



FR

December 2016

# AGNEL SHRAM NEWS



*Merry Christmas &  
a Happy New Year 2017*

FR. AGNEL  
ASHRAM

# NEWS

December 2016



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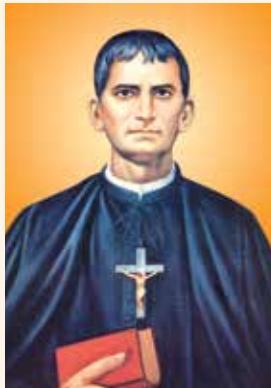
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## VEN. FR. AGNEL'S 148th Birth Anniversary 21st January 2017

Fr.Agnel Ashram,  
Bandra (W),  
Mumbai – 400 050.

**Ven. Fr. Agnelo D'Souza**

**PROGRAMME  
SPECIAL NOVENA SERVICES  
From 12th to 20th January 2017**

Every Day

**Morning:** 7.00 a.m. & 7.40 a.m. : Holy Mass and Novena Prayer in English followed by blessing with the Relic.

**Evening:** 5.30 p.m. : Novena Service in Konkani, Marathi & Gujarati followed by blessing with the Relic.

**Evening:** 6.00 p.m. : Holy Mass and Novena Prayer in English followed by blessing with the Relic.

**N.B.**

On Sunday 15th January all Masses and Novena Services will be held as on Normal Sundays.

**21st January (Saturday) :  
148th Birth Anniversary of Ven.Fr. Agnelo D'Souza**

**Morning:** Masses followed by Prayers for favours in English and blessings with the Relic at 6.30, 7.15 & 8.00 a.m.

**Evening:** Solemn Concelebrated Mass will be held at 6.00 p.m. in the Ashram Compound followed by prayers for favours.

Thousands of devotees will participate in this Annual Novena and celebration. Over one lakh of favours, some of them truly miraculous such as cure of cancer, T.B., Paralysis etc. have been received through the powerful intercession of Ven.Fr.Agnel.

Favours obtained and petitions to be placed at the Shrine of Ven. Fr. Agnelo may be sent to the following address :

**Rev. Fr. Superior**

Fr.Agnel Ashram, Bandstand,  
Bandra (West), Mumbai – 400 050.  
Tel : 67114000

*Bus N 211 : Special Bus Service to Ply From Bandra Railway Station to Fr.Agnel Ashram Gate.*

# WORLD CHRISTMAS

I have always wondered why the Birth of Christ is celebrated as a Festival of Christians alone, when the Message that Jesus is, and brings, is so clearly and universally desired and craved for! How can an event that changed the history of world in an irreversible manner for a brighter future for all, and brought about a lasting change of perspective of our world and of ourselves and all what we can and must be, to us and to others, be considered only a celebration of Christians!

Atheists, Animists, Tribal Religions, Indigenous Peoples, Muslims, Buddhists, Shamanists, Sikhs, Hindus and any religious tradition of any kind, each and all of them seek liberation in some form or other.

You call it heaven, nirvana, moksha, or as Egyptians and ancients cultures who believed in after life, provided for the future that will happen, or all propitiatory rituals at death, are only signs and symbols of that universal yearning for release, liberation and finality. This world is not the finality even for the epicureans and hedonists, theirs at the most is an escapist's attempt.

The big question is, why liberation? And what kind of liberation? And from what and for what? Philosophers right from the ancient times after having delved in cosmology or things that appear and Mathematics, to Plato and Aristotle and Plotinus when the idea of the beyond became more focused, man (and woman) has realized his limitedness and yearned for the final unfolding of his being. This has been expressed in multiple ways, as the "idea" or the "good", or the "one". In the firmament of Confucian philosophies, there are hundreds of attempts ideas that point to the same idea, such as "When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be" (Lao Tzu). Across traditions, all have focused on the beyond giving us the idea of God as our final yearning and objective, either by stating what we are craving like St. Augustine "My soul will not rest until it rests in Thee" or the Advaitian

view of Adi Shankaracharya "Aham Brhama Asmi", which could either be rendered as God lives in me or I am God (properly understood).

Ascetic practices across religious traditions as well as devotions and personalization of relationships between God and man through mysticism and religious practices specially in songs and writings, take that craving and yearning for the divine to its ultimate boundaries of Union, Eternal bliss, Mokhsha, Samadhi, Liberation or Union with God and Heaven.

The coming of Jesus, as the Son of God who is both a Messenger and a Message that God loves us (the entire mankind), truly unfolds to mankind what the entire mankind always desired to experience, the final fulfilment of one's inherent desire for immortality, for salvation, for liberation, for life without end and without pain and for permanent bliss.

He truly is the one that the world had craved for centuries, in different forms. By the way even the Jewish tradition did not expect the coming of the Saviour in the form that they experienced and that is why there is such a mystery about Him throughout His life, beginning with His Birth!

So when Saviour of the world, appears, the one who will break the shackles of our limitation, of our inability to fully recognize and attain our potential that is true to us, the key to overcome our limitedness, he is announced as such. To the shepherds, (Lk. 8, 8-14) "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those who he favours", as well as to the wise men far away in the East (Mt. 2, 2), "We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him". Here there is a perfect mix of the world, the shepherds who have no knowledge about life and afterlife, and the wise men who seek to find solutions to man's fundamental quest – his beginning and his end.

Christmas also answers the other part of the human aspiration, the perennial quest of peace within and without. The World's traditions too sought to seek peace within and without: either

through karma and liberation, or the Buddhist four fold path of liberation from pain and death, or simply through the universal desire of mankind to be free from the pain of suffering, uncertainty and limitation of human possessions and the mystery of death, and here we have Jesus who gives us all that!

So, let us celebrate Christmas, the true Festival

of the World. HAPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, not one such as the Santa brings with his bells, sweets and holly, but the JOY OF KNOWING THAT GOD LOVES EACH ONE OF YOU AND THROUGH HIS SON JESUS, GOD LIVES AMONG US, TODAY AND ALWAYS.

**J A CARVALHO**

**THE JOY  
OF GIVING**

*God loves  
a  
cheerful Giver!*

Letters from some  
Benefactors and Friends of  
our Balbhavan Children

**Bulbul Dutt, Kolkata**

I am enclosing a cheque for ₹.1000/- towards your sponsorship scheme for the orphan boys in your Balbhavan. Kindly pray for us. Thank you.

**Arun Augustine, Cochin**

Enclosed is a Demand Draft for ₹.15,500/. Please utilize this amount for the orphan boys. Please request the children to pray for me and my family. Thank you.

**Daphne Hazarika, Tamil Nadu**

Enclosed is a cheque for ₹.1500/-. Kindly use this amount for the maintenance and

education of the orphans under your care. Please remember us in your prayers.

**Mary Tom, Bangalore**

I am sending herewith a cheque for ₹.3000/- for buying gifts for the orphan children sponsored by us. By the grace of God I was blessed with a better job and I would like to share that joy with these children. Do continue to pray for our family.

**R.M. Thressiamma, Kerala**

I enclose a cheque of ₹.5000/- as my contribution towards the charitable works that you do, especially taking care of orphan and destitute children. Please pray for me and my family.

**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	03.30p.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.

Email : agnelashramnews@gmail.com

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

# Christmas: God's Concrete Act of Mercy

-Leon Bent

The Gospel of John in chapter 3:16 tells us that the Incarnation of Jesus was brought about by God's mercy alone. Divine Love emptied Himself in the form and habit of humans: That was the Incarnation. Later, Jesus laid down his life for the entire mankind, "for greater love than this" no man had: That was Redemption. This is why Pope Francis said in "Misericordiae Vultus", the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy, "Jesus Christ is the Face of the Father's mercy." The Latin word misericordiae means "opening one's heart to wretchedness," and it is God's identity card. This is why mercy needs to be the lifeline and lifestyle of each one of us.

God wants us to grow in joy and wonder at the coming of His Son, Mercy Incarnate. Then our hearts will be prepared to receive Him at Christmas. It is a time to let God's mercy shine through us. Pope Francis tells us that the story of Christ's birth is meant to let us know that God loves us individually and immensely.

As we consider with amazement the mystery of God becoming man in Jesus, we should slow down and contemplate His great love and mercy towards us in the Incarnation. Saint Faustina speaks of this mystery of "Mercy Incarnate" and tells us that even "heaven is amazed" by it: "The Word becomes flesh; God dwells among us, the Word of God, Mercy Incarnate." By your descent, you have lifted us up to your divinity. Such is the excess of your love, the abyss of your mercy. Heaven is amazed at the superabundance of your love. No one fears to approach you now. You are the God of mercy. You have compassion on misery "(Diary of St. Faustina, 1745).

In the Bible, mercy is much more than forgiveness! In the Old Testament, Mercy is God's gratuitous, loyal and tender love, with its masculine aspect: hesed, which means unmerited loving kindness, and steadfast, loyal

love. Its feminine aspect rahamin calls for the emotional love of a mother for the child of her womb. Exodus 34:6 declares: "YHWH is a God of rahamin (mercy) and is rich in hesed, His feminine womb love as well (cfr. Ps.51:1).

God's Mercy (rahamin and hesed) assures us that, we are unconditionally loved as children of God, who is both, a tender-hearted Mother and the dynamic Father-Creator of every part of our being and the cosmos (VJTR, Oct 2016).

In the New Testament, God's Mercy, eleos, in Greek, is always understood in Christ. As Pope Francis put it, "Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus, reaching its culmination in him." All the great deeds of God are God's mercy-in-action!

Eleos (Mt.5:7; 18:33) is proof of the love of one's love of neighbour, so in Luke 10:37 a demonstration of eleos. We need to be channels of mercy and love steadfastly all peoples as our own, like St. Mother Teresa did. In the Songs of Christmas contained in the Christmas canticles in Luke's Gospel, the Magnificat (v.50) and the Benedictus (v.78), hesed is at work as he fulfils His messianic promises to His people, and His rahamin is expressed as tender mercy, so deep that it even reaches out to embrace the Gentiles, and "bring glad tidings to the poor... and let the oppressed free" (Is. 61:1-3).

Christmas is a feast of joyful hope, for God has become one with us in the person of his Son, true God and true man. He showed his love for us by becoming part of our world, with all its conflicts, its suffering and its poverty. Jesus is truly Emmanuel: God among us. This is a great "gift" which He brings: a divine love which heals and transforms our hearts, overcoming all uncertainty and pessimism. Our joyful contemplation of the mystery of Christmas should make us realize that, as God has become

*Contd. to pg 13*

# Christmas is Quiet Joy

--Janina Gomes

For most of us Christmas is a time for fun. There is nothing wrong with having fun, but the feast reminds us that Christmas is all about quiet joy rather than just fun. Joy goes much deeper than fun.

Joy means that even if there is a storm brewing outside, we will still be peaceful and joyful. Peace today is hard to come by, but peace is really a state of being in which we come to know ourselves better and are at peace with who we are and what we do on a daily basis.

Inner peace leads to joy. That is why joy helps to focus on God's blessings now. It teaches us to take a long term view of life. All may not be going well with us at the moment. But, if we accept both- the positive and the negative and try to keep our gaze focused on the positive, we will experience a quiet joy.

The liturgy for Christmas with the late evening mass is solemn and quiet. Sometimes, noisy crackers intrude on the service. But throughout the service a quiet dignity is maintained.

Christmas is also a family celebration. When the family gets together, there is an atmosphere of calm peace and enjoyment. We enjoy the good things of life like fun and laughter, sorpotel and cakes, sweets and deserts. But what in the end finally brings us together is prayer.

Advent is a time for preparation with prayer, in which we follow the Word of God avidly. We prepare our hearts and minds to be open to God's Word and his being and presence, which all bring us quiet joy.

I remember my childhood days, when my father would wake us up by 10.30 p.m. from warm

beds, to bear the bitter cold in order to attend the midnight mass in church, which was some distance away. Not once as children did we ever complain that we would prefer to go for the morning mass, when we were sufficiently warmed by the morning sunlight.

Christmas therefore was a time to experience family closeness. After the Mass we would go to a friends place for coffee and cake which meant that we celebrated with a small community- the extended family.

Today, I have travelled a long way. My parents are now both gone to the world of eternity and often I spend Christmas with my sister. This year I will celebrate it with the members of the community where I live with other old people, in an old age home. Even if I am lonely, no one will be able to steal away from me the quiet joy I now experience in life. At Christmas I will experience this joy in an enhanced way. Christ was born as part of God's eternal plan to bring us close to him and to give his life at the end as a ransom for our sins.

Christmas therefore is a feast of eternal hope. It is eternal hope that we will be one day caught up in the joy of heaven that brings us joy in the present moment. Every moment in life is pregnant with joy and hope. So, as I today experience the quiet joy reflected in the trees, grass and flowers around me, and in the ravishing sunsets and the blue skies, I feel welling up within me, a quiet joy. Joy will accompany me all the way I know, in the present and the future, which I entrust to God's hands.

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

- Burton Hillis

# AGNEL HAPPENINGS

20th November, 2016

## Report of Fr. Agnelo's Death Anniversary celebration **"FR. AGNELO – MIRROR OF COMPASSION"**

"Fr. Agnelo – mirror of compassion," a theme well coined and enunciated by Most Reverend Edwin Colaco, Emeritus Bishop of Aurangabad, when presiding over the Eucharistic con-celebration at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, on 20th November, 2016, on the occasion of Fr. Agnelo's 89th Death Anniversary.

20th November was indeed a grand celebration even though it coincided with Christ the King solemnity. Thousands of pilgrims and devotees of Fr. Agnelo, of all creeds and cultures flocked to the Fr. Agnel Ashram to seek his blessings and thanking for the favours received.

20th being Sunday, Masses were celebrated as on normal Sundays, except for the one solemn concelebrated Mass in the evening, presided over by Most Reverend Edwin Colaco.

Bishop Edwin delivered a well-prepared homily integrating beautifully the Punyathiti of Fr. Agnelo with the solemnity of Christ the King. He said, "There is intimate connection between the two celebrations – the celebration of Christ the King and the celebration of the Death Anniversary of Fr. Agnelo. There would have been no Fr. Agnelo, if there was not Christ the King. Christ the King in essence means the Sacred Heart. Jesus did not have an army with guns and swords. His guns and swords was his Heart, the Sacred Heart, the heart with love and compassion, the heart full of mercy. Fr. Agnelo imitated this love of Jesus in his life and became a mirror of compassion to the people whose lives he touched". He cited several examples of merciful actions in the life of Fr. Agnel, whether in the missions or in the Rachol Seminary where he was the Spiritual Director.

The evening solemn Mass was preceded by a short cultural program. Bishop Edwin was escorted to the stage amidst Brass Band and Drum beats by the Fr. Agnel Balbhuvan children. Fr. Nazareth, the Superior then welcomed the Bishop and the gathering of devotees in short welcome speech. Master Shaun Camillo offered bouquet of flowers to the bishop. Thereafter, a beautiful dance was staged by the Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Ambernath, followed by two Brass Band orchestra pieces by the Balbhuvanites. A long and resounding applause followed.

The program and the liturgy were well co-ordinated by Fr. Tony Fernandes; the altar boys under the able training of Mr. Simson did a wonderful job. Again, the children of Fr. Agnel's Ambernath with their melodious singing helped the congregation to make the celebration a real spiritual and joyful experience. The altar and the stage were beautifully decorated by the Balbhuvanites under the guidance and direction of Mr. Simson. Mr. Simson also conceptualized and designed the backdrop with the theme, "Inspired by Ven. Fr. Agnelo, let us witness to the Mercy of God". The celebration ended with a heart-felt appreciation to one and all by Fr. Dilip Donke on behalf of the Fr. Agnel Ashram community and Agnel Region Fathers. Mr. Mahesh Mane, a well-wisher and fervent devotee of Fr. Agnelo was gratefully acknowledged for his donation of four tvs to the Shrine to make the liturgical celebration participatory and meaningful.

It is our ardent desire and prayer that Fr. Agnelo be raised soon to the honours of the altar.

# Fun loving programme at Fr. Agnel Balbhuvan

**D**iwali is the festival of light. It is the time of joy, fun play and celebrations. And here our **Fr. Agnel Balbhuvan, Bandra** boys choose to relax, enjoy and have fun while learning during the Diwali Camp at Bandra. The Diwali camp was held from 4th to 14th of November 2016. It was divided into four parts.

1. Self Confidence Building and learning to talk, read and write in English by Uplift Humanity India – N.G.O.
2. Learning the Musical Instruments – Theory and Practical by Mr. Dominic.
3. Screening the documentaries and movies by Mr. Simson Jayakumar and
4. The Movie Day in the Theater by Spreading Smiles N.G.O.

## Uplift Humanity India – N.G.O

Founded	September 2010 (2010-09)
Focus	Education
Location	Basking Ridge, New Jersey, United States
Area served	New Delhi, Vadodara, Indore, and Hyderabad, India
Key people	Anish Patel (Founder) Sejal Jain (Executive Director) Martin Barrow (Director of Strategy) Mona Shah (Director, India)
Slogan	Bring The World Forward

The workshops were organized and conducted by – Mr. Omie Joshi.

“What your mind can achieve you can achieve”

“If you take out the fear from your mind, you will win every single time”

- Power of conscious and sub-conscious mind
- How to destroy the bad memories, fears or potential abuse in the past.
- How to have clear and bright picture of your future and derive required behaviors in self with the help of sub-conscious mind.

- How to memorize things easily.
- Handling chatter of the mind identifying the peaks of an event and building a productive sub-conscious mind through fun activities.

Photos on pg 19

## Music Time

The music is the form of entertainment that puts sounds together in a way that people like or find interesting. It is the inner voice and emotions of the person expressed through the different instruments. **Fr. Agnel Balbhuvan, Bandra** children were trained in music by Mr. Dominic.



# Life is worth living in Harmony

The collage making competition was held under the guidance of Mr. Simson Jayakumar

The initiator of the Spreading Smile N.G.O. is Mrs. Anushka Basantani. It is based in Mumbai. This N.G.O. which basically involved in activities for the upliftment of humanity. This organization is very active in various parts of Mumbai. They work for the different category of people in the society. Such as under privilege children, orphan children, cancer patients and children, old age homes, human trafficking and rescued girls, street children etc. Spreading smile support our **Fr.Agnel Balbhuvan** in many ways, such as education, stationary, music, medical, interaction and also learning and entertainment programs.

Our Balbhuvan Diwali Vacation Camp came to an end with great joy and happiness on 14th of

the Balbhuvan assistant warden. The best part of it was it turned in to team work spirit and all the 60 children of **Fr.Agnel Balbhuvan, Bandra** worked together and came up with the series of inspiring messages centered on living in harmony.

Photos on pg 19

## Movie Time

November. The Balbhuvan children were led for theater show program under one of the coordinator members Mrs. Sapna. All children enjoyed the ROCK ON 2.....AND WAITING FOR 3.....



## Footballers Create History!

**F**r. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Vashi Girls Football Team won the Girls under 19 Football DSO State Title for the second Consecutive Year. The Agnel girls representing Mumbai Division played Amravati in the quarterfinals and won 3-0. Akansha Khandalkar scored 2 goals while teammate Pooja Dhamal scored one to clinch the game.

In the Semi Finals, Agnels won hands down against Nashik with a score of

9-0 with Akansha once again scoring 3 goals for Mumbai. Afreen Peerbhoy, Amruta Gladys,

Pranali Shetty, Mamta Acharya and Araminta Kamath pitched in with one goal each to secure the win for Mumbai Division.

In the Finals, Agnels played Pune Division and once again won hands down with a score of 4-1. Akansha too led the goal tally with 2 goals while Pranali Shetty and Pooja Dhamal scored one goal each to seal the match. Akansha Khandalkar was the highest goal scorer at the State Tournament with 7 goals in her kitty

This is the Second Consecutive Year that the Agnels Girls Football Team has won the DSO State Title in Girls Under 19 Football. Nine players from the Agnels Football Team including 1 Goalkeeper, 3 Defenders, 4 Midfielders and one Striker have been selected to represent Maharashtra at the School Nationals.

The Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College Girls U19 Football Team, is coached by Suprith Jathana, Jerome Dias and Harinder Mall, and Managed by Severin Godinho at the Agnels Ground in Vashi, Navi Mumbai. This feat would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of our Managing Director, Fr. S. Almeida.



Ven. Fr

# Mirror of



The entrance procession - Bishop Edwin Colaco along with the Clergy



A Balbhuvan child welcomes Bishop Edwin Colaço with a bouquet of flowers



Instrumental Rendition by Balbhuvan children



A prayer dance performed by



Bishop Edwin Colaco celebrating the Eucharist

# Fr. Agnelo of Compassion



Welcome speech by Fr.Nazareth Fernandes, Superior



Bishop Edwin Colaco along with Fr.S.Almeida, Fr.Nazareth Fernandes, Fr.Valerian D'souza and other members of the clergy



Fr. Agnel School, Ambernath



Fr. Agnel School, Ambernath, Choir



The faithful participating in the Eucharist

The young Vidyankurians of Fr.Agnel's Vidyankur School, Pune celebrated Grandparents Day on 27th Oct. 2016 with exuberance and excitement to honour and give salutation to their beloved grandparents for their contribution to the society. The day witnessed participation of the students from Nursery, Lower and Upper Kindergarten who put up scintillating performances consisting of

songs, dances and skits for their beloved grandparents. The day began with the Lighting of Lamp followed by the cultural show interspersed with games and riddles designed especially for our dear grandparents. Some of the grandparents even



Nursery Tulip children skit on Grand Parents



Grand Parents admiring their Grand children



Grandfather's addressing the audience

with a gift as a token of love from the school. The success of the event was evident through the happy and joyful smiles and tearful eyes of the grandparents.

## Management of Hypertension

The 8th Wellness Lecture was conducted by Fr. Agnel Wellness Centre, Pune on 12th Nov 2016 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Topic for the day was Management of Hypertension



Dr. Pranav addressing the Wellness Lecture on Hypertension

through Naturopathy and Yoga with Practical demonstrations on self health reliance. The doctors covered topics such as Causes and Complications of Hypertension. The workshop was attended by 32 Participants. Nutritious herbal lunch and tea was served to the participants. A Free health check-up camp was held after the lecture.



Participants of the 8th Wellness Lecture

Christmas is the day that holds all time together.

- Alexander Smith

The school playground of **Fr. Agnel School Greater Noida, U.P.** was filled with great energy, excitement and frolicsome atmosphere on 5th November, 2016 as the School celebrated its Sports Day around the theme 'Wellness'. Students from classes I to XII participated in this sports extravaganza.

The programme began with an apt prayer dance and a wonderful welcome dance. The chief guest, Mr. Sunil Joon, DIGP of CRPF graced the occasion as our Chief Guest. In his address he appreciated the school for its conducive and eco-friendly learning environment. Fr.Bento, the Manager welcomed the esteemed gathering and emphasized on the importance of sports in a child's life. Fr.Carvallo, the Chairman of the Society running the Fr.Agnel Schools, gave a message that Exercise and fitness activities to be seen not only on sports day but should also make them an integral part of life.

## Sports Day Celebration at Fr. Agnel School

The students displayed a wide array of colourful and reverberant events such as march-past, races, drills and dances .They mesmerized the spectators with their energetic performances. The winners of various events were awarded with certificates and trophies.

The School Principal applauded the efforts of the students and teachers for making the event a huge success. The day was culminated with over 300 children School choir singing the songs "one people" and "we can achieve". At the end, the whole School Community joined in singing the School Anthem.

(Photo on back cover)

### THE BETHELEM INNKEEPERS PHILOSOPHY TURNS TO CHAGRIN

*My client is affluent, the playboy, the tycoon  
Who'd opt even to go for a ride to the moon  
How could this couple a room be let  
Since they are not trendy, nouveau-riche, or jet  
set  
So sayeth the starred innkeeper  
My clients are only the upper middle class  
Prefer champagne with caviar or bass  
When I met the poorly dressed couple  
I turned my face and did the double  
So sayeth the upper middle class innkeeper  
My clients, the middle class, can just afford  
My economy prices for bed and board  
I surmised when I saw the couple's countenance  
They would only be able to pay a pittance  
So sayeth the middle class innkeeper*

*My clients find my tariff rather low  
Hence the majority to my inn flow  
Since there is no room now available  
In proffer the couple a partly tenanted stable  
So sayeth the low priced innkeeper  
These innkeeper would ever rue the next morn  
Had they known they denied Christ a place to  
born  
Spurning a one-time heaven sent opportunity  
To secure a coveted niche in World History  
False airs distance one, let slip fortune's tide  
The motto-Hive off your prejudice and pride  
For opportunity only knocks once, not twice  
You cannot recant now, having thrown the dice.*

- Arthur G. D'Mello

*Christmas: God's concrete act of Mercy*  
Contd. from pg 5

one of us, we too are called to become like God: merciful, humble, close to others, especially the poor, and ever attentive to their needs.

This Christmas, let us ask Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, to help us see in our neighbour the face of Jesus, God made man. May we be in

this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing the joy and peace, compassion and mercy, to the hearts of all men and women of goodwill.



# Fr. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

## CURED OF SEVERE BACK PAIN

**Bandra:** I was suffering from severe back pain for quite some time. I came to the Ashram and placed my petition at the tomb of Ven. Fr. Agnel and fervently prayed to him. By the blessing of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I am completely cured of the back pain and can go about my normal duties. My thanks offering of ₹.2000/-.

-Flossy Saldanha

## CURED OF STOMACH DISORDER

**Worli:** I was suffering from severe stomach disorder for 8 days. Although I was hospitalized, it was not diagnosed and I suffered from dehydration. My health deteriorated. At this critical time I entrusted myself to the protection of Ven. Fr. Agnel to place his healing touch on me. I am now alright and have regained my normal health through the blessing of Ven. Fr. Agnel. Today I have come to the Ashram with my family to make an offering of ₹.1000/-.

-Xavier Fernandes

## SURGERY OF KIDNEY STONE AVERTED

**Agassaim-Goa:** I was urinating blood and was in great pain. After undergoing a sonography, the doctor said I had a 7.8 mm stone and a smaller one in the kidney and that an operation was necessary. I sought a second opinion. The doctor gave some medication and

said that if the stone does not fall then I would have to go for surgery. The smaller stone came out with great pain. I went to Pilar and prayed at the feet of Ven. Fr. Agnel. I took his picture and mud of the relic of his grave. Ven. Fr. Agnel heard my prayers and the stone came out. The new sonography confirmed this and there was no need of an operation. I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel and pray for his early beatification.

-Olivia Fernandes

## NUMEROUS FAVOURS RECEIVED

**Canada:** We are ardent devotees of Ven. Fr. Agnel for the past many years. We have received numerous blessings and favours through his powerful intercession. As a token of our gratitude and homage an offering of ₹.5000/- to the Ashram for the various charitable activities it does under the patronage of Ven. Fr. Agnel.

-Richard and Noreen Lobo

## WISH FULFILLED

**Thane:** I have great pleasure to inform you that through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel my long cherished wish had materialized despite all odd situations. With profound gratitude I am making an offering of ₹.5000/- to Ven. Fr. Agnel.

-Mathew D'Souza

## SAFE DELIVERY OF CHILD

**Nuvem-Goa:** I was nine months pregnant with my first child. When I went for a check up the doctor on testing me said that I would have to undergo surgery as the fetus was mal-positioned for delivery with feet first, my pulse was low, and that there was not enough water in the water bag. I prayed fervently to Ven. Fr. Agnel that my child should be well and I will have a safe delivery. After some time I returned to the doctor for a test. The doctor said that there was nothing to fear as the child was well and there was adequate water. The delivery went off well and the child is okay through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. I pray for his early beatification.

-S. Fernandes

## CURED OF KIDNEY STONE AND INFECTION

**Worli:** I was suffering from kidney ailment for over 3 years. Although I was under medication it did not help bring a lasting relief. In this predicament I started the powerful Novena to Ven. Fr. Agnel with great devotion and took his blessed water from the Shrine. I am now extremely happy to inform you that through the intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel I have fully recovered from Kidney

stone and infection. My thanks offering of ₹.1000/- to Ven. Fr. Agnel.

-Deodita Cardoza

## HELP IN CRITICAL TIMES

**Bhandup:** Fr. Agnel has always been a source of inspiration and solace to me in critical times in my life. Cases seemed to be extremely inaccessible to me has been made a reality. As a token of my profound gratitude an offering of ₹.3000/- to Ven. Fr. Agnel.

-Dinesh G.

## HEALING OF WOUND ON THE LEG

**Velha-Goa:** Something had pierced my father's foot and a nasty wound had developed. The doctor said that there was hardly any chance of the wound healing as it was gangrene and that he would have to get the toe amputated. We all prayed ardently to Ven. Fr. Agnel to get his leg healed without the need of amputation. I am glad and grateful to say that Ven. Fr. Agnel heard our prayers and the wound gradually healed. I thank Ven. Fr. Agnel and pray for his early canonization.

-Dominic Camelo

During this Christmas season, may you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is PEACE, the gladness of the season, which is HOPE and the heart of the season, which is LOVE.

# Gastronomix 2016

## – All Goa Student Culinary, Bakery & Bar Challenge at Agnel Institute Of Food Crafts And Culinary Sciences, Verna.

The Annual Gastronomix 2016 for all Hotel Management & Catering Institute students was held on Wednesday 7th December 2016. A total of 9 Institutes of Hotel Management participated namely Institute of Hotel Management, Porvorim, V.M. Salgaoncar Institute of International Hospitality, Raia, Guardian Angel Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology, Curchorem, Goa College of Hospitality Education, Cidade De Goa, Dona Paula, IMBA, Goa University, Bambolim,



*Bar Mixology Excellence Challenge.*

Institute of Advanced Management, Nuvem, St Anthony's Academy, Technical Institute, Vadém, Gesto Hospitality Academy, Porvorim and host Institute Agnel Institute of Food Crafts and Culinary Sciences, Verna Goa. Students showed their talent and innovativeness in three competitions namely

- 1. All Goa Chef.Com (Student Chef Culinary Excellence Challenge) –**
- 2. All Goa Bake.Com (Student Chef Bakery & Patisserie Excellence Challenge)**
- 3. All Goa Bar.Com (Student Mixology Excellence Challenge)**

The judges were industry experts who judged the competitions as follows

Chef Manjit Singh Senior Executive Chef of Holiday Inn, Chef Sunit Sharma Executive Chef of Cidade de Goa, Chef Pratik Roy Executive Pastry Chef of The Leela Goa, Chef Shimjitz Bakery Chef of Zuri, White Sands, Mohammad Ali Founder of Mixologist Academy of Bar Tending, Mr. John D'Souza who is a certified sommelier and Bar Expert. The culinary Excellence challenge was very competitive and after much deliberations the judges awarded the winners

as follows.

Chef Culinary Challenge Competition - 1st Place Phankri Bey and Laman Lohia from IHM, Porvorim, 2nd Place Marzinho Almeida Coutinho and Kaif Shaikh from V. M. Salgaoncar, Raia, and 3rd Place Jugal Borkar and Valric D'Costa from **Fr. Agnel Institute of Food Crafts, Verna, Goa.** Bakery Culinary Challenge Competition – 1st Place Rutwik Pandit and Andrea Judith Dias from IHM Porvorim. 2nd Place Ashbel Dourado and Ujjwal Tripathi from V. M. Salgaoncar, Raia and 3rd Place Bleno Cardozo and Agnelo Xavier Fernandes from IAM, Nuvem. Bar Mixology Challenge- 1st Place Sheldon Pereira from St. Anthony Academy from Curtorim, 2nd place Kayne D'Costa from V. M. Salgaoncar, Raia and Jonathan Pinto from IMBA, Goa University.

Some of the Innovative dishes in the culinary challenge were Bouef Roulade, Camarao Verde, Banana Seradura, Bob de Polacha, and some



*Ms. Odette mascarenhas and Ms. Sushma awarding the Gastronomix Award to IHM.*

innovative mocktails like Citrus Tea Affair, Sweet Lime Twist, and Goan Tadka Mocktail. All the awards were sponsored by Nestle Professional Mumbai and were handed over to the students by Goa's Food Columnist and co-founder of the Goan Culinary Club Ms. Odette Mascarenhas who gave valuable advice to the budding students of Hospitality Education. Vote of Thanks was given by Senior Faculty Member Ms. Elona Araujo.

# UDAAN 2016

**U**daan 2016 An Annual Day was organized by Fr. Agnel Vocational Training Institute at Verna, Goa. On 29/11/2016 the objective of this event was to bring all the students pursuing short term training programmes at extension centres all over Goa together on one common platform and provide them an opportunity to exhibit their non academic talents.

Mrs. Deepali Naik, Chief Officer of the Mormugao Municipal Council was the Chief Guest of the event along with Mrs. Celsa Antao (Social worker) and Dr. Sunita Naik as Guest of honors. Fr. Julian Almeida, Mr. Alphonso Pereira, Principal of AIFCCS and Mr. Freddy, Mr. Vincent Fernandes, Programme Officer were also present for the function.

A unique feature of this event is that an opportunity was provided for women trainees to display the products prepared by them for sale to the public. The event was dedicated to the women empowerment.



A page specially for young minds and hearts.

**BALBHUVAN MIRACLES**

## Like to be a Policeman



**M**y name is Pranil Prakash Ibrampurkar. I am studying in 6th Standard. I joined the Balgram when I was studying in 5th std. When I joined this Balgram I missed my grandmother. I have a brother, my Mummy and my daddy. My brother is staying at home with my parents. They admitted me after my grandmother expired to study here. Now I am in Balgram and I like studying. Our mother taught us how to behave, how to respect and how to keep yourself and things in proper place. She is taking good care of us. My talent is to study, to play, drawing and painting. My hobby is to play cricket and football and my ambition is to become a police man.

-(Pranil Prakash Ibrampurkar –Verna)

## My Ambition to be a Cricketer



**M**y name is Vedant. I am 10 years old and I was born on June 17th. I am studying in 4th Standard in Fr. Agnel Multipurpose High School. I live in Balgram. I joined this Balgram when I was in 3rd Standard because my mother expired 5 years back. My father is working and my grandmother is old so there is nobody to take care of me. When I joined this Balgram my cottage Mother was Rita. She taught me to speak English and she also helped me with my studies. Then they put me in Mother Philomena's cottage who treated me like her own child. She always helps me with my studies, with my work and in all my needs. My hobbies are painting and drawing. My talents are playing Cricket and Football and studying. My ambition is to become a very good Cricket Player.

-(Vedant Naik –Verna)

# Out of Their Bounty

Sunil & Asha	New Zeland	65000	K. Parmar	Ahmedabad	2500	J. Sebastian	Dahisar	500
P.V. Dhond	Mumbai	50000	S. Kempt	Australia	2358	G. Veeramani	Chennai	500
P. Srivastava	Mumbai	35000	Phyllis D'Abreo	Mumbai	2300	Chandy K.P.	Kerala	500
J.J. Toscano	Mumbai	30000	J. Baldrey	London	2218	N. Assey	Bangalore	500
B.S. Daga	Mumbai	28000	R. Deshpande	U.S.A.	2100	Shirke K.B.	Kolhapur	500
S. Saje	Al-Ain	28000	A. A. Lisboa	Palghar	2000	A. Thomas	Kerala	500
L.A. D'Souza	Australia	23569	Gigi Thomas	Kerala	2000	Mary James	Kerala	500
U.C. Malhotra	Mumbai	15000	L. Victor	Kerala	2000	E. James	Kerala	500
M. Cyriac	U.S.A.	13201	K.A. Murthy	Kerala	2000	N.T. Mathew	Kerala	500
Nitin Shah	Mumbai	11000	A. Jose	Kerala	2000	J. Joseph	Kerala	500
N S. Jose	Mumbai	10000	A. D'Souza	Dubai	1820	Aparna P.M.	Kerala	500
H. A. Shinde	Belapur	10000	Y. Bates	U.K.	1790	D.N. Zalki	Solapur	500
S. Castalino	Dubai	10000	A. Iyer	London	1592	A.A. D'Souza	Udupi	500
H. Wilson	Australia	10000	M.D. Doherty	France	1586	L.J. Sidharth	Kerala	500
I. Pinto	Kuwait	10000	A. Jayasimhan	Mumbai	1500	T. Philip	Karnataka	500
Mini Sajeev	Kuwait	10000	J. Laila	Kerala	1500	M. Raj	T.N.	500
C. Fobler	Canada	10000	Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	1300	E.M. Sebastian	T.N.	500
S. Viera	Palghar	9000	A. Joy	U.S.A.	1158	N. Hadkar	Dombivli	500
N.Satyaranayanan	Khargar	9000	V.S. Bilolikar	Mumbai	1000	E.I. Annamma	Kerala	500
S. Iyer	Mumbai	7500	D. Dias	Nallasopara	1000	Thomas A.P.	Kerala	500
M. George	Qatar	7000	R. Birdy	Mumbai	1000	G.B. Dhabhi	Gujarat	500
R.K. Nair	Dubai	6610	Jain Mary T.	Kerala	1000	M.J. Mary	Chennai	500
J. M. Valiaveedu	U.S.A.	6449	J.J. Balsara	Nashik	1000	Morris Lobo	Mira Road	500
L. Pereira	Salcette	6000	Alex Nero	Kerala	1000	B. Xavier	Kerala	500
A. D'Mello	Mumbai	6000	Dally K.S.	Kerala	1000	J. Stella	T.N.	500
R. Veji	U.A.E.	6000	Mathew C.C.	Kerala	1000	M. Joseph	Kerala	500
M.J. D'Souza	Dubai	6000	M. Jose	Kerala	1000	J.L. Fernandes	Kerala	500
M. Cabral	Australia	5005	J. Correia	Dahisar	1000	Michael P.T.	Kerala	500
H.Ramchandani	Mumbai	5000	T.P. Mistry	Navsari	1000	Baby Thomas	Kerla	500
R.P. Irni	Mumbai	5000	N.J. Dias	Abu Dhabi	1000	Sibi Thomas	Kerala	500
R. Pinto	Mumbai	5000	S.R. Alphonso	Kuwait	1000	S. Mathew	Kerala	500
P.Thressiamma	Keraa	5000	A. Mittathan	Kerala	1000	A. Kharat	Dombivli	500
H.Henry	Vasai	5000	J. Jose	Kerala	1000	Philomena C.D.	Kerala	500
Jane D'Souza	Mumbai	5000	J. Thomas	Kerala	1000	M. John	Kerala	500
V.K. D'Souza	Titwala	5000	J. Jerome	Kerala	1000	G. Simenthali	Ahmedabad	500
A.R. D'Britto	Agashi	5000	Joseph P.J.	Kerala	1000	Anilkumar N.K.	Kerala	500
S. S. Rane	Nallasopara	5000	L. Abraham	Kerala	1000	K.J. Joseph	Kerala	500
M. J. D'Souza	Abu Dhabi	5000	P.L. Antony	Kerala	1000	A. Benny	Kerala	500
A. Job	Kerala	5000	J.M. Augustine	Kerala	1000	J. Agnel	Kerala	500
M. Fernandes	Vasai	5000	R. D'Souza	Mumbai	1000	R. Correya	Kerala	500
S. Antony	Kerala	5000	P. Selvaraj	Chennai	1000	B. Rosemary	T.N.	500
J. Leister	Australia	4682	F.G. Xavier	Kerala	1000	V. Varghese	Delhi	500
R.Satyappan	T.N.	4000	E. Ittoop	Kerala	1000	S.M. Tribhuvan	Pune	500
D. Young	U.S.A.	3896	Lily Joy	Kerala	1000	S.M. Fernandes	Kolhapur	500
G. Menezes	Karnaka	3000	Prabha V.	Kerala	1000	Dr.V.B. Reddy	Secunderabad	400
Mary Tom	Bangalore	3000	S. Chacko	Kerala	1000	R. Mondal	Kerala	400
C.J. Moras	Mangalore	3000	U. Junnarkar	Ratnagiri	1000	T.V. Scharia	Kerala	350
E.J. D'Souza	Mumbai	3000	A. Mallika	Kerala	1000	E. Mathew	Kerala	300
J. Alex	Mumbai	3000	L. Fernandes	Delhi	800	D.P. solanki	Vadodara	300
J. Patrick	Mumbai	3000	P.T. Thomas	Kerala	750	R. Johnson	Kerala	300
J. Ghosh	Mumbai	3000	R. Parikh	Mumbai	750	G. Mathew	Gujarat	300
M. Sussaima	Kerala	3000	M. McNair	U.K.	703	J. Thomas	Kerala	300
B.S. Dalvi	Pune	2728	S. Wood	England	703	Mariamma C.S.	Kerala	300
H. Pothin	Seychelles	2500	P.S. Murthy	A.P.	600	T. Nobin	Kerala	300
S. Gandhi	England	2500	B.N. Rajpur	U.S.A.	565	S. Pinto	Karnataka	300
James K.S.	Kerala	2500	A. Brothers	Kerala	534	R.A. Samuel	Pune	300
			T. Kotak	Rajkot	511			

## FUN LOVING PROGRAMME AT BALBHUVAN, BANDRA



### A COLLAGE MAKING COMPETITION BY BALBHUVAN, BANDRA



AGNEL ASHRAM COMMUNITY &  
BALBHUVAN CHILDREN

*Wish all our Friends,  
Benefactors and Well-Wishers  
A Very Happy and Holy Christmas  
and Showers of God's Blessings for the  
New Year!*



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## SPORTS DAY CELEBRATION AT FRAGNEL SCHOOL GREATER NOIDA



Manager, Fr. Bento welcomes the gathering



Torch bearer receives the light from the Chief Guest Mr. Sunil Joon, DIGP OF CRPF



Students march ahead in full rhythm



Houses present their March Past



Senior Girls on the track



Fr. Bento, Manager awards the winners



The Chief Guest Mr. Sunil Joon awards the winners



Parents gathering