Reports

The RO Team encourages parishioners to write in to Reaching Out and share your views, experiences, on the Themes for the month, also happenings, testimonies, etc. As the print version leaves us with space constraints we request you to kindly follow the guidelines given below for Feature Articles and Reports

- Feature Articles : Restrict your articles to 350 words approx.
- Happenings and Reports should be crisp. Mention the core of the event and how the event fulfils the vision / mission / theme of the Community or Association. Not more than 300 words.
- Ensure that the Author's name, Community name and Sector name is mentioned under the title of the Article or Report.
- Send your Reports / Articles as a word doc file. Avoid writing it as an email as this distorts all the formatting leading to a need to retype the entire content.
- Pictures to be sent as attached jpeg files. Do not sent collages.
- The email address for Reaching Out is reachingout.orlem@gmail.com

Creation – God's Gift to Man

Melville X. D'Souza

When God created the Earth, he created it simple but filling it with everything that would sustain human life. All the natural resources, the vegetation, fruits, etc., etc.

God had designed the world such that human beings would live in harmony and in peace with the wild and with Nature, and with respect for each other and respect for God's creation. In essence, we were expected to live a simple life using just the essentials things. **However, what we see today, is indeed frightening, greed has taken over our lives.**

Even as we live a comfortable life, the craving for more is so strong that we cannot resist the temptation to have it all. We need to control our thoughts. Marcus Aurelius a Roman Emperor, said, **"the happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts."**

Man has created friction between man & beast, between man & Nature, between nations, between members in society and in the family. Man has encroached on wild territory, disturbed the ecosystem and Nature by destroying trees, forests, mangroves, rivers, wetlands resulting in excessive heat, global warming, earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, melting of glaciers, etc.

Man has created wars between nations the consequences are all there for all to see.

We have to understand that everything and everybody on earth are all God's creation and we need to communicate with them all. We do not want to talk even to our neighbours or family members. It is said that Saint Francis of Assisi who is the patron saint of animals & ecology would preach to animals and birds because he viewed all of creation as part of his spiritual family and believed every creature had a duty to praise God.

Somewhere down the line, man has lost his sensibilities, his peace of mind and begin to think he is the master of the universe and is going berserk. So, where do we go from here? **We need to wake up and come to the realisation that we are destroying our very lives, the very planet that gives us life.**

We need to listen when somebody wants a listening ear, to take heed of the warning signals from Nature, to listen when others talk about Environmental damage rather than turn a deaf ear or show indifference. **After all, human life is at stake! Creation is God's Gift to Man!**

Live in Simplicity – Tune into God's Creation

Olga Pereira, JBC, S1

"O Lord, our God, Your greatness is seen in all the world. When I look at the sky, which You have made, at the moon and the stars, which You set in their places – what are human beings that You think of them; mere mortals that You care for them? (Psalm 8, v.1, v.3)

A simple life is a beautiful life. This is very well seen in the life of St. Francis of Assisi – the little 'Poverello'. He gave up his life of riches and accepted a life of poverty. His love for nature was outstanding and considered all nature as a mirror of God. He loved and respected all creatures – animals, birds, trees along with wind, water, Sun, Moon and Stars.

We need to tune ourselves into God's creation and be grateful and rejoice when we experience the pleasant weather, the cool breeze, sunshine, pouring rain and the song of the birds. Above all we need to be grateful to God for creating us in His image and likeness.

God calls us to love one another as He loves us and to live in a spirit of unity and brotherhood. We must live in our communities humbly, with understanding, dialogue and tolerance, Spreading peace through their thoughts and actions make our world a better place.

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Jubilee Year in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, a role model for us in his love for God's creation. This years theme for the celebration of the season of creation during the months of September to October is 'Living Water, inviting us to recognize and conserve the precious gift of water and immerse our lives more deeply in the love of Jesus – the source of living water. Care for creation involves compassion for trees, birds, animals, protection of Nature.

Just as St. Francis of Assisi had a deep and lifelong devotion to Mother Mary, we invoke Mother Mary for her loving care and protection and to be our guide and advocate and become Channels of Peace.

PRAYATNA – 33 Years of Service

Melville X. D'Souza

PRAYATNA celebrated their 33rd Anniversary at the 5.15 Mass on August 15, 2026. Fr. Aniceto in his homily, spoke about how they reach out in service to all those who are weak, irrespective of the cultural background they come from.

At the get-together at the Community Centre, Fr. Aniceto in his opening Prayer, invoked God's blessings on Prayatna for their yeoman service. He thanked the Lord for graciously leading us to where he wants to lead us. Also on those who established

the organization, the donors, their collaborators and also all those who are no more in our midst. He further went on to say that the contribution of Prayatna makes us proud and it is all for the Lord's glory.

Tara gave an overview of the various projects and activities undertaken by Prayatna during the year. She spoke about how they work closely with HelpAge and the Mahila mandals. She touched upon a few of the projects like Tailoring where many of the women learn the art and are able to sustain themselves. It also serves as an income generation project.

Tara also spoke about the study classes, which are meant not just for the children of the families which Prayatna caters to. Tara urged others to take advantage of these classes where personal attention is given to the children, instead of going to the expensive private tuition classes.

There were Testimonies from some of those who had benefited from these programmes and now doing well in life.

Tara thanked the volunteers, the staff, the donors, the spiritual director Fr. Aniceto Pereira, trustees and of course the parishioners for their unstinted support.

Name badges were distributed to the staff and the teachers and volunteers.

Fr. Aniceto in his address, recalled the humble beginnings, Hilda Ferreira the founder of Prayatna and (Late) Fr. Hugh Fonseca who took it forward. He stated that it takes a professional setup to run such a centre – the Centre for Community Organization (CCO) which Prayatna does have. Fr. Aniceto was all praise for Tara who efficiently and successfully administered Prayatna for about 11 years. He also thanked the staff, the collaborators, volunteers, trustees and others for making Prayatna what it is today.



Jubilee Year Jan 2026 – 2027 dedicated to St. Francis de Assisi

Arlene Alves, JBC S1

This year is proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV as to rediscover the way of life of St. Francis of Assisi. Pope Leo XIV highlights that Francis was an instrument of peace because he welcomed God into his heart. He encourages Christians to reject the global pursuit of power and instead heal historical memories and foster reconciliation and strive to bring people closer together even when societal or cultural barriers keep them apart.

Even though St. Francis of Assisi was born in a wealthy family, he set his mind on God and spirituality of the soul after being a prisoner of war for a year. St. Francis believed that true Christian discipleship is marked by joyful service to the marginalized. In an encounter with Jesus about a church in the San Damiano which was old and crumbling, he was told "Go then and restore my church for Me". St. Francis realized that Jesus meant the church needed a spiritual renewal rather than physical masonry.

The peace prayer of St. Francis is apt. "Lord make me an instrument of Peace continuing with themes of sowing Love, Pardon, Faith, Hope, Light and Joy.....In dying we are born to eternal Life". Peace begins in our heart and is reflected in our words and actions, calling us to be instruments of peace and become witnesses of Christ's love everywhere.

St. Francis of Assisi being the patron saint of animals, birds and all ecology, viewed all elements of nature as 'brothers and sisters' calling all humanity to respect, protect and care for creation and environment.

To live as spiritual children of St. Francis of Assisi is "being sensitive, attentive and welcoming towards those in need. It is not easy but it brings one great joy".



Building Bridges in a Polarized India

Candice Collasco

The Inter Religious Dialogue Cell (IRD) of our Parish, organized a Panel Discussion on 'Faith in Action: Building Peace in a Polarized India' on 13th August 2026 at the St Anne's school Conference Hall, which commenced with Ms. Veena Fernandes welcoming the participants. A stirring patriotic medley "We, The People of India" presented by the students of St. Anne's School under the guidance of Ms. Ninian Nunes, followed.

An enriching interaction was held with a distinguished panel representing seven faith traditions – Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, Catholicism, Buddhism and the Brahma Kumaris, who were introduced by IRD member Aditi Chakrabarty. The panelists shared simple yet profound messages on the role of faith in fostering harmony and peace. Values are in-built – and freedom must be understood as a celebration not only of rights, but also of responsibilities. Faith must be expressed through action – Prayer finds its true meaning when translated into service, love, and justice for all. Differences are natural, but ego, greed and misuse of media can deepen divisions and create unnecessary rifts. Building Bridges is essential – and this can be achieved by visiting one another's place of worship, participating in Mohalla committees and making a genuine effort to know and understand one another. As one of the panelists aptly observed "The leaves of one plant cannot be stuck onto another. Water the plant, nurture it, and help it flourish".

During the Q&A session that followed, Alexio Fernandes the Head of the IRD Cell raised the issue of Aaj ke Bache, kal ka Youth aur kal ka Future (today's children, tomorrow's youth and the future). While there is considerable emphasis on encouraging adults to become involved in community-building initiatives, he asked, what about the youth? How can they be meaningfully engaged? All agreed that young people must be given responsibility and space to lead. Alexio proposed: "Since all communities are present here today, can



we get at least five youth from each community, so that our next program can be specially for the youth?" The proposal received the unanimous support.

Nisar Ali, a member of Rashtra Seva Dal (Social Organization) raised another thought-provoking question: "If Religion is becoming a tool for division, then why can't religion be kept aside or the walls of Religion be removed?" In response, the panelists said attention should be given to the Constitution and its guiding principles, rather than allowing religious differences to become the source of division.

At the conclusion of the Q&A session, Fr. Ronny Vaz, the Spiritual Director of the Orlem IRD Cell, acknowledged the support and encouragement of the Parish Priest Fr. Aniceto Pereira, for the regular IRD programmes. Summarizing the evening's discussion, he highlighted two key takeaways: "Religion should not be a barrier, but a bridge to build a better community." and "Peace is to disagree without disrespect."

The Program concluded with Ms. Joelle Pereira proposing the Vote of thanks, followed by singing of the National Anthem.

Prison Ministry

Allen Almeida

Behind locked gates and steel bars, thousands of human beings carry burdens far heavier than their sentences. Driven by this year's Gospel mandate—to hear the cry, heal the wound, and renew the hope—Prison Ministry Mumbai brings Christ's mercy to those who need it most. Because no person is beyond redemption, and no life is without hope.

Prison Ministry Mumbai continues its mission at Arthur Road, Byculla, Kalyan, Thane, and Taloja Jails and the Children's Observation Homes in Dongri, Matunga, Mankhurd, and Bhiwandi.

Over the past year, compassionate care remained our top priority in the Prisons. Healthcare teams screened over 8,502 inmates through various medical camps like dental, GP, skin, ENT and Gynaec. To help inmates build self-reliance, we conducted certified Fashion Designing and Beautician courses for women through Divine Child Polytechnic Andheri, alongside computer literacy sessions and expanded prison libraries, zumba classes, cross-stitch, to carrom tournaments and essential infrastructure. Since last March, 89 inmates have been released and regained their liberty for a fresh start.

In the Children's Observation Homes, our volunteers walk alongside vulnerable young boys and girls. Through language coaching, computer training, vocational grooming, fireless cooking, and sports, we

help rebuild their confidence. We provide the emotional anchors to these young minds through Counselling sessions to heal from past trauma.

Our Intercessory team meets daily at 3:00 PM to pray for prisoners, their families, and prison authorities. God's providence is our bank balance, and we are deeply grateful to our volunteers, collaborators, and benefactors. You, too, can be an instrument of mercy through your prayers, voluntary service, or financial support. Together, let us continue to build bridges where walls once stood. God bless you.

The Bombay Catholic Sabha – Orlem Unit

Lloyd Mascarenhas (Chairman)

The Bombay Catholic Sabha – Orlem Unit continued its commitment to Service, Leadership, Community Development and Empowerment through various initiatives during June–September 2026.

Key Activities:

• Special Intensive Revision (SIR): Assisted 12,782 parishioners in locating their 2002 electoral records, filling SIR forms and connecting with the respective BLOs throughout the SIR process. **Election Commission Appreciation: The Election Commission of India – 162 Malad West Assembly Constituency appreciated the Orlem Unit for its tremendous work and dedicated assistance to parishioners and BLOs during the SIR process**

• Senior Citizen Card: Assisted 430 parishioners, **Government Card Camp:** Assisted with 460 government cards including PAN, Ayushman, MJPJAY and ABHA.

• Annual General Body Meeting was held on 14 June 2026 and we hosted the Borivali Deanery meeting on July 26, 2026.

• New Membership : 517 new members joined the Bombay Catholic Sabha during June–September 2026.

Other Programmes: Servant Leadership Programme: 12 Committee Members participated at Sarvodaya (St.Pius Seminary – Goregoan). 110 Parishioners attended the **Redevelopment Seminar. Independence Day,** 250 Indian Flag stickers, distributed. **Dental & Health Camp** - 65 parishioners benefited. **Voters Assistance Drive** - 380 parishioners assisted. **AI Awareness Seminar** - 130 members attended.

Civic & Community Engagement: The Unit maintained cordial engagement with elected representatives and extended greetings to the local MLA and MLC on

their birthdays and festival, thus strengthening community relations and civic engagement.

The Unit also assisted with fumigation, tree trimming and gutter cleaning at various locations in Orlem during the monsoon.

Youth Activities: Youth volunteers actively participated in various BCS programmes, gaining valuable experience in community service, civic responsibility, teamwork.

Upcoming Activities: ANNUAL ACADEMIC & SPORTS AWARDS announced to recognise the achievements, dedication and talents of our young parishioners. Award sponsorship are invited.

The Orlem Unit remains committed to serving and empowering the parish community and looks forward to undertaking many more meaningful initiatives in the months ahead.

A Journey Filled with Empathy and Joy !

Andreena Putman

Our Parish Women's Cell visited Shanti Ghar, a home for destitute women and their children in Andheri East, on 29th August, with the support of our Spiritual Director, Fr Clinton Rayar.

The Sisters at Shanti Ghar perform a wonderful and selfless service by caring for the children while their mothers go out to earn their daily livelihood. Run by the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, the primary mission of the organisation is to rehabilitate, protect, and empower women in distress.

Our visit was an opportunity to understand the challenges faced by these women and children and to offer our support in whatever ways we could. The staff graciously shared with us the mission and work of the shelter. We were deeply touched by the serene and peaceful atmosphere of Shanti Ghar.

The children brought immense joy to our visit by presenting a beautifully performed group dance. We were delighted to present them with essential supplies, recreational materials, and hygiene kits.

We came away with a renewed appreciation for the selfless service of the sisters and a strong desire to visit Shanti Ghar again.



Family Visitation by Fr. Ronny Vaz – Nivedita sector

Francis Fernandes, Tank Colony, S8



Earlier this year our community received joyful news: after many years, Fr. Ronny Vaz has been appointed Priest in Charge of our Community and has kindly undertaken a full visitation of families across the Community. This welcome initiative brought blessings, prayers, and renewed pastoral presence to every doorstep and our sector was deeply moved by his simple yet powerful ministry of presence.

Over the course of the visitation Fr. Ronny met with members of all, approximately 140 families in the sector. He made a brief, prayerful stop at each home, offering a blessing for the household and its members. Sector members were asked to keep conversations brief and focus on prayer which proved effective and allowed Fr. Ronny to visit each home with care and attention.

The Sector Animators provided vital support throughout the visitation. We extend our sincere gratitude to Fr. Ronny Vaz for taking the time to visit and bless our homes, and for his prayerful ministry among us.

Who is my friend?

Andreena Putman, Evershine Nagar, S3

It's so easy, as kids in school, to boldly say, this is my best friend, and then we went on and had one BFF in each grade. This pattern continued right through our college years and even into adulthood.

However, as we settled, either married or moved from our place of birth, where we probably grew up, because of work or convenient and affordable accommodation, we got accustomed to new neighbours/ friends. And this is how we landed up with the challenge of making new friends.

At our sector Rosa Mystica, we have developed one such family and a bond which draws us together every month to pray, laugh, share our wins and losses, and just be ourselves.



Gathered in Gratitude: A Joyful Harvest Festival Dinner

Natasha Sequeira, Evershine Nagar, S2

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Ps 133:1

A beautiful evening of gratitude, fellowship, and togetherness brought our Sector family together for our annual Harvest Festival Dinner. It was a wonderful time filled with warmth, continuous laughter, a lively game of housie, delicious food, and special Vonn, lovingly prepared by our dedicated Animators.

Seeing everyone gather around the table, sharing a meal, and simply enjoying each other's company served as a heartening reminder of the vibrant spirit that binds our community together.

A thank you to all those who attended, supported, and brought such wonderful enthusiasm to the evening, making it truly unforgettable and to our Animators for their tireless efforts for this meaningful and memorable evening.



Independence Day and the Assumption Feast

Sandra Noronha Tank Colony, S6

On 15th August, we at Sharon Rose joyfully celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption and Independence Day, with prayer, patriotism, fellowship, fun and gratitude.

The celebrations began with a Thanksgiving Mass at 7:00 a.m. in our Church, offered especially for the members and families of Sharon Rose. We thanked Jesus for His abundant blessings and protection over our society. At 9:00 a.m., we gathered in our premises for the flag hoisting ceremony. All the members stood together with pride and respect as we sang our National Anthem with great enthusiasm. The morning continued with activities for both adults and children. The adults and children participated in an interesting quiz on India and its history. Children participated enthusiastically in a Drawing Competition on the theme **'My India My Pride'.**

In the evening, we gathered at our Grotto to recite the special Gratitude Rosary and prayed for God's continued protection, guidance and blessings upon all our families. The evening concluded with games, fellowship and togetherness.

Visitation under the Mantle – Caring Hearts

Francis Fernandes, Tank Colony S8

On 13 August 2026 the Nivedita Community launched a new pastoral outreach that brings our parish's love into the homes and hearts of those who most need it. Named Caring Hearts, this lay-led visitation ministry answers the SCC call to be "missionary disciples," making our faith visible through simple acts of presence, practical help, and prayerful companionship.

Caring Hearts focuses on those who are often overlooked: the lonely, the sick, the unemployed, the homebound, and the elderly with disabilities, the bedridden, children with special needs, and those living with terminal illness. Volunteers will visit regularly to listen, pray, offer small practical supports, and connect families to parish resources. In time, the ministry will intentionally reach out across faith boundaries, offering respectful care to neighbours of all beliefs. Under the pastoral guidance of our Spiritual Guide for the Sector, Newton Gomes, twelve committed Animators have already volunteered to serve.

Caring Hearts is a lived expression of our baptismal calling: to love and serve, to bring the consoling presence of Christ to those in need. Its impact will be measured in quiet moments—an encouraging conversation, a shared prayer, a delivered meal, or a helping hand—each one a small but powerful sign of God's mercy.

Embracing the golden years session"

Natasha Sequeira & Sabrina D'Souza, Evershine S



"They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green." Ps 92:14

On Sunday, 23rd August, we had the privilege of coming together for a beautiful and meaningful session on "Love the Life You Live, Live the Life You Love, " an uplifting session for our seniors focused on navigating and celebrating life after 55 plus, and we had, Ms. Blanche Dias, Educator and Motivational Speaker, as the Guest Counsellor

With great empathy and insight, Ms. Blanche reminded them that turning 55 is far from a finish line—it is the beginning of an exciting, meaningful new chapter. She encouraged our seniors to cultivate a positive mindset, stay physically active,

prioritize health, and remain deeply connected to both family and the community. Her message emphasized that these golden years offer a unique opportunity to embrace joy, discover new passions, and continue living with purpose.

It was a vibrant, enriching session that left our senior members feeling refreshed, inspired, and truly appreciated. A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Blanche for sharing her time, expertise, and uplifting spirit with them, and to all our seniors who participated with such wonderful enthusiasm!

Divine Mercy -Sharing Hands, Hearts and Smiles

Veera Davies

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these people of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

On 12th August 2026, the Divine Mercy Association, Orlem, had the joy of spending a day of service and fellowship at Shanti Daan, Borivali.

We arrived shortly before 9.00 a.m., carrying groceries according to the needs of the institution. After our opening prayers, we joined the kitchen team and began cutting vegetables for 145 residents and 25 staff members. With aprons on and hearts filled with joy, we worked together amidst much laughter and fellowship. Indeed, love made the labour light!

The highlight of our visit was the opportunity to meet and interact with the residents. We shared conversations and laughter, and assured them of our prayers. One particularly touching moment was our visit to a bedridden brother. As we sang "Happy Birthday" to him, his face lit up with a beautiful smile, which touched us deeply.

We were also inspired by the dedicated caregivers who lovingly look after the residents. We had gone to bring some happiness and comfort, but we came away feeling that we had received far more than we had given. Our day concluded in the chapel with the Divine Mercy Chaplet, as we entrusted the residents, caregivers, our families, benefactors and the mission of Shanti Daan to the merciful Heart of Jesus.



Play • Inspire • Unite – On 64 Squares

By LSC Member



Nihar Hall was once again electric with intellectual fervour on Wednesday, 26th August, as the Lourdes Sports Committee (LSC) hosted its Rapid Chess Tournament. Close to 80 players took their seats across five categories – from under-10s right up to the veterans – and in a most encouraging sign for the parish, more than 75% of the entries were children and youth.

With just 10 minutes on each player's clock, the pace was relentless. From bold openings to razor-sharp tactics, the day was a masterclass in strategy and nerve. One game was over almost before it began, with a young player delivering checkmate in under 10 moves! When the final king had fallen, the honors were shared as follows:

Category	Winner	Runner-up
U-10	Roman Dias (Mith Chowky)	Paris Vaz (Baudi)
U-14	Vihaan D'souza (Baudi)	Stefan Fernandes (JBC)
U-18	Joshua Noronha (Tank Colony)	Aaron Lewis (Lourdes Colony)
Open	Oliver D'souza (Mith Chowky)	Ronit Noronha (Lourdes Colony)
Veterans	Manoj Hegde (Evershine)	Earl D'souza (Baudi)

The tournament underscored the incredible talent brewing in our own backyard. A huge thank-you to the OLLC Clergy team for their unwavering support and to our zonal captains who rallied their players. This successful event powerfully reinforces LSC's motto – Play • Inspire • Unite – championing sports at the grassroots level and keeping our community spirit alive and kicking!

Building Bonds of Friendship

Shirley Clement, Lourdes Colony, S2

On 2nd August 2026, we at Saint Mark's Community came together for its Sector Get-Together–an evening dedicated to building friendships, fellowship and celebrating the joy of belonging to one parish family.

Under the dynamic leadership of our Parish Councillor and her team of Animators, the gathering brought together sector members of all ages in an atmosphere filled with warmth, laughter and togetherness. We were honoured to have our Parish Priest and Priest in-charge, Fr. Aniceto, who graced the occasion.

The evening came alive with fun-filled games, lively music and dancing with enthusiastic participation from both the young and the young at heart. Prizes were awarded for the best decorated Umbrella.

It was heartening to see neighbours become friends, old friendships rekindled, and new connections formed. A delicious dinner provided the perfect setting for conversations to continue.

It was a celebration of Friendship, which reminded us that the strongest bonds are built when people come together to share laughter and faith. We look forward to many such gatherings that continue to strengthen and enrich each one of us at Saint Mark's Community.





St. Augustine Sector Feast – A Celebration of Peace & Togetherness

Sarita Monteiro, Mithchowki, S1

Friday, August 28, 2026, we joyfully celebrated the feast of our patron, St. Augustine, with the beautiful theme, "Peace is the tranquility of order."

The evening began with a beautiful Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Clinton. The parable of the 'Ten bridesmaids and oil lamps' in the homily emphasised that 'spiritual readiness' was an individual responsibility and it cannot be shared. Each person must build their own relationship with God. Later games and activities brought everyone together, from our little children to our seniors. The group games, activity song and shared moments, created opportunities to laugh, bond and get to know one another better. We ended with a lovely dinner and most importantly with hearts filled with peace, happiness and satisfaction. It was truly a beautiful celebration of faith, fellowship, fun and togetherness, bringing our St. Augustine Community closer as one family.

A heartfelt thank you to all the generous donors from the community who sponsored various requirements for the celebration making it a beautiful day to remember.



St Anthony's Sector - An Eventful Quarter

Ms Martina Dsouza & Mary Pereira, Tank Colony S1

Cluster Gathering – A Day of Faith, Fellowship and Celebration : On 15th August, 3 clusters came together for a joyful gathering as we celebrated two significant occasions – India's Independence Day and the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady. 18 members joined us for a beautiful, fun-filled hour of prayer, fellowship and celebration. The gathering began with prayers, followed games and fellowship. It was truly a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the bonds of our community and celebrate our faith and nation together.

Parents' Day Celebration on August 22, was beautifully planned and coordinated by the youth of Tank Colony, (Andre, Kiera & team), bringing together parishioners of all ages in a spirit of love, unity and fellowship. The fun and creative Masquerade theme, with the youth dressed in masks, set the tone for a lively celebration.

Celebrating Our Teachers with Love and Gratitude : This Teachers' Day, we took the opportunity to appreciate around 30 teachers from our community, including retired and former school teachers, Catechism and Bible class teachers, pre-Baptism teachers, Nursing Faculty and Professors. The Sector Animators and children personally visited each teacher with beautiful handmade Teachers' Day cards prepared by over 20 children from the sector.



Cluster Meeting

Grand Parents Day !

Christabelle D'Souza, Evershine Nagar S7

Grandparents' Day is a beautiful occasion to celebrate the love, wisdom, and blessings of our grandparents. St Andrew's sector, on this special occasion, presented a Token of Appreciation to Senior Grandparents in our Sector, as a mark of our love, respect, and gratitude for their invaluable presence and contribution to our community. It gave us an opportunity to honour their rich life experiences and wisdom, for the important role they continue to play in our families and society.

BASCA Pilgrimage to the Mount – an Enriching Experience

Melville X. D'Souza

To facilitate the visit of the senior citizens & the elderly to Mount Mary Basilica, the Bombay Archdiocesan Senior Citizens Association (BASCA) Orlem unit organized a Pilgrimage of two busloads of senior citizens from the parish on the 14 September 2026.

Bishop Dominic Savio who celebrated the Eucharist alongwith Fr. Aniceto Pereira as one of the concelebrants, in his Homily, said, **it is love and devotion that has brought so many of our senior citizens to the Mount. He invited the faithful to look at the image of Jesus hanging on the Cross, lifeless, unable to hold himself, feeling abandoned on the Cross. Incidentally, 14 September was the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.** Drawing a comparison, Bishop Savio said we must know that Jesus was loved by God even as he was hanging there on the Cross, senior citizens who also feel lost at times, must know that they are also loved by God. **He said the Exaltation of the Cross has a special message for the senior citizens that as we grow older there are things we must learn to let go. Even as we feel helpless, we must know the we are still precious and are still worth the love of Christ.**

Fr. Aniceto as Chaplain of BASCA, thanked the Rector of the Basilica for organizing the special Mass for senior citizens. **He also thanked the BASCA Central Team and the parish units for the arrangements in bringing the senior citizens to the Mount. He also called upon senior citizens to become part of BASCA.**

The visit to the Marian Exhibition centre was a touching experience and will certainly linger in memory for a long time to come.

The. BASCA Team did extremely well in organizing this pilgrimage, judging from the feedback received from the participants.



Faith Formation Sunday, Std V and VI – A Day to Remember !

Jenica and Aelred

23rd August 2026 was a day to remember! Our Faith Formation Sunday, organized at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for the children of Standards 5th and 6th, was a day filled with faith, fun, laughter and friendship. When we arrived, there was already so much excitement around us. Children from 5 parishes had come together, and it was wonderful to meet new friends and spend time with them.

The teachers had planned many interesting activities to help us learn more about our faith in a fun way. We enjoyed action songs, games and a skit, and we also had an engaging session on "The Eucharist". We got to participate, interact and learn through different activities. This made learning about Jesus and our faith much more enjoyable.

One of the best parts of the day was spending time with our friends. We laughed, played and interacted with children from other parishes. It was lovely to see how quickly everyone became comfortable with one another. The delicious snacks and lunch were an added treat.

At the end, we gathered together for Holy Mass celebrated by our Parish Priest Fr. Aniceto Pereira. It was a beautiful moment to come together in prayer and thanksgiving. The celebration of the Eucharist reminded us of the true reason we had gathered - to learn more about Jesus and grow closer to Him.

Faith Formation Sunday was not just another Sunday School program. We went home with happy hearts, new friends and many wonderful memories. It truly was a day of Faith, Friendship, Fun and Fellowship - a day we will cherish and remember for a long time!

"I personally loved every moment of the Faith Formation Program and can't wait for next year!" - Jenica, Std.VI

Today was the day I had been waiting for - Faith Formation Sunday! A day where I could learn more about my faith, my Lord, and especially "The Eucharist".

When I entered the hall, I was surprised to see how lively and energetic the whole atmosphere was. It was definitely not what I had expected! I met all my friends and teachers, who were just as excited about the program. Children from our neighbouring parishes had also joined us, bringing their warm smiles and excitement. It felt wonderful to see everyone come together, ready to learn, have fun and make memories that we would cherish.

We began the day with a fun and energetic action song, which was the perfect way to get us ready for everything that was

planned. It definitely helped us say goodbye to our sleep!

We then had a very interesting and meaningful session on the Eucharist. We learnt about the Eucharist as a Meal, a Sacrifice, the Real Presence of Christ and the Word of God. Each parish presented a different aspect of the Eucharist, and this helped us understand and appreciate it in a much deeper way. It made me realise that the Eucharist is not simply something we receive at Mass, but a beautiful gift through which Jesus comes close to us.

The day then moved towards its most important moment - the Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr. Aniceto Pereira. During his homily, he spoke to us about the Eucharist and reminded us of how important it is in our lives as Catholics. It was a special opportunity to pause, reflect on everything we had learnt and thank Jesus for bringing us all together.

As I look back on the day, I realise that Faith Formation Sunday was so much more than just a program. It was a day where I could learn about my faith, make new friends, share joy, have fun and grow closer to Jesus and the Eucharist.

I would like to sincerely thank our dear Fr. Aniceto, Fr. Ronny, Catechists and Teachers from other parishes for putting together such a wonderful and meaningful program for us, making it special and memorable.

Faith Formation Sunday is definitely a day I will cherish and remember for a long time!

- Aelred, Std V



Nativity Novena to Our Lady – Acronyms !

Day 1 "YOLO" – You Only Live Once I was fortunate to be part of the skit which taught us that Mother Mary lived once and devoted it to God not just for anyone but for Jesus Christ. I learnt that following the crowd or trends isn't important but being your own person and being one with God is. - **Amyrah Ferrao, Std V**

Day 2 "TBH" – To Be Holy Father explained the acronym TBH: "To Be Holy." He told us that Mother Mary was very holy and devoted to God, so we should make her our role model. We should learn to say "yes" and obey God's word in our daily lives. The patroness of our parish is Our Lady of Lourdes so that's all the more reason we should be her devotees and imitate her virtues. - **Joy Cornelius, Std VI**

Day 3 "IDK" - I Depend on the KING How many times a day do we text or say "IDK"? Sometimes we say "I don't know" because we're genuinely lost about our future, our grades, our friendships, or as an excuse - a shield to hide behind because we are afraid of being honest or making the wrong choice. Fear of the unknown often holds us back. When Mother Mary was just a teenager, she faced the ultimate unknown. Imagine being her age and learning you were chosen to be the Mother of God. She didn't have all the answers, and the future must have looked overwhelming. Yet, God sent an angel to say: "Fear Not." We can reclaim those three letters and let IDK stand for "I Depend on the KING." Trust His timing and remember that the God is already standing in your tomorrow. - **Jemma Pereira Std VII**

Day 4 "BTW" – Be Thankful and Worship We reflected on Mama Mary's beautiful "Yes" to God - a yes filled with faith, trust, humility, and complete surrender. True worship begins with a grateful heart that is willing to say "Yes" to His plan, even when we do not know what lies ahead. We were also inspired by her beautiful song of praise, the Magnificat - a prayer that beautifully expresses her gratitude, humility, and deep love for God. - **Renden D'souza, Std. VIII**

Day 5 "FYI" – Find Your Identity. In a world where chaos is our best friend finding our own identity is very crucial. At the novena we learnt to find our own identity with the help of God and not by any peer pressure or bad influence by the people around us.. Finding your identity in this chaotic world is very important. FYI in normal term means 'for your information' but in real life it is 'find your identity' with God's help. - **Agatha Abreo, Std. IX**

Day 6 "GTG" – Go To God : As a child, I should always turn my heart to God by talking to Him as my best friend and allowing His love to guide and protect my daily choices. I have learnt that I do not

need to do big or complicated things to be close to God. I can invite God into my ordinary day through simple actions. I can share my happy moments, worries and secrets with God through small prayers each day, knowing that God loves, protects and is always listening to me, no matter what - **Bethany Fernandes, Std. VI**

Day 7 "ASAP" – Always Say A Prayer We say "ASAP" when something is really important. For me, ASAP can also mean 'Always Say A Prayer'. Today we spend so much time online - scrolling, posting, gaming, and chatting - that we sometimes forget to connect with God. Mother Mary teaches us that prayer is not only for difficult moments but for every day. If we remember ASAP - Always Say A Prayer—we can face life's challenges with courage and hope. - **Daren Misquitta, Std. VII**

Day 8 "OMG" – Obey My God: The acronym 'OMG' which means 'Oh My God' but for us it should be 'Obey My God.' A skit was performed depicting one's obedience to God and Mary. The skit started with an argument between two friends over a lost notebook. After the Teacher's intervention they asked Mother Mary what to do. She said listen, forgive and speak with love and this is how we can obey God. After seeking advice from Mama Mary and Our Lord Jesus, they were able forgive each other. When we say yes to what is right, it brings us closer to Jesus. "OMG I choose to Obey My God." - **Caleb Vaz, Std. VIII**

Day 9 "FOMO" – Faith Over Material Objects "If you lost everything today would you still have joy? Earthly things are temporary but faith is forever. Today it would be difficult for us to give up our mobiles etc. We live in a materialistic world and faith has a small place. Faith means we allow and trust God to let things happen and not try unnecessarily to make things happen on our own instead, when it seems difficult. God takes care of every thing. So let's put our faith in MARY trusting that God is in control. Let us value our spiritual growth and be content in letting go of temporary earthly possessions. - **Kaeden Sheikh, Std. IX**



Faith, Fellowship, Fun !

Chriselle Furtado, Tank Colony, S2

The Feast of Our Lady of Assumption was celebrated with great faith, joy, and community spirit. The Feast began with the Novena from 6th to 14th August, with each day hosted by a different sector building. The community came together in large numbers, making the Novena a beautiful experience of prayer and togetherness.

The celebrations continued on 17th August at Nihar Hall, with Fr. Ronny joining us. The evening was filled with games, laughter, friendly banter, and plenty of cheerful moments, with our energetic youth and young adults adding to the fun and ending with a lively game of Housie, bringing everyone together for one final round of excitement, cheers, and a few lucky winners!

A heartfelt thank you to our Parish Councilor and all our Animators who worked tirelessly to organise, coordinate, and take care of every detail. Their dedication made the celebrations smooth, meaningful, and enjoyable. Special thanks to Fr. Ronny for his gracious presence and addressing the members.

From nine days of prayer to an evening of fun and fellowship, the celebration truly brought our community together!



St Bernadette Sector

Lumina Miranda, Lourdes Colony S4

"Some moments are not just spent, but treasured in the heart forever." We visited Assisi Bhavan, Home for the Aged, Goregaon East. It was truly a beautiful and meaningful evening spent with the elderly residents where the place was filled with smiles, songs, laughter and fellowship.

We spent time interacting with them and brought some cheer into their day through some feet tapping music and a fun game of housie. Spot prizes were given as they danced to the rhythm. Yummy snacks prepared by our Animators were shared. We also volunteered to provide some essential commodities.

We are truly grateful to the Franciscan Sisters for welcoming us so warmly. A beautiful evening not just for the inmates at the home, but it was a deeply enriching and beautiful experience as it left us with a deep sense of gratitude and joy in sharing a little love.



Teacher's Day Celebrations

A little love for those who have shaped us. The animators of St. Bernadette sector visited teachers and ex-teachers of the sector, celebrating and felicitating each one of them with a small token of love, a rose and a bookmark/card .





Name of the Trust :- SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL-Conference of Our Lady of Lourdes
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

RECEIPTS	Rs.	Rs.	PAYMENTS	Rs.	Rs.
TO OPENING CASH AND BANK BALANCES			BY CHARITABLE PURPOSES		
Cash at Bank	3,97,108.00		Aid in Kind (Ration etc)	7,28,694.20	
Cash on hand	15,052.00		Aid in Cash	45,580.80	
Fixed Deposits	4,00,000.00	8,12,160.00	Medical Aid	5,08,234.80	
			Educational Aid	3,10,181.80	
			Lunch for Needy	55,245.00	
TO Interest Received			Christmas Hamper	68,450.00	18,95,318.80
On Bank Account - Saving	6,597.00				
- Fixed Deposits	11,608.00	18,205.00	BY Establishment Expenses		
			Printing & Stationery	3,280.00	
TO CONTRIBUTIONS			Professional Fees	31,270.00	
Casual Donations	12,80,327.00		Bank charges	186.30	
Members Collection at meetings	80,580.00		Miscellaneous Expenses/others	1,490.00	
Youth SVP	-		Audit Fees	8,850.00	
Other Collection	-	13,60,912.00			42,648.20
TO SPECIFIC DONATIONS			BY Religious Purpose		
Educational Grants	5,15,000.00		Burials of the Poor	3,500.00	
Lunch For The Needy	53,080.00				3,500.00
Christmas Hamper	75,680.00	5,43,680.00			
			BY CLOSING CASH AND BANK BALANCES		
			Cash in Bank	1,83,047.00	
			Cash on hand	4,265.00	
			Fixed Deposits	4,00,000.00	5,87,312.00
TOTAL RS.		33,04,777.80	TOTAL RS.		33,04,777.80

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St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day Celebration !

Lloyd Remedios

SVP members celebrated the feast of their patron saint, St. Vincent de Paul on Sunday, 27th Sep 2026 in the Nihar hall. The function was attended by Vincentians, some ex-members and benefactors. Rev. Fr. Aniceto Pereira graced the occasion.

Special prayers were said for the gift of St Vincent de Paul whose life was a witness of great love for the least amongst us. The President presented the 69th Annual report of our SVP Conference - Our Lady of Lourdes, Orlem for the financial year 2025-26. Presently we have 32 active Vincentians who support 49 families comprising of over 125 individuals in our parish.

In the last financial year, we provided Food Rations, Education and Medical aid and hampers at Christmas time to all our families. Lunch for the Needy was held in January 2026 in the Nihar hall and was attended by 119 family members.

The President thanked our parish priest, Rev.Fr. Aniceto and Spiritual Adviser Fr. Ronnie Vaz, for their keen interest, support and guidance. Special thanks to all our benefactors, well-wishers and SVP members who continue to support us in this mission of love. Fr. Aniceto Pereira expressed his good wishes and heartfelt gratitude to the SVP members for their diligent service towards the needy in our parish. He also thanked the benefactors, and prayed for the beneficiaries

The evening continued with games and snacks sponsored by the Vincentians. We closed with renewed commitment & zeal to live the Vincentian Spirit - to see Christ in the poor.

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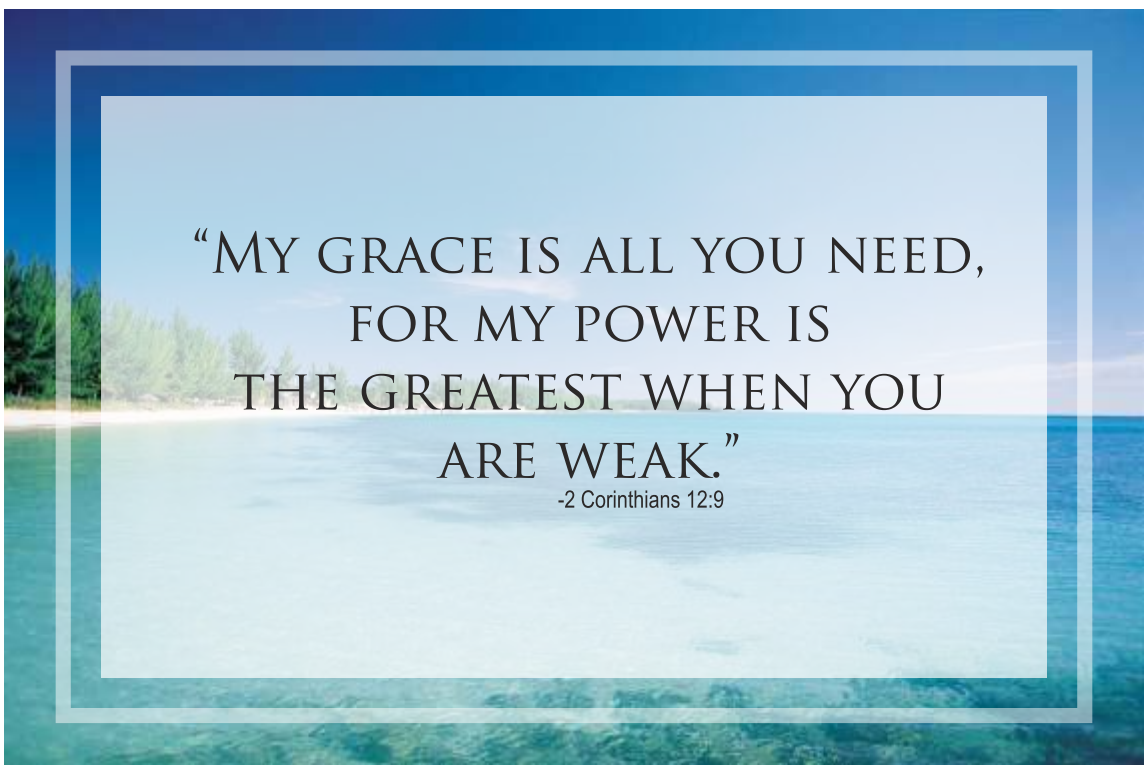
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EASTERN EUROPE TOUR - 15 DAYS (8 COUNTRIES)
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"My grace is all you need, for my power is the greatest when you are weak."
-2 Corinthians 12:9


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14
VIETNAM
08 MAY / 22 MAY 2027
8 NIGHTS / 9 DAYS
RS :- 1,40,000 /-
OFFER PRICE RS 1,32,000
15
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08 MAY 2027
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RS :- 2,99,999 /-
OFFER PRICE RS 2,96,999
16
SINGAPORE MALAYSIA & THAILAND
10 MAY 2027
9 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS
RS :- 1,43,000 /-
OFFER PRICE RS 1,40,000
17
SUPER SAVER EUROPE
07 MAY 2027
13 NIGHTS / 14 DAYS
* EURO 1980 - INR 1,15,000 /-
T / C APPLY
EURO 1980 - INR 1,10,000 /-
18
LUXURIOUS EUROPE
15 MAY 2027
12 NIGHTS / 13 DAYS
* EURO 2540 - INR 1,41,000 /-
T / C APPLY
EURO 2540 - INR 1,36,000 /-
19
AMERICA WITH BAHAMAS CRUISE
15 MAY 2027
16 NIGHTS / 17 DAYS
* USD 4280 - RS 51,000 /-
T / C APPLY
USD 4280 - RS 46,000 /-
20
MINI EUROPE
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23 OCT 2026
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ACCOMODATIONS
RS :- 24,000 /-
OFFER PRICE RS 22,000
03
BHUTAN (BAGDOGRA)
09 NOV 2026
7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS
RS 86,000 /-
OFFER PRICE RS 84,000
04
RAJASTHAN
(LAND)
13 NOV 2026
7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS
ACCOMODATIONS
RS :- 45,000 /-
OFFER PRICE RS 43,000
05
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(LAND)
OCTOBER 26 - MARCH 27
3 NIGHTS / 4 DAYS
- TRAIN JOURNEY
ACCOMODATIONS
RS :- 19,000 /-
OFFER PRICE RS 18,000
06
KASHMIR
(LAND)
15 APRIL 2027
6 NIGHTS / 7 DAYS
ACCOMODATIONS
RS :- 46,500 /-
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07
ASSAM MEGHALYA (LAND)
APRIL - MAY 2027
6 NIGHTS / 07 DAYS
ACCOMODATIONS
RS :- 48,000 /-
OFFER PRICE RS 46,000
08
ANDAMAN
(LAND)
NOV 2026 - MARCH 2027
5 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS
ACCOMODATIONS
RS :- 41,000 /-
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09
GOA
(LAND)
02 MAY 2027
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ACCOMODATIONS
RS :- 17,000 /-
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10
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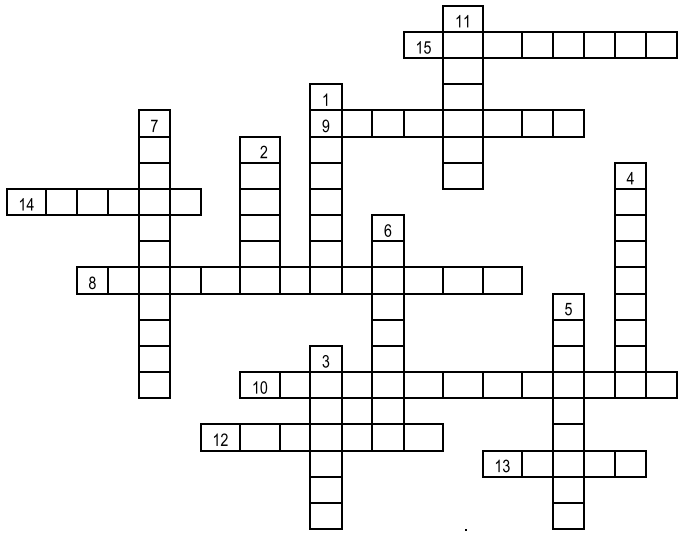
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The Rosary Quiz

"The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship. The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the Rosary, an"epitome of the whole Gospel," express this devotion to the Virgin Mary."(Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Send your answers to reachingout.orlem@gmail.com with your name, community and sector number



Down

1. Which mystery is Our Lady taken up to heaven
2. Which Mystery is Jesus born in a stable
3. We should pray the Rosary especially in times of ____
4. Number of beads of the Rosary
5. In the Rosary we meditate on the mysteries in the lives of _____
6. Which prayer do you say when you hold the first bead of the Rosary
7. Which Pope was particularly devoted to Our Lady of the Rosary.
11. Our Lady gave the devotion of the Holy Rosary to Saint __

Across

8. It's a brief summary of our catholic faith
9. Which mystery does Jesus speak about the kingdom and turns people's images upside down
10. Which prayer is asking for Mary's help
12. Feast of Our Lady of Rosary was formerly know as Our Lady of _____
13. Our Lady asked the children of Fatima to pray the Rosary every day for world _____
14. When we pray the Rosary we are showered with ____
15. The Rosary is a _____ prayer

Winners of Saints, Beatified, Venerable Quiz

Community 1 Baudi: Abigail Azavedo | Debra Fernandes | Carol D'Souza | Maureen Lily | Fiona Fernandes | Brenda Fernandes | Elizabeth Saldanha | Crystal Fernandes | Pamela Gomes

Community 2 SBLG: Schuyler D'Souza | Sheldon Lobo | Helen D'Souza

Community 3 JBC: Arlene Alves | Simran Gond | Hazel Fernandes |

Community 4 Tank: Philomena Pinto | Brian, James & Shaun | Gwynet Johnson | Giselle D'Mello | Rose Marie Saldanha | Rouen Novais | Wendy Gonsalves | Freda Fernandes

Community 5 Lourdes: Agatha & Aelred Abreo | Mariana Coelho | Cynthia Pereira | Zubin & Zidelle Goveas | Agnello D'Souza | Rebecca Ferreira | Philomena Ferrao | Danny D'Souza | Jennifer Mendonsa | Alvin & Morris Braganza | Elaine D'Mello | Bosco Baptist

Comm 6 Mith Chowki: Raphael Fernandes | Meldon Furtado | Gwynette Gonsalves

Comm 7 Evershine: Anthony Dmello

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