

FR

August 2017



AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



**Our Blessed Mother
Heaven Bound**

FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

August 2017

Contents

Editorial	3
Two Freedoms at Midnight	5
One Step at a Time	7
Agnel Happenings	9
Bring Our Behaviour into Agreement with our Beliefs	13
From Creation to Redemption, the Glory of God	14
Keep Smiling	15
Fr. Agnel's Blessings	16
Out of their Bounty	18

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Printed & Published by:

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behalf of Agnel Publications

Editor:

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Printed at:

S.B.M Printers
C-130, Ansa Industrial
Estate, Andheri East,
Mumbai - 400072

Place of Publication:

Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand,
Bandra, Mumbai - 400 050.

Single Copy Price: Rs. 15

Annual Subscription: Rs. 150

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THE JOY OF GIVING

Become a
Cheerful Giver



Letters from some
Benefactors and
Friends of our
Balbhavan Children

Leela Philip, Kochi

I am enclosing a cheque for ₹.2000 which may be utilized for the benefit of the orphans under your care. May God bless you. Please pray for us.

Celin Pathiyil, U.S.A.

I enclose a cheque for \$100 children in your orphanage. Please ask them to pray for us, especially for my son Jacob to get a good job. Thank you.

Fiona Fernandes, Mumbai

I am sending herewith 2 cheques of ₹.7000/- each (Total ₹.14,000). These are towards sponsorship of our wards Christopher Stephen

and Nikhil Badhan for the current academic year. Kindly remember us in your daily prayers.

Valsa Mathew, Kuwait

Enclosed is a cheque for ₹.5000. Out of this ₹.3000 is towards the sponsorship scheme and the balance ₹.2000 for other Ashram charitable activities. Please pray for us.

Babu Thundiyl, U.S.A.

I enclose a cheque of ₹.2000 towards favours received by me through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. Please remember our family in your prayers.

TO MY INDIA, WITH LOVE...

(My hope for Mother India on Independence Day!)

This title looks frightening, but halt it is not what I mean. This writing is not about conversion nor is it anything that should frighten those who wrongly think India belongs only to some. This is an effort to throw light on the problems that Christians perceive in the face of an adverse environment that is all around us, where Christians all around the Country find themselves driven against the wall.

This is partly perception and partly a consequence of statements like Christians have to go England or America, (although all Indians in the U.K. or U.S.A. are not there to become Christians, etc). This fear is no less because of the public announcements stating that by 2021 all Muslims and Christians will be wiped out of India. Of course this is bad language, contrary to the very idea of India which is far better known for its diversity rather than uniformity, and whose Constitution guarantees the right to profess and practice the faith of their choice.

The lynchings that have happened, reminiscent of the Ku Klux Klan practices in the USA, do not forebode well for a Country, as great and as beautiful as Our Motherland. And by the way, why should Christians ever be scared although there are people high and low, who either by their words give the Christians such a feeling, or who say it louder by their cultured silence.

What the Christians believe is simple:

- a. That God loves man and created mankind.
- b. God creates man in "His Image", as His reflection, as "Purush, vis-à-vis: Param purush (God),- who is the creator of all." Or which may be expressed differently by saying that "Aham Brahma Asmi", that God lives in me.
- c. And that the only message that God gave mankind is that because God loves man, man should love one another as God loves us,

that is, without measure, without counting the cost.

- d. If man is able to love one another, the way God loves man, man must treat his brother/sister as equal to him, and cannot look at his caste, creed, social status, colour, etc. It cannot accept inequality of any kind and therefore a Christian must work for the upliftment of others at all times and in all ways.
- e. This concern of man towards others must be such, that through this, he (man/woman) will attain final liberation, moksha, Samadhi, because through such love and concern for others, man is able to gain what otherwise is impossible – God's favour, God's promise – Life eternal, Anandam.
- f. Since man is finite, has a short lived life and is frail and a sinner, he cannot reach his destiny, which is God, Anandam. The only choice that man would have is to perennially try but never be able to reach liberation because an offence against such a good and great God cannot be undone by man.
- g. But God has already attained this liberation for man, and has already earned and assured moksha for him, by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, to us, who became man, and took upon himself our sins and the effects of sin, that man by himself can never overcome, because he has no power within him to undo the harm he has done to himself by rebelling against God's law. Jesus Christ died on the cross, which is the most extraordinary act of God, that can only be explained by the immense magnitude of God's love for man. He attained victory through his Resurrection, which is nothing but God's assurance through his intervention that Death is no longer Final, and that there is life eternal in store for all of us.
- h. Thus Jesus offered His life for our sake, and gave us final liberation once and for all, and

the only way to attain that liberation is to surrender to Him who loved us, and in return, love one another.

How is any one of these beliefs, a threat to anyone else in this Country of ours. Why should the Christians be afraid and why would anyone do harm to us for our beliefs?

Nothing of what the Christian does or believes is against the others, rather his entire belief system is reinforcing what the Constitution of India provides, equality, brotherhood and harmony. For which of these will the Christians be persecuted and harassed? There is no reason to do so, nor will there ever be any reason for a Christian in India to be persecuted for what he or she believes.

There are so many beautiful things about our India, about its Saints, those who have attained Samadhi and Moksha, because they have attained the highest experience of their consciousness as a result of the intense meditation and contemplation or as a result of an intense bhakti.

In my efforts to understand the great achievements of these saints or sages whose spiritual enlightenment is not even remotely connected with rituals and observances, but is due to an intense and long effort to experience the Divine *Āham Brahma Asmi* in their life through penance and meditation, I also discover that the reason why many people in India do not understand some of the things that we do, or rather the way we do it.

Our worship rituals are entirely diverse from those that are adopted in India, by most worshippers, and which have been used in India for more than two millennia. The other element that others find strange is the way we express our understanding of faith. The words, the symbols, the concepts that we use, are entirely alien to the expressions, symbols and the words that we use. When we communicate our beliefs or ideas, we generally depend on conceptual realities, whereas in our country, our beliefs and ideas are conveyed through visible realities.

When we speak about God, the All-Powerful, the Supreme, The Parameshwar, the indian

tradition uses symbols like the Sun, Moon, Mountains, the Ocean, as symbols of that All-Powerful Being and when you reflect, you come to learn about God as NirGun and SaGun, namely, God whose power is visible to us, and which much lead us to a God who is without any such attributes. The Western way, however, speaks of a God, the Creator of the Universe, which is an invisible God...although the Bible speaks of a God who deals with man, as someone visible and audible, in the Old Testament.

Perhaps the best change element that would be required here, is our ability and the urgent need to adopt to a way of life that will communicate our beliefs and our faith in a manner that the majority of our people would find it easy to understand and perhaps find an experience of God that in their hearts all of us truly desire – of a God who loves us, who understand our pains and tribulations, who cares for us and who is accessible to us, and above all, who liberates us from the uncertainties that surround our future and our destiny.

This adaptation or rather this transformation and the ability to express our beliefs and our faith in terms that are easily recognizable by the majority of our people is an urgent need in order to avoid the possible misunderstandings that could arise, and also a sure way of communicating what we profess, and is what every human being craves for - to attain self-realization of a God who loves us, after whose image we have been made and who is so beautifully expressed in the words of Adi Sankaracharya "*Aham Brahma Asmi*" (God lives in me), and when I reach that realization I will automatically reach the goal, that God is identified with, LOVE. I will be empowered to love, to perceive my fellows as my brothers and sisters, since God is our ParamPita.

We need to explore this strongly and systematically if we want to reach the soul of India and make an inflection in the understanding of our faith by millions of our countrymen. That day probably we will be able to give Christ to India. Jai Hind. Jai Yesu!

-Jose Alarico Carvalho
alarc22@yahoo.co.in

Two Freedoms at Midnight

-Leon Bent

Mahatma Gandhi is said to be as unarguably one of the greatest men in the History of India. The way he shaped the freedom struggle and gained Swaraj, is much more worthy than a standing ovation. M.K. Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhai Patel, Subhash Chandra Bose, Dr. Ambedkar and a few other stalwarts, were important leaders in the non-violent movement to shed colonialism. Gandhiji, especially, spearheaded the pacifist role of the Indian Movement for Independence, and managed to capture the imagination of the western world, especially in the realms of imperialism. After much sacrifices and efforts, India gained its independence on 15th August, 1947.

The Preamble of the Indian Constitution states four kinds of Freedom:

Justice, social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; Equality of status and opportunity; and to promote it among all citizens...Fraternity: assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation. The citizens need to internalize the principals of equality, justice and liberty to promote fraternity among all, regardless of religious beliefs, regional and local diversity.

Jana Gana Mana is the National Anthem of India; it transmits the spirit of our beloved Country, perfectly and with exuberance! It is the Hindi version of a song originally composed in Bengali by poet Rabindranath Tagore, India's wordsmith. The Hindi version is sung by Mumbai's Asha Bhosle.

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY:

It is the oldest feast day of Our Lady, but we don't know how it first came to be celebrated. Soon the name was changed to the "Assumption of Mary," since there was more to the feast than her dying. It also proclaimed that she had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven.

All the Feast days of Mary mark the great Mysteries of her life and her part in the work of Redemption. The Assumption completes God's work in her, since it was not fitting that, the flesh that had given life to God himself, should ever undergo corruption. The Assumption is God's crowning of His work, as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. The Feast turns our eyes in that direction, where we will follow when our earthly life is over.

The Feast days of the Church are not just the commemoration of historical events; they do not look only to the past. They point to the present and to the future, and give us an insight into our own relationship with God. The Assumption turns to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.

The Prayer for the Feast reads: "All-powerful and ever-living God: You raised the sinless Virgin Mary, mother of your Son, body and soul, to the glory of heaven. May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her glory."

In 1950, in the Apostolic Constitution, "Munificentissimus Deus", Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Assumption of Mary a dogma of the Catholic Church in these words: "The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven." With that, an ancient belief became Catholic doctrine and the Assumption was declared a truth revealed by God.

What level of Authority does this Teaching have?

This teaching was infallibly defined by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950 in the Bull Munificentissimus Deus ("Most Bountiful God"). As Pius XII explained, this is "a divinely revealed dogma" (ibid.). This means that it is a dogma in the proper sense. It is thus a matter of faith that has been divinely revealed by God, and that has been infallibly proposed by the Magisterium of the Church as such.

Why should Mary Die if she was Free from Original Sin and its Stain?

Just being free from Original Sin and its stain is not the same thing as being in a glorified, deathless condition. Jesus was also free of Original Sin and its stain, but he could—and did—die. Expressing a common view among theologians, Ludwig Ott writes: “For Mary, death, in consequence of her freedom from Original Sin and from personal sin, was not a consequence of punishment of sin. However, it seems fitting that Mary’s body, which was by nature mortal, should be in conformity with that of her Divine Son, subject to the general law of death.”

How can we apply this Teaching to our everyday lives?

According to Pope Benedict XVI: By contemplating Mary in heavenly glory, we understand that the earth is not the definitive homeland for us either, and that if we live with our gaze fixed on eternal goods we will one day share in this same glory and the earth will become more beautiful.

Consequently, we must not lose our serenity and peace even amid the thousands of daily difficulties. The luminous sign of Our Lady taken up into Heaven shines out even more brightly, when sad shadows of suffering and violence seem to loom on the horizon.

We may be sure that from on high, Mary follows our footsteps with gentle concern, dispels the gloom in moments of darkness and distress, reassures us with her motherly hand.

Supported by awareness of this blessing, let us continue confidently on our path of Christian commitment wherever Providence may lead us. Let us forge ahead in our lives under Mary’s guidance [General Audience, August 16, 2006].

Now, this gold nugget: As a dogma, the Assumption is a required belief of all Catholics; anyone who publicly dissents from the dogma, Pope Pius declared, “has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith.”

And, this final flourish, like a flame of fire!

Both the “memorials” that are celebrated on 15th August, each year, spell freedom. One social, political and economic, and the other, a highly charged spiritual feast. The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the death of Mary, and her bodily assumption into Heaven - a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Since it signifies the Blessed Virgin’s passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts and a Holy, Solemn Day of Obligation.

There is a similarity in the eternal bliss Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Mary are entitled to. The former was a martyr for his Nation. Pope Francis paid tribute to modern day martyrs who he said “are the living blood of the Church.” Martyrs as the Book of Revelation reminds us, “Are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Gandhiji’s body, however, got corrupted like every other human being. He lived the Beatitudes to the fullest extent possible, based his Satyagraha on them, and chided Christians for not living up to Gospel values. Mary, died like her Son, both of whom were ‘human’, but was assumed into heaven, because she was without the spot or wrinkle of sin; her soul was as white as snow.

And so we can pray: O Lord, make us worthy witnesses of the Gospel and of your love; pour out your mercy upon humanity; renew your Church, protect persecuted Christians, grant peace to the whole world, soon.

“Mary, give me your Heart - so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate; your Heart so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life and love Him as you love Him and serve Him in the distressing guise of the poor.”

-Blessed Mother Teresa

One Step at a Time

-Christine D'Sylva

One person can make a difference and everyone should try- John Kennedy.

In this life, we cannot always do great things but we can do small things with great love.

- Mother Theresa.

Once upon a time there was an old man who used to go to the beach for a walk every morning. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore after a big storm. He found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see. The beach was so filled with the starfish that it made walking difficult. Off in the distance, the old man noticed a small boy approaching. As the boy walked along the shore, he bent down and threw something in the ocean.

The old man was surprised to find that the young boy was throwing starfish back in the ocean, one by one. When questioned, he explained to the old man that unless he did so, they would die when the sun got high. The old man pointed out to the boy that there were tens of thousands of starfish and it would never make a difference and his kind act was pointless.

The boy bent down, threw another starfish into the ocean and then turning around, he smiled, "It made a difference to that one!"

Change is something we all as humans have the capacity to do. The problem is that most people think of change involving something gigantic like world hunger, mass poverty, etc.

Mother Theresa said sagely, "Do not worry about numbers but help one person at a time and start with the person nearest you."

Now, this is something we all can do. Too many people fret about the big things and neglect the little things that can make a difference.

To cite an example, a middle- aged woman I know awakens each morning, before it grows bright, and it is a familiar sight to watch her

walk along the streets with a heavy bag in her hand. She feeds the stray dogs, calling each by name and they wag their tails happily and follow her.

Naturally, she cannot feed all the stray animals but manages to feed a sizeable number of them with great love and compassion. I find this a very heartening sight, for she does it quietly with no real attempt to be noticed.

What is the attitude of those who do small things with love? I believe those that do small things with love, know that by tossing one pebble, it can make a ripple and soon with time, many ripples can make a wave.

We all get opportunities in our daily lives to make a difference - giving free tuitions to the poor, helping the blind and handicapped, donating clothes and toys to orphanages etc.

People who really desire to make a difference usually do it one way or the other. These people have a conviction that individuals are important and every life is sacred and has value. Their maxim, 'feed at least one, educate one,' seems simple. They believe that they might lack the power to revolutionize the world but are content making small changes whenever possible. They are convinced that it is small changes that grow slowly and at times can transform cities, nations and finally the world.

Jesus himself was aware of the power of little things. He said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and planted in his field. Though, it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it was fully grown, it became a large bush and the birds of the sky perch in its branches."

One of the best known Biblical stories is one of the David and Goliath. David was a small puny shepherd boy who trusted in God. He succeeded in slaying the mighty Goliath using five smooth stones from the river- bed. He knocked the giant to the ground and defeated him, cutting

off his head with the giant's sword. Everyone was amazed that just one little boy could make a difference. Armies of valiant soldiers had attempted to defeat Goliath and they had not succeeded in defeating him. Yet, David with his intelligence and strong faith in God had the courage to take the step of defeating a mighty giant. It took courage and strength to make a difference and inspired by God, he made that difference.

Whenever an opportunity presents itself, we must act if we are able to. Not all acts of kindness need be monetary, they can be even giving your time and effort to a worthy cause. For example, helping out in church activities, singing in the church choir, reading at the Mass etc.

*One tree can start a forest
One smile can begin a friendship
One hand can lift a soul
One word can frame the goal
One candle can wipe out darkness*

Let us examine, some verses from the Bible that can shed more light on the value of small things.

Isaiah 40:29- He gives power to the faint and to him who has no might, he increases strength.

Proverbs 3:6 – In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

To conclude, when we feel disheartened and courage fails us, when we desire to do things that make a difference, let us remember the powerful words from the Bible. 'I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.' (Philippians 4:13)

*One laugh can conquer gloom
One hope can raise your spirits
One touch can show you care
One life can make the difference
Be that one today.*

Oneness and Wellness

-Sadhguru Jaggi Vasude

The word 'health' comes from the root word 'whole'. When we say we're "feeling healthy", we're saying that we have a sense of wholeness within us. A person can be said to be in good health only if he feels complete in body, mind and spirit. Mere medical fitness does not indicate complete wellness in the true sense. In order to experience this sense of wholeness and oneness, it's important that in body, mind and energy functions, there is a certain level of intensity.

In Yoga, neither the body nor the mind is looked at in isolation — the focus is on energy. If your energy body is in proper balance and full flow, your physical body and mental body will be in perfect health. For this, you have to go to the foundations of your energy system and activate it in a proper way, building a foundational yogic practice that establishes your energy in a

manner that your body and mind are naturally fine.

No one gets to live in perfect conditions. The pressures of life, the food that we eat, the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, can affect us variously.

The more our activities, the greater our exposure to things that can throw our chemistry asunder, creating health problems.

But if the energy in our system is properly cultivated and kept active, these things will not have an effect.

This life energy in you created your whole body: bones, flesh, heart, kidney, everything. Do you think it can create health? If your energies are kept in full flow and proper balance, they are capable of much more than just health.

Courtesy: speakingtree.in

AGNEL HAPPENINGS

Environment Day at Father Agnel School, Gr. Noida

Creating an awareness about our responsibilities towards the environment, Father Agnel School, Greater Noida celebrated Environment Day on 12 July 2017 with immense zeal and delight. The Assembly conducted by Classes 10 C and 9 C reflected the need of a healthy environment for us to sustain. An interesting and humorous street play plastered a huge grin over all faces as it sarcastically highlighted careless behaviour of mankind and signalled the need of environment conservation. The audience further enjoyed

the frills of songs and dance staged by the tiny tots of Agnel family. At the end, everyone pledged to conserve our environment and save our Mother Earth for posterity. Action speaks louder than words, so to conclude, the students of all four Houses along with their House Incharges and Teacher Representatives planted a sapling each, thereby taking a small step towards environment conservation and accomplishing the prime motto of the day. The presence of our Manager, Rev. Fr. Bento and the Principal, Rev. Sr. Maria Nancy was a huge support who always lead us to follow. Other activities were held hand in hand in the school for motivating the young Agnelites for example – Environment Quiz, Poster Making etc.

Freshers Day Held at Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences, Verna Goa.

The annual Freshers Day was organised by Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences on 4th August 2017 at the Institute. The day started with an Eucharistic celebration by Asst. Director, Rev. Fr. Seby Rodricks for all the students of the Institute and in particular, for the First Year students.

Later, all the First Year students were welcomed with the traditional Indian welcome by the Second and Third year students, Snacks and beverages were served, followed by lighting of the knowledge lamp by students, Faculty and Principal.

The Cultural programme was organised in the library auditorium by all the students along with the first year students who displayed their talents through various activities of song, drama and dance.

After the Cultural programme the traditional Freshers Day lunch buffet was served to the First Year students in the training restaurant of the Institute.

All the students appreciated the Institute for organising the Freshers Day and formally welcoming them to the Institute. Some students also shared their experiences.

Environment Day & at Fr. Agnel, C



Welcome in Chorus



Our talented public speakers



Group Dance



Sports Day



Sportspersons taking the Oath



Principal and Staff administering the Oath

Environment Quiz Greater Noida



Principal's Address



Street Play



Fr. Bento plants a tree



Students lend a hand



Environment quiz in progress



Academic Accomplishment

A faculty member of the Electronics Department of **Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering (Bandra)** Prof. Sapna Prabhu completed her Phd (Technology) in Electronics from VJTI (Mumbai) in April 2017. Her area of research was Computer Architecture and her thesis was titled, "Shared Resource Management in Multi-core systems". The Research focused on a key issue in processor

design related to sharing of cache memory between cores in Multi-core processors. Prof. Sapna Prabhu is also an Alumnus from **Fr. CRCE (Bandra)** Batch 1992 and has been working with the Institute for the past 24 years after her graduation.



Prof. Sapna Prabhu



Prof. V. S. Jorapur

Great Day for **Fr. Agnel TT Paddlers** winning 8 titles out of 12 events at Thane District Table Tennis Ranking Tournament at Officers' Club, Kopri, Thane.

The Rotary Club of Thane organised the tournament under the aegis of the Thane District Table Tennis Association.

Deepit Patil was crowned winner in the U-15, U-17 and U-21 boys' category.



Agnel Paddlers Yash Deshmukh, Tejas Kamble, Tejal Kamble, Disha Hulawale & Deepit Patil with their coaches Mr. Suhas Chavan and Mr. Chaitanya Udhare.

Table Tennis Champions

He created a record of sorts with this hat trick. Disha Hulawale followed in his footsteps by winning the U-17, U-21 girls as well as the women's open event. Gaurav Panchangam won Boys U-12 event and Tejas Kamble won the Men's open event. Yash Deshmukh was the semifinalist in U-17 boys while Shreeya Gadekar was in the same position in U-10 girls. Tejal Kamble was declared runner-up in the U-17, U-21 girls and Open Women's event.

Bring Our Behaviour into Agreement with our Beliefs

If politics may be broadly defined as “The way we are with each other,” then anything that affects how we connect with each other is political.

- Phyllis Jane Rose

There is a word for someone who is democratic with strangers and despotic with intimates, and the word is hypocrite. One of the important lessons of our time is that the personal is political. Our behavior reveals our true beliefs and what we truly are.

“Politics” may sound too heavy a word for our behavior with our families, lovers, friends, and co-workers. Yet it is accurate. If we oppress or manipulate those who are close to us, bribing and threatening instead of asking honestly and negotiating for what we want, then it does

not matter what we say, or how we vote. Our weakness and lack of maturity reveal us to be unstable.

Our politics is our lives :- how we connect with one another, how we use resources, even how we think about things. How we deal with the smallest details is how we really are, and others are apt to deal with us in kind. If we are abusive or insincere in our ways, we are going to encounter abuse and insincerity. Let us therefore, bring our behavior into agreement with our beliefs.

*“Everyone in this world is somehow connected.
So why not just be nice to everybody.”*

- Richard Simmons

Fr. Agnel Ashram - Bandra MASSES and NOVENAS ON SUNDAYS

MORNING			
TIME	MASS	TIME	NOVENA
07:00 a.m.	English	07:45 a.m.	English
08:00 a.m.	Konkani	08:45 a.m.	Konkani
09:30 a.m.	English	10:15 a.m.	English
TIME	NOVENA	TIME	MASS
10.30 a.m.	Tamil	11.00 a.m.	Tamil
EVENING			
TIME	NOVENA	TIME	MASS
03.00 p.m.	Gujarati & Marathi	03.30 p.m.	Marathi
06:15 p.m.	English	06:30 p.m.	English
07:15 p.m.	English	07:30 p.m.	English

Weekdays Mass in English at 6.00 p.m.

Novena Prayers and Kiss of Relic are held on every Saturday after 6.00 p.m. Mass Favours obtained, petitions and offerings may kindly be sent to :

Rev. Fr. Superior

Fr. Agnel Ashram

P.O. Box – 6656, Bandstand, Bandra (W),
Mumbai – 400 050.

Tel : 67114000.

Fax : 67114100.

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Web : <http://ash.fragnel.edu.in>

From Creation to Redemption the Glory of God

-Arthur D'Mello

In six days man and universe He made,
The seventh day for rest He bade,
Those marvelous wonders are an epitaph,
Man and Science merely try to mimeograph,
‘Tis the glory of God.

From Adam’s fall to Abraham’s ram,
To Moses’ tablets and the gold Baal scam,
Even ere David’s rule, Prophets all foretold
Of the coming of the Saviour of the fold,
For the Glory of God.

Then the Virgin Mary hearkened God’s call,
To bear a child who’d tower over all,
Born in Bethlehem one cold starry night,
To heavenly choirs then the Magi’s light,
In the Glory of God.

The massacre of the innocents couldn’t harm,
The Babe who bore the ‘Emmanuel’ charm,
Lost at twelve His parents soon found
Their son count not to be earthy bound,
Save for the Glory of God.

From childhood to manhood He steadily grew,
John His precursor spread the good news,
He cured deaf and dumb, leper and lame,
With charisma Satan even couldn’t tame,

~~T’ was for the Glory of God.~~

He broke much custom, shocked the prude
Out of their complacency, even to being rude,
Without fear and favour delivered the
message,
That would save man from sin’s bondage
For the Glory of God.

For just 30 Silver pieces, Judas Him bound,
For the Scribes and Pharisees Him to hound,
He suffered pangs and their torments till,
On Calvary He bowed to His Father’s will.
For the Glory of God.

Rising from the dead, proffered Thomas His
side
Spirit filled His disciples to go far and wide,
Ascended thereafter to the hosts most
heavenly,
To the Father and the Holy Spirit in Trinity,
In the Glory of God.

We await His coming the second time,
Prayerful lest we be lost in the grime,
In a world torn by war, hate and strife,
Of so much materialism, ne’er good life,
All Hail to the Glory of God.

You can chain me, you can torture me, you can
even destroy this body, but you will never imprison
my mind.

-Mahatma Gandhi

Keep Smiling

-Janina Gomes

If we keep smiling, we will be able to negotiate many difficulties and navigate our way through life. A smile not only relaxes the muscles of our face, but also relaxes the entire body. A smile gives us an attitude of cheerfulness and like a pebble thrown into the water, goes out in ever widening circles.

Smiles are known to make conflict more bearable and sometimes a smile can win over the opposite party. A smile however, cannot be forced. It has to be spontaneous and come straight from our inner being. When we smile, we will find that it helps us to overcome negativity and does not allow us to harbor resentments for long. It makes us more willing to compromise.

When we see a smiling face, we are in some way attracted to a person. When on the contrary, people look grim and serious, it puts us in a pensive mood. There are of course many occasions in life when we are meant to be

serious. But, in the worst of situations, and in situations of sorrow and grief, we can still wear an inner smile.

The inner smile means that in the worst of circumstances, we still have hope and can move forward with courage.

Look at any photograph. When we see a person smiling in a photograph, we somehow reach the conclusion that it is a good photograph. Life is like that. When we smile we acknowledge that the world is a good place to be in and that we relish the role we have to play in it.

So smile your way through difficulties. Life is tough and will always be. But, with a smile we learn to take things in our stride. What we are really saying is that God has created us to be cheerful and to show it on our countenance.

May the good Lord help us to be always smiling recipients of his grace! So, smile, smile, smile and smile away the blues.



*Wishing all our dear
Parsi friends and benefactors a
“ HAPPY NEW YEAR ”*

*-Fr. Agnel Community and
Balbhavan Children*

In a gentle way, you can shake the world.

-Mahatma Gandhi



Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

GOT ADMISSION FOR M.B.B.S.

Gamdevi-Mumbai : I was praying to Ven. Fr. Agnel to bless my daughter to enable her get admission for Medicine. I am now happy to inform you that Ven. Fr. Agnel heard my prayers and my daughter got the 22nd Rank in MH.C.E.T. and secured admission for M.B.B.S. in KEM Hospital. Today I have come to the Ashram to pay my thanks offering of ₹.1001 .

-Hen Hiten Shah

CURED OF KIDNEY STONE

Dahisar: My daughter was suffering from severe pain in the abdomen. The X-Ray report showed that it was due to kidney stone. The doctor asked her to come the next day for treatment. On hearing this news I prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel and touched the mud relic on her. After some time the pain subsided and she got relief. The next day she met the Doctor and to his great surprise the stone had vanished in the recheck up. As a token of my sincere thanks an offering of ₹.500 to Ven. Fr. Agnel.

-Kavita Bhatia

CURED OF WOUND ON THE LEG

Cuncolim-Goa: My father had a wound on his foot and gradually it was increasing. This caused him great pain and he was having difficulty walking. I was on board the ship and on hearing of it, I prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel to heal my father. Gradually the wound began to heal and finally disappeared. My heartfelt thanks to Ven. Fr. Agnel and I pray for his early beatification.

-Mewson Vaz

CURED OF KIDNEY PROBLEM

Kalyan: I was suffering from kidney problem and as a result the flow of urine was restricted for quite some time. As medication failed, the Doctor advised for an operation. In this plight I entrusted myself to the protection of Ven. Fr. Agnel and prayed fervently for his healing touch. I am now happy to say that by the grace of Ven. Fr. Agnel I am completely cured without an operation. In another case I was facing some problems with my brother over property matters. It was a distressing case. By the blessing of Ven. Fr. Agnel that problem has been solved amicably. In thanks giving an offering of ₹.501.

-Prabhakar B. Sonar

NUMEROUS BLESSINGS RECEIVED

Bangalore: We have great faith in Ven. Fr. Agnel and through his intercession we have received numerous blessings and favours. As a token of our profound gratitude and homage we send our offering of ₹.10,000 to the Ashram for its various charitable activities under the patronage of Ven. Fr. Agnel.

-Mary Raju

CURED OF APPENDICITIS

Velha-Goa: My nephew was having acute appendicitis which burst in his stomach. The Doctor attending to him expressed doubts that he would be healed, and asked us to pray for him. After the operation he was unconscious for six days and had severe bleeding. We came to Pilar and fervently prayed to Ven. Fr. Agnel for his intercession and even drank the water mixed with the relic from his grave. Immediately his

condition started to improve and he is now quite alright. Today he has completed five years and has no health problems. I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel and pray for his early beatification.

-Maurica Rodrigues

SECURED ADMISSION

Vikhroli: Since my daughter did her preprimary in some other school, she did not get admission in the School which is closer to our home. All my efforts through influential people to get admission were in vain. In distress but with hope I came to the Ashram and placed my petition at the tomb of Ven. Fr. Agnel. Surprisingly on the second day I got a call from the school that admission has been granted for my daughter. My grateful offering has been placed in the tomb box.

-Shimrao Ramadhan Kharate

GIFT OF A SON AND OWN HOME

Delhi: I am an ardent devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel. By his grace I am blessed with a son. As a gesture of my gratitude I named him Agnelo. Similarly I was blessed with a house of my own in Delhi. My heartfelt thanks to Ven. Fr. Agnel with an offering of ₹.2500.

-Sheela Varghese

GOT ELEGANT HOUSE IN U.S.A.

Thane: I am a firm devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel for the past many years. I would always pray to Ven. Fr. Agnel for my daughter. Now my elder daughter who is a Doctor and settled down in Arizona, U.S.A. has been blessed with an elegant house in U.S.A. and I have shifted to the new home. As a token of my sincere thanks an offering of ₹.2001 to the Ashram.

-N.A. Krishnan

AGNEL –COOPERATORS

You can join the Ashram Family by becoming a member of Agnel-Cooperators and enjoy the fruits of a Special Daily Mass offered at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra for all the members. You will also enjoy the fruits of all the prayers and good works of the Agnel Ashram Fathers and entire Agnel Ashram Family.

Membership Fees:-

Ordinary Co-operators : Individual Rs.100/-

Family : ₹.500/-

Benefactors : ₹.1000/-

Patrons : ₹.5000/-

Please contact : Rev. Fr. Superior. Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand,
Bandra(W), Mumbai-400 050.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars And there were given to the woman two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the desert unto her place, where she is nourished.

-The Apocalypse of St. John 12:1,14

Out of Their Bounty

A. George	Delhi	55100	V. Shah	Mumbai	2000	A. Bob	Plune	1000
Z.J. Mannala	Sharjah	50000	C.B. Coutinho	Vasai	2000	K. Fernandes	Mumbai	1000
A. Fernandes	Mumbai	50000	A. George	Kerala	2000	Pushpa Mehta	Mumbai	1000
S. Saji	Al-Ain	40000	P.P. Varghese	Kerala	2000	C.J. Anthony	Kolkata	1000
P. Srivastava	Mumbai	35000	V.K. Pijwala	Gujarat	2000	P.T. Joseph	Kerala	1000
T.M. Bhatia	Mumbai	25000	Mathew J.	Kerala	2000	P.A. Francis	Kerala	1000
C.M. Mehta	Mumbai	25000	Cyril D'Souza	Delhi	2000	Jaison P.A.	Kerala	1000
C. Gonsalves	Dubai	20000	R.P. Britto	Vasai	2000	D. Shah	Mumbai	1000
Joseph K.J.	Dubai	20000	Y. Wilson	Kolkata	2000	L. D'Souza	Kerala	1000
Mabel Pereira	Mumbai	17750	S. Chaudhuri	Kolkata	2000	Dally K.S.	Kerala	1000
Dr. Gita S. Naik	Mumbai	15000	B.S. Colaco	Vasai	2000	M.A. John	Kerala	1000
F.R. Fernandes	Mumbai	14000	A.E. Joseph	Kerala	2000	Varghese P.C.	Kerala	1000
S. Mathew	Kerala	10000	D. Sequeira	Vasai	2000	A. Manuel	Kerala	1000
S.T. Peres	Mumbai	10000	P. Lobo	Mumbai	2000	A. Fernandes	Mumbai	700
A.A. Misquitta	Vasai	10000	Phyllis D'Abreo	Mumbai	2000	S.J. Fernandes	Mumbai	600
D.A. D'Silva	Kuwait	10000	O.C. Georgekutty	Kerala	2000	M. Chacko	Jbalpur	600
R. Fernandes	Pune	10000	G. Corde	Mumbai	2000	J.M. Pinto	Mumbai	600
R.S. D'Britto	Virar	10000	Baby Jacob	Kerala	2000	M.S. Shaikh	Mumbai	501
F. Contractor	Mumbai	10000	F. Almeida	Mumbai	2000	S.R. Patel	Vapi	501
J.W. chettiar	Vashi	9000	M. Pinto	U.A.E.	2000	V. Nande	Navi Mumbai	501
D.J. Kurian	Mumbai	9000	S. Kailasnath	Muscat	2000	L. Joseph	Keralza	501
F. Quadras	Mumbai	6000	Jose T.K.	Kerala	2000	John Lobo	Mumbai	501
M.J. D'Souza	Dubai	6000	Nancy Coelho	Mangalore	2000	K.S. Rao	Mumbai	500
N. Rebello	Mumbai	6000	A. Anthony	Kerala	2000	L. D'Cruz	Mumbai	500
Lissy John	Delhi	5500	Julia Roach	T.N.	2000	A. Survna	Mumbai	500
M. Fernandes	Mumbai	5000	A. Fernandes	Nashik	2000	A. Franklin	Gujarat	500
A. Fernandes	Mumbai	5000	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1,500	U. Mistry	Mumbai	500
H. Singh	Delhi	5000	A. Daniel	Kerala	1500	A. Elavia	Gujarat	500
V.G. Ranade	Thane	5000	D. Gonsalvez	Kerala	1500	G. Veeramani	T.N.	500
R. Radhakrishnan	T.N.	5000	A.M. Josephraj	Mumbai	1500	T. Samuel	Jaipur	500
V. Paulose	T.N.	5000	M. Maxwell	Airoli	1500	L.B. Clancy	Bangalore	500
S.J. D'Cunha	Vasai	5000	D. Hazarika	Chennai	1500	A.G. Jacinto	Mumbai	500
H. Hyrapiet	Kolkata	5000	A.P. R. George	Vasai	1500	A. Malik	Mumbai	500
T.P. Joseph	Kerala	5000	L.A. Dias	Mumbai	1400	L.G. Fernandes	Ahmedabad	500
D. Palet	Mumbai	5000	N. Mariam	Kerala	1100	G.R. S. Rana	Thane	500
N. D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	T. Castelino	Udupi	1050	Maria D'Souza	Mangalore	500
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J. Berchmans	Chennai	5000	P.R. Bhingardev	Sangli	1001	J. Francis	Kerala	500
K.P. Kapadia	Pune	5000	J.H. Chavan	Mumbai	1001	N. Correia	Virar	500
A.M. Olpadwala	Mumbai	5000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000	Selvaraj A.M.	Mumbai	500
M.C. Vaz	Pune	5000	N. D'Mello	Mumbai	1000	Veena D'Costa	Mumbai	500
Selene Mekat	Kerala	5000	D. Silveira	Mumbai	1000	R. Commissariat	Mumbai	500
J.N. Hendricks	Mumbai	5000	D.B. Fernandes	Vasai	1000	S.K. Varghese	Kerala	500
Joseph Chacko	Mumbai	3600	G.P. D'Cunha	Virar	1000	J. D'Silva	Mangalore	500
S.M. Saravade	Mumbai	3200	E. Hodiwala	Mumbai	1000	C.A. Cardozo	Mumbai	500
M.I. Celine	Chennai	3000	N.M. Paulose	Kerala	1000	R. Desai	Pune	500
Michael Hsieh	Kolkata	3000	Bulbul Dutt	Kolkata	1000	N.s. Waghela	Gujarat	500
A. Fernandes	Goa	3000	N.C. Babu	Kerala	1000	P.A.I. Vinoth	Chennai	500
S.M. Prince	Kerala	3000	M.S. Lucien	Chennai	1000	F. D'Souza	Mumbai	500
C.C. Mathews	Kerala	3000	E. Lobo	Bangalore	1000	Davis E.T.	Mira Road	500
G. Joseph	Kerala	3000	G.J. E. Ezhilan	Chennai	1000	M.D. Gandhi	Virar	500
J. Fernandes	Mumbai	2600	C. Thomas	Kerala	1000	John Serrao	Bangalore	500
J. Manjali	Kerala	2500	I.S.M. Rodrigues	Mumbai	1000	G.J. Parakal	Kerala	400
Joyce Fernandes	Mumbai	2500	P.T. Thomas	Kerala	1000	Gigi Thachil	Kerala	400
Y. I. Khalpay	Mumbai	2100	K. Francis	Kerala	1000	A.J. Contrator	Rajasthan	300
R.T. Hingoranni	Mumbai	2100	C. Lemos	Mumbai	1000	A. Brothers	Kerala	300
						K. Thomas	Kerala	250

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Lighting of Lamp of Knowledge by Faculty and Students.



Principal Mr. Alphonso Pereira addressing the Students.



FY Students Presenting their Talents.



FY Students Attending Freshers Day.



FY Students Enjoying Lunch In The Training Restaurant of AIFCCS.

Regn. No. of Publication RNI-9473/64.
 Date of Publication 10th of every month
 Date of posting 14th & 15th of every month.
 Single copy Price Rs.15/-
 Annual Subscription Rs.150/-
 Total pages including cover : 20

PRN - MCN/175/2015-2017
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FR. AGNEL GIFT GARDEN



BANDRA FAIR

11th To 17th SEPTEMBER, 2017

Dear Benefactors, Friends & Well-Wishers,

SEPTEMBER is one of the most beautiful months on the Calendar. God's beautiful creation reaches its zenith of glory with greenery, flowers all around and fields ready for harvesting.

In the midst of it, September 8th is a Joyful and glorious day - the Birthday of Mother Mary. How beautiful it is to celebrate and honour our own earthly mother's birthday! If so, much more the Birthday of our Heavenly Mother-Mother Mary.

Our Balbhavan children at Bandra (Mumbai), Vashi (Navi Mumbai), Pune, Greater Noida (U.P.) and Verna (Goa) numbering more than 800 children, are preparing for this great day. God has gifted them to us that we may gift them back to Him – fully human, fully alive and fully matured. This is our mission.

Can you help us in the mission on the occasion of Mary's Birthday to realize Mary's dream for these children? I am sure you will be eager, as in the past, to help these less fortunate children. Look at their beaming faces. They love you and crave for your attention.

Together we can work wonders for these children. God loves a cheerful giver. Remember that these lovely children

pray daily for your special intention. You will be blessed immensely by their prayers.

We thank you so much for your past help without which it would be impossible to tide over the huge expenses we incur in educating these children.

God and Mother Mary bless you and your family.

With Warm Regards,

(Fr. Nazareth Fernandes, sfx)

Superior

1. Donations to the Society of St. Francis Xavier, Pilar, are exempt from Income Tax. Vide I.T. Exempt No. DIT(E)/MC/80-G/2404/2007/ 2008-09 Validity extended in Perpetuity.

2. Please issue Cheque/Draft/MO in favour of 'Society of St. Francis Xavier, Pilar' and send to Fr. Superior, Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandstand, Bandra (West), Mumbai – 400 050. Or pay through NEFT and email to : agnelashramnews@gmail.com

For donations of ₹.10,000 and above, it is mandatory to quote your PAN No. (For Details see below).

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Dear Fr. Superior,

Please accept my Gift Garden contribution of ₹. _____

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Ph : _____ Birth Date : _____ Signature : _____